

## **SECUREMENT IN THE KAWARTHAS: PRIORITY AREAS, ROLES AND RESOURCES**

The following discussion outlines priority areas for land securement in the Kawartha region, the roles of securement organizations, and some of the resources they have available for land securement work.

### **Securement Priority Areas:**

The following priority or activity areas for land securement in the Kawartha region were identified by various conservation organizations in February 2015. Brief background on each site is included here; the organizations with primary interest in such areas are noted (or inferred in parentheses), with organization acronyms described in the next section. Here, reference is made to the Kawarthas Naturally Connected (KNC) project to identify a natural heritage system, and provincial designations of Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

1. Stoney/Clear Lake – KLT, NCC
  - Limestone to Shield transition (Land Between), with high biodiversity
  - Concentration of KNC ecological values in the east and north
  - Extensive shoreline and active, supportive cottage community
  - Growing conservation ownership and trail corridors
  - Several significant First Nation and archaeological sites
2. Stoney to Rice Lake Corridor – KLT
  - Extensive conservation and public ownership
  - High concentration of KNC ecological values, stream linkages
3. Birdsell Wildlife Area – ORCA, NCC
  - PSW, creek and lake shoreline
  - Bird concentration area
4. Warsaw Caves – ORCA
  - Rare habitats (alvar, cliffs), river corridor and old trees
  - Unique geological features (potholes, caves, gorge), Land Between
  - Accessible, diverse recreational opportunities on public lands
5. Moore Lake – KLT, DUC
  - PSW, Earth Science ANSI, and corridor between major lakes
  - Large land holdings, some in conservation ownership

6. Buckley's Lake and Creek – ORCA, DUC
  - PSW, bird concentration area, natural corridor and species at risk
  - Extensive and long-standing conservation ownership
7. Cavan Swamp – ORCA, NCC
  - PSW, rare habitats (bog) and orchids
  - Extensive public conservation ownership
  - Headwaters of Jackson Creek flowing into the City of Peterborough
8. Kawartha Highlands to Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands – KLT, ON
  - Many natural features and special management on public/private lands
  - Limestone to Shield transition (Land Between), KNC concentrations.
  - Connecting corridor between our region's two largest protected areas
9. Creeks from Balsam to Scugog Lakes – KRCA
  - Connecting natural/stream linkages in a largely transformed landscape
10. North Pigeon Lake/Nogies Creek – KLT, KRCA
  - Fish Sanctuary, some concentration of KNC features
  - Land Between, limestone features, including Ontario's 3<sup>rd</sup> longest cave
  - Some conservation ownership and prospects
  - Longest undeveloped lake shoreline areas in the region
11. Emily Creek – KLT, KRCA, DUC
  - PSW, ANSI, species at risk, and bird concentration area
  - Extensive conservation ownership
  - Large natural north-south corridor with limited adjacent impacts
12. Bethany Hills/Fleetwood Creek – KLT, KRCA, OHT
  - ANSI, with large interior forests and geological features
  - Extensive conservation ownership
  - Oak Ridges Moraine Core and Linkage Areas
13. East Cross Forest – KRCA, NCC
  - Oak Ridges Moraine and large sand features
  - Extensive conservation ownership and recreational use
14. Carden Plain – NCC, CC
  - Large alvar and grassland habitats, Land Between, with species at risk
  - Important Bird Area and concentration of KNC features
  - Extensive conservation ownership

15. Rice Lake Plains – NCC, ORMLT, NLT

- Rare and large grassland and savannah habitats
- Species at risk, wide restoration efforts
- Extensive conservation and First Nation ownership

16. Northumberland Forest – ORMLT, NLT

- Large forest area and corridor across Oak Ridges Moraine
- Extensive conservation ownership and recreational use

17. Ganaraska Forest - ORMLT

- Large forest area and corridor across Oak Ridges Moraine
- Extensive conservation ownership and recreational use

## Securement Organizations and Roles

The following organizations are involved in land securement in the Kawartha region:

