

KHC has a new logo

The Newsletter of the

Kawartha Heritage Conservancy

Issue 3

February 2011

Lands Conserved! Mike Hendren, Executive Director

Protecting Your Natural Environment and Cultural Heritage in the Kawarthas

2010 has been a very exciting year for us here at KHC, highlighted by a significant increase in our protected lands, thanks in large part to generous donors and partners!

Leslie and Sandra Vincent of Peterborough donated their 102 acres of managed forest and wetland habitat in North Peterborough County. This property contains excellent examples of deciduous forest, coniferous forest, and wetlands. A creek drains from a beaver pond into nearby Salmon Lake providing good access to Salmon Lake, one of the most pristine lakes found in the 'top' of the Trent-Severn Waterway watershed area.

We also acquired a large donation of 715 acres of Provincially Significant Wetland and Area of Natural and Scientific Interest by the former members of the Emily Creek Club and supported by Ducks Unlimited Canada. This property is located north of Omemee in the City of Kawartha Lakes, off of Sturgeon Lake. This large and significant wetland complex is within the transitional zone bordering the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowlands and the Canadian Shield eco-zone. The generous donation includes a fully-furnished 4-bedroom cabin and canoes!

As well, we completed the final steps on two conservation agreements. 1) Heather Elliott of Toronto donated a conservation agreement interest on nearly 139 acres of rare riparian habitat and managed forests on Stoney Lake. This property is one of the last, remaining large protected areas on the lake and forms a habitat corridor area for a wide array of species. 2) Major Howson of

Peterborough entered into a conservation easement agreement with KHC on his 100 acres of property, consisting of woodlands, agricultural lands and riparian habitat. Known as the "Glen Burn", the property is located in the rolling hills of Otonabee-South Monaghan Township. The agreement will ensure that the ecological character of the property is protected in perpetuity in accordance with the conservation easement agreement.

In addition, a number of interested parties have engaged KHC in discussions on developing protective measures for their properties in the years to come.

Building on this years' excitement, we will move forward in 2011 with two major undertakings. KHC will

1) Shift from large scale acquisition to management and stewardship of the protected properties. We will do this by reaching out to the community for long-term support, and further develop ongoing partnerships with Trent University, Fleming College and other volunteers to implement management plans for each property.

2) Lead the 'Kawartha Natural Heritage Strategy'. This initiative includes a number of partners including conservation authorities, the City of Kawartha Lakes and the County of Peterborough, community councils, Peterborough district Ministry of Natural Resources, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Parks Canada. In consultation with the regional community we will come together in developing targets for protection, education and awareness in the Kawarthas region.

Our Window to the Future...

Sandra and Les Vincent, Peterborough

Donating our 100 acres (was, was not) easy; but let me tell you about it.

Forging a mile and a half of "rough road" through this beautiful, but tough country with a wheelbarrow, chainsaw and shovel gets you close to the land; that was forty years ago! We knew then that "Kawartha country" was special; you could feel it ... in every yard/metre that we created as this pioneering road unfolded. Forty years later, we know what we have given; it was worth it then; it still is.

In the late 1960's we searched for the unattainable - a little piece of nature, a somewhat primitive, somewhat

undisturbed window ... through which, if opened one might see the future. Sure it was hard to get past the real or imagined obstructs! And so, along with my wife, son and daughter we began a trail. ... at many levels ... through

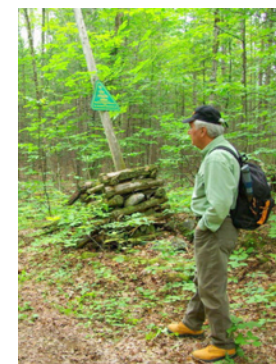


Photo: Suresh V. Kandaswamy

this future preserve ... to the edge of waters, a small clearing, a small cabin, a grand encounter.

Living in the bush (part-time) for ten years (albeit with some comforts) gives you a chance to hold hands with Nature; the grip tightens. Moving down the creek by canoe to companion waters

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Become a Fan of KHC on Facebook!



