

# Conservation & Stewardship

## The Environment Counts

Options for Creating an Enduring Legacy  
for Future Generations





Haliburton  
Highlands  
Land Trust

*Protecting the land we love  
for future generations.*



## Our Mission

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is a charitable organization committed to protecting the natural heritage of Haliburton County for future generations and ensuring a legacy of forests, fields and wetlands and the species they nurture.

The Land Trust works to achieve our mission through land acquisition and protection, identification of significant lands and waters of natural or cultural value, support for stewardship planning of privately owned natural areas, and education and outreach about Haliburton's environment.

Our goal is to protect the plants, wildlife and clean water of Haliburton County. We do this by working with our community – year-round and seasonal residents, governments, businesses and non-profit organizations – to identify, manage and research areas of interest.

Inspired and committed volunteers, members and donors give time and money to support the mission of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust. Because of their generosity, the Land Trust now protects and stewards 600 acres (240 hectares) of land.



*Nora's Island Reserve*



*Dahl Forest Reserve*

*Photo: Shirley McCormick*



*Smith Forest Reserve (left and right)*



*Photos: Paul Heaven*

## Create an Enduring Living Legacy for Future Generations

Understanding the important connections between a healthy environment and healthy communities is vital as development pressures build and more people settle permanently in Haliburton County.

Natural landscapes provide natural capital – renewable and non-renewable resources, biodiversity – and include key elements such as pure drinking water, clean air, productive soil and healthy wildlife populations.



Photo: Irene Heaven

Haliburton County's natural environment needs our attention. Active stewardship and enjoyment of our natural areas is a direct link to our personal health – and the health of our environment.

*Active stewardship helps ensure that future generations will enjoy Haliburton's natural environment.*



## What Can I Do?



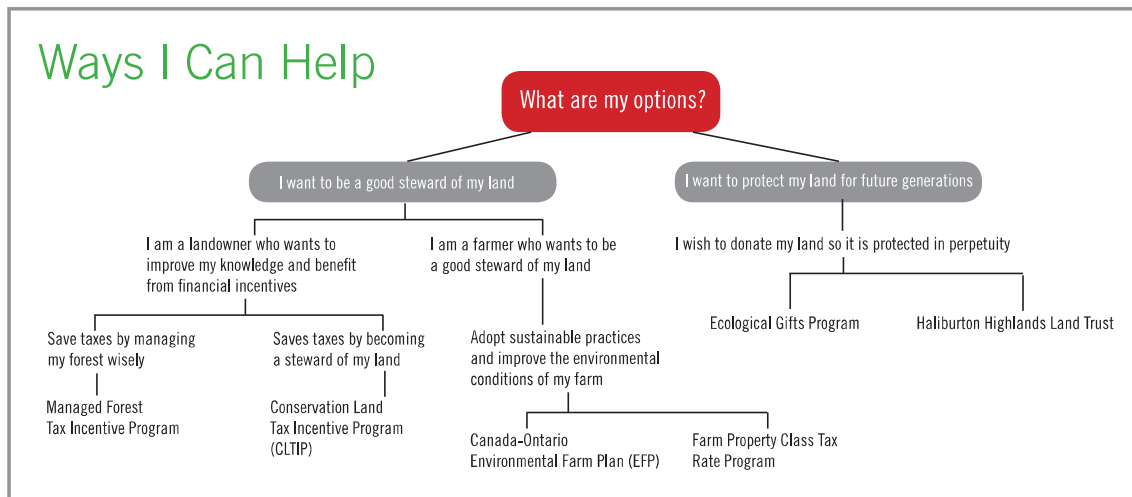
Photo: Lyn Winans  
After the Rainbow

*Haliburton is blessed with a pristine natural environment*

There are several ways you can create an enduring – and living – legacy that will build a sustainable future for your children, grandchildren, the community and the environment.

As a landowner, you may have decided you want to protect the natural and/or cultural features of your land. Being a good steward of your land means knowing how your property fits into the wider system of which it is part, and providing what it needs for its continued ecological well-being.

With the help of a number of programs, you can plan and implement best practices for stewardship and conservation options on your property.





## CONSERVATION & STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

### Private Land Stewardship: Linking Conservation with Financial Benefits

As a private land owner, why should conservation and stewardship be important to you?

