

Protecting more of the  
**land you love...forever.**



Gratitude Report  
**2023**



**KAWARTHA LAND TRUST**  
Protecting the land you love.



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Cover photo: Roussel-Steffler Memorial Sanctuary  
(Amy Strizic)

Photo: KLT’s Ayotte’s Point Woods  
(Gerry Stokman)



# About Kawartha Land Trust

Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) is a dynamic land conservation charity with an impressive track record of growth. Our mission is to care for the lands entrusted to us and help others protect the land they love in the Kawarthas.

We create nature reserves for future generations by acquiring ecologically important properties and/or interests in properties. We also enhance our stewardship of the land by engaging landowners in land care initiatives through our Partners in Conservation program.

**Founded in 2001, KLT protects 40\* properties that include more than 7,000\* acres of ecologically diverse lands**, some of which include hiking trails that introduce thousands of people to nature in the Kawarthas every year. We have achieved our successes through the work of our dedicated and growing team of donors, volunteers and supporters. Together, we can ensure more natural spaces in the Kawarthas are preserved forever.

\*Properties protected by the end of 2023.

## Vision

Abundant natural and productive lands that are embraced, protected, and conserved by the people of the Kawarthas to sustain and enrich life.

## Mission

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

## Our Values and Commitments

**Conserving land and biodiversity:** We value natural environments, healthy ecosystems, and diverse landscapes and are committed to protecting and restoring them so that the many benefits they provide may be sustained.

**Engaging in focused climate action:** With global goals and Canadian commitments as guideposts, we will work to maximize the contribution of natural climate solutions to the health and wellbeing of people in the Kawarthas.

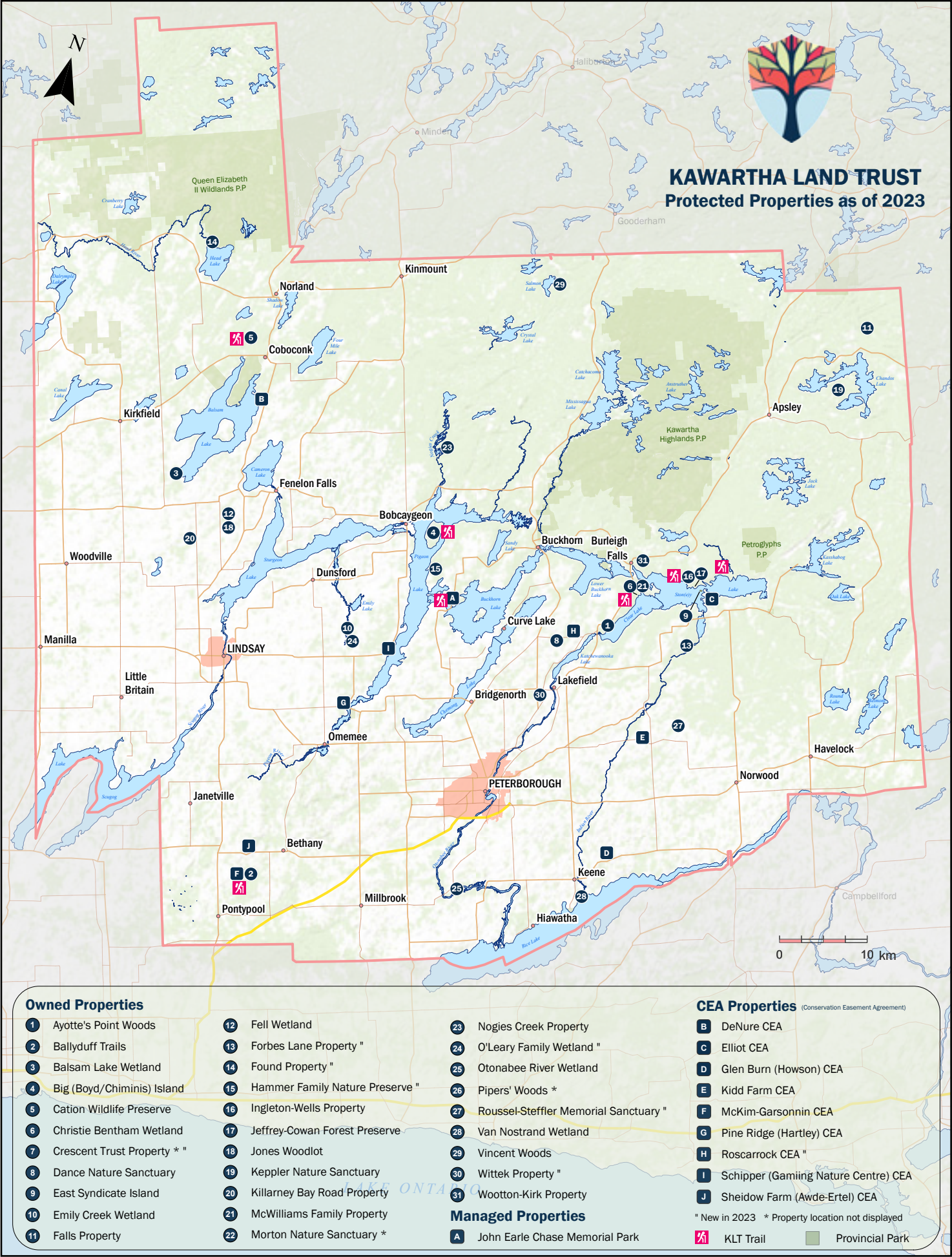
**Acting with integrity and transparency:** We value the trust and confidence placed in us and will demonstrate integrity and transparency in our conservation decisions, actions, and advocacy.

**Embracing creativity, adaptability, and the joy of our work:** We welcome new ideas and ways of thinking, experimenting when and where it is appropriate, and finding joy in our accomplishments and the hope that these activities generate.

**Working for the benefit of all:** “Widening the circle” of those we engage with, and who share in the benefits of our collective activity, is important. KLT will consult and collaborate with community members to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in all areas of our work.