Photo: Suresh V. Kandaswamy



Sandra and Les Vincent (centre) receive a plaque depicting an aerial view of their property. Also in the picture are Mike Hendren and Danielle Porplycia, granddaughter

KHC thanks The McLean Foundation for their generous financial support for the acquisition and endowment for future management of the property.

**The
McLean
Foundation**

**Ontario Doors Open
provides a great opportunity to celebrate
local culture....**

This newsletter and the various cultural heritage initiatives have been made possible by the generous financial contribution of

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is still ... the repeat; a connection with shining waters!

Time passes; partnerships emerge.

Throughout the next two decades the MNR asked us to consider putting the property under the umbrella of a Managed Forest; we did. Successful partnerships followed: Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program, Ontario Woodlot Association, and now the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy. All of these contributed over the years to this "team enterprise"; we continue to conserve!

The black bears, loons, elk, moose, great blue herons, deer, wild turkeys, racoons, foxes, salamanders, turtles, trilliums and maple trees all smiled; they smile now!

In our "elder years" ... decisions call; important decisions. Echoes bounce: a beautiful legacy ... a tedious tenancy ... back-sliding to the return of the unimproved, a rebirth!

It isn't easy ... but after some forty years of considerate action ... why stop? Look ahead. Add ... shining waters, years of consideration, and preserve with intent ... content. It's a natural; develop a conservancy in Kawartha; preserve this bio-diverse heritage. Our four grandchildren will be proud.

With confident composure we donated this 102 acre "cornerstone of Kawartha" to the KAWARTHA HERITAGE CONSERVANCY ... knowing well that our Kawartha Country ...indeed the planet...will embrace this "preserve" with measured reassurances, that in more than some small way ... these forests, these waters, this bio-diverse ... are bettered now and bettered more in the near and distant future ... because it is part of the KHC...part of a better Canada.

Our warmest regards to the Director of Kawartha Heritage Conservancy-Mike Hendren, Ian Attridge, the staff and the Board of Directors without whose assistance and facilitation, this Eco-gift might never have occurred. Thanks too, to Environment Canada. We look forward to ... being a part of this conservancy partnership.

Heritage Conservation Matters

Suresh V. Kandaswamy, Program Manager

When I talk to the public and others interested in conservation about Kawartha Heritage Conservancy, there is often a sense of awe about its mission, which is to conserve the natural environment and cultural heritage in the Kawarthas. Heritage and landscapes are pretty loaded words

that can be confusing to most. Heritage is often thought of as something old, archaic, run-down, and disappearing. While these words hold true for some of the heritage resources, the word heritage has a lot deeper and broader meaning. Heritage in its basic form means what we as a society or community value.

Natural heritage includes tangible assets, things that can be seen and touched, such things as flora and fauna, geology and landforms, rivers and lakes. However, it is not just the physical elements in the natural environment that are valuable to us. Being out in nature, whether it is by car or remote camping, hiking, canoeing, or fishing, gives us a sense of adventure, freedom, solitude, togetherness, relaxation, and peace that cannot be easily measured.

Cultural heritage on the other hand refers to inherited traditions, built structures, monuments, sacred places, performing and visual arts, libraries and archives, local folklore, festivals and events, historic districts and museums, commercial arts and architecture, sports, and unique stories within a community. This is of course not an inclusive list. What is valued as a cultural resource or asset is unique to the particular community and can only be completely defined by engaging the members of the particular community. Sometimes, natural heritage is also a cultural heritage. For example, rivers and lakes of the Kawarthas have stories associated with First Nations, early settlers, and the long tradition of cottaging. Cultural heritage provides individuals a sense of place, community, belonging, and security. It informs us who we are, where we come from, and what we have accomplished. It allows us to relate to one another, to share stories and experiences, and to perceive the space and world around us.

