



Haliburton  
Highlands  
Land Trust

*Protecting the land we love for future generations*

## Chair's Report

# AGM 2015

*by Dianne Mathes*

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. With 4 properties, education programs, our Gala and lots of excitement around our Turtle project we have a lot to celebrate. We have grown from the small dream of the initial dedicated volunteers to a mid-sized organization who is demonstrating leadership in land protection and a commitment to partnership in all environmental endeavours in Haliburton County.

### **Our Volunteers**

We have an incredible group of people who support the Land Trust and its activities. Over a hundred volunteers signed up last spring and summer to monitor our sites for turtle activity. As I finish my term as Chair of the Land Trust I am especially appreciative of the volunteers who sit on our committees and as Directors on our Board. They give of their time, knowledge and skills, and are the driving force behind this organization. I feel very privileged to have known and worked with all of them.

### **Success in Grants**

#### **Ontario Trillium Foundation** .... *Our commitment to the Land Trust's Ongoing Sustainability*

Our Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant is moving into its 2<sup>nd</sup> year and many new outreaches and partnerships were formed during the first year. And our goals for this year continue to be growth and sustainability ... The Land Trust has to continue to ensure that we are building our membership and funding base so that we have long term sustainability.

#### **Ministry of Natural Resources** .... *Our commitment to Species at Risk and Research*

The turtles are moving ... and we just announced in the past few weeks that there have been sightings of turtles using the bypasses. It is very exciting!

#### **Gosling Foundation** ..... *Our commitment to Education*

We are again providing our "Nature in the 'Hood" Discovery Days programs. In 2014 we provided another series of education workshops in the County. And there is a new set of programs for 2015 so visit our website for more information.....everything from maple syrup to amphibians!!!

## **Staffing Updates**

Larry O'Connor resigned from his position as ED and we thank him for serving as our first Executive Director. Heather Deveaux is continuing as the Land Trust's Administrative Assistant. Heather juggles many facets in her role and is key in keeping the office going as well as the individuals and activities of the Land Trust.

## **Fundraising**

We had a wonderful and very successful gala event with Wild About Nature at Bonnie View Inn last September. Many thanks to Chris Whittemore and her team and volunteers for their hard work on this event. It was a fun filled evening and many who attended commented on how wonderful it was.

## **Communications and Marketing**

This year has also seen the Land Trust become much more visible in media and marketing. We have developed new partnerships and have continued to work with existing partners in the county. We are working hard to protect this precious piece of nature in southern Ontario.

## **The Board of Directors**

It is time that we say good-bye to some key long term Board members. Sheila Ziman, founding Board member, Chair and Past Chair, Ian Macnab, Consultant for the Strategic Plan and Secretary, and Bryan Barlow, Past Treasurer have all served with me on the Executive and I do not have enough words to thank them for who they are, what they have done and their commitment to the Land Trust. I hardly know where to begin in thanking Janis Parker, Director, for her insights, wisdom, hard work and generosity to the Land Trust. She is a shining example of how to be brilliant and caring while getting the job done and she has done it many times in many situations for the Land Trust.

And it is with great excitement that we announce that Brigitte Gall and Cindy Sedore have joined the Board within this past year and are bringing creative ideas and new approaches to us.

As I reflect back over my term as Chair, I am amazed at the dedication of the individuals who make this organization work ... I am proud to have been able to work with them and through successes and challenges I have led a Board and organization that any Chair would be more than proud of. It has been a wonderful and rich experience and one that I will always value.

Keep your footprints soft, your mind open and enjoy the beauty of each day.