**Honouring the Williams Treaties:** Acknowledging that we live and work on a landscape governed by Indigenous rights, treaties, diverse perspectives, and settlements, KLT is committed to strengthening our understanding of our treaty obligations and creating ethical space to collaborate with Williams Treaties First Nations in the spirit of reciprocity.





# Kawartha Land Trust Properties

With thanks and gratitude to past and current donors and volunteers, Kawartha Land Trust is able to protect nature in the Kawarthas for future generations. You can learn more about all of KLT's protected properties by visiting our website: [kawarthalandtrust.org/protected-properties](https://kawarthalandtrust.org/protected-properties). Thank you for protecting the **land you love**.

## In 2023, your gifts helped Kawartha Land Trust:

- **Protect 8 new properties**, comprising over 1,700 acres.
- **Welcome 34 landowners** to KLT's growing Partners in Conservation program.
- In addition to KLT's 7,000 acres of protected lands, impact another **12,000 acres** of land through our **Partners in Conservation** program.
- **Launch KLT's inaugural Passport to Nature**, a yearlong series of free events in nature for the community to enjoy.
- Support the vital work of **160 volunteers who donated over 4,200 hours** of their time to forwarding conservation and nature connection in the Kawarthas.

## Through your ongoing support, Kawartha Land Trust protects:

- **40 properties** that provide vital wildlife habitat, contribute to nature-based climate solutions, and connect people with the outdoors.
- More than **7,000 acres of natural and working lands** in the Kawarthas!

All numbers as of December 31, 2023.

## Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that Kawartha Land Trust is located within Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig Anishnaabeg territory on the traditional homelands and territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations.

We offer our gratitude to First Nations for their care for and teachings about our Earth and our relationship to it. Kawartha Land Trust strives to honour these teachings through stewardship, respect for the land we protect, and expanded collaboration with Williams Treaties First Nations and other Indigenous peoples.





## Message from the Executive Director

When I say that 2023 was a big year for Kawartha Land Trust, I could go so far as to say it was our biggest...quite literally. In 2023, through incredible support from donors like you, dedicated volunteers, and vital funding partners, KLT secured its largest property in the organization's history — the Hammer Family Nature Preserve.

This incredible conservation success could not have happened without your support. This vast 1,412-acre property is home to forests, wetlands, fields, and natural shoreline along beautiful Pigeon Lake. Because of you, this land is protected forever and will be preserved for future generations.

In addition to the Hammer Family Nature Preserve, your support was critical in the protection of seven additional nature reserves: Roussel-Steffler Memorial Sanctuary, Forbes Lane Property, Crescent Trust Property, O'Leary Family Wetland, Found Property, Wittek Property, and Roscarrock CEA.

It was an honour for us to work with families like the Roussel-Steffler family to protect the land they love. And, in fulfillment of the Roussel-Steffler family's wishes, a section of the land that they generously donated to KLT will become the site of a memorial forest where people can honour loved ones who have passed and contribute to reforestation efforts at the Sanctuary.

Last year also saw the launch of KLT's inaugural Passport to Nature program. Through donor and volunteer support, we launched a yearlong series of free, guided events in nature. From listening to the dawn chorus of birds at KLT's Ballyduff Trails with Creators Garden Birds to learning about Alderville Black Oak Savanna's full-circle restoration work, hundreds of attendees connected with nature in the Kawarthas.

Throughout the year, our team of volunteers continued to work to protect, conserve, and restore nature in the Kawarthas. We could not achieve all that we have without their passion and knowledge. To better support our volunteers and their gifts of time, we underwent a review and overhaul of KLT's volunteer program in 2023 to learn from volunteer experiences and provide additional support and training.

I want to thank you again for protecting nature in 2023. Because of you, eight new properties, comprising more than 1,700 acres, were protected — an incredible feat. We couldn't have done it without you, and, for that, I offer my deep gratitude.

John Kintare  
Executive Director, Kawartha Land Trust

"I want to thank you again for protecting nature in 2023. Because of you, **eight new properties, comprising more than 1,700 acres,** was protected — an incredible feat."

— John Kintare, Executive Director of Kawartha Land Trust



## Message from the Chair of the Board

2023 was a momentous year for Kawartha Land Trust. The culmination of over 20 years of efforts to protect nature in the Kawarthas resulted in the conservation of KLT's Hammer Family Nature Preserve, our largest ever.

This wonderful property, which I've visited numerous times as we were working to protect it, is a major conservation achievement for the Kawarthas. As we look ahead, our team of knowledgeable volunteers and staff look forward to learning more about this expansive property and sharing those discoveries with you. We will also engage with Williams Treaties First Nations, local stakeholders, and community partners to inform the organization's stewardship plans, possible partnerships, and future public access to the property.

In 2023, your support also protected vernal pools and wetlands to support declining amphibian populations (Roussel-Steffler Memorial Sanctuary) and extensive forest tracts that are home to Black Bear, White-tailed Deer, and Fisher (Forbes Lane Property). You protected habitat for the at-risk Western Chorus Frog (Crescent Trust Property) and part of the Emily Creek No. 2 Provincially Significant Wetland (O'Leary Family Wetland). Because of your commitment to nature, KLT protected land adjacent Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park (Found Property), a marsh that provides habitat for wetland species (Wittek Property), and meadow that supports our important pollinators (Roscarrock CEA). These are achievements you can be proud of.

As I work with our Board and Trustees to guide Kawartha Land Trust through our current strategic plan and protect even more of the natural and working lands of the Kawarthas, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of KLT's staff and volunteers. Protecting nature during a time of increasing unsustainable development is not easy, but your generous support inspires us all.

Thank you for your commitment to protecting what makes the Kawarthas so special and creating a more sustainable future for all — it's a powerful and lasting legacy. Together, we've accomplished so much, and together, we'll accomplish so much more.

