



Greetings!

Happy Holidays & Welcome to the December 2010 newsletter of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT). Fall in the Haliburton Highlands came and went very quickly, but we had over 100 people join us for the 'Walk into the Magical World of Mushrooms' hike at the Dahl Forest.

Winter has now arrived, providing new opportunities for healthy outdoor activities - snowshoeing, skiing, skating, and some truly spectacular photo-ops. Check out Upcoming Events for more information and don't forget to check the website for new event postings.

This wonderful winter issue provides information about new projects, donations and many exciting developments for the Trust. We issue our newsletter on a quarterly basis or visit the website at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca for current updates.

If you like this newsletter and the work the Land Trust is accomplishing, please forward it to your friends.

The Board of Directors
Haliburton Highlands Land Trust

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Upcoming Events

Snowshoe with the Haliburton Highlands Field Naturalists

When:

Where: Dahl Forest, 1307 Geeza Rd, Gelert

Dahl Forest is at the end of Geeza Rd, [map](#).

Meet at the Front Gates.

Biodiversity Exhibition & New Edition SAR Journal Launch

When: Saturday, February 19, 2011

Where: R.D. Lawrence Place, Bobcaygeon Rd, Minden

Start the Family Day long weekend with a visit to R.D. Lawrence Place and explore the new Biodiversity Exhibition - and the launch of the new edition of the Land Trust's Species-at-Risk Journal featuring 21 species!

Group Snowshoe

When: Monday, March, 7th, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Dahl Forest, 1307 Geeza Rd, Gelert

Dahl Forest is at the end of Geeza Rd, [map](#).

Meet at the Front Gates.



Save the Date!

HHLT's Annual General Meeting : Saturday, May 28th, 2011

Featuring an exciting guest speaker, and light refreshments. More details coming soon!

The 4th Annual *Wild about Nature* Gala : Saturday, June 18th, 2011

New date and location! Details coming soon!

New Property Donation to HHLT

On September 16, 2010, the Ecological Gift's Program of Environment Canada certified Donald A. Smith's 72-acre forested property as ecologically sensitive. HHLT is working to complete this donation.

The property qualifies as an Ecogift under 5 categories. It is adjacent to the Burnt River and is home to some rare and at risk species. The property contributes to the protected natural habitat that may be utilized by wildlife moving between Algonquin Provincial Park to the northeast and a large tract of Crown Land to the southwest.



RBC Dominion Securities Donates to HHLT

On Friday November 5, Beth O'Connor of RBC Dominion Securities presented a cheque in the amount of \$1,000 to the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust.

"This is a first time donation to an unbelievably great cause," said O'Connor of RBC's contribution.

The donation will be put towards furthering the mission of protecting land heritage in Haliburton County in the Land Trust's acquisition of a third ecologically-sensitive property, donated by Donald A. Smith.

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is truly grateful for the generous donation.



From left: Beth O'Connor, Rachel Gillooly, Sheila Ziman, Elisha Barlow

Photo by: Agelica Blenich of the Haliburton Echo

Our Christmas Wish List

'Tis the season for giving!

For those who practice a carbon-footprint free Christmas, a *membership or a donation* to the Land Trust on behalf of a loved one makes a great gift!

Re-use, recycle, repurpose: downsizing or getting rid of stuff? HHLT needs *filing cabinets, binders, a display board and always, printer paper* (green, if possible.) Please drop us a line at admin@haliburtonlandtrust.ca or call 705-454-8107 and we'll be happy to make arrangements for pick-up or delivery!



Thanks to Neil Campbell of the Minden Times for including HHLT in "[My Christmas Giving List](#)" as a worthy cause to give to this Season.

HHLT would like to give thanks to its tremendous community of members, volunteers, donors and sponsors without whom HHLT's efforts in preserving Haliburton County's environmental heritage would not be possible.

