2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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KAWARTHA LAND TRUST

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE **BOARD OF DIRECTORS &** THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What a year we have had! 2015 ended with the Kawartha Land Trust's (KLT) biggest land donation ever: beautiful Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island in Pigeon Lake was donated to KLT thanks to the generosity of the previous owners, Mike & Terry Wilson, and the passion and commitment of the local community. In four short months, we were able to reach our \$1M campaign goal and accept this incredible donation.

We are so thrilled that the vision of Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island protected forever has come to fruition. There is no doubt that the work leading up to the transfer of this property in December required an incredible commitment on the part of the whole KLT team.

But 2015 was a year of other accomplishments that should not be overlooked.

The goal we set out at the beginning of our 2012-2015 Strategic Plan to diversify our funding sources has been achieved, with KLT now relying less on Government grants and more on gifts from our community of donors. This healthier revenue picture provides the flexibility to ensure we can direct our funds to the highest priority needs.

Near the end of 2015, our Board of Directors was significantly strengthened with the recruitment of a number of new Directors: John McWilliams, Don Gillespie, Rick Kemp, Eva Kennedy, Lori Rogers and Ben Sämann. With backgrounds in finance, law, marketing, natural resource management and business, these new Directors are enhancing the capacity of the Board to ensure good governance of KLT. We would like to express many thanks to our departing Director and past Chair Dr. John Platt, who completed two consecutive three-year terms in 2015 and also Amanda Newell who completed one term in 2015.

To set the road map for our future, we will be renewing our Strategic Plan this year. Securement of more important lands through direct KLT ownership and Conservation Agreements, and responsible stewardship of those lands continue to be our core business. Over the next four years we will focus on ensuring those are carried out with excellence.

As we set our sights on a number of exciting prospects ahead, we look forward to your continuing commitment, support and participation.

Warm regards for the year ahead on behalf of our Board of Directors and staff.

Charle Lewis malle

Cheryl Lewis Chair, Board of Directors

Mike Hendren Executive Director

"We are so thrilled that the vision of Boyd Island protected forever has come to fruition."

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- Cheryl Lewis Matthew Brackenridge Alec Gowland Dr. Thomas Hutchinson Amanda Newell John Platt John McWilliams
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Deanna Guttman Development Coordinator

Daniel Williams Summer Conservation Assistant



MISSION

Caring for the lands entrusted to us and helping others protect the land they love in the Kawarthas.

MANDATE

The Kawartha Land Trust is conserving the natural environment and enhancing quality of life in the Kawarthas. We do this by accepting donations of land and/or interests in land and engaging the community in support of this work to ensure that these lands are cared for in perpetuity. Like you, the supporters, volunteers and staff of the Kawartha Land Trust value a healthy environment and are working to protect important natural spaces in the Kawarthas.

ANNUAL OVERVIEW OF COMMITTEES

FROM THE LAND SECUREMENT COMMITTEE

Securing more land for conservation is enabled by the Land Securement Committee whose goal is to establish priorities and assess and recommend site-specific opportunities for KLT and our partners. 2015 was a banner year as the team responded to the Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island project and another dozen opportunities, connecting with their owners and assessing options. With support from our partners, additional mapping and analysis were completed that enhanced our ability to prioritize lands for conservation and record their important values. Looking to 2016 and beyond, we have an enhanced focus and ambitious plans to secure more important sites across the Kawarthas!

FROM THE LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Land Stewardship Committee advises KLT on stewardship priorities and best practices. The committee prepares stewardship plans for properties, and develops policies and guidelines on stewardship activities. Committee members have a range of stewardship expertise including tall grass prairie restoration, invasive species management, biological inventories, and natural areas ecology.

In 2015, the committee completed stewardship plans for three properties. Work was initiated on an approach to biological inventories and database development. Fleming College students completed ecological land classification reports and species at risk reports for KLT-owned properties. The reports identify what species at risk may be present based on each property's characteristics. Several events were held at the McKim-Garsonnin property also known as Ballyduff trails, to demonstrate tall grass prairie restoration practices. The committee also completed 36 outings and field days sharing and caring for KLT lands!

