

News & Views

December 2016

Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust
Preserving the land  Protecting the future



CIRCLE OF GRATITUDE

by Howard Clifford

I sat in solitude a few yards off the trail in a reflective mood. When I was young I wondered how I could make my mark on the world and then far too quickly I reached the age where one wonders if their life had any meaning or had made any mark at all.

I noticed a heavy set man well on in age slowly making his way up the trail. He spotted me and broke out in a huge smile. Immediately I thought of our good friend, Joel, who loved nature and through his generosity helped keep our dreams of wilderness alive. Next came a lady with her dog - both happy to be here. My mind flashed to Pepi, our chihuahua, who joyously walked this trail so many times. So many images passed through my mind of young and old drawn to this special place.

I was flooded with emotions - amazed that all this has come to be and feeling so grateful to those who have supported MMLT in the high calling of preserving wilderness at its best and passing it on, unharmed, to our children.

You will find a Circle of Gratitude not far from the cliffLAND trailhead. On four cedar posts are the names of those making our dreams possible. They are the Sustainer's Circle, the Monthly Givers, the memorial circle and the pet memorials. This illustrious circle is not an elite group. It's the common folk who dream big and for less than a daily cup of coffee can pass on these hallowed places.



Yes, on one level this has been our opportunity to thank each supporter of MMLT - but oh how far this misses the mark! What we are really doing is providing an opportunity to identify with those who have an unshakeable belief that nature feeds our need for beauty and inspiration and the conviction that immersion in Nature will bring unspeakable joy to children of the future. Their lives will be richer than ours, for the beauty we pass on will pale in comparison with the glory and majesty of evolved magnificent, pristine, old growth forests.

We are offering peace of mind and the joy of spirit that comes with the special affinity that exists among those who love Nature. What a privilege to be associated with this fraternity of individuals

who make possible the incomparable gift of nature to be our shared legacy - a gift that lives on, century after century - a blessing to so many.

It is true that a person a thousand years from now who stops to read these names will not recognize a single name. But this they will know - these names represent those who made their nature experience possible. For details, visit cliffland.ca.



Pepi (1999 - 2014) loved every season at cliffLAND. In recognition of greeting and accompanying hundreds of visitors to Blueberry Mountain, MMLT honoured Pepi as the first dog to be made an honorary board member of a land trust.



Nemo (2004-2016) climbed Blueberry Mountain four times this year, once all the way to Pike's Peak. She was always up for an outdoor adventure in all seasons and clearly enjoyed the beautiful view overlooking the Lanark Highlands at cliffLAND. Nemo is the second pet to be permanently commemorated on our Pets Love Nature pillar in the Circle of Gratitude.

SUSTAIN THE WILD CAMPAIGN

*Help us Raise \$150,000 for
Canada's 150th Anniversary*

999 years. That's the commitment that MMLT makes to protect the ecologically important properties under its stewardship. It means MMLT must be sustainable as an organization over the same time frame so that we can meet our promise - moral and legal - to safeguard the wild lands entrusted to us.

Sustainability requires financial security. To mark Canada's 150th birthday, MMLT has set a goal to grow its Sustainability Fund by \$150,000.

There are two ways you can help:

1. If you're considering making a significant donation or a bequest, direct it to our Sustainability Fund - a permanent endowment that supports our operations and our programs. Your donation and its impact last forever, because the funds are invested within the endowment, which is professionally managed by the Community Foundation of Ottawa. Your donation will generate income every year in the form of disbursements that we will use to fund our ongoing operations.
2. Connect us to your professional community to help us multiply our outreach. Your lawyer, your accountant, your financial planner - these people serve clients who may be looking for local charitable giving options that meet their values. Introduce us! We can help them to serve their clients while helping us to reach new audiences who want to join in preserving our beautiful wild places.

Achieving financial sustainability means MMLT can focus its resources on protecting land for future generations and ensuring people have opportunities to experience the beauty and benefits wilderness. Help MMLT sustain the wild and celebrate many more birthdays with Canada.

To donate to the Sustainability Fund or to introduce us to your professional network, please contact admin@mmlt.ca or call us at 613-253-2722.



