

Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust
2020 ANNUAL REPORT





Highlights from 2020

- * Bioacoustic monitoring and trail cameras continue to reveal an abundance of information about the wildlife (various birds, frogs, bats, insects, and mammals) on the properties
- * MMLT properties closed for almost a month in the Spring of 2020 when the Province of Ontario went into lockdown
- * Nature became a safe, healing space for thousands of visitors who took to the trails seeking a haven from the restrictions imposed due to Covid-19
- * The Festival of the Wild Child was transformed into a series of 5 scavenger hunts at High Lonesome Nature Reserve. Children, Parents, and Grandparents enjoyed a much needed adventure together before returning to their back-to school bubbles
- * Lake88.1 FM hosted a Radiothon in July to help replace the income lost from cancelled events
- * A new kiosk-style structure was installed at High Lonesome in 2019/20. It was designed to create alternate nesting habitat for barn swallows (and a phoebe) that years ago used the barn that was recently demolished at High Lonesome
- * Entomologist Rob Longair conducted an insect study at High Lonesome Nature Reserve from May to October 2020, examining selected insects to help gain a better understanding of insect diversity [or biodiversity] at the site. Scientists at the Canadian National Collection of Insects and Arachnids of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada at the Central Experimental Farm will study some of the material as well
- * High Lonesome Fish Study was conducted by Callum Ramsay, a student at Sir Sanford Fleming College in the Summer of 2020
- * High Lonesome was also the site of a gypsy moth study conducted by Paulette Hebert, Forest Health Technician, Algonquin Park, Pembroke and Kemptville Districts of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Looking ahead to 2021



Once we can safely gather again, our Discover series and exciting new events will continue to offer our members and community opportunities to explore and learn about different aspects of nature from local experts.

Please watch our website, newsletters and Facebook page for upcoming event announcements.

A Message from MMLT President, Bob Betcher



Last year I wrote that 2019 had been a year of change for the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust but we came through it well. I can say much the same for 2020; that it was a year like no other for our organization, yet we have come through it well. We've been able to do this through the hard work and dedication of our board, our administrator and our volunteers, as well as the support we have received from our membership and those who kindly left a donation when they visited our properties or said "thank you" when meeting a board member on the trails.

The past year certainly had its ups and downs. We had to close our trails for the later part of April and the first half of May but when the trails were re-opened, usage increased by leaps and bounds and continued at unprecedented levels right to the end of December. People needed to get out into Nature and MMLT provided the wild spaces for them to do so. There is little doubt that 2021 will bring similar, or even greater, usage of our sites. We have been working hard over the winter to address some of the challenges from last year such as parking, minor trail erosion and, to some of us, perhaps too many visitors for some of our "wild" lands to accommodate.

It was also a year where we had to cancel most of our events, although the Festival of the Wild Child did proceed in modified form and our Fall Colours walk at Blueberry Mountain was held, but without the post-walk coffee and bonbons. The Annual General Meeting was held in May via Zoom and without a pre-meeting speaker. Most disappointing for many of us was the cancellation of the Gala and the opportunity to listen to an interesting talk by a guest speaker, mingle with friends, and bid on some silent auction items.

But we did, nonetheless, have many successes during the year. The Lake 88.1 Radiothon featuring Michael Runtz, Howard Clifford and Ed Lawrence proved to be a great way to get our Land Trust message out to the community and raise funds. We also made steady progress in placing conservation easements on three additional properties and continue discussions with the owners of a potential land donation.

As our Treasurer reports, we managed to come through a pandemic year on a sound financial footing. This is a direct result of the strength of our membership and generosity of our donors.

As we all know, MMLT's work is not just to protect wild properties but we also carry out or support ecological studies on many of these sites to document the flora and fauna that are present and the changes that are occurring over time. In 2020 we again set up sound recording instrumentation at a number of our sites which are used to record the presence of species of birds, amphibians and even insects. One of our directors has also been studying wasp and other insect species at the High Lonesome site and the province used that site as part of their efforts to evaluate expectations for Gypsy Moth numbers in this area in 2021.

