



Greetings!

I don't know about you, but we found summer seemed to rush by and suddenly here we are looking at the magnificent colours that autumn brings to the Haliburton Highlands. In September, the Land Trust hosted another successful Mushroom Walk at Dahl Forest (*pictured right*), and now, thanks to funding received from the 2011 Winterfest Legacy Fund, we are gearing up for some great winter and spring activities. And with a new 2-year research, education and community mobilization project approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Land Trust continues to engage the community and work with you in protecting the natural heritage of Haliburton County for future generations.

We value your support. 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 the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust,

Rachel Gillooly, Program Coordinator



Photo by Corey Pietryszyn

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# The 'Cobra' in the Woodpile

By Ruth Walker

Cottaging in the Highlands has given our family many wonderful 'nature moments'. A highlight has to be the 'cobra' we discovered in the woodpile.



At the edge of the tarp covering the wood, I noticed a coiled snake sporting an attractive patch pattern along his grey-brown scales. But all attraction ended when the snake raised its head, flattened it and hissed. I wondered what sort of idiot lets a cobra loose in cottage country. Especially a piggy-nosed ugly cobra.

That piggy nose saved that snake from any overreaction on my part. There was something non-cobra-like about this snake and I backed away to let it disappear.

Hooray for Google, because back home I was able to sort out that our visitor was no cobra. Rather, he was an Eastern Hog-nosed snake. I was excited - a species at-risk! I read all I could about our guest and discovered our snake is an accomplished actor with a terrific defence mechanism.

Eastern Hog-nosed snakes fake cobra. If the hissing and head-flattening doesn't work, they might lunge at you but instead of sinking their teeth in, they butt you, mouth closed. And if THAT doesn't work, they fake death and flop onto their backs.

Eastern Hog-nosed snakes are a threatened species. One of their biggest threats is people who overreact and think they pose a danger.

Sadly, we only saw our snake one more time the following year. I now know that the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust keeps a record of Species At Risk sightings and we could have reported our Eastern Hog-nosed snake. So I'm keeping a careful eye out at the woodpile.

*Ruth E. Walker is an award-winning Ontario writer and has a cabin tucked between the Burnt and Drag Rivers in Haliburton. She is an active member of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust.*

## Haliburton County Farmer's Market Survey

The Haliburton Farmer's Market is looking for input from members of HHLT who have NOT attended the Market. Visit our website [here](#) for the survey on the front page and email it completed [here](#).

Sincerely,

# Funding approved!

## MNR SAR Stewardship Fund Grant 2011-13

Priority SAR inventories and habitat assessment, education and community mobilization

The Land Trust is happy to announce approval of a 2-year grant application from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' SAR (Species at Risk) Stewardship Fund. Through a strong media campaign and targeted workshops, HHLT will increase awareness of SAR and mobilize the community to report observations. Utilizing new technologies, habitats of the Eastern Hog-nosed Snake (HOSN), Five-lined Skink (FLSK), Wood Turtle (WOTU) and Peregrine Falcon (PEFA) will be stratified based on suitability. In Year 1, the HHLT will conduct a field inventory for the HOSN and FLSK in partnership with the Land Between and participating private landowners. In Year 2, suitable WOTU and PEFA habitat will be inventoried in partnership with the OMNR.



Approval of the 2-year grant application is for \$26,356 for the 2011/12 funding year and \$27,245 for the 2012/13 funding year. Funding for the second year will be dependant on availability of funds.

## More fun at Dahl Forest, thanks to Winterfest!

The Dahl Forest is about to become a wonderful recreation resource, thanks to a grant the Land Trust received from the 2011 Winterfest Legacy Fund.

Many of you have no doubt enjoyed walking in Dahl Forest - the 500-acre property that we acquired in 2009. Enjoying the property will now become easier because we will use the grant to make signs that direct people along the trails, as well put up a new trailhead sign that will map out all the routes you can take.



The money will also be used to fund a part-time activity coordinator to design and implement a series of seniors programs and activities. Aside from the Rail Trail, Dahl Forest is one of the few places providing flat, wide trails - a perfect place to learn how to cross-country ski or snowshoe. The activity coordinator will develop introductory programs and guided events for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and gentle off-road cycling, specifically aimed at seniors.

As well as providing a great place for recreation, Dahl Forest continues to provide a resource for education about environmentally sensitive areas and species at risk. We hope that more people will be able to enjoy this property because of this grant.

Watch this space for more information about how you can enjoy Dahl Forest!

# Haliburton Highlands Land Trust joins LEED Credit Program Initiative

The Canadian Land Trust Alliance (CLTA), of which the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is a member, in partnership with Trees in Trust, launched a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) credit program. This program will help create greener buildings and promote the conservation of Canada's diverse natural landscapes. LEED projects can now purchase credits from the CLTA which will use the funds to purchase and maintain sensitive conservation properties for the benefit of all Canadians through its land trust members - such as the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust.

Through a unique partnership with Trees In Trust and land trusts across the country, the CLTA LEED Credit Program provides a simple process for purchasing LEED credits.

Through a new website, [www.landintrust.com](http://www.landintrust.com), LEED developers can easily obtain the credits for LEED Existing Buildings and LEED Neighbourhood Development projects. The CLTA LEED Credit Program links developers to a local land trust - such as the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust - and provides all the necessary paperwork, making it one of the easier credits to obtain.

"Our LEED credit is cost effective and makes a tangible difference to the local environment by securing ecologically sensitive land," says Andrew Lush of Trees In Trust, an organization working with the CLTA to deliver the program. "We have already provided LEED credits in the Toronto area and now they are available to developers across Canada and the United States."



LEED developers interested in this credit program can get all the information they need by visiting [www.landintrust.com](http://www.landintrust.com). The CLTA looks forward to working with developers and helping them create sustainable developments with a minimum environmental footprint. Of all the LEED credits available to developers, this one will leave the longest legacy to future generations.

For more information about the LEED program, please visit the website at [www.landintrust.com](http://www.landintrust.com) or call Lynn McIntyre, Executive Director of the CLTA (613) 284-4646, or Andrew Lush, President of Trees In Trust, (902) 388-1919.

The CLTA is a national charitable conservation organization representing land trusts from across Canada.

Trees in Trust works with the CLTA and land trusts across Canada, helping them raise funds using the latest GIS, web and e-commerce software.

## 2011 Wild about Nature



Sheila Ziman, chair of HHLT, happily receives HHLT's official plaque from Ontario Trillium Foundation representative Jack Brezina, granting HHLT a 3-year grant in the amount of \$91,500.00



Dr. Donald A. Smith & his Land Donor Award, given in recognition of him and his late wife, Lorraine, for their donation of Smith Forest. Land Donors Bruce Carruthers, donor of Norah's Island in memory of his late wife, and the Dahl Family, donors of Dahl Forest, were also recognised.

## Fun with Fungi!



Photos by Corey Pietryszyn of Chasing Light Studio. Visit his blog [here](#).

Sincerely,



Haliburton Highlands Land Trust