



Greetings!

Summer is in full swing (we hope you have found time to cool off in this steamy July!), and as the heat rises, the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust has got busier.

This issue of our newsletter focuses on the past and the future. We report on our Wild About Nature Gala, which many of you attended, and our recent AGM. Plus we look to the future with news of upcoming events that celebrate the natural environment of the Haliburton Highlands.

Of course, none of these events could happen without your support, for which we are extremely grateful. We're excited about what we can do together to protect Haliburton Country's natural heritage.

If you have any comments on this newsletter or our website, don't be shy! Just reply to this email and tell us what you think. We want to produce a newsletter that not only informs you about the HHLT's activities but also deepens your appreciation of our natural environment.

Please consider forwarding this newsletter to your friends, and if you have not done so already, become a member, make a donation or become a sponsor.

On behalf of The Board of Directors of Haliburton Highlands Land Trust,

Simon Payn
Director, Chair of the Communications Committee

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Upcoming Event

Walk into the Magical World of Mushrooms

Who would have thought the humble fungus would be so popular?

Those who joined us on our Walk into the Magical World of Mushrooms last September know that about 100 people showed up to discover the enormous variety of fungi in the beautiful Dahl Forest. Maybe it was the mushrooms' fantastical names - the Stinkhorn and Tippler's Bane - that attracted people, or maybe it was the hope of fascinating fungal insights by our guide, Pat Burchell, that swelled the crowd.



But in any case, the event was so popular that we're running it again on Sept, 24th.

So what mushrooms might you see in the Dahl Forest and elsewhere in Haliburton County?

- Stinkhorn: The stinkhorn mushroom is well named. The fruiting body stands up tall, with a sticky spore mass that smells of carrion or dung to attract insects that will help disperse its spores.
- Earth tongues: They're easily seen with their bright yellow fruiting bodies poking into the air. Will Jones, in a report on last year's event in the County Voice, described them as looking like nuggets of sunshine dropped from the sky.
- Oyster mushroom: This gilled mushroom can be eaten and is cultivated around the world for food. It also contains statins that could reduce cholesterol.
- Blewit: Another widely eaten mushroom, the blewit can be tan or purple in colour. It grows on decaying leaf litter.

So come out and join us to see if you can find any of these mushrooms and learn more about the fungal life of the Dahl Forest.

When: September 24th, 2011 , 10am - 12pm

Where: Dahl Forest, 1307 Geeza Rd, Gelert, Haliburton County Dahl Forest is at the end of Geeza Rd - [map](#) . Meet at the Front Gates.

A part of the Hike Haliburton Festival, HHLT joins Pat Burchell, president of the Toronto Mycological Society for a fun and educational mushroom walk at the Dahl Forest. Pat will start with an introduction to mushrooms and educate participants about edible and poisonous mushrooms. For new fungi enthusiasts, she will also recommend good guidebooks for beginners. This walk may involve strolling through some of the Red Pine plantations, open field areas, and along the shoreline of the Burnt River. Good walking shoes/boots, weather appropriate clothing and water bottles are recommended for participants.

Upcoming Workshops

Learn more about all the Species at Risk in Haliburton County, including special presentations on Eastern Hog-nosed Snake and Five-lined Skink.

July 23

1-2:30pm - Wilberforce, Lloyd Watson Memorial Community Centre, 2249 Loop Rd

3-4:30pm - Gooderham Community Centre, 1043 Community Centre Rd



August 6

10-11:30pm - Minden, R.D. Lawrence Place, 174 Bobcaygeon Rd

1-2:30pm - Miner's Bay Lodge, 9718 Hwy 35

Click [here](#) for the Species at Risk poster.
Species at Risk Journals are still available for \$25.00.
Contact HHLT at 705-454-8107 or via email.



Presented by HHLT in partnership with the Land Between.

Facing The Future:

AGM Reviews the Year and Focuses on the Year to Come

The HHLT held its annual general meeting on Saturday, May 28 2011. With Chair Sheila Ziman presiding, members reviewed the year's challenges and accomplishments, and set their sights on the plans for what must surely be another busy and successful year.