Conservation is all about protecting and managing our natural resources and environment so that they are here for future generations – our kids and grandkids – to use and enjoy.

And stewards – like caregivers who look after of our kids – take care of the land.

Covered in forest and dotted with hundreds of fields, lakes, rivers and wetlands, Haliburton County is home to vast stretches of ecologically important lands. And much of these natural areas are privately owned.

There are a number of federal and provincial programs available that not only increase your knowledge – and improve and encourage stewardship – but help you to steward and conserve your land for future generations – and realize significant financial benefits.

*Wetlands form important habitats for many species and protect water quality in our rivers and lakes.*



Autumn Pond Photo: Lyn Winans



## Save taxes by managing your forest wisely: Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)

This voluntary program is available to landowners who own four hectares or more of forest land, and who agree to prepare and follow a Managed Forest Plan for their property. Participating landowners have their property reassessed and classified as Managed Forest and taxed at 25 percent of the municipal tax rate set for residential properties. To participate, landowners must agree to certain conditions that include preparing and following a managed forest plan for their forest. The plan must be approved by an individual certified by the MNR as a Managed Forest Plan Approver.

The plan improves the owner's knowledge of the forest and increases the owner's participation in managing the forest. In turn, this helps to encourage the stewardship of Ontario's private forests. Landowners may manage for timber, wildlife habitat or recreational values.

 [www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02\\_166346.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_166346.html)

## Retain your land and save taxes by becoming a steward of your land: Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)

Our province has a rich and varied natural heritage. Many of Ontario's most significant natural areas are privately owned. As the pressures increase on such areas, it is important to encourage private stewardship of the province's outstanding natural features. The CLTIP recognizes, encourages and supports the long-term private stewardship of Ontario's provincially significant conservation lands by providing property tax relief to those landowners who agree to protect the natural heritage values of their property. The current tax relief offered is 100 percent tax exemption on that eligible portion of the property.

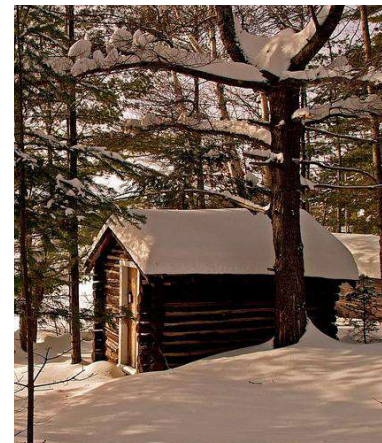


Photo: Lyn Wilmans  
Winter Cabin

*Stewardship = a natural environment.*

The CLTIP is not a land acquisition program. Participating landowners retain full ownership and property rights. This program is also not associated with Conservation Authorities or Conservation Authority properties and conservation areas.

 [www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/CLTIP/index.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/CLTIP/index.html)

## Adopt sustainable practices and improve the environmental conditions of your farm: Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

EFP uses assessments voluntarily prepared by farm families to increase their environmental awareness of their farm's operation. Through the EFP's local workshop process, farmers highlight their farm's environmental strengths and identify areas of environmental concern. Environmental cost-sharing programs are available to assist in implementing projects.

 [www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/environment/efp/efp.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/environment/efp/efp.htm)

## Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program

Qualifying active farm properties are identified in the Farm Property Class and are taxed at only 25 percent of the municipal residential/farm tax rate. The farm residence and one acre of the land surrounding it will continue to be taxed as part of the residential class.


 [www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/policy/ftaxfaq.html](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/policy/ftaxfaq.html)



Photo: Simon Howden

*Farmers are Land Stewards.*





## LIVING LEGACIES

# Partners in Conservation and Stewardship: Donations of Land

Donating your land to the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust will ensure it will be protected forever. And, under the terms of a Life Interest Agreement, you could continue living on the property for your lifetime, or a specified time. The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust would be pleased to provide appropriate recognition of your gift through naming, signage or other means according to your wishes.

Donations of ecologically significant land (see Ecological Gifts Program for details) are exempt from capital gains taxes. Otherwise, 50 percent of the gain in the value of the land is taxed as income.



Photo: Irene Heaven

*The future generation*

## Ensure donated land is protected in perpetuity by certifying land donations as ecological gifts: Ecological Gifts Program

Landowners who donate land through the Federal Ecological Gifts Program can receive a tax receipt for the fair market value of the donation which can be used against 100 percent of the annual income and against capital gains, spousal or RRSP income. The unused portion of the receipt can be carried forward up to five years.