Paul Downs  
Chair, Board of Directors, Kawartha Land Trust

"Our care and commitment to the land we love, **made possible through your support,** is as strong as it has ever been."

— Paul Downs, Chair of Kawartha Land Trust's Board of Directors





KLT volunteer Rob Gouinlock and Rachel Barrington, Partners in Conservation Coordinator, install a Wood Duck box at a PIC member's property.

In 2023 with your support, we planted **1,950 native trees and shrubs** and helped establish **over 20 acres of native tallgrass prairie** on KLT Partners in Conservation member lands.

## KLT's Partners in Conservation

*Rachel Barrington, Partners in Conservation Coordinator*

Last year was a busy year as Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) continued to grow our Partners in Conservation (PIC) program in size and impact. In 2023, we welcomed 34 new landowners to KLT's Partners in Conservation community. In total, over 12,000 acres of land across Peterborough County and the City of Kawartha Lakes are cared for by landowners enrolled in our PIC program!

Partners in Conservation members' lands represent a diverse landscape composed of a wide variety of habitats and ecosystems. Through quantifying the land types, it was interesting to see a balanced representation of land types across PIC members' lands and find a fairly even representation of forest, wetland, and agricultural acres.

Through visits to participating Partners in Conservation members' farms, I have seen first hand the valuable work that farmers are doing to invest in soil health, increase carbon storage and enhance wildlife habitat. Thank you to all the farmers who are working their lands in sustainable and environmentally mindful ways that further contribute to the overall health of the Kawarthas!

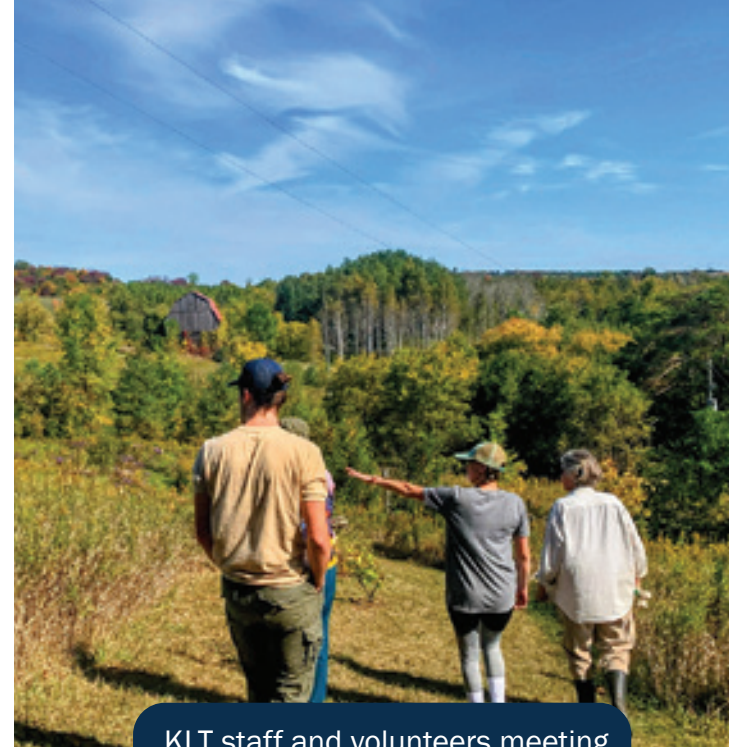
Last year, we also welcomed Elliott Groen, Sustainable Forestry Coordinator, to the Kawartha Land Trust team. As a co-hire between KLT and the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA), Elliott brought a wealth of knowledge about sustainable forestry management to our Partners in Conservation program. He engaged with over 40 landowners who have pine plantations to assist with stewardship and restoration planning to improve the health of these forests.

Through your support, and those of all of our Partners in Conservation and KLT's dedicated volunteers, I'm proud of the stewardship goals we achieved together this year.

In 2023 with your support, we planted 1,950 native trees and shrubs and helped establish over 20 acres of native tallgrass prairie on KLT Partners in Conservation member lands. Thanks to the hard work of carpentry volunteers, we were able to provide 18 nesting structures to landowners to support bird and bat habitat.

Additionally, we contributed to academic and scientific efforts by collecting data on Partners in Conservation member lands to support four separate research projects — from soil health studies to environmental DNA detection of species at risk. Many of these projects were supported by other local conservation groups including ALUS, Grasslands Ontario, and Ontario Woodlot Association.

Because of this community of dedicated landowners that you are a part of, we are beginning to see connected corridors of private land contribute to regional conservation efforts. This level of impact is no small feat and we hope to expand our efforts and impact in the coming years.



KLT staff and volunteers meeting with a Partner in Conservation to discuss stewardship options.

## The Michael Young Family Foundation (TMYFF) Invests \$600K in KLT Over Four Years

Our ecologically vibrant landscape is in the hands of thousands of landowners. The care of private lands in the Kawarthas affects the overall health of nature across our region. In the fall of 2023, we were pleased to announce that The Michael Young Family Foundation (TMYFF) is investing \$600K over four years in Kawartha Land Trust to help empower landowners and their communities to steward local farmlands, wetlands, grasslands, and forests as one thriving ecosystem. This vital funding will allow KLT to expand upon its efforts to work with private landowners through our growing Partners in Conservation (PIC) program.

The PIC program was created to build relationships with people and families who own land and to support them with various stewardship initiatives. KLT has worked with landowners on a variety of initiatives, including shoreline restoration, tree planting, fish habitat restoration, sustainable management of agricultural and forestry land, managing invasive plant species, improving pollinator habitat, and other projects.

## Giving Back to the Community

Staff at Kawartha Land Trust are grateful to be able to work with the community and volunteers and donors like you to protect more of the natural and working lands of the Kawarthas. To give back to the community that supports us, KLT staff took time in 2023 to donate blood to Canadian Blood Services and arrange for a staff food drive in December to support Kawartha Food Share. We're grateful to the many community groups in the region that make the Kawarthas such a special and supportive place to live and visit.