In 2016, the Land Stewardship Committee will be focusing on Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island stewardship planning, development of best practices for vegetation management, and will continue its work on the natural heritage database.

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This Committee's mandate is to promote community awareness and fundraising through communications, campaigns and public events. Activities of this committee include monthly meetings, regular newsletters and press releases, updating the website, preparing the Annual Report, participating in public speaking events, tabling at community events, an annual fundraising campaign, and the annual fall "Thanks. Giving" event.

The committee works closely with the entire organization to support the overall mission. In 2015, a fundraising campaign was undertaken for Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island, and KLT received three awards for its success: The Environmental Recognition, Partner Category Award from the Kawartha Region Conservation Authority, the Partnership Recognition Award, Natural Assets from Sustainability Peterborough, and the Not For Profit Award of Excellence from the Bobcaygeon Chamber of Commerce. In 2016 the Development Committee will continue its efforts to support KLT, and to remain engaged with KLT supporters.

BIG (BOYD/CHIMINIS) ISLAND:

"PROTECTED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS!"

Mike Wilson is candid about his initial relationship with Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island. "I acquired it at a reasonable cost during the economic downturn and I purchased it with the option to develop it." When he took ownership of Big Island and several small islands around it in 2011 Mike became the fourth owner after the original owners, the Boyd family, who bought the lands from the Crown in 1873. However he wasn't the first to see the development potential of the property. Previous plans for the island included a subdivision of between 95 and 375 homes. Mike envisioned something different and in August 2015 he received approval to develop ten large residential lots of about twelve acres each with extensive shore frontage. Additionally, a single large interior lot was approved which included all the interior of the island and the rest of the shoreline. One way or another, the story of Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island was about to change.

How the plan for southern Ontario's largest undeveloped and unprotected island was transformed from a plan for a subdivision to an environmental preserve is, as Mike says, "A bit of a long story. Soon after I purchased it, I realized how unique Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island is and I began to consider keeping the islands private and personal for my own future generations – a place where I could instill the values of environmental responsibility in my grandchildren."

Those values are an inherent part of Mike Wilson's character. He grew up in Campbellford, Ontario, acquired a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Waterloo and went on to build a remarkable career which culminated in his position as President and CEO of Agrium Inc., a global supplier of agricultural nutrients and services. Mike brought both environmental and humanitarian values to his work. Here's how he described the company in 2009: "Agrium is in the commodity business but not how you might think. Our commodity is food. Persistent debilitating hunger is pervasive over too much of the world and restricts great portions of society from achieving their full potential. Agrium is guided by a sustainability vision that holds us accountable for our actions and directs us to make the right choices for our employees, society and the environment."

That same year and under Mike's tenure, Agrium made a one million dollar donation to Ducks Unlimited Canada for the establishment of the Wetland Restoration Legacy Program.

"Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island belongs to the community – and in the hands of Kawartha Land Trust its proper stewardship is assured into the future."

Mike Wilson

"I am" he says "an environmentalist at heart." Asked how that came to be he smiles, "I'm not sure. I grew up in a small town. My parents threw me and my siblings outside and we went and played" and then adds, "we never owned property of substance so that was always a goal of mine."

It's a goal his business successes have allowed him to attain. Now retired from Agrium, Mike continues to serve on the boards of Air Canada, Suncor Energy, Finning International Inc., and Celestica Inc. He also chairs the Calgary Prostate Cancer Centre. His personal business assets include co-ownership of Kenauk Nature Reserve, a 100 square mile, 65,000 acre property situated between Ottawa and Montreal, ten thousand acres of which Mike and his partners have already donated to Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). He also owns other properties in Quebec and in Prince Edward County which he says will one day go to NCC. "As I get older I can pass the land on. I can turn it back to the community and stop development so that everyone can enjoy it."

"The last major development plan for Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island was in the early 2000's, around the time Kawartha Land Trust was first formed," says Mike Hendren, KLT's Executive Director. "We provided options for involving the Land Trust back at that time but there's been significant community engagement in this issue for over twenty years."



In early 2011, KLT was approached again by some of those same community members who were still at work trying to find a way to ensure the permanent protection of Big (Boyd/ Chiminis) Island. The island was up for sale again — and was promptly sold. The new owner was Mike Wilson.