HHLT's New Species-at-Risk (SAR) Journal

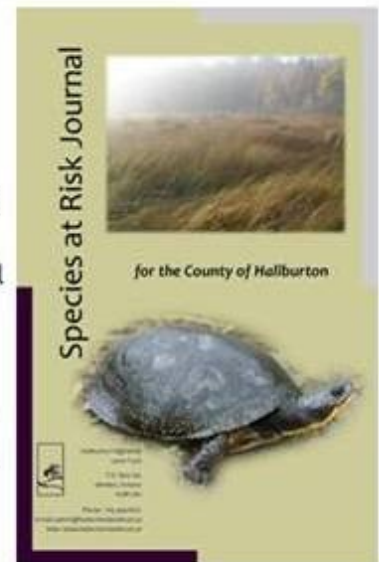
Coming this February! The Land Trust's new SAR Journal will be launched at the Biodiversity Exhibition at R.D. Lawrence Place in Minden, Saturday, February 19, 2011. Featuring eight (8) additional species, the Journal now provides information on a total of 21 species - all of whom make Haliburton County their home!

The Journal features a new 3-ring binder format that will allow you to update new species information - as they become available - page by page.

This also means that the current Species-At-Risk journals are 50% off! Excellent stocking stuffers, these journals are a small and informative look at the Species-At-Risk in the Highlands and sale proceeds support the works of the Trust.

Perfect for the naturalist in the family this Christmas!

Order them [here](#) or call HHLT at 705-454-8107.



Citizens Counting Critters

Research-in-Review

"Wetland Reconnaissance and Community Mobilization for Recovery of Reptiles at Risk."

The public once again responded well to HHLT's and The Land Between's call for reports of sightings of species at risk (SAR) in Haliburton County. Five(5) Reptiles at Risk workshops held throughout the County and an effective media campaign increased the community's awareness of SAR and resulted in 111 new SAR observation reports. These reports were documented and verified by the project biologist and in addition to 133 SAR observations obtained through field work, observations in the County have increased by 232%.

In addition, through this project 2,596 ha of wetland have been identified and delineated as ecologically important for their provision of SAR habitat. This new wetland database greatly enhances the Land Trust's understanding of the distribution of ecologically important wetlands in the County and will help HHLT make informed decisions regarding conservation planning and property acquisition.



Photo by Jeff Nadler

This initiative was possible due to a \$30,300.00 grant from the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk (2009-10.)

"The Great Whip-poor-will Survey - Community mobilization and habitat modeling for Birds at Risk"

As a result of an OMNR grant, HHLT will be updating and reprinting its Species at Risk Journal to include the 8 newly listed species at risk (SAR) in the County. Habitat suitability models will also be developed for these 8 SAR and our existing SAR habitat suitability models will be updated with new data to increase accuracy and predictability. These models are extremely useful to HHLT as they identify ecologically sensitive areas for conservation. HHLT is using this information to help develop a natural heritage strategy.

As part of this \$18,435.00 grant, in October 2010 The Land Between, one of our project partners, organized a number of workshops to increase the public's awareness of the importance of biodiversity. Specific workshops included information on the Whip-poor-will and the Chimney Swift. Participants were encouraged to report sightings to HHLT.

Tax Changes & Land Trusts

The Conservative government announced tax changes on Friday, October 29th 2010 that encourage the protection of key pieces of land across southern Canada. From the coastal shores of Vancouver Island to Ontario lakefront properties, some of Canada's most environmentally sensitive lands are owned as recreational properties by Americans.

Canadians who donate real estate to land trusts don't have to pay capital gains taxes and can claim the gift as a charitable donation on their income taxes, but Americans who own land in Canada cannot. Given the value of some of the sites, the tax implications are significant enough to prevent Americans from donating them.

Now a tax change approved by cabinet will offer their donations essentially the same tax breaks as Canadians.

Read the rest of The Globe and Mail article [here](#).

Reminder: 705 Area Codes in Effect

Please note that beginning January 15, 2011, residents of the region served by the 705 area code in Ontario will be required to dial 10-digits - the area code plus the 7-digit phone number.

Calling the Land Trust in the New Year? Remember to use the full 705-454-8107.