Giving the gift of life



Donations for Kawartha Food Share



# Thanking Our Federal and Provincial Funders

Kawartha Land Trust is grateful to acknowledge the funding that supported the protection of eight new properties in 2023, bringing KLT’s protected lands to 40 properties.

The protection of the following property was funded in part by the Government of Ontario’s Greenlands Conservation Partnership program:

## Hammer Family Nature Preserve

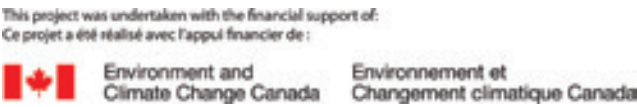


### Government of Ontario’s Greenlands Conservation Partnership program

The **Government of Ontario’s Greenlands Conservation Partnership program** helps conserve ecologically important natural areas and protect wetlands, grasslands and forests that help mitigate the effects of climate change. Through the Greenlands Conservation Partnership, a total of \$38 million has been invested to date by the Ontario government. Additional match funds are raised from other sources, such as individual donations and foundation support through the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Ontario Land Trust Alliance, and other levels of government.

The protection of the following properties was funded in part by Environment and Climate Change Canada’s (ECCC) Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF):

## Crescent Trust Property • Forbes Lane Property • Found Property • Hammer Family Nature Preserve • O’Leary Family Wetland • Roussel-Steffler Memorial Sanctuary • Wittek Property



### Canada’s Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF)

**Canada’s Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF)** is a \$1.4 billion, ten-year fund (2021–2031) administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada to help conserve, restore, and enhance the management of ecosystems such as wetlands, forests, and grasslands, in order to help tackle the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. The NSCSF will focus on three main objectives: (1) conserving carbon-rich ecosystems at high risk of conversion to other uses that would release their stored carbon; (2) improving land management practices to reduce their greenhouse gas emission-causing impacts on Canada’s ecosystems; and (3) restoring degraded ecosystems. Overall, these projects will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and increased carbon sequestration, while also providing benefits for biodiversity and human well-being.

The protection of the following property was funded in part by the Natural Heritage Conservation Program — Land Trusts Conservation Fund (NHCP-LTCF) Grant Programs:

## Roussel-Steffler Memorial Sanctuary

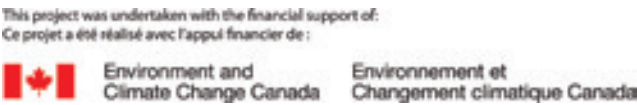


### Government of Canada’s Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP)

The **Government of Canada’s Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP)** is a unique partnership that supports the creation and recognition of protected and conserved areas through the acquisition of private land and private interest in land. To date, the Government of Canada has invested more than \$470 million in the Program, which has been matched with more than \$982 million in contributions raised by Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the country’s land trust community leading to the protection and conservation of nearly 800,000 hectares of ecologically sensitive lands.

The protection of the following properties was supported in part by the Government of Canada’s Ecological Gifts Program:

## Crescent Trust Property • Found Property • Roussel-Steffler Memorial Sanctuary

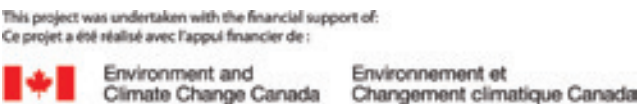


### Canada’s Ecological Gifts Program

**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 Quebec Taxation Act, it offers significant tax benefits to landowners who donate land or a partial interest in land to a qualified recipient. Recipients ensure that the land’s biodiversity and environmental heritage are conserved in perpetuity.

The protection of the following property was funded in part by Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Habitat Stewardship Program:

## Roscarrock CEA



### Government of Canada’s Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk

The Government of Canada established the **Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk** in 2000 as part of Canada’s national strategy for the protection of species at risk. Environment and Climate Change Canada administers Habitat Stewardship Program funds for terrestrial stewardship projects that contribute directly to the recovery objectives and population goals of species at risk listed on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* and that prevent others from becoming a conservation concern.



You helped protect KLT’s largest nature reserve ever in 2023:

# Hammer Family Nature Preserve



Thanks to donors like you and vital funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF) and the Province of Ontario’s Greenlands Conservation Partnership program, we were able to make a big announcement — our biggest, in fact. You helped conserve the largest property in KLT’s more than twenty-year history.

KLT’s Hammer Family Nature Preserve comprises 1,412 acres of forests, wetlands, fields, and natural shoreline along Pigeon Lake. The preservation of this property ensures the protection of its important ecological values, maintains vital natural connectivity in the region, and provides future opportunities for public access and nature connection.

Three-quarters of KLT’s Hammer Family Nature Preserve is home to tracts of forests and wetlands. The preservation of this unique property will ensure the vital ecological services it provides — clean air, clean water, and mitigating the effects of climate change — will be protected for current and future generations.

KLT is undertaking a comprehensive community engagement process with Williams Treaties First Nations, local stakeholders, and community partners to inform future stewardship plans, partnerships, and public access to the property, all while maintaining and strengthening the ecological values of KLT’s newest and largest nature reserve.

**This property was secured with the support of Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF) and the Government of Ontario’s Greenlands Conservation Partnership program.**

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Closed Bottle Gentian



Oak Savannah on the shore of Pigeon Lake



Vibrant Wetland

**Thanks to your support, over 1,400 acres of nature in the Kawarthas is protected. That’s seven times bigger than Emily Provincial Park!**

It’s always amazing when we get to come together to celebrate an amazing conservation achievement for the Kawarthas like the Hammer Family Nature Preserve. With your support, we look forward to protecting even more of **the land you love!**



“This conservation outcome would also not have been possible without the countless contributions of KLT’s dedicated community of volunteers, donors, partners, and supporters throughout our 22-year history. For that, **I thank each and every one of you.**”

— John Kintare, Executive Director



# Vital amphibian habitat now protected by Kawartha Land Trust:

## Roussel-Steffler Memorial Sanctuary



This 102-acre natural paradise was generously donated by Marlene Roussel and the Roussel-Steffler family in honour of Marlene’s late husband Paul Roussel.

