

Northumberland Land Trust

Ontario, Canada

Preserving Northumberland County - one acre at a time

The Preserver, November 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Robert Fishlock



It was a delightful fall, but all good things come to an end. Hallowe'en provided us with a stark reminder that winter is on its way, as the night-time temperatures dipped close to or below 0 degrees in most of the county. Not all of us can fly south, like our feathered friends. It was great to see many of you at our Gala Dinner on October 23. Many thanks to Jane McGrath, John Geale and Whitney Lake who worked so hard to make it a success. We were delighted by the lovely presentation of Jim and Sue Waddington, who took us on a journey to find the locations from which many of the Group of Seven painted their iconic pictures of Canada's great outdoors: lonesome pines, pristine lakes and barren rocks. They have been engaged in a lifelong pursuit to find the exact spots from which these great painters created their masterpieces. I think we were all enthralled.

Thanks also to those who contributed silent auction items. A big thanks to Killarney Lodge in Algonquin Park who donated part of our raffle prize, being a \$1,000 gift certificate that can be used at their lovely resort. Hugo de Quehen was the lucky man to win that. I also want to thank Cobourg Best Western Inn for their hospitality and the great buffet. Now we have to find an equally entertaining speaker(s) for next year.



October also saw a change in our federal government. The state of the environment was a big issue with most voters. We will have to watch closely how the Liberal minority government addresses differing voter expectations across the country and works with our provincial leaders. Land use regulation and the protection of natural spaces will continue to be primarily a provincial and municipal responsibility. We at NLT will be keeping a close eye on Premier Ford and some of his initiatives aimed at increasing urban growth in and around the Greater Toronto Area.

We hope to announce early in the New Year a significant land acquisition located within the Oak Ridges Moraine north of Cobourg. This particular donation has required a lot of work by our Acquisitions and Stewardship Teams over the past year or two. So stay tuned and in the mean time get ready for snow. Remember, winter is a great time to get outside and enjoy nature - perhaps by visiting one of NLT's Nature Reserves.

European buckthorn is an invasive exotic that occurs to some extent at all of our Nature Reserves. It requires cutting each stem and treating the stump to prevent future suckering and regrowth. In September the Stewardship Team took care of quite a few trees at the LLOEC; there are lots more to deal with, but we are making progress.

Two of the worst invasive exotics in our area are dog-strangling vine (DSV - photo, right, shows how bad it can get!) and *Phragmites*. During the fall we have treated DSV at the LLOEC as well as at the Pelton, Leckey, Jack van Nostrand and Chub Point Nature Reserves. *Phragmites* has not yet established itself well on our properties, and we are trying to keep it in check; Jack van Nostrand and Chub Point have both had relatively small stands treated.



The LLOEC and the Pelton NR both have red pine plantations which need periodic thinning, and we did some of this work at both properties.

Thinking ahead, we have a morning planned on November 23 for checking nest boxes, installing signs, and trail work at the McEwen NR; if you would like to come along to help or watch, please contact John Geale at 905-342-3851 or johngeale@yahoo.com. The other major project for November is the preparation of a firebreak at the Pelton NR so that we are ready for a prescribed burn of two quadrants of the field in the spring.

In January the Stewardship Team will lay out a work schedule for 2020. Likely projects will be more nest boxes for a wider variety of bird species, and a couple of work days at the McEwen NR focused on the eradication of autumn olive that occurs in scattered patches around the property.

With help from NLT, Alderville Black Oak Savanna plans a Native Plant Nursery.

Gillian di Petta, ABOS

With support from the Northumberland Land Trust, as well as other Rice Lake Plains Partnership (RLPP) organizations, Alderville Black Oak Savanna (ABOS) has submitted a funding proposal to support the creation of the Alderville Native Plant Nursery. This project is a response to a need that has grown over the past 15 years within the Rice Lake Plains region. A commercial source of native Ontario plants, with genetics adapted to the Rice Lake Plains area, does not currently exist. Upon completion, the Alderville Native Plant Nursery will fill a niche for both large scale projects by environmental organizations and RLPP partners, and small personal garden projects. There will be an emphasis on grassland plants for use in critical

tall-grass prairie and oak savanna restoration; however native plants from various habitats will be grown and available for purchase.

