

Notes from the Field and Forest

Your 2026 Summer Donor Newsletter



Photo by Ashley Cramer

Penryn Forest

As the summer sun shines down here in the Kawarthas, we wanted to take a moment to extend our gratitude to you for all you do for nature.

When you read this newsletter that we put together for you, we hope you'll see your impact on nature in every story.

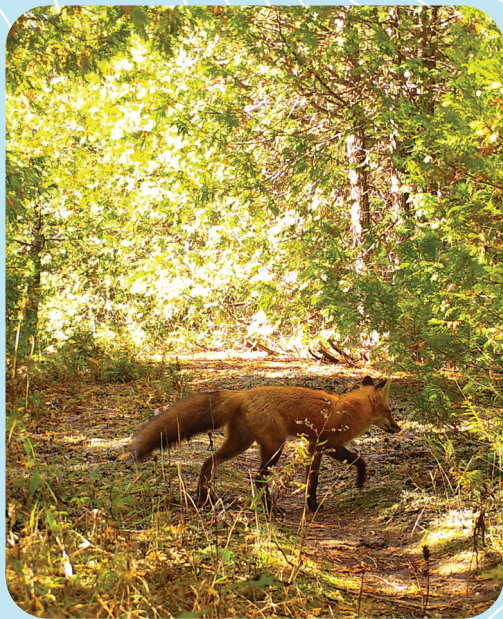
Wishing you a wonderful summer with moments in nature that make lasting memories.

A blue ink signature, likely of John Kintare, written in a cursive style.

John Kintare
Executive Director

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- **You made history**
- **Salamander surveys**
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You helped conserve deep forest habitat and vital wetlands.

You Made Conservation History

50 properties in 25 years — **your conservation legacy keeps growing.**

It's not often that you get to say that you made history! Thanks to your support and the generosity of the land donors and funders, Kawartha Land Trust announced the protection of two new nature sanctuaries in May.

The protection of Penryn Forest in Kawartha Lakes and Pierce-Vigneux Nature Sanctuary in Peterborough County brings KLT's protected lands to 50. That's 9,100 acres of natural and working lands protected for future generations!

Thank you for supporting the conservation and care of nature in the Kawarthas and for being an important part of this exciting milestone in Kawartha Land Trust's history. Next stop, 10,000 acres protected!



Meet the “Sallie Squad”

Your support is enabling important research in the Kawarthas.

Kawartha Land Trust's fourth annual Salamander Surveys are a wrap!

The “Sallie Squad” teams visited ten sites and located four species of Salamanders — Spotted, Blue-spotted, Red-backed, and Four-toed — and several species of frogs, including Green Frog, Spring Peeper and at-risk Western Chorus Frog.

“Salamanders are often overlooked as bioindicators of ecosystem health,” shared Rachel Barrington, Partners in Conservation Coordinator. “Their presence or absence can tell us a lot about the health of the land.”

The data collected will be submitted to iNaturalist, which will help researchers, scientists, and policymakers better understand salamander populations in the Kawarthas and help fill data gaps.

We extend our gratitude to members of KLT's Partners in Conservation program who welcomed the “Sallie Squad” volunteer teams to survey their properties and collect information about these fascinating creatures.





Catching a Glimpse of Ontario's Only Lizard

You're supporting habitat for at-risk species like the Five-lined Skink

When you're out in the field, you never know what you'll see. A few weeks ago, Kawartha Land Trust staff were monitoring a nature reserve that you helped protect and spotted not one, but two Five-lined Skinks!

Ontario's only lizard requires connected habitats to survive — specifically, forests connected to rock barrens.

"It's a real treat and a joy to see these charming little lizards in their native habitat," shares Hayden Wilson, Land Stewardship Manager. "Little flashes of blue darting across the moss is something great to see."

Thank you for permanently protecting habitat for at-risk species like the Five-lined Skink.



Boardwalks for Biodiversity

Great Scot! Using invasive Scots Pine to build boardwalks at Ballyduff Trails

Sometimes a great idea comes along and you have support from donors like you to make it happen.

This spring, Kawartha Land Trust staff and volunteers began the process of rebuilding a boardwalk along the Orange Trail at Ballyduff Trails using invasive Scots Pine they removed that morning. What a great use of an invasive plant species!

Using invasive Scots Pine to re-establish the boardwalks also benefits the surrounding biodiversity by removing the risk of walking on sensitive plants in the forest's understory.

You can read more at
kawarthalandtrust.org/news

Thank you for showing up for nature!



Great Spangled
Fritillary butterfly



25 years of community-
supported conservation



50 protected
properties



50 kilometres
of community trails



9,100 acres
protected and cared for



90 Partners in
Conservation members



13,000 acres
impacted through
KLT's Partners in
Conservation program

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