When the family first bought the property in the 1980s, Paul put up a small wooden sign that said “The Sanctuary.” Decades later, these words couldn’t be truer. Because of the Roussel-Steffler family, the property’s forests, fields, wetlands, and meadow will be protected forever.

Nearly 90% of the property is located within the Kawarthas Naturally Connected (KNC) Preferred Scenario, and almost 60% of this nature reserve includes a section of a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW).

KLT’s Roussel-Steffler Memorial Sanctuary protects a variety of habitats that support wildlife in the region, including species at risk like Western Chorus Frog, Eastern Meadowlark, and Monarch Butterfly.

Dan Roussel, one of Marlene’s two sons, noted the abundance of wildlife they have seen on the property throughout the years — from turtles, snakes, and salamanders to Red Fox, Porcupine, and Coyote, and occasional sightings of Black Bear, Moose, Fisher, and Mink. And, as Dan describes, “too many birds to list.”

The wildflower meadow on the property, which is home to Milkweed, Purple Coneflower, Black-eyed Susan, and additional flowering plants, provides excellent habitat for pollinators like butterflies, bees, and other insects, as well.

In the last 25 years, the family has invested significant efforts in enhancing the habitat on the property to benefit local wildlife. By donating the land to KLT, they were able to ensure all of the stewardship work that they had undertaken on the land will not be lost to development in the future and that wildlife can thrive.

Mike Roussel, Marlene’s other son, who, along with Dan, has stewarded the property for over two decades, notes that the donation of the land serves as an important legacy for the family.

“We also want to give back to the community as others have done. We often go hiking in other conservation and



Pileated Woodpecker Cavity



Blue-spotted Salamander



Eastern White Cedar

**Your support** has ensured that wildlife will have a place to thrive now and in the future.

park areas such as Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park, Peter’s Woods Provincial Park, Sherwood Park, and others, which have been an inspiration.”

He also noted that the donation is his family’s contribution to the fight against climate change.

We’re grateful to the Roussel-Steffler family for protecting the land they love.

**The Roussel-Steffler Memorial Sanctuary was protected through the Natural Heritage Conservation Program—Land Trusts Conservation Fund (NHCP-LTCF) Grant Programs and Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF). Additionally, a portion of this project was donated to KLT under the Government of Canada’s Ecological Gifts Program.**

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



**At the request of the donors, and in honour of Paul Roussel, the Roussel-Steffler Memorial Sanctuary will become home to a public memorial forest — a place to honour and recognize loved ones who have passed while also contributing to the reforestation of a section of the Sanctuary.**





Your support ensured the protection of vital vernal pools in Douro-Dummer:

## Forbes Lane Property



In 2023, you helped protect Kawartha Land Trust’s new 73-acre Forbes Lane Property in Douro-Dummer Township.

The property’s size and proximity to lands protected by other conservation organizations means that a significant amount of the land is considered interior forest, which provides more mature and less disturbed habitat for species that rely upon it.

This extensive tract of forest provides habitat for mammals like White-tailed Deer, Black Bear, Fisher, and interior forest birds like the Pileated Woodpecker and Wood Thrush, a species of Special Concern.

The conifer swamp on the property is part of the Dummer Lake Complex South Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW), an important floodplain for the Indian River that helps to slow water and filter pollutants before they reach the river.

Found within the swamp are a diversity of trees, including Endangered Black Ash. You helped protect the swamp’s vernal pools, which offer fish-free breeding habitats for species like the Blue-spotted Salamander and at-risk Western Chorus Frog.

Along the northern boundary of this forest, is a 20-foot limestone ridge, where water seepage was observed. The damp and cool cracks and crevices of this ridge can provide habitat for a diversity of lichens, mosses, and liverworts.

**This property has been secured with the support of the Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF).**

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :





Red Columbine



Creek that feeds into Black Ash swamp



White Trilliums

Thanks to you, the conservation of this property ensures its natural features and important carbon storage capabilities will be protected from future development.

### Did you Know?

In 2023, Kawartha Land Trust launched our inaugural Passport to Nature, a year-long series of free events in nature for the community to enjoy. We’re grateful to everyone who made the 2023-2024 Passport to Nature program possible: Donors like you, KLT volunteers, event facilitators, community partners, and sponsor Cambium Consulting & Engineering.



Group photo of KLT staff and event attendees at a tour of Alderville Black Oak Savanna’s Stream to Shore Project

This event was part of KLT’s 2023-2024 Passport to Nature. For more information about our 2024-2025 Passport to Nature, please visit:

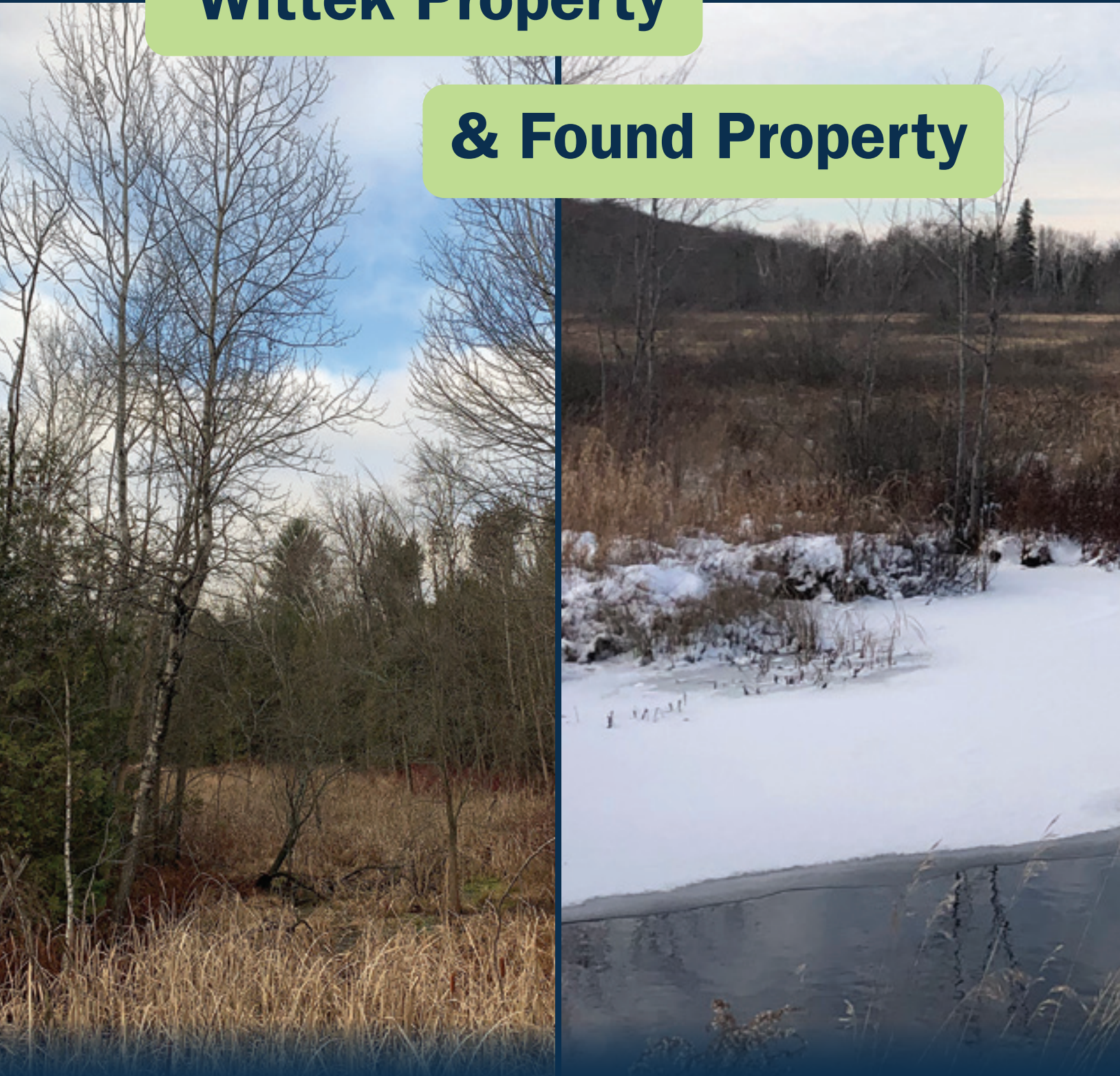
[kawarthalandtrust.org](http://kawarthalandtrust.org)





Your support added further natural and protected land beside Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park:

# Wittek Property & Found Property



**Your gifts ensure that wildlife will have a place to thrive now and in the future.**

While smaller in acreage than the other properties Kawartha Land Trust protected last year, the protection of the Wittek and Found properties proves that good things can come in small(er) packages. At just under five acres combined, these newly protected lands host a variety of habitats.

The **Wittek Property**, located in Selwyn Township, was generously donated to KLT through the final estate of Eugene Wittek. While only two acres, the land contains marsh, coniferous forest, and deciduous forest habitats that support wildlife in the area. A large, Provincially Significant Wetland exists approximately 50 metres southwest of this property, enabling the property to potentially serve as a wildlife corridor to the larger system.


While KLT’s Wittek Property is fragmented habitat on the landscape, the protection and stewardship of the lands such as this one can provide opportunities to restore networks of wildlife habitat and corridors to their original, unfragmented state.

At the **Found Property** in the City of Kawartha Lakes, 100% of the two-and-a-half-acre property comprises natural cover, making it an important natural site in an area of cottage development. Additionally, the marsh ecosystem that exists on the property provides habitat for wetland species.

The property, which was generously donated through the final estate of Kenneth Found, is located directly adjacent to the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park and adds further natural and protected land to the area.

**The Wittek and Found properties were secured with the support of the Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF).**

**A portion of the Found Property was donated to Kawartha Land Trust under the Government of Canada’s Ecological Gifts program.**

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :  
 Environment and Climate Change Canada    Environnement et Changement climatique Canada



*Volunteers pulling Garlic Mustard at a KLT property*

## Invasive Species Centre Funding Helps Support Garlic Mustard Removal

Kawartha Land Trust is proud to be one of the organizations that was supported through the Invasive Species Centre’s (ISC) new Invasive Species Action Fund (ISAF) in 2023. The program is funded through an investment from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF).

The funding allowed KLT staff and volunteers to target and remove invasive Garlic Mustard at one of our protected properties to support a population of American Ginseng, an at-risk species in Ontario.



You protected a section of a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW):

## O’Leary Family Wetland



The O’Leary Family Wetland, a 25-acre treed swamp in the City of Kawartha Lakes, was donated to Kawartha Land Trust by Patrick O’Leary. One hundred percent of this wetland is located within the Emily Creek No. 2 Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW).

The property is contiguous with KLT’s Emily Creek Wetland property, which improves landscape connectivity in the Emily Creek area to the benefit of wildlife in the area.

“This new nature reserve is a great example of how Kawartha Land Trust can offer conservation solutions that just make practical sense,” said Thom Unrau, Director of Community Conservation.

“Mr. O’Leary called me in the spring and told me about a parcel of land that he had inherited years ago. While he wondered what to do about the property all these years, this 100% wetland parcel had been doing exactly what it is meant to do — providing space for wildlife and ecosystem services to people downstream.”

After seeing that the donation of the land was a practical option, KLT handled the details and administration of the transfer and was able to provide the donor with a tax receipt in return.