KLT went to work, researched and wrote a letter to the new owners presenting the case for working with the Land Trust to protect some, or all of the island. A chance meeting several months later led to an ongoing dialogue which evolved over several years. "I was thrilled that Mike was willing to consider the Land Trust in his plans for the islands. We stayed in touch and discussed the possibilities for four years" says Mike Hendren.

During visits to the islands, things looked a little different from what the owner expected. "I was surprised to learn

Known as Chiminis by indigenous communities, the site is home to unspoiled wetlands, diverse and old growth forests, wildlife, and a wide variety of plant species.

that it was being treated as public land, to see shelters, fire pits, trees cut down, and garbage." They discussed the historical, cultural and ecological significance of Big (Boyd/ Chiminis) Island as well as the challenges of managing it. Known as Chiminis by indigenous communities, the site is home to unspoiled wetlands, diverse and old growth forests, wildlife, and a wide variety of plant species. First Nations peoples used this Island as a meeting and harvesting place thousands of years ago and it retains compelling cultural value to them and to many others in the area.

The islands are part of a geographical region known as The Land Between, a biologically diverse zone where the Canadian Shield meets the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Lowlands. It is home to a greater diversity of species than is found further north or south and in this respect Big (Boyd/ Chiminis) Island is like a microcosm of the Kawarthas.

Mike Wilson recalls their conversations: "Mike said, why not donate it to KLT? He talked about keeping a parcel of land and donating the rest to KLT who could ensure that it be kept in a sensitive and environmentally sustainable fashion. Initially I thought about giving half of the island to Kawartha Land Trust and developing the other half. In August last year I did get approval to develop. "

Instead, he decided to retain only two 12-acre lots, one on the north and one on the south, as well as one outer island on the south-east corner which can't be built upon, and to donate the entire remainder of the property to Kawartha Land Trust. The public has access to the entire property including the privately retained lots. Asked if he has a favourite part of the island Mike is quick to answer. "All of it. There is no favourite spot — that's what made it hard to donate. There's the inlet on the north, and the small outer islands which are great for birds." How would he describe his experience working with Kawartha Land Trust? "I have been involved in a lot of land deals and was very pleased with how everyone I dealt with — board members, staff and volunteers — was open and honest. They quickly gained my respect. When we hit hurdles — and there were a number of them — KLT worked through them. I was impressed with the way KLT rallied the community." Some aspects of the project were tough and outside the control of either the donor or the Land Trust. "I'm an impatient man … Federal approval of the donation took a long time." But in December 2015 the deal was completed. This change in title means that for the first time since 1873, when the land went into the private ownership of the Boyd family, public access to the island has been restored.

"My hope," says Mike, "is for the community to enjoy it and treat it in an environmentally sensitive way. Not as a party place but as an environmental preserve. "

KLT now has responsibility for managing the entire island and surrounding outer islands. In consultation with the community, a management plan is being developed to ensure use and enjoyment that is consistent with conservation, the land donor's conditions and expectations, insurance restrictions and the Federal Government's Ecological Gifts Program. Overall, there will be more opportunities for a wider spectrum of the community to visit the island. KLT hopes to organize transportation to and from the island for those without their own watercraft, for special stewardship activities and outreach events. By doing so, people who couldn't access the islands or simply never visited before, will have the opportunity to experience it and learn first-hand about its ecological and cultural values.

The acquisition of Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island for a public environmental preserve was a joint initiative secured through imagination and foresight, generosity and hard work. It could never have been achieved without all the pieces coming together: the generous gift of the land owner, the many hours of volunteer work and the hundreds of community members who made personal donations to establish the Big (Boyd/ Chiminis) Island Fund.

Last word on this story goes to Mike Wilson: "I've had friends come to me and say I'm crazy, that it could be a private paradise for my family — but Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island belongs to the community — and in the hands of Kawartha Land Trust its proper stewardship is assured into the future."