In closing, although 2020 was a year that taxed us in many ways, we have continued our work to protect our existing properties, to acquire additional sites, and to provide a Nature experience for our members and guests. The coming years will continue to challenge us but with a strong volunteer base and a lot of hard work, we will not only survive but continue to grow.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Betcher." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Betcher, President
Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust

2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Cash	\$ 96,217	\$ 74,313
Accounts receivable	2,352	1,877
Prepaid expenses	<u>656</u>	<u>\$641</u>
Total Operating Assets	\$ 99,225	\$ 76,831
<u>PROPERTY</u>		
Nature Reserves	\$ 669,500	\$ 669,500
Conservation Easements	<u>597,501</u>	<u>597,501</u>
Total Property Assets	1,267,001	1,267,001
Total Assets	\$ 1,366,226	\$ 1,343,832
<i>Note: Endowment Investments</i>	\$ 284,895	\$ 275,330
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Accounts payable	\$ 6,870	\$ 5,213
Deferred revenues	<u>17,433</u>	<u>7,833</u>
Total Liabilities	24,303	13,046
Unrestricted Funds	<u>74,922</u>	<u>63,785</u>
	\$ 99,225	\$ 76,831



2020 Foundation Donations

- * The **Melba Angell Fund** once again provided a grant of \$5,000 through the Ottawa Community Foundation
- * The **Laidlaw Foundation** surprised us with a grant of \$1,000

2020 FINANCIAL REPORT *continued*

<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Donations & Memberships	\$ 60,490	\$ 45,382
Grants	1,806	19,788
Events & Fundraising	4,087	14,603
Investment Income/Misc.	<u>6,004</u>	<u>4,936</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 72,387	\$ 84,709
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Projects & Programs	\$ 38,804	\$ 40,139
Property	3,874	3,213
Admin & Management	16,575	12,125
Fundraising	1,997	11,296
Investments	<u>-</u>	<u>19,000</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 61,250	\$ 85,773
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ 11,137	\$ (1,064)

INVESTMENT FUNDS December 31, 2020

The **Sustainability Fund** (\$188,017) is a permanent endowment that was established to ensure the long term viability of MMLT by providing an annual disbursement that is used to support the mission, programs, staffing, and ongoing operations of the Land Trust.

The **Carp Hills Opportunity Fund** (\$65,956) ensures the availability of funds to meet opportunities for the acquisition through outright or conservation easement donation and purchase of properties in the Carp Hills region and to cover the operating costs of such properties.

The **Land Acquisition Fund** (\$10,000) provides funding support for the acquisition of properties or conservation easements.

The **Legal Defense Fund** (\$7,708) was created to meet future legal needs of the Land Trust.



2020 EVENTS



Radiothon

Lake 88.1 FM hosted a Radiothon for MMLT on their Saturday morning show “All About the House” in July. The one hour program featured our own Howard Clifford and Bob Betcher with special guests, Ed Lawrence and Michael Runtz. The event raised over \$7,500.

An additional \$1,600 was raised through an online auction organized by Britta Gerwin.

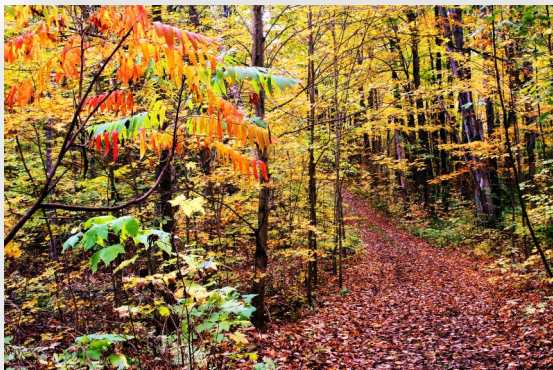
Thank you to our Event Partners:

Lake 88.1 FM	Carleton Place Terrace
The Granary	Reid Brothers Motor Sales



Festival of the Wild Child—Scavenger Hunt

Unable to hold our traditional Festival of the Wild Child, volunteers created 5 exciting scavenger hunts for little explorers and their adults. Families chose to search for everything from beavers to reptiles and amphibians, to pond life, fairies and mammals along the High Lonesome trails.



