

News & Views

April 2017

Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust
Preserving the land  Protecting the future



MMLT AGM RECAP

We were delighted to have such a good turnout for our Annual General Meeting and on March 29th. It was the first time we met at the Mississippi Valley Conservation Centre, where our office is located, and we filled their board room to capacity.

MMLT welcomed three new members to the board: Art Goldsmith, Don Johnston and Cathy Keddy. Each brings a special area of expertise to our board; you can read the bios on our [website here](#).

We're sad to say goodbye to directors Ted Mosquin, Michael Macpherson and Judy Watts who have made important contributions to our growth as an organization. We're pleased to extend invitations to them to sit on our Emeritus Council where we can continue to benefit from their wisdom. Ted Mosquin was the very first president of MMLT and it was around his kitchen table that MMLT was first conceived.



MMLT members gather in the atrium at the MVC Centre

We were very fortunate to have Dr. Myron Smith for our keynote speaker. Dr. Smith is Associate Professor of Biology at Carleton University where he teaches courses and does research in molecular genetics, biotechnology, mycology and molecular ecology.

One of the mysteries about fungi that some of us learned for the first time is that fungi are not classified as plants. They are placed independently in their own kingdom, which is much closer to animals than plants. Dr. Smith proceeded to show us the fascinating ways that fungi behave as though they have senses similar to animals, such as touch and sight. He kept the crowd riveted for an hour and fielded many questions following his presentation.

AFTERNOON TEA AT TEMPLE'S



A traditional English afternoon tea includes dainty sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam, cakes and pastries.

Join us on June 4th for a traditional English afternoon tea at Temple's Sugar Bush & Restaurant from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. This beautiful rustic venue in the heart of MMLT's catchment area couldn't be a better spot to enjoy one of the most quintessential of British customs.

It's that time of year when the buds have just unfurled into fresh green leaves, the lilacs are in bloom and gardens are beginning to flourish. That's why we've planned both indoor and outdoor activities to fill your afternoon.

Temple's will be serving the customary dainty sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam, cakes, pastries and a selection of fine teas and coffee. We'll have live music playing gently in the background while you share the afternoon with friends.

CBC Radio's garden host Ed Lawrence will be on hand to give tours and tips in the lovely flower garden at Temple's. We're also holding a Silent Auction with a variety of gifts for table, garden and lawn. One lucky bidder will win a private consultation with Ed Lawrence in your own garden!

This event is a fundraiser for the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust. The proceeds from this event will help support the conservation of ecologically significant lands in our region.

Tickets are \$50 and are on sale now at mmlt.ca/events/afternoon-tea-at-temples-june-4/.

NATURE CONNECTIONS AT BLUEBERRY MOUNTAIN

Anyone who has visited Blueberry Mountain knows that the climb is well worth the view from the lookout. In all seasons this 180° panoramic view is absolutely breathtaking. But sometimes in our hurry to get to the view we can miss some interesting, subtle features along the trail.

On Sunday, May 7th, visitors to Blueberry Mountain will have an opportunity to explore some of those special sites. For this event we have identified several “stations” along the trail that demonstrate the complex connectivity within nature. At the waterfall you can learn the amazing story of the **Hemlock**. Then at **Peeper’s Pond** we’ll set up a station with our soundscaping equipment where you can hear magnificent sounds of nature not typically available to our hearing, both above and below water. Next along the trail, you’ll come to the **Pin Cherry Clump** to find out the importance this small tree within the ecosystem. We share this wilderness area with many interesting creatures which you’ll learn about as you see evidence of their presence along the trail, such as the **Abandoned Wolf Den**. You’ll hear about the wolf’s complex relationship with humans and other creatures of the wild, such as Beavers. Near the **Beaver Pond**, we will show the tremendous impact on the ecology by beavers, including their ability to influence the types of forest stands that thrive. As you reach the Blueberry Mountain summit, you’ll find both **Red and White Oak**, both important food sources for wildlife, and you’ll learn how to tell them apart. You’ll find out why White Oak is rare in this area and why it is called the Thunder Tree.



In 2009 the Clifford Family placed this 1250 wilderness property under the protection of the MMLT for at least 1000 years. The Land Trust currently protects 2430 acres of ecologically sensitive land in eastern Ontario and provides programs year-round to connect people with nature.

The interesting sites we will be featuring at this event are only a few examples of nature’s mysteries, but we hope they will foster a greater appreciation of how ecological connectedness and complexity is necessary to sustain biodiversity.

Registration for the hike is at 10:00 a.m. and the hike starts at 10:30 sharp. Entrance is \$10, children under 12 are free. The hike to the top is a gradual, 45-minute climb with one short, steep rise to reach the lookout. Don’t forget your picnic lunch to enjoy at the top. Here’s a Google map link for [directions to Blueberry Mountain](#).

GRAND OPENING OF WELCOME CENTRE AT HIGH LONESOME



With the help of many hands, we are now completing the renovation of an existing garage into a Welcome Centre at High Lonesome Nature Reserve. The garage has been extended on two sides to create covered gazebos, a large map, bulletin board and brochure racks. Inside there will be basic furnishings and storage space for staff and volunteers. New windows will be installed on the front wall and the back wall facing the pond providing good natural light. A new garage door will slide up to provide more space during events. A double privy is also included in this project, to be built across the trail from the Welcome Centre. Volunteers interested in helping with the completion of construction and minimal landscaping would be very welcome indeed.

This great project was made possible with funding from Mountain Equipment Co-op’s Access & Activity grant program.



The grand opening of the Welcome Centre takes place Saturday, June 24th at 10:00 a.m. followed by a Hygge Tree outing. Hygge (pronounced hoo-gah) is a Danish word expressing a feeling of contentment and connection, exactly what one feels surrounded by trees, whispering softly in the wind. Visitors will be invited to visit different tree species to learn more about them, their connections within the natural world and ours - tree lore. Activities appropriate to each tree will be offered to add to the experience.

High Lonesome is located at 867 Carbine Rd. in Pakenham. Just click on the link for a [map to the property](#).

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*