

Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust

Dedicated to preserving the natural, historical, scenic, and recreational values of Ahmic Lake and the surrounding watershed.

2010 at a glance... Operation began as the Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust became incorporated, gained charitable status, officially voted in its board of directors, held board meetings and an Annual General Meeting, attended the Ontario Land Trust Alliance conference, and hired a staff member.

Standing room only at the first Annual General Meeting of members held on August 3, 2010 at the Ahmic Lake Golf Club. Over 30 lake residents, four special guests and 11 board members attended. Our speakers included Ian MacNab of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance and Ron Reid of The Couchiching Conservancy, who offered support and shared stories of success. Mayor Richard Smith offered words of support and congratulations. Information was shared on land conservation options, Old Man's Creek as the first potential project, financial records, goals, and bylaws. Robust discussion ensued on many of the topics, and ideas from the AGM have been incorporated into our work and planning. Thank you to all who participated and made the day such a success.

Nature hikes hosted on the Old Man's Creek Property... On August 4th, Edward Foster, a local naturalist, led two nature hikes. On the first, 11 early-risers observed plants and wildlife. On the second, a group of 12 hiked the trail to the waterfall, one of Ahmic's most stunning natural resources.

First cash grant received from American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts - AFOCLT is an organization that offers U.S. donors who support Canadian conservation a means to have contributions of land, cash, and securities treated as charitable contributions for tax purposes in the U.S. While the cash grant was officially received from AFOCLT, it was made possible by contributions to the organization by American Ahmic Lake cottagers - Thank you for supporting conservation of the Ahmic Lake Watershed.

Membership up from zero to 32 in four short months. Thank you all for your interest in providing input into the operation of the Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust and for your generous support - the organization could not operate without you.

Here's to the first group of donors - Thank you! The organization could not have made so much progress this year without your generous support.

Rock Bass (\$21 to \$249)	Jamie Kinch
Sunfish (\$250 to \$499)	Astron Specialty Metals Ltd, Samuel G. Candler, Alex and Cay Mills
Large-mouth Bass (\$500 to \$999)	Mary Stockdale Vernon and Bob Vernon
Pickereel (\$1000 to \$4999)	Clinton C. Brooks, Christopher and Christie Coolidge Totman, Dexter and Carol Coolidge, Meredyth Ewing, Geoffrey Garth, Barry and Palmer Graham, Ted and Mary Levering, Thomas and Tamara McEwen, John B. and Marsha D. Ramsay, Beth and Edmund Seibels
Northern Pike (\$5000+)	Libby Rouse

Please direct any questions to Kristen Field by email, magnetawanwlt@gmail.com.

Sincerely, Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust Board of Directors

Samuel Candler, Ian Cays, Winthrop Conrad, Dexter Coolidge, Barry Graham, Jamie Kinch, Mary Elizabeth Kinch, John Ramsay, Edmund Seibels and Mary Stockdale Vernon

Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust: what's in the name?

A 'watershed' is an area of land that catches water, from rain and snow, that drains or seeps into a water body or system, whether it be lake, river or otherwise. Watershed boundaries are delineated by a common height of land, and often cross municipal, provincial and even international boundaries. Their shape and size may vary tremendously from millions of acres, like the land base that drains into the Great Lakes, to a few acres that drain into a pond.

Land Trusts are non-profit, charitable organizations that have as one of their core activities the acquisition of land for the purpose of conservation. Most focus on conserving the biological and ecological values of land, but many have been established to protect additional values such as scenic, historical and recreational lands as well – as the Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust has been.



Together, 'Magnetawan Watershed' refers to the land base that drains into the Magnetawan River, which one day may be Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust's operating area. However, to ensure a strong working base, the organization has started out focusing specifically on the Ahmic Lake watershed including the town of Magnetawan. The progress within this smaller area will dictate if, how and when the working area will be expanded to include the entire Magnetawan Watershed.

Ontario Land Trust Movement...

The Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust is a new organization, but we are not the first of our kind. There are land trusts operating all over the world to protect their local environmentally as well as scenically, historically, recreationally and even agriculturally significant lands.

Here in Ontario, a Land Trust movement has been gaining momentum since the 1980's. In 1997 a group of 14 Land Trusts and associated organizations collaborated to form a provincial entity to provide support and act as a provincial voice for the movement. That entity became incorporated as the Ontario Land Trust Alliance in 2002 and continues to serve its members, now 32 Land Trusts and 13 associated organizations strong (Figure 1). Collectively, Land Trusts across the province involve over 120,000 people and protect over 70,000 acres of land.

How does MWLT compare to some neighboring Land Trusts?

Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust
founded in 2010
32 members

Georgian Bay Land Trust
founded in 1991
680 members
protects 1200 acres

Muskoka Heritage Trust
founded in 1996
19 members
protects 1084 acres

Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation
founded in 1985
370 members
protects 227 acres