Fall Colours

Blueberry Mountain (cliffLAND) is always a favourite destination for those seeking the stunning fall foliage. This year, hundreds of visitors there drawn to Blueberry Mountain. High Lonesome Nature Reserve, Poole Family Nature Sanctuary and Rose Hill Nature Reserve also saw a dramatic increase in hikers last fall.

Special Thanks to...

Dr. Gray Merriam who donated the proceeds of his book, “Caring for Our Homeplace” to the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust

“**Girl Gone Good**”, Victoria Walsh who donated a portion of the proceeds from her “Guide to Hiking Trails in Ottawa and Region” to the Land Trust

Simon Lunn for providing the stunning photo's in this report

MANY THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Daniel Anderson
Bethany Armstrong
Chris Baburek
Bruce Barton
Melodie Benger
Bob Betcher
Holly Bickerton
Judy Buehler
Eric Boysen
Jacquie Christiani
John Clarke
Roberta Clarke
Owen Clarkin
Chad Clifford
Howard Clifford
Jean Clifford
John Clinton
Joyce Clinton
Sheila Craig
Amy Crawford
Brian Crawford

Dale Dilamarter
Debbie Duffy
Ken "Sonny" Fuller
Denis Gallant
Art Goldsmith
Michel Gauthier
Britta Gerwin
Art Goldsmith
Kierra Hanley
Tony Hogeveen
Christine Hume
Tove Hunding
Sabine Jaekel
Don Johnston
Cathy Keddy
Paul Keddy
John Kittle
Stephen Kotze
Ed Lawrence
Rob Longair
Simon Lunn

Greg Lutick
Michael Macpherson
Janet Mason
Tania Marsh
Steve Miller
Linda Mosquin
Ted Mosquin
Joshua Piché
Michael Runtz
Milo Scime
Seamus Scime
Bob Smith
Paul Smith
Sherryl Smith
Bob Stearns
Yvonne Stearns
Mary Vandenhoff
Kristie Virgoe
Judy Watts
Georgina Wigley



2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Betcher, *President*
Don Johnston, *Vice President*
Steve Kotze, *Treasurer*
Robert Stearns, *Secretary*
Bruce Barton
Dale Dilamarter
Art Goldsmith
Cathy Keddy
Rob Longair
Simon Lunn

THANK YOU 2020 DONORS

Sustainer's Circle (\$1,000+)

Bob & Pat Betcher
Claudia Burns
Anne Cameron
Howard & Jean Clifford
Deborah Duffy
Art Goldsmith and Janice Tripp
Don Johnston and Georgina Wigley
Ed Lawrence & Tove Hunding
Little Stream Bakery (Graham Beck)
Simon and Carolyn Lunn
Gray and Aileen Merriam
Ted & Linda Mosquin
Victoria Lanthier Walsh
Judy Watts
Anonymous

Land Preservers (\$500-\$999)

Melodie Benger & David Keeble
Judy Buehler & Frank Roy
Kara-Lee & Alex Golota
Lynn Morgan
Jim & Elfriede Ronson
Bob and Yvonne Stearns

Land Guardians (\$250-\$499)

Charlene and Grant Bernhardt
Tony Cassils
Roberta & John Clarke
John and Pat Hatton
Murray & Karen Hunt
Stephen & Rosie Kotze
Rob Longair
Monica Mullane
Gord & Ann Munroe
Eric & Flora Preston
Robin Sears
Lisa Slater
Bob & Sherryl Smith
Mary Vandenhoff
Bob Volks & Louise Beckinsale
John Willis

Supporters (\$100-\$249)

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Cliff Bennett
Jonathon Boocock
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Jean Brathwaite
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