“Mr. O’Leary also received the peace of mind that he was supporting a healthy environment in the Kawarthas,” said Unrau. “It was a win-win.”

**The O’Leary Family Wetland was secured with the support of the Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF).**

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :

 Environment and Climate Change Canada

 Environnement et Changement climatique Canada



Common Blue Violet



Jack-in-the-Pulpit



Sensitive Fern

With thanks to generous supporters like you, Kawartha Land Trust’s impact continues to grow..

### The Next Generation of Conservation Leaders

In 2023, Kawartha Land Trust welcomed Canadian Conservation Corps (CCC) Interns Melanie Beaulieu and Tanner Stevens to the team. The CCC program allows youth to connect with nature, develop important skills and gain valuable experience in the conservation field.

Throughout Melanie and Tanner’s time in the Kawarthas, they assisted with trail maintenance and monitoring, site visits, invasive plant species removal, seed collection, and a variety of other stewardship projects, including tree plantings. We’re grateful for their enthusiasm and contributions toward protecting nature in the Kawarthas — **thank you Melanie and Tanner!**





Natural shoreline along Moore Lake now protected by Kawartha Land Trust:

# Roscarrock CEA



Located along Moore Lake near Lakefield, the Roscarrock easement protects 92 acres within the Buckhorn/Lovesick Lake subwatershed. KLT Trustee Kate Ramsay shared that Roscarrock has been her home and its woods, fields, and shoreline have given her “comfort and joy” for more than 40 years.

“Our family wants to ensure that an ecosystem that has nurtured us so well will continue to support the species that have been here for hundreds of years, and that others will cherish and steward it as we have tried to do,” said Ramsay.


The property’s almost 60 acres of mixed forest are home to Eastern White Cedar, White Birch, American Elm and Endangered Black Ash. Eastern Wood-Pewee, listed as a species of Special Concern on Ontario’s Species at Risk list, has been seen in the woods on this property. The 17 acres of hayfield are critical habitat for birds that rely on fields to breed, eat, and nest, including the at-risk Bobolink, and the meadow provides habitat for our all-important pollinators.


Ramsay shares that “a walk to the back” of the property takes you to a place where you can lean on a Tamarack and imagine yourself in a much more remote place.

“There might be a pair of Trumpeter Swans, or a Fisher, or in winter deer and coyotes crossing the frozen lake. On the way, there are some magnificent hardwood specimens, including tall cedars, a grove of maples, Basswood and Hemlock, and all that thrives in those environments — micro to macro.”

**This property was secured with support from Environment and Climate Change Canada’s (ECCC) Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP).**

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :

 Environment and Climate Change Canada

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Blue Flag Iris



Natural Shoreline



Wildflowers

Because of **Ramsay’s forward-thinking protection efforts and donors like you**, Roscarrock CEA will remain a natural gem for years to come.

## Surveying for Salamanders

In the spring of 2023, Trent University Master’s student Jordan McDonald worked with Kawartha Land Trust to create and implement a survey protocol developed specifically for the detection of salamanders within the Kawarthas. KLT staff and volunteers from Trent University and Fleming College completed salamander surveys on KLT Partners in Conservation members’ lands across the region, gathering valuable data on these elusive amphibians.

“Salamanders are a very special species, and many people have fond memories of them from their childhoods. I wanted to partake in this project to help local landowners learn how to survey their properties for salamanders and contribute to citizen science and a better local understanding of salamander populations in the region.”

— Jordan McDonald





Your support ensured the protection of 22 acres of mixed forest:

## Crescent Trust Property



The 22-acre Crescent Trust Property that you helped protect in 2023 is home to a beautiful mixed forest of coniferous and deciduous trees.

The wet and dry meadows on the property, while small, have great diversity and are home to Common Juniper, Yarrow, and Virginia Strawberry.

100% of this property is natural cover, which means it makes a huge contribution to the well-being of our environment. Its vernal pools provide important fish-less breeding habitat for amphibians in the region.


One of the interesting habitat features found on the property are grikes. Grikes are vertical fissures in limestone that sits near the surface of the soil. Grikes form when slightly acidic water dissolves limestone. They have many benefits, including acting as winter dens for snakes, channels for surface water to become groundwater, and habitat for certain plants and lichens.


The Crescent Trust Property was generously donated to Kawartha Land Trust by a group of cottagers who came together to protect the natural lands adjacent their seasonal homes. We're grateful for their conservation-minded collaboration in protecting the land they love for future generations.

**The Crescent Trust Property was secured with the support of the Environment and Climate Change Canada's Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF).**

**A portion of the property was donated to Kawartha Land Trust under the Government of Canada's Ecological Gifts program.**

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :

 Environment and Climate Change Canada

 Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

## Thanking Our Supporters

Thank you to our amazing community of supporters, volunteers, and donors, for all that you do to protect the land you love in the Kawarthas. Because of you, KLT now protects 40 properties and over 7,000 acres.\*

### Thanking Our Volunteers

At Kawartha Land Trust you often hear, “We just couldn’t do the work we do without our volunteers.” KLT’s roots and history are founded and grounded in volunteerism. The organization was started by a small group of concerned citizens sitting around a kitchen table and has grown exponentially from there.

In 2023, KLT volunteers donated over 4,200 hours of their time to contribute to every facet of our work — from governance, fundraising, and administration to mapping, fieldwork, events, and much more. Volunteers have played a huge role in all of our successes, and continue to guide, inspire, and give their time to ensure KLT can achieve its mission to protect the land that we love in Kawarthas.



Passport to Nature Events



Tree Planting



Trail Maintenance

### Legacy Volunteer: Al Sippel

A familiar face to many at KLT, for the past ten years Al has dedicated himself to creating a natural legacy in the Kawarthas through the gift of his time, knowledge, and experience.

Former Vice-Chair and a KLT Board Member since 2019, Al has assisted with matters of governance, stewardship, and fundraising. He’s also served on several working groups and committees, including our recent Strategic Planning Committee. There are few areas of KLT’s work that Al has not contributed his efforts to.