There are many factors affecting our heritage resources. These includes climate change, land use changes, developmental pressures, neglect of cultural heritage buildings and sites, economic viability of maintaining a cultural heritage resource, misinformation, lack of community interest, and availability of incentives, policies, and tools for conservation. Finding institutional, social, and economic means as well as political initiative to conserve is important. This is an exciting time for the Kawarthas. KHC's land conservation successes during the past year and initiatives towards cultural heritage conservation, such as those initiated by the City of Peterborough, Township of Cavan Monaghan, and the City of Kawartha Lakes, are encouraging and sets the stage for conserving heritage in a regional context.

DOORS OPEN: Preserving Our Past.

John Bick

Have you ever wondered how people convert one room schoolhouses into liveable homes? Are you curi-

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ous about how dry stone walls or fences were constructed? Have you considered that churches and cemeteries are often the best repositories of local history? Do you yearn to know more about widows' walks, plaster medallions or dumb waiters? A Doors Open heritage tour may answer some of these enquiries.

Doors Open Ontario is celebrating its 10th Anniversary in 2011. It is a province-wide initiative of the Ontario Heritage Trust under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. Over 50 municipalities in Ontario now organize Doors Open heritage events from spring until autumn. Hundreds of historic buildings, places of worship, museums and natural heritage spaces are made available for free public tours. Regionally, Peterborough (since 2002), the City of Kawartha Lakes (since 2004), and Minden (since 2009) participate. The aim is to increase awareness about the importance of architectural heritage and local history.

Frequently the sites selected by the local organizing committees are best described in superlatives. This reminds us of the unique nature of many of the historic places that exist in our own backyards. The Peterborough and Kirkfield lift locks, the only two existing in North America, come to mind immediately. One of the best preserved general stores in Ontario in the hamlet of Victoria Road was showcased in 2007. The first Icelandic settlement in Canada established briefly in Kinmount was remembered on a 2008 tour. The Dominion Hotel in Minden, originally a stagecoach stopover and one of the oldest operating hotels in the province was a highlight of the Minden Doors Open in 2009. St. John's Anglican (1834), the oldest church in Peterborough, opened its doors in 2010.

Over 4 million people have now attended Doors Open Ontario events. Organized and conducted by volunteers, they are a very successful vehicle to augment civic pride, assess the value of conserving our built and cultural heritage and attract visitors to our area. Doors Open 2011, now in the planning stages, promises to do all of this.

Community Initiatives

Oral History of Agricultural Practices: We have initiated an oral history project to gather multi-generational stories about the social, economic, technological, and environmental history and changes in agricultural practices in the Kawarthas. This project will focus on the 4th line of Asphodel/Dummer Townships.

Natural and cultural heritage videos: We are initiating an audio/video project focusing on the Kawarthas that will engage cultural heritage organizations and individuals to share their stories about places, heritage sites, and other natural and cultural conservation initiatives

Student Projects: Students from Trent University completed a "Heritage Foods in the Kawarthas" booklet with yummy recipes. Other student projects that are on-going include developing an organizational model for the Trent Severn Waterway network, a photo inventory project and a cultural heritage conservation and planning project for the Township of Cavan Monaghan. As well, in the spring, students from Fleming College's Geographic Information System (GIS) program will be working with KHC on a significant woodlands project.

Workshops: A workshop on conducting oral history was presented, in partnership with Multi-Cultural Historical Society, and a workshop on Heritage Conservation in Ontario, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture were presented in the City of Peterborough and Lindsay respectively. Both events were well received and attended. A workshop on insuring heritage buildings will be presented in April 2011. Watch our website for date and location for this and other interesting topics.

Making an impact on policy and the future: KHC is serving on the advisory panel for the Sturgeon Lake and watershed management plan initiative. Besides providing input for a new management plan, the policy and technical aspects of the initiative could also aid in the Kawartha Natural Heritage Strategy in which KHC is also involved.

Addressing issues of sustainability is important for long-term growth of the cities. By serving on the steering and community committee of the Sustainability Plan for Greater Peterborough we hope to influence and encourage Peterborough's growth as socially, economically, and environmentally proactive and livable city.

As a community representative and as a heritage organization, KHC has been working together with consultants, community organizations, and the municipal government to help stimulate the City of Peterborough's cultural planning process, Township of Cavan Monaghan's cultural mapping initiatives, and the City of Kawartha Lakes' cultural master plan.