Among the highlights of 2010/11:

- completed year 1 of the 3-year Ontario Trillium Foundation grant of \$91,500 that helped HHLT hire the dynamic duo of Elisha Barlow and Rachel Gillooly, increasing our organizational capacity and improving our communications; watch for much more to come from these two dedicated staffers
- established a database of 50 ecologically important wetland complexes in Haliburton County
- increased Species at Risk (SAR) reported sightings from 182 to 350 as part of 2010/11 MNR SAR Stewardship Fund grant
- updated printing of HHLT's Species at Risk Journal to include 8 newly added Species at Risk
- increased our membership at a record high of 100 environment-dedicated members!

The AGM also celebrated the generosity of Dr. Donald A. Smith who, honouring his late wife Lorraine, donated a 72-acre forested property bordering a Burnt River wetland as well as a 2-acre lot on Black Lake to sell and establish a corresponding endowment fund.

Besides reviewing policies, noting major accomplishments on the Strategic Plan and important plans for the future, participants heard from guest speaker, Monika Melichar of the Woodlands Animal Sanctuary and learned an important wildlife lesson: baby loons bounce! For more on Monika and her rescue work, see below in this newsletter.

The 2011-2012 HHLT Board: Sheila Ziman- chair, Dianne Mathes- vice chair, Bryan Barlow- treasurer, Adam Barkovitz- secretary, Directors: Mary Anne Barkhouse, Janis Parker, Simon Payn

Gala Raises Thousands

Although we're still adding up the total, it looks like the Wild About Nature Gala raised about \$8,500 for the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust.

Thank you to everyone who joined us on that night. We are extremely fortunate to have such a supportive community. From the donors of our wonderful silent auction and raffle prizes to the volunteers who gave up so much time to organize the event, every year the Land Trust receives amazing support which allows us to continue our work to protect Haliburton County's natural heritage.

If you weren't there, you can read all about it (and find out who our Enviro-Heroes for 2011 were) by reading this article from the Haliburton Echo that we have pasted onto our [website](#).

And we can announce that we will be holding the event again next year! So stay tuned for more news!

A Passion for Nature's Residents: Offering Sanctuary is a Labour of Love

Monika Melichar of the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary, located just outside Minden, was a guest speaker at the May AGM. Passionate about protecting nature's first inhabitants, she is committed to ensuring that humans understand their role in the fragile life and death balance that is the 'wild life' of nature.

Too much 'nurture' and too little knowledge about orphaned or injured animals can lead to unhappy endings. A zoologist, Monika is licensed by the Ministry of Natural Resources to rehabilitate birds, small mammals and even reptiles. She offers practical online advice on what to do with a wildlife emergency: www.redrockcircle.com.

Last year, with the aid of a volunteer helper, Monika and her partner Whitebear cared for 190 animals. She expects this year will be busier but she will likely rise to the challenge. "Helping wildlife displaced or harmed through human intervention is my way of giving back to this planet, fixing what we did wrong, taking responsibility for our ignorance," said Monika.

Donations of much-needed care items or cash are appreciated; there is no funding for this important volunteer work. But the sanctuary is not a petting zoo. Visitors are asked to call first, even if dropping off an injured/orphaned animal or a donation to ensure that someone is available to greet you.

The Haliburton Highlands is fortunate to have such a refuge for our natural inhabitants, thanks to Monika Melichar and the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary. Contact Monika at 705-286-1133.

Norah's Island

HHLT became aware that during last winter a large red pine tree had been cut without our permission or knowledge on Norah's island, one of the properties now owned by HHLT. Obviously we are very concerned.



HHLT will be discussing with the KLCOA (Kennisis Lake Cottage Owner's Association) how to monitor more closely visits to the island, so that vandalism of this type will not re-occur. The vast majority of visitors recognize that Norah's island is private property, its vegetation and wildlife are to be protected and that overnight camping is not permitted.



We know that our concern is shared by residents of Kennisis Lake and that together we are addressing this problem. Red pine seeds will be harvested and seedlings will be cultivated and Norah's island will replenish itself. As well, seedlings will be sold as a fundraiser. A volunteer is being sought to help with this initiative.

Sincerely,



Haliburton Highlands Land Trust



Haliburton Highlands Land Trust

**Box 792
Minden, ON
K0M 2K0**

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