

Save the Land You Love

Thousand Islands  
Watershed Land Trust  
AGM  
2017





# Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust

## **Mission:**

To “permanently protect land in the Thousand Islands watershed region through acquisition or conservation agreements, and to achieve good land management through stewardship agreements and education”

## **TIWLT BOARD:**

President: Marnie Ross

Dave Warner

Secretary-Treasurer: John Ambrose

Mary Jane Lamb

Vice President: Ed Lowans

Don Ross

## **TIWLT BOARD ADVISORS:**

Shaun Thompson - Leeds Grenville Stewardship Council

Sheldon Lambert – Thousand Islands National Park

Mike Cappello – Charleston Lake Provincial Park

John Ross – American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts

Deborah McGee – Bookkeeper

Financial Advisor: Ken Durand

Legal Advisors: John Simpson, Annie Clifford and Arden Deir

IRS advisor: Heather Chapman

## **Thank you to our Funders:**

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Gretchen Bauta

The W. Garfield Weston Foundation

Governments of Ontario and Canada

Nature Conservancy of Canada

Ontario Land Trust Alliance

Ontario Trillium Foundation

And most of all,

Individual donors for supporting our work this year



# Message from the President

The Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust represents a wonderful community of individuals who care about conservation in this most biologically diverse area in Canada - individuals working towards a common goal. Our community continues to grow as we work together to increase our impact.

Our land trust community had another busy year, and we are forever grateful to our funding supporters who value the work our members do to conserve the Thousand Islands Watershed natural heritage. And TIWLT values each and every member. Not only do we appreciate knowing you believe in what we are doing, but your \$45 is our only source of operations funds. We try to stay within that amount and put all donations toward securing land. In 2018 we also had 5 individuals who helped start the "Seed Fund" which works like bridge financing to pay costs associated with land donations which will be repaid to the fund should we get donations or grants targeted to conservation. We appreciate the civic-mindedness of Douglas and Blu Mackintosh, Sarah Shapiro and Matthew Stotland, Gretchen Bauta, Susan Jane Ross and an anonymous donor. This gives the board flexibility to move fast when desirable property comes up. It's a good start and please consider adding to those reserves for our future.

It is thanks to these supporters that TIWLT has almost completed 3 donations of properties that include farmed land. These will continue to be farmed in a sustainable manner with emphasis on grass-land species at risk. You will be able to walk on one property when we complete the loop to the waterfalls - exciting. This is the first time we've accepted houses on property and that presents challenges. We hope you'll be there to help and enjoy when you can. We are also talking to 4 families with Thousand Island properties. It's exciting property and we'll let you know how things are going later. We also carried on an Ecological Gift Workshop at the Arthur Child Heritage Museum July 2017 with the head of EcoGifts, Laura Kucey. We welcomed US citizens to Wolfe Island to have a workshop at Mackie and Charlotte MacLean's property with American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts and many other partners in July 2018. As well we are working with Ironwood Organics on our Ecological Demonstration Farm where we supported Chris Wooding in restoring a heritage barn, researching bats and doing walks with groups such as the Queens' Environmental Studies class. It's been a wonderful, fulfilling exciting year and next year promises to be even better. We have started our Strategic Plan and will send around a request to join us in charting our future. It's time to grow our board and membership, our volunteers and our expertise. We have to keep land forever. We have to live up to the promise.

It's an exciting time to be involved in land conservation. Canada's Pathway to Target 1, and other initiatives focussed on work towards the Canadian target of 17% of conserved land by 2020, has put private land conservation firmly on the radar of both provincial and national governments. We are part of the Climate Change solution as well as protecting species at risk habitat. Climate Change is here but I firmly believe that we can do something about it locally. Donations of land and funds, change to efficient appliances, use Bullfrog Power, insulate, try electric cars, geothermal, leave the single use plastic at the store. Today as I write this, there is news of weather being a factor in food shortages even here in Eastern Ontario. There are many effects of climate change and we are just starting to see them. It's time for us to be the change for the better.

Marnie Ross

## TIWLT Impact By the Numbers

**24** properties conserved by the end of 2017. **4,762.17** acres conserved by purchase, easement or fee simple donation. **1,068.72** acres of which remain in our care. The rest went to other partners such as Thousand Islands National Park, Charleston Lake Provincial Park, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ontario Nature. **\$2,138,400** is the value of land under our care. In 2017 we added the Marshall property on Bostwick Island which is part of the marsh donated by the Streets.

In 2018 we are working on **7** properties: **3** farms: **59.8** acres, **111.46** acres and **101.19** acres for a total appraised value of **\$699,000**. This will bring the acreage under our care up to **1,341.17** and the acres saved up to **5,034.62**. And we are working on conserving part of Ash Island with some of the small islands surrounding it- a wonderful area of fish and water bird habitat.

In 2017 we made plans to start the Ecological Demonstration Farm at Ironwood Organics. We accepted a grant from Gretchen Bauta for **\$150,000** in 2017 and another of **\$50,000** from Gretchen with a matching amount of **\$50,000** from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation in 2018. Almost all will be used by the hard working Chris and Mary Wooding on the farm. They build capacity, research healthy soils, farming compatible with Species at Risk, seed development, ecosystem services and emphasizes Education for everyone. Several programmes were carried out including: firefly walks, monarch butterfly events, bat walks, ecosystem services walks, flower arranging from foraging, Soil to Bread and food from foraging.

The “Seed Fund” has started with donations totaling **\$13,000**. We are on the way to **\$50,000** that will act as bridge financing to hopefully be repaid by the landowner, donors or possible grants.

TIWLT was given a grant from Ontario Land Trust Alliance and Trillium of **\$6,870** to research US landowners and do a workshop for them. We also worked on a Land Acquisition Strategy and mapping our properties in our area. Then OLTA also gave us **\$4,200** for a Species at Risk researching on the Ross property and formulating a management plan for Species at Risk.

TIWLT was given the benefit of **2** students in the Canada Summer Jobs Program. Brett and Rachel worked on communication, the Cross-Border research and monitoring.