An exciting aspect of this project is that there is a large focus on green infrastructure and sustainable building techniques. ABOS will be working closely with the Endeavour Centre out of Peterborough to design and create a greenhouse that is environmentally friendly and sustainable, and which will use renewable energy sources.



ABOS would like to thank the NLT and its members for their support as we eagerly await funding confirmation. We look forward to providing regular updates as this exciting project progresses! If you have any questions please feel free to contact Gillian di Petta at gdipetta@alderville.ca

[Editor's note: If successfully funded, this project will be able to supply NLT with seeds and/or plants that can be used to increase native plant diversity at our Nature Reserves. Suitable species could include gray-headed coneflower and Indian grass, shown in the photo above.]

SPEAKER SERIES 2020

The second Thursday of our winter months will see our speakers holding court at Venture 13, again in collaboration with the Lone Pine Land Trust. The dates are January 9, February 13 and March 12; the auditorium will open at 7:00 p.m. for light refreshments, and speakers will begin about 7:30. Venture 13 is located at 739 D'Arcy St, Cobourg, across the road from the Cobourg Community Centre.

On January 9, Gary Pritchard will be our guest speaker. He is a member of Curve Lake First Nation, and the Senior Aquatic Ecologist and Engagement Specialist with Cambium Aboriginal, which provides a wide range of consultation services. His presentation will be "Aboriginal Perspectives on Conservation", and we look forward to hearing how NLT can best engage with local aboriginal communities.

Speakers and topics will be announced for the February and March dates as soon as they are confirmed.

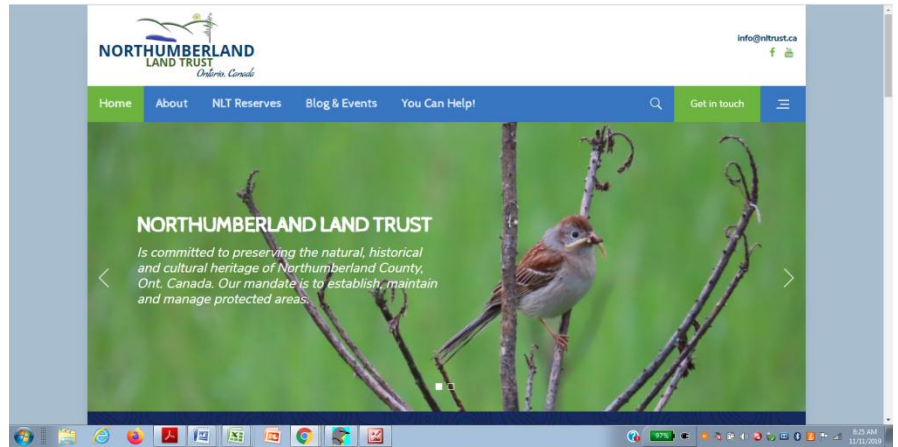
For several years now, we have been grateful to Marlynne Warling for kindly providing snacks for our Speaker Series events. She is unable to do so this year, and this opens up a volunteer opportunity. If you would like to consider taking on this service, please contact any Board member or e-mail us at info@nltrust.ca. Many thanks, Marlynne!

WEBSITE UPDATE

The web site review committee (Grant Elliott, Robert Fishlock, George Gordon and Miriam Mutton) has been working to update the NLT web site for ease of use, access to current information and to better accommodate the different devices people may use to learn more about NLT online. The new home page will resemble that shown to the right.

Working with locally based designer

Karl vom Dorff of Numb Design, we anticipate a launch by the end of this year. The web address will remain the same: nltrust.ca.



This being the last newsletter for 2019, the NLT Board wishes you all the best for the holiday season and the beginning of the New Year. In the spirit of the season, please consider using the form below to make an end-of-year donation. Many thanks!

MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

You may make a donation using your credit card: please go to nltrust.ca and click on the "Donate" button. Otherwise:

Please fill out the form below. Make cheques payable to
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