CC	Couchiching Conservancy
DUC	Ducks Unlimited Canada
KLT	Kawartha Land Trust
KRCA	Kawartha Region Conservation Authority
NCC	Nature Conservancy of Canada
NLT	Northumberland Land Trust
OFT	Ontario Farmland Trust
OHT	Ontario Heritage Trust
ON	Ontario Nature
ORCA	Otonabee Region Conservation Authority
ORMLT	Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust

The following table highlights these organizations' securement roles and capabilities:

Organization	EcoGift Recipient	Purchase Lands	CEA	Acquisition Frequency
CC	X	X	X	Active
DUC	X	X	X	Occasional
KLT	X	X	X	Active
KRCA	X	X		Occasional
NCC	X	X	X	Active
NLT	X	?		Occasional
OFT	X	X		Inactive
OHT	X	X	X	Active
ON	X	X		Occasional
ORCA	X	?		Inactive
ORMLT	X	?	X	Active

Parks Canada (federal), Ontario Parks (provincial), and upper- and lower-tier municipalities also play occasional roles in acquiring lands for their natural and open space/recreational values, including establishment of the Trent-Severn Waterway and a series of provincial and municipal parks. Other organizations, such as Trent University, Fleming College, schools, camps and cottage associations also own substantial holdings compatible with conservation management.

### **Priority Features and Landscapes:**

The following are considered priority features and landscapes for many of the securement organizations in the Kawartha region:

- Rare habitats (e.g. prairies, alvars, cliffs, caves, bogs, endangered species habitat, etc.);
- The most recognized sites (e.g. with multiple provincial/national designations)
- The most vulnerable sites (e.g. shorelines, near settlements, on aggregates, good soils, without protection, etc.);
- Sites with the most number of natural values;
- Sites with both significant natural and cultural values (e.g. scenic, agricultural, archaeological, recreational, spiritual, etc.);
- Sites that have importance but are not typically recognized or protected, or have protection gaps (e.g. prairies, cliffs, caves, beyond PPS protection);
- Sites that have high natural cover connectivity, or could be restored to better connect larger, important natural areas;
- Sites which round out the representation of the area's diverse features and functions ;
- Sites with substantial public support and interest (e.g. for controversial, economic, historical, political, or strategic reasons);
- Sites that consolidate existing protected holdings in an area;
- Strategic sites with lower natural or cultural values (e.g. for large restoration, connectivity, blockage of future development, etc.)

### **Kawartha Securement Collaboration Principles:**

Securement organizations in the Kawartha region agree to work together to champion securement in priority landscapes. The following principles inform such collaboration to foster effective land conservation relationships and results:

1. The securement of important lands is a common goal, and thus any qualified organization may take the lead and secure particular properties;

2. Where a securement prospect does not fit with an organization's requirements or capabilities, the organization will refer the prospect to another organization, where appropriate;
3. Organizations working in similar areas will periodically share active inquiries and plans in order to avoid duplication, competition and "recipient shopping" by prospects;
4. Organizations may decide to collaborate on planning, fundraising, securing, monitoring, stewarding, enforcing and/or conservation agreement backup roles, among others;
5. Organizations may develop collective conservation plans for features and landscapes in the region;
6. Organizations working together on a securement project will make explicit arrangements that frame how project planning, management, approvals, costs, publicity and stewardship will be shared; and,
7. Organizations will collaborate in developing policies and programs that support securement, both within and beyond the Kawartha region.

### **Securement Resources:**

With a few targeted exceptions, land securement in the Kawarthas proceeds primarily by way of donation of either fee simple (full ownership) or a permanent conservation agreement with restrictions to protect identified features. A variety of incentives and resources are available to support land securement work.

#### Ecological Gifts

A key program that provides income tax incentives is the Ecological Gifts Program, whereby Environment Canada certifies the ecological sensitivity (i.e. significance), donation value and appropriate recipient of such gifts of lands or conservation agreements. Tax benefits for donors include an enhanced annual claim limit, exemption from capital gains tax, certainty of valuation, and Environment Canada supervision of future uses and dispositions of the land.

#### Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program

An important incentive program for land holding organizations and individuals is the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP). Certain lands recognized as being of provincial ecological significance are exempt from annual property taxes, based on the owner's annual application. Land trusts and conservation authorities are also eligible for a wider range of ecologically important lands. Other similar property tax reduction programs include the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program, the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program, and the Heritage Property Tax Relief Program. In some cases, and for some specialized organizations, there may be additional property tax reductions.

## Other Funding

Securement organizations need funding to support a variety of functions in the securement process. These include funds to purchase lands and to support transaction costs (e.g. lawyer, Land Registry Office, appraiser, planner and/or surveyor fees). There are also annual expenses to sustain stewardship over the longer term (e.g. taxes, insurance, monitoring, restoration, public uses and other activities). While volunteers may be of assistance, specialized staff skills and efforts will need to be supported for each stage of prioritizing, planning, researching, negotiating and stewarding lands.

Each of the securement organizations has their own mix of funding sources to support their securement operations. Funding can be found from such sources as:

- Individual, corporation and foundation grants;
- Federal, provincial or municipal sources;
- Service fees for related activities;
- Levies, fees, income or property taxes; and,
- Compatible user and resource harvest fees, where appropriate.

Some specific funding sources are targeted to securement and stewardship activities, such as:

- Ontario Land Trust Assistance Program – for transaction and sometimes stewardship expenses for land trusts and conservation authorities;
- Canada's Natural Conservation Areas Plan – for purchasing lands and, in some cases, for transaction expenses and staff support;
- OHT Natural Spaces Program – for acquisition and stewardship;
- Durham Region Land Acquisition Fund – for land acquisition by conservation authorities;
- Ontario Species at Risk Stewardship Fund and federal Habitat Stewardship Fund – primarily for species at risk stewardship on secured lands; and,
- Land Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Program – stewardship funds for conservation organizations and municipalities.

## **Policy Development:**

It would be helpful to develop the following policies, procedures and programs to support securement in the Kawartha region:

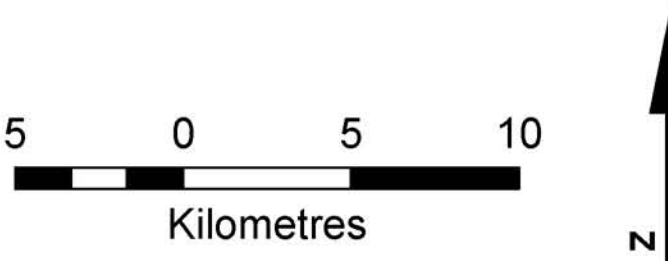
- Streamlined severances for conservation purposes;
- Securement funding;
- Screening of lands for ecological values before organization disposition;
- Collaborative land stewardship (e.g. staff, volunteers, equipment, storage);

- Municipal fee waivers/reductions (e.g. for rezoning, severances, parkland fees);
- Incentives, development charges, local improvement area charges, or other financial mechanisms to enhance securement;
- Conservation offset programs (e.g. require securement and stewardship offsets for certain types of development, and broker such arrangements);
- Information sharing and research (e.g. access to municipal data, financial benefits of conservation, etc.).



# Kawartha Land Securement Priority Areas

- 1. Stoney/Clear Lake
- 2. Stoney to Rice Lake Corridor
- 3. Birdsall Wildlife Area
- 4. Warsaw Caves
- 5. Moore Lake
- 6. Buckley's Lake and Creek
- 7. Cavan Swamp
- 8. Kawartha Highlands to Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands
- 9. Creeks from Balsam to Scugog Lakes
- 10. North Pigeon Lake/Nogies Creek
- 11. Emily Creek
- 12. Bethany Hills/Fleetwood Creek
- 13. East Cross Forest
- 14. Carden Plain
- 15. Rice Lake Plains
- 16. Northumberland Forest
- 17. Ganaraska Forest



DATA SOURCE: Land Information Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Natural Resources Canada.

MAPPED BY: © Kawartha Land Trust, 2015.  
156 McDonnell St. PO. Box 2338  
Peterborough ON K9J 7Y8  
705.743.5599, info@kawarthalandtrust.org

This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of privately-owned land, routes, locations of features, nor as a guide to navigation. This is not a plan of survey.



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