

News & Views

April 2016

Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust
Preserving the land  Protecting the future



CRAZY FOR THE CARP HILLS

The new Crazy Horse Trail in the Carp Hills is going to receive some infrastructure improvements, thanks to the Community Foundation of Ottawa, MMLT, and Friends of the Carp Hills (FCH).

MMLT is partnered with the Friends for land conservation in the Carp Hills, an ecologically significant area of Canadian Shield in the rural west end of Ottawa. The Friends share MMLT's belief in the value of connecting people to nature for physical and mental health benefits. With support from Ottawa Councillor Eli El-Chantiry, they developed, on City-owned land, the Crazy Horse Trail, named for a long-gone, (in)famous bar once located near the trailhead.

In December the Community Foundation of Ottawa approved a grant application jointly submitted by MMLT and FCH for funds to provide improved trail infrastructure on the Crazy Horse Trail. The grant will allow the FCH to build a 200 foot boardwalk across a wet area, design and install a trailhead sign, and purchase trail markers and other signage. Volunteers from the community will provide carpentry expertise and physical labour over the spring and summer this year to complete the project.

For information about the trail, which is marked and open for pedestrian-only trekking, please visit carphills.com. For information about MMLT's Carp Hills Opportunity Fund for preserving land in the Carp Hills, please visit MMLT's [Become a Donor web page](#).



OUTDOOR RECREATION ON MMLT PROPERTIES

MMLT has three wilderness properties which are open to the public. Each property offers kilometres of well-marked, ungrooved nature trails for skiing or snowshoeing in winter and hiking and trail-running in spring through fall. We strongly believe in connecting people to nature for physical, emotional and spiritual well being.

HIGH LONESOME NATURE RESERVE

Hiking	8 km of colour-coded trails.
Snowshoeing	14 m of elevation change.
Cross-Country Skiing	Hilly and flat terrain.
Trail Running	Interpretive signs on some trails.

BLUEBERRY MOUNTAIN AT CLIFFLAND

Hiking	5 km (return) of marked trails.
Snowshoeing	Gradual climb to one of the highest elevations in Lanark County.
X-Country Skiing	Interpretive signs on the trail.
Trail Running	Guided tour to other trails available.

ROSE HILL NATURE RESERVE

Hiking	2 km of marked trails.
Trail Running	Some steep hills and flat terrain.

*Property is difficult to access for winter activities.

More details about each property are available on our website under [Protected Properties](#).

We welcome use of our properties for free, but if you appreciate having the opportunity for a wilderness experience, please consider donating to the land trust, which is a registered charity, to help with trail maintenance. Donations over \$20 are receiptable.

Organized groups are welcome to visit for recreational or educational purposes. For High Lonesome and Rose Hill, please read our [Public Access Policy](#) and complete the [Access for Organized Groups Form](#) available on our web site. For Blueberry Mountain, see our website for contact details. While group access is free, a donation from participants to help with the costs of the property is appreciated.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At our Annual General Meeting held on April 6th, we welcomed two new directors to our board to fill vacancies left by two departing directors, Debbie Duffy and Cathy Keddy, who will both be deeply missed. Debbie's legal expertise has been a tremendous value to MMLT and fortunately, she has agreed to sit on our Emeritus Council where she will still be available for consultation. As a professional ecologist, Cathy brought essential skills to our board. It is our hope that she will still be on hand to assist MMLT's Ecological Stewardship Committee from time to time.

Our two new board members each bring valuable experience to the table. Bob Betcher's professional background in hydrogeology and Stephen Kotze's experience in accounting will round out our board nicely. Stephen is also stepping into the Treasurer's position held by Mary Vandenhoff for the past six years. Under Mary's leadership, MMLT has developed a solid framework of financial policies and has established 5 investment funds to support our long-term financial stability. Thank you Mary!