By Sé Keohane

We can't protect the forest, fields, shorelines, and wetlands of the Kawarthas without you. Your donations help to manage sensitive natural areas, acquire key properties, retain staff and do all that needs to be done to ensure the long-term conservation of land in the Kawarthas.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

\$100,000 AND ABOVE

Anonymous

\$50,000 - 99,999

In memory of Jack & Ila Crowe Micheal Young Foundation

\$25, 000 - 49,999

Curve Lake First Nation

\$10,000 - 24,999

Sämann, Ben British Empire Fuels Hickling, Ray D. & Nancy W. Kawartha Dairy Ltd. **Barron Cowan Foundation**

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Anonymous (7) Austin, Nancy & Appleton, Chris Awde, Ronald & Ertel, Robert Boulton, Lindsay Cation, David & Sharon

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Oakley, Joan & the late Eric O'Brian, James (Jimmy) Pigeon Lake Yacht Club Roberston, Jillian P. In memory of father David Mossom Boyd

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\$500 - 999

Anonymous (29) Bate, Joan Beck, Ann & Karel Carter, Mike & Kathy Crawford, Frank & Eldene Dillane, James (Jim) & Sheila Gordon Ecovue Consulting Service Inc. Gibson, Bruce Hansen, David & Debby Heiman, Margaret

UP TO \$499

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Hewitt, William Ingleton, Carol & Ralph Junkin, Sharlene In memory of her grandfather William Junkin – Kaiser Bill and also her great uncle Stan Nicoll Keillor-Faulkner, Lawrie Moore, Roslyn & Tim McFadzen, Brian & Barbara Perfect, Steve

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WE HONOUR OUR DONORS' WISHES TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS. ONLY THOSE WHO GAVE CONSENT ARE LISTED IN OUR 2015 ANNUAL REPORT.

UP TO \$499, CONTINUED

Gough, Ron

Gurevich, Mark & Natalya Halliday, Andrew & Elizabeth Hayward, Neil Hendry, Jim Holden, Kathleen Hooke, Katharine Inch, Kevin Inch, Marcus Ingram, Allan Johnston, Blair & Catherine Kelly, Sara Kemp, Ted & Kathleen Kent, David & Patricia **Kidd**, Bruce **Killaby, Tim** Konopaski, Michael Laing, Andrew Lambert, Sue Larose, Russ Larry's Taxidermy Lata, Joyce Lavoie, Marc Leroy, Gerald & Susan Lingley, Mary Little, Robert & Penny Lougheed, Janet Macaulay, Robert In memory of Sarah Scanlan & Margret Motzok : Gail & Alex Motzok's mom Mackenzie, Blair Main, John Maitman, Mark Mattinson, Joy E. **McCarron**, Thomas

McClelland, Elizabeth & Scott, John In memory of Gene McNamara **McGregor**, Barbara **McInnis**, Katherine McKay, Fiona McKean, A.D. McLaren, Gail Mickee, Nora **Middleton**, Collen Monkman, Gordon Monteith, Patricia Morgan, Janet Muir, Gail North, Norm **Oakes**, Edward **Oke, Ann Marie & Michael Olafson, Grace Oliver, Marion Ord, Nancy** Platt, John & Judith Pogue, Randelle Pollock, Hugh **Poole, Chris** Potwind, John Powell, Arthur & Barbara Prescott, James & Barbara Ramsay, <u>Kate</u> Ray, Colin & Helen Ray, Kevin **Raymond, Wendy & Peter Reichert, Gisela** Risk, Dick & Morrison, Gail Rogge, John R. **Rousseaux, Linda & Noel** S & A Lawncutting and Property Management

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KAWARTHA LAND TRUST FINANCIAL INFORMATION: STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSES & FUND BALANCES

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EAFENSES		
	2015	201 4
Revenue	\$	\$
Grants	423,579	185,374
Donations	985,600	131,508
Other	17,902	12,372
Donations of Land	4,017,000	93,000
Total Income	\$ 5,444,081	\$ 422,254
Expenses	\$	\$
Community Engagement	31,621	29,286
Fundraising	9,170	5,676
Direct Cost of Land Stewardship & Securement	137,782	34,438
Operations	34,905	24,934
Salaries	194,925	179,172
Total Expenses	\$ 408,403	\$ 273,506
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$ 5,035,578	\$ 148,748

SOURCES OF REVENUE



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STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCES

		2015	2014
Revenue			
Capital Fund - Protected Land		6,625,330	2,609,841
Securement and Stewardship Funds		958,696	23,959
Operating Fund		183,553	98,101
	Total Income	\$7,767,579	\$2,731,901

KAWARTHA LAND TRUST PROPERTIES 2015

Owned Properties

Dance (Sharpe) Nature Sanctuary 99.3 acres (2006)

Alice Sharpe donated this significant property just west of Young's Point which includes a provincially significant wetland, a geological area of natural and scientific interest, rare plants and birds, and diverse habitats for wildlife, including a mature forest. It anchors Kawartha Land Trust's Moore Lake Focus Area.

2 Emily Creek Property 814.1 acres (2010)

This extensive property and its modern cottage/camp were donated by the Emily Creek Duck Club to protect the southern branch of the creek and its surrounding marsh and swamp. A haven for wildlife in a semi-wilderness setting, the property is part of a provincially significant wetland and area of natural and scientific interest.

3 Vincent Woods 102 acres (2010)

Les and Sandy Vincent donated this forested property, just up a small creek from Salmon Lake. The property contains a rare species of frog, beautiful impressive old growth trees, and borders a wetland and surrounding Crown Lands.

4 Ingleton-Wells Property 73.3 acres (2011)

Donated by the Ingleton and Wells families, this property contains evidence of different eras of settlement. These lands include open fields and an orchard as well as upland forests, swamps and open areas providing diverse habitats for wildlife, while humans enjoy the trail network that connects with neighboring properties, including Viamede Resort to the west.

5 Falls Property 178 acres (2013)

These lands are among the best biologically documented sites in the Kawarthas due to the efforts of its donors, Bruce and Ann Falls, and their colleagues. Cliffs, streams, upland forests and swamps all contribute to a rich bird and plant life in the Land Between transition zone between southern and northern Ontario.

6 Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island 1085 acres (2015)

Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island in Pigeon Lake is the largest undeveloped island in the Kawarthas. The vast majority of the island has been donated by Mike and Terry Wilson, with two small parcels and one small outer island being retained by the donors. The site is an area of natural and scientific interest and is home to unspoiled wetlands, diverse and old growth forests, wildlife, and a wide variety of plant species.

Conservation Agreement Properties



East Syndicate Island (Cowan) Conservation Agreement 5.1 acres (2006)

Norman Cowan has donated a conservation agreement to protect the natural character of East Syndicate Island on Stony Lake. The Island is the last large, undeveloped island left on Stony Lake, and is part of a wildlife corridor between the granite north shore and the limestone south shore.



Elliott Conservation Agreement 139.7 acres (2009)

Heather Elliott donated a conservation agreement over this large Stony Lake property in memory of her late husband, Don. The agreement protects diverse and provincially significant wetlands that act as core nurseries for fish, turtles and other wildlife on the lake. A "disappearing" stream and forests add to the site's value.



Glen Burn (Howson) Conservation Agreement 100 acres (2010)

Major Donald Howson donated this conservation agreement to protect the thousands of trees he has planted on the property over the last decades. It contains a geological area of natural and scientific interest for its reversed direction drumlins, creek headwaters, and active agricultural fields. As the highest point in Otonabee Township, it has fantastic views off to Rice Lake, over the renowned Peterborough Drumlin Field, and on to the City of Peterborough itself.



McKim-Garsonnin Conservation Agreement 240 acres (2011)

Through a conservation agreement, Ralph McKim and Jean Garsonnin steward this large property with extensive views at the headwaters of Fleetwood Creek on the Oak Ridges Moraine. They have protected this rolling forested landscape and restored prairie plant species. This property complements the adjacent conservation holdings at the Fleetwood Creek Natural Area.



Sheidow Farm (Awde-Ertel) Conservation Agreement 203.7 (2014)

Ron Awde and Robert Ertel steward this property which is part of a larger corridor of protected lands in Bethany Hills. It is recognized in the official plan for the City of Kawartha Lakes as having "significant wildlife and woodland habitat." On this property, 120 acres are committed to restoring woodland corridors.





KAWARTHA LAND TRUST

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