



Chair's Report for the AGM 2016 Dianne Mathes

After ending my term as Chair last year I came back into the Chair's position after our ED and new Chair were unable to continue with their roles. This change resulted in the Land Trust taking a number of months to reflect on and review our strengths and needs as we grow into a mid phase organization and move into long term sustainability. It has been both a challenging and rewarding year.

We asked for and received permission from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to split our ED position into 2 roles and have a Program Co-ordinator and a Director of Resource Development. The new Program Co-ordinator position can focus solely on our programs and the needs of our properties while the Director of Resource Development is responsible for outreach, resource development and partnerships. Heather Deveaux, our administrative assistant has accepted the position of Program Coordinator and we have recently hired Pat Warren as the Director of Resource Development.

This time of reflection has allowed the Board to review our work and identify directions and priorities for the future, and to strengthen our organization and our Board of Directors.

Our Volunteers

I want to say a huge thank you to all of the volunteers who contribute their time and expertise to the Land Trust programs, events and committees. Through them we offered our education programs and enjoyed a wonderful Gala this past fall. They assist with research projects, staff our committees and ensure that the needs and the security of our properties are addressed every day so that we continue meet our goal of protecting and preserving our land.

Our Members

The contribution of our members cannot be understated. Membership donations offer a stable source of funding from which to conduct our daily operations. Members are also the pool of interested and dedicated people from whom we receive the benefit of time, thought, and insights, who volunteer on our committees and the Board. They attend our events and fundraisers, tell their friends and neighbours, and help spread the word about the importance of preserving the land and the species that inhabit it for our children and grandchildren.

Success in Grants

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

Our Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant is continuing in its 2nd year and many new outreaches and activities are being planned for this year. Our goals for this year continue to be growth and sustainability with a commitment to working more closely with our local community. 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 & Forestry Our commitment to Species at Risk and Research

The turtles are moving now! ... and we continue to have sightings of turtles using the underpass.

TD Friends of the Environment Fund Our commitment to Education

We are again providing our Discovery Days: "Nature in the 'Hood" programs. In 2015 we provided another series of education workshops in the County.

Wild About Nature Gala - We had a wonderful and very successful gala event at Stanhope Community Centre in September 2015. Many thanks to Chris Whittemore and her team of volunteers for their hard work on this event. It was a fun filled evening and the committee outdid itself with the creative and absolutely beautiful decorations ...Stanhope was magical that night.

The Board of Directors

The Board is growing and we are pleased to welcome Mary-Lou Gerstl, Joan Duhaime, Lois Deacon, Greg Wickware and Terry Carr as new Board members for 2016/2017. Lois brings many years of government experience, grants and resource development and is an avid dragon boater and very involved in our community. Greg is a seasonal Haliburton resident with experience in business and marketing and a strong interest in the environment. Terry Carr is a lifetime resident and long time realtor in Haliburton who has been volunteering and supporting the Land Trust for many years. Joan is a recently retired teacher who made a special point of connecting her students and her own children to the natural world. She has stepped up to chair our Marketing Committee, and also helps out with events. Mary-Lou Gerstl joined the Board last fall and has taken on the role of Vice Chair to offer the Land Trust the benefit of her years of business experience. We are excited about having them on the Board and value the experience and skills they bring.

Our AGM means we say good-bye to dedicated and hard working Board members who have become strong friends. Brigitte Gall is resigning from the Board as her career has taken new directions and we wish her the best of luck in what sounds like exciting ventures for her. We thank her for her help over the past year and for a great job at being our MC at the Gala last fall.

And we say good-bye to Simon Payn, a long term Board member whose skill and brilliance at communications, public relations and marketing has been a beacon of light and direction for us over many years. Simon is tireless, in his last year on the Board he refocused and became involved in the Lands Committee and offered his time and wisdom to our properties. We thank Simon and appreciate how much he has given to the images and messaging that is now the public face of the Land Trust.

I will also be leaving this year We have a strong Board and staff and it is time. Every organization goes through change and challenge and each of these experiences adds to its growth and direction and to the growth of the individuals in it. I feel very privileged this year to have worked with the individuals who make up the Board of Directors of the Land Trust ... their experience, wisdom, dedication and willingness to dig deep and step up throughout this year is the reason the Land Trust is growing and thriving.