Al relayed that volunteering with Kawartha Land Trust has been an incredible learning experience for him.

“The other volunteers and staff have been absolutely great people to work with,” he said. “In the beginning, I was inspired by people like Evan Thomas, Ian Attridge, and Ralph McKim. In recent times, it is the young staff who are so highly motivated that impresses me most. And to make it even better, the land trust has been extremely successful in its objective of protecting lands. The last few years have seen a growing number of properties being protected.”

We offer our immense gratitude to Al for his past and continued volunteer service to protect the land we love.



Al Sippel

Interested in volunteering with Kawartha Land Trust?  
Learn more on our website at [kawarthalandtrust.org](https://kawarthalandtrust.org)

\*Numbers as of December 31, 2023.



Recognizing our Donors

Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) offers its thanks to donors like you who are helping to protect the legacy of the Kawarthas natural and working lands. In 2023, your support helped preserve biodiversity in the Kawarthas, protect vital habitat for wildlife, support restoration projects, provide community access to nature, mitigate the effects of climate change, ensure clean air and water for all, and so much more.

Thank you to each and every one of you for making a real difference on our shared landscape.

Bedrock Level

Land Donors

Anonymous (1)  
Estate of Eugene Wittek  
Estate of Kenneth W. Found  
Kate Ramsay  
Patrick O’Leary  
Roussel-Steffler Family

Forest Level

\$100,000+

Anonymous (1)  
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Robert & Nancy Martin

Tree Level

\$50,000+

Government of Canada’s  
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Sapling Level

\$25,000+

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Seedling Level

\$10,000+

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We honour our donors’ wishes to remain anonymous. Only those who gave consent are listed in this Gratitude Report.

Memorial Donations

Donations were made to Kawartha Land Trust in honour and memory of those listed below. The individual donors are listed in the sections above.

Aileen & Gardner Paxton  
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Peter Gold  
Peter Marrs  
Ralph Ingleton  
Robert Browne  
Ross Morton  
Ruth & Stewart Allen





# Financial Statement

As at, and for the year ended December 31, 2023

Balances at December 31	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)	2021 (\$)
Working Capital	291,794	944,780	1,044,545
Investment Funds	2,371,258	2,154,157	2,210,075
Land Investments	27,494,382	14,974,041	13,912,113
Externally and Internally Restricted Funds	31,993,184	17,609,720	16,574,406
Operating Fund	306,817	456,951	600,371
Revenues for the Year	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)	2021 (\$)
Grants	11,389,679	940,378	593,610
Land Donations	1,791,000	776,500	2,658,000
Cash Donations	2,485,299	364,656	499,450
Investment Gains or (Losses) and Other	132,949	(31,744)	217,625
Total	15,798,927	2,049,790	3,968,685
Excess Revenues over Expenses for the Year	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)	2021 (\$)
Invested in Protected Lands	12,275,089	1,061,928	2,649,796
Land Securement and Stewardship	1,697,589	(169,325)	109,002
Operating Fund	251,405	17,539	299,223
Total	14,224,083	910,142	3,058,021

Read the full audited annual financial statements at [kawarthalandtrust.org](https://kawarthalandtrust.org)

# Meet the Kawartha Land Trust Team



The KLT team at Christie Bentham Wetland near Burleigh Falls in 2023

## Staff

John Kintare, Executive Director  
Anna Lee, Director of People & Operations  
Thom Unrau, Director of Community Conservation  
Dani Couture, Communications Manager  
Hayden Wilson, Land Stewardship Manager  
Rachel Barrington, Partners in Conservation Coordinator  
Sam Clapperton, Land Research Coordinator  
Chris Ferguson, Volunteer Program Specialist  
Elliott Groen, Sustainable Forestry Coordinator  
Oriona Rendon, Donor Relations Coordinator  
Jeff Park, Landowner Outreach Officer  
Alissa Paxton, Database & Office Administrator  
Jazz Barrick, Land Stewardship Technician  
Megan Greenwood, Land Stewardship Technician  
Abigayle Lee, Community Outreach & Communications Assistant  
Sé Keohane, Financial Administrator

## Interns

Melanie Beaulieu, Rylee Goerlitz, Cassandra Hill, Jaime Jackson, Ethan Kompf, Jordan McDonald, Tanner Stevens and Sarah Towler

## KLT Lead Property Stewards

### Ayotte’s Point Woods:

Jane Darling

### Balsam Lake Wetland:

Lawrie Keillor-Faulkner

### Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island:

Warren Dunlop, Dave Heaman, and Jim Dillane

### Christie Bentham Wetland:

Rachel Corbet and Martha Hunt

### Dance Nature Sanctuary:

David Marshall

### Emily Creek Wetland:

Norm North and Dennis Voigt

### Fell Wetland:

Ham Keillor-Faulkner

### Ingleton-Wells Property:

Richard Raper

### Jeffrey-Cowan Forest Preserve:

Ed Duncan and Ian Smith

### John Earle Chase Memorial Park:

Marty Obbard

### Jones Woodlot:

Ham Keillor-Faulkner

### Keppler Nature Sanctuary:

Charley Peebles

### Wooten-Kirk Property:

Aileen Wheeldon

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Randy Northey, Vice-Chair  
George Gillespie, Treasurer  
John McWilliams, Past-Chair  
Al Sippel  
Eric Howe  
Eva Kennedy  
Geri Blinick  
John Good  
Robert Brown

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Bill Morris  
John Good  
Kate Ramsay  
Steven DeNure

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John McWilliams  
Paul Downs  
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John Kintare, Executive Director

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Rudy Massimo  
Ralph McKim  
John McWilliams  
Roslyn Moore  
William Morris  
Randy Northey  
Gary Pritchard  
Kate Ramsay  
Donald Ross  
Al Sippel  
Evan Thomas  
Tony Tilly  
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