Canada's Ecological Gifts Program provides a way for Canadians with ecologically sensitive land to protect nature and leave a legacy for future generations. Made possible by the terms of the Income Tax Act of Canada and the Taxation Act in Quebec, it offers significant tax benefits to landowners who donate land or a partial interest in land to a qualified recipient such as the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust. Recipients ensure that the land's biodiversity and environmental heritage are conserved in perpetuity. The Ecological Gifts Program is

## Ecological Gifts Program *continued*

administered by Environment Canada in cooperation with dozens of partners, including other federal departments, provincial and municipal governments, and environmental non-government organizations.

Thanks to this team approach and a dedication to continuously evolving and improving, the Program has become more successful each year. To date, 902 ecological gifts valued at over \$571 million have been donated across Canada, protecting over 140,500 hectares of wildlife habitat. More than one-third of these ecological gifts contain areas designated as being of national or provincial significance, and many are home to some of Canada's species at risk.

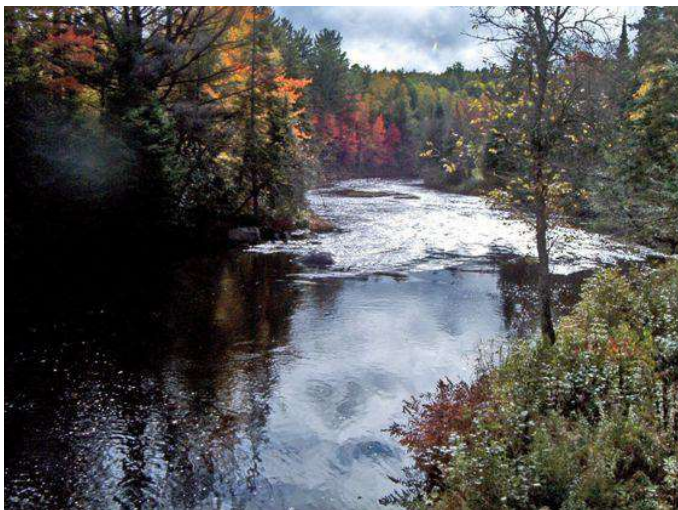
 [www.ec.gc.ca/pde-egp/default.asp?lang=En](http://www.ec.gc.ca/pde-egp/default.asp?lang=En)

## Dahl Forest Reserve

### Owned and Managed by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust

Acquired under the Ecological Gift Program, it will remain as a conservation reserve and a great community resource forever.

Ecological Gifts Program helps facilitate gifts of ecologically sensitive lands from owners who want to see their treasured properties protected forever. You too can help the Land Trust preserve lands like this for future generations.



*Dahl Forest and view over Burnt River Photo: Shirley McCormick*



## LEGACY GIVING

# Partners in Conservation and Stewardship: For Future Generations

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust's work is not just about dollars raised, acres preserved or species protected. In the end, it's about our ability as a community of people to protect our natural heritage so that our children and grandchildren will be left with a healthy environment and legacy.



Photo: Elyse Baughman, hands Charlie Walker

We know you share our love for this special place and we recognize that donations of land are an extremely generous gift. But when donating property, it is important to remember that owning property costs money. The Land Trust must ensure it has the financial and material resources to properly support and take care of the property. We must maintain habitats suitable for the plant and animal species that live there.

*Protect our natural heritage.*

In order to effectively steward donated property, the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust encourages our land donors – if able – to consider providing a donation of cash or securities. Your gift will allow us to undertake the ongoing management and monitoring needed for good stewardship of the lands we acquire, and support ongoing education and outreach about Haliburton's special natural places. If you would like to direct a cash or securities donation toward a specific goal or activity, please let us know.

Legacy giving is a powerful and enduring option that will enable the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust to carry out your wishes beyond your lifetime. A thoughtful and caring gesture that says you value Haliburton's natural heritage, your gift creates a living legacy for the community and the environment.

Your generosity allows the Land Trust to prepare for future conservation and land acquisition programs, and have the funds to carry out our mission of protecting the natural heritage of Haliburton County for future generations.



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**For more information:**

Please visit [www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca](http://www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca)

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Ontario

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS LAND TRUST