Collecting natural and cultural heritage data: We continue to collect natural and cultural heritage data. If you have information on significant cultural and natural/environment features, photos, newspaper articles, documents, information relating to cultural or natural heritage and Species of Risk, please contact us. We can help digitize the information and work with you to ensure the information is archived in a suitable manner.



Photo: : Andrew Arentowicz



Photo: Dawn Knudsen



Photo: Pat Durey

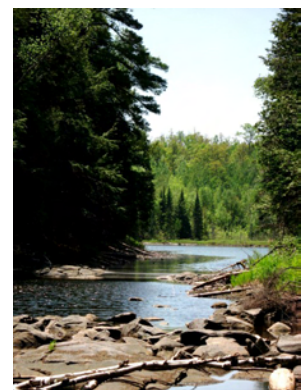


Photo: Tannis Price

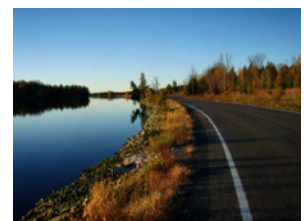


Photo: Jonathan Teuchert

Meet the Board

Roslyn Moore, President & Chair

Ralph McKim, Director
Debbie Mack, Director
Steven C. Bark, Director
Diane Wolf, Director
John Platt, Director
Bob Browne, Director

Visit our website for Board Profiles.

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Cover banner photos:
Suresh V. Kandaswamy and Ian Attridge



International Travels

Ian Attridge

During my travels in 2010, my partner Sue and I travelled to South America and Europe, and cycled in the latter a total of some 6300 km. The natural and cultural heritage highlights included the Amazon rainforest (including jaguar!), Galapagos, Peru's ancient coastal and Inca cultures, Baltic Sea limestone alvars, Freiburg's sustainability initiatives, Turin's Slow Food conference (and tastings), and working on Andean, Italian and French farms. The cities and countryside were indeed amazing, each with a different story to tell. We also really enjoyed the cycling in Holland, southern Scandinavian islands, up into the Alps, and in the Loire, Mosel, Rhine, Danube and Durance valleys. We had a great trip! It was a privilege to meet intriguing people and learn so much about the diverse natural and cultural heritage on these two continents. Still, we are glad to be back in our Kawarthas community and ready to share insights and stories from our travels.

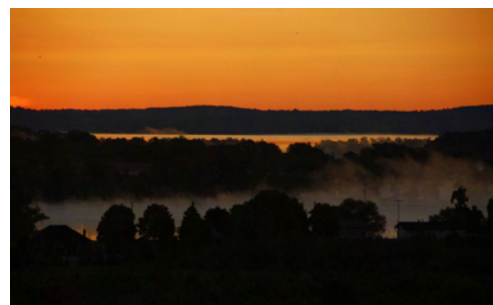


Photo: Ian Attridge

Photo Contest 2010

The response was amazing and so were the pictures. Thanks to all those who submitted their vision of the Kawarthas. The photos truly capture the beauty and uniqueness of the Kawarthas. Selected photos are displayed in this newsletter.

Winning Photo: Larry Keeley, Misty Morning



Winning and special mention photo contributors are (visit our website for the photos):

2nd Place: Larry Keeley and Tannis Price
3rd Place: Andrew Arentowicz, Dawn Knudsen, Larry Keeley

Special Mention
Caroline Archambault, Doug Van Hernessen, Jonathan Teuchert, Michael Mason, Moira Howes, Pat Durey, Tannis Price

Look out for our 2011 Photo Contest in the summer

Cut along the line and mail

How you can help.....

Yes, I want to help protect our natural landscape and cultural heritage. Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of:

\$ 40 \$ 7 0 \$ 1 0 0 Other \$

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

Please return this form to:
Kawartha Heritage Conservancy, P.O. Box 2338, Peterborough, ON K9J 7Y8.

You may also donate on-line at www.kawarthaheritage.org through Canadahelps.org or PayPal™

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