

News & Views

May 2015

Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust
Preserving the land  Protecting the future



CLYDELANDS CELEBRATION

It has been a year since we first told you about our newest conservation easement at Clydelands, a very remote, 100-acre wilderness property in Lanark Highlands. On May 9th, we finally found an opportunity to hold a formal celebration on the site.

Owners Gray and Aileen Merriam bought the property in the early 70's through a tax-delinquent properties auction by mail-bid. At the time of purchase they had only a rough idea of the location, not having any maps with parcel boundaries. However they were eventually informed that the Ministry of Natural Resources would be logging the surrounding Crown lands, so they let MNR know their intentions to maintain the property as conservation land and MNR was required to flag the boundaries. Now they finally had a clear idea which parcel was theirs!

The Merriams intentions are that Clydelands remain this wild and pristine forever, untouched by human intervention.

Although there is no public access to Clydelands, the Merriams and MMLT plan to look for opportunities to use the property for scientific research and for educational purposes.



Early spring growth allows us to catch a view from one of the many steep slopes on the property.
Photo by Tania Marsh

The property is roadless and difficult to traverse due to numerous large boulders, rocky slopes and cliffs. Having been logged about 60 years ago, the trees have not yet returned to old growth, but as nature runs its course this forest will eventually stand out as unique amongst the surrounding Crown land forests which are regularly logged.

The Middle Branch of Clyde Creek winds its way through a broad, rock-strewn valley on the property which is bounded on its sides by several 200 to 250 foot domed rocky hills with many near vertical cliffs.



The Merriams and MMLT board members and friends share a picnic lunch on celebration day.
Photo by Tania Marsh



Gray and Aileen Merriam cut the celebration cake in honour of the Clydelands conservation easement.
Photo by Tania Marsh

Paul & Cathy Keddy Win OFNC 2014 Conservation Award

We were delighted to hear that the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club (OFNC) has presented its 2014 Conservation Award to a Non-Member to Cathy and Paul Keddy for their outstanding contribution to land conservation in Lanark County.

As many of you know, last year the Keddys placed 530 acres of their property under a conservation easement with the MMLT. About 150 acres of this property is designated a Provincially Significant Wetland Complex and all of the forested area is designated Significant Woodlands. It has a wide variety of representative and rare features including both regionally and nationally rare species.

OFNC honoured the Keddy's for making this commitment. By entering this agreement, which is legally placed on the property title, it will restrict all future development, thereby protecting it forever. It is the responsibility of the MMLT to monitor the Keddy Nature Sanctuary over the long-term to ensure that any future owners maintain the agreement.

OFNC also honoured the Keddy's careers as "prominent professional biologists and their numerous investigations that have clarified, explored and documented important natural landscapes and features".

MMLT heartily endorses the OFNC tribute to the Keddys. So you can imagine how pleased we were to welcome Cathy Keddy to the board of the MMLT where she now readily volunteers her renowned professional skills to help assess properties.



Old Guardian of the Forest at the Keddy Nature Sanctuary Photo by Simon Lunn

*If you have questions or
would like to be added to our mailing list,
please contact Susan Sentesy,
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or 613-253-2722.*

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

Howard Clifford Wins Lanark Highlands Economic Growth Award



Howard Clifford with Councillor Linda Hansen

Photo by Tania Marsh

MMLT president Howard Clifford was the recent recipient of the 2014 Economic Growth Award from the Township of Lanark Highlands. The Clifford's 1250 acre property, now known as cliffLAND, was MMLT's first conservation easement in 2009. Since then, the property has attracted about 1,000 visitors each year, particularly to see the spectacular view from the lookout at Blueberry Mountain. The Cliffords also allow access to various community groups and local schools year-round.

Lanark Highlands Councillor Linda Hansen awarded the plaque at the recent Spring Nature Walk on May 10th. This award recognizes "a citizen who has provided or supported economic growth in the municipality through the establishment of a business, tourist attraction or sustainability of a natural asset".

We couldn't agree more with this recognition by the municipality. It's not often that private landowners are willing to allow public access to their properties by large numbers of people. It is only because Howard Clifford passionately believes in the tremendous value that nature experiences provide to our physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. His strong conviction about nature's benefits moves him to generously share this beautiful property with all the rest of us and for this we're immensely grateful.



Howard Clifford as renowned conservationist, John Muir

Photo by Tania Marsh