**When you donate to the Sustainability Fund
you are investing in the future of the
organization and the land it preserves.**

GO WILD RAFFLE WINNERS

Our annual Go Wild Gala, held on November 5th, was a real success! We tried out a new format this year to allow more time for folks to mix and mingle and peruse the Silent Auction items. Instead of a sit-down meal, waiters circulated with a wide assortment of delectable appetizers and there were a variety of wonderful, homemade desserts prepared by volunteers. Almost all of our great Silent Auction gifts were taken home by lucky winners.



Temple's Sugar Bush was a terrific venue for this year's Gala.

Michael Runtz once again enthralled us with his presentation of amazing photos of flora and fauna -- the bold, the beautiful and the unusual -- and he shared his extensive knowledge about them with us.

A first this year was our raffle of three vacation packages. We mixed up all the tickets in a large basket and invited three people from the audience to help with the draw. Third prize, a night at Fairwinds Bed & Breakfast with complimentary lunch, a tour of Carthwright Brewery and a guided hike at High Lonesome Nature Reserve was won by Jacquie Christiani.

Second prize was won by Rodney Norman. It was two nights at Calabogie Lodge, including breakfasts and unlimited golf and hiking on the Calabogie Mountain trails.

First prize was a week-long vacation at The Rapids, a private cottage at Palmerston Highlands, an island in the middle of the Mississippi River surrounded by rapids and waterfalls. When it came time for someone from the audience to make the draw we were all speechless when another Rodney Norman ticket was drawn. Needless to say Rodney was over the moon and probably began to consider buying himself a lottery ticket while on this winning streak. Congratulations Rodney!

All in all the evening was a great success for MMLT and we raised over \$8,500 to support our programs.

*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*

THE GIFT OF NATURE

It is the time of year when we think of all the things we treasure the most – the people we love and miss, the special places we cherish and hope will be there for our grandchildren and their grandchildren - forever.

You can make a contribution to your community, your health and those special wild areas you love by supporting our work - protecting these precious lands forever for all the benefits they provide. This is at the heart of what we do and donors are the foundation of MMLT's success.

Protected land is only as secure as the protectors. Your support today is critical in helping protect the organization that will in turn protect the wildlife and habitat, and get people outdoors to explore the natural world. Your year-end tax-deductible gift has an impact that will help us end the current year with a bang and begin the new year financially strong.



Give the gift of Nature through a donation:

- Sign up for monthly giving and be acknowledged in the Circle of Gratitude at cliffLAND.
- \$500 – You receive a certificate recognizing that your donation provides a Wild Child Bus to transport children to an outdoor experience with the Natural World.
- \$250 – You receive a certificate recognizing that your donation helps MMLT provide stewardship of 10 acres of wilderness.
- \$100 – You receive a certificate recognizing that your donation helps MMLT maintain one kilometer of nature trail.

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COMMEMORATIVE BENCH DESIGN CONTEST

MMLT challenges artists, artisans, designers, furniture makers and students from all backgrounds to design unique, comfortable benches that could be used throughout its nature reserves. The benches must be durable and help to create a unique sense of place.

The call for design proposals is an open design competition, seeking “wide-open thinking” about what wilderness benches might look like and how they could contribute to the nature experience. It is important that the design submissions be inspired by Nature.

Six bench designs will be shortlisted and the donors of each bench will select the design for “their” commemorative bench.

TIMELINE

November 24, 2016	Competition Announcement
March 10, 2017	Design Submission Deadline
March 31, 2017	Announcement of Winning Entries

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Entries must include drawings and text conveying your design intent. Materials, technique, and vantage point of drawings may be determined by the entrant. Design should take constructability into account, with materials able to withstand significant usage and the demands of our weather. The ideal bench would be useful, beautiful, and appropriate for installation in any landscape within our nature reserves.

SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

- Artistic excellence, innovation and originality in design technique and execution as evidenced by representations of work and other supporting material.
- Appropriateness of the design.
- Relevant professional experience to meet the demands of the project.
- Availability to construct and install the bench, if selected for installation, within eight weeks.

BENCH SELECTION

A selection panel of 4-6 members including artists and arts professionals will choose the winning designs from the submitted proposals.

The donor of a Commemorative Bench will choose the preferred design(s) from the shortlist and the artisan will be contracted by MMLT to construct the bench for a payment of \$1000.00. It may be that more than one donor will select the same design. It may also be that one artisan will be selected for more than one design.

For full details and design specifications, please visit our website at <http://mmlt.ca/commemorative-bench-design-contest/>.