ROBERT BETCHER

Bob is a retired hydrogeologist, having practiced his profession in Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Ontario, spanning a 40 year career. Much of his career was spent studying groundwater occurrence, movement and chemistry on a regional scale, particularly examining how groundwater recharges the subsurface and how it exists in discharge areas. In the later parts of his career he began to focus on the concepts of surface water/groundwater interaction and the important role groundwater plays in ecosystem support. He was the recipient of the Robert N. Farvolden Award in 2011 for outstanding contributions to the disciplines of earth sciences and engineering that emphasize the role or importance of groundwater. In "retirement" Bob continues to be actively involved in groundwater activities, serving as the executive assistant to a national groundwater association and volunteering his expertise to other organizations. He also remains busy with self-study of new fields of interest including limnology and biology, and cataloging the plants around his small acreage and cottage.

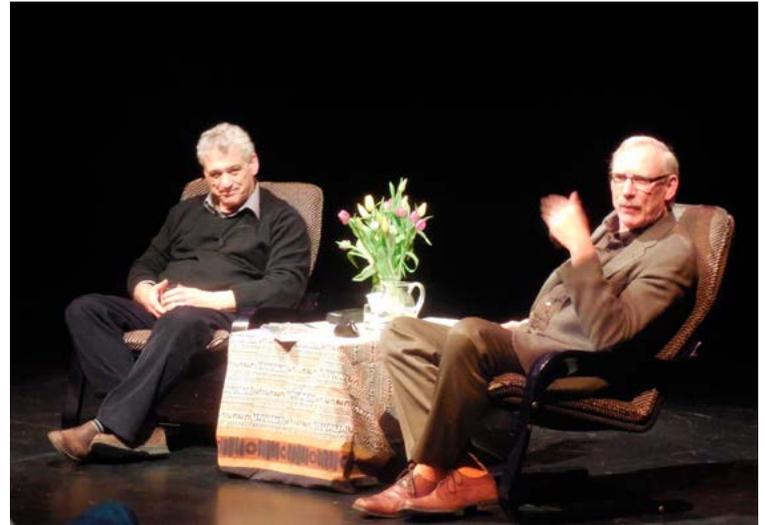
STEPHEN KOTZE

Care and respect for the land have been with Stephen a long time – from planting trees in northern Ontario to starting a tree nursery in southern Lesotho to help combat the effects of soil erosion, including an early interest in permaculture and many years of growing food, organically, for his family on his village lot. As a commerce graduate, he found a way to marry his vision for a more compassionate and just world, and his fundamental respect for all life, with his accounting skills! Consequently, he has worked in and for the voluntary sector for most of his life, including a short stint as Executive Director of the Canadian Environmental Network. He currently runs an accounting business that serves numerous not-for-profit organizations and small businesses. His mission is to build financial capacity and understanding, particularly in the non-profit sector, strengthening organizations and their long-term viability through improved financial management processes and systems.

ED LAWRENCE LIVE!

Last month we were treated to a wonderful evening with Ed Lawrence at the Centrepointe Theatre. Ed is now in his 35th year on the weekly call-in CBC radio show offering gardening tips to callers. In his career he served as premier horticultural specialist landscaping the gardens and grounds at the Governor General's mansion, as well as 5 other official residences. Ed also happens to be a strong supporter of the MMLT and donated his time and talent for this special fundraising event.

Ed's long-time friend and colleague from CBC, Rob Clipperton, moderated questions from the audience. Many of you will remember this former host of *In Town and Out*, the highest rated morning show in the country.



An enthusiastic crowd asked Ed a wide variety of gardening questions and Ed, in his usual down-to-earth style, provided practical solutions to problems and gave advice to those looking for help with landscape planning. The playful banter between Ed and Rob added an intimate and often humorous touch to the evening.

A special bonus offered to attendees was a raffle for a 90-minute consultation with Ed in your own garden. The lucky winner of the raffle was Cynthia McKellar of Almonte. Cynthia was just delighted to get this free consultation from a Master just as the gardening season is beginning.

Ed signed copies of his book, *Gardening Grief and Glory*, which was available to those who don't already have a copy - a must have.

This event had a two-fold purpose for the MMLT. Not only did it help raise funds to support our mandate; it also provided an opportunity to introduce ourselves to the Ottawa community. A large portion of our catchment area falls within rural west Ottawa where development is encroaching upon significant natural areas.

*If you have questions or
would like to be added to our mailing list,
please contact Susan Sentesy,
Program Manager, at ssentesy@mmlt.ca
or 613-253-2722.*

*Office Hours: 8:30 - 4:30
Monday to Friday*