

MUSKOKA
CONSERVANCY



Muskoka Steward

FALL 2023



M U S K O K A C O N S E R V A N C Y

Look ahead to 2024 and know you are making a difference

It's important that we take note of how we are each making the world a better place. There are big problems on planet Earth and let's face it, it can feel heavy at times. Being part of solutions is positive and that feels good!

Muskoka Conservancy is the perfect example. By supporting your local land trust, you are part of a Muskoka-wide effort to protect nature. Together, we protect wetlands, shorelines, forests, and species at risk right here, under our noses. But what makes our efforts really impactful? Muskoka Conservancy is part of a much broader international movement that protects millions of acres of ecologically important land around the globe. There are 148 community land trusts protecting over 275,000 acres of ecologically sensitive land across Canada. Land trusts in the United States have protected over 61-million acres, and the Land Trust Alliance in the U.S. has set the goal of protecting another sixty million acres by the end of the decade. That's massive!

Together, we land trusts are enacting nature-based solutions to serious problems like climate change, habitat loss, and the biodiversity crisis. Our actions ensure that people continue to enjoy the benefits of ecological services. For example, local wetlands provide flood mitigation, prevent erosion and protect Muskoka's famous water quality. On a much larger scale, protection of wetlands sequesters carbon and helps to address societal challenges like population displacement.

We act locally and our impact is global, so even though we are small, we are quite a big deal! By supporting your local land trust, you are a part of it! You are a big deal, too, so please feel good! As we look ahead to 2024 and plan our program and budgets, we can see some potential challenges. Recent years of high inflation have had an impact. Thankfully, Muskoka Conservancy has a strong, committed base of supporters. It's the time of year we gear up our membership campaign, participate in Giving Tuesday, process your generous donations ahead of the December 31 tax deadline. Some of you may call us to discuss a gift of securities, a planned gift or offer to volunteer. Muskoka Conservancy is incredibly fortunate, and we have you to thank.

So, thank you! We appreciate your support! No matter how large or small your contribution this giving season, we want you to know you are making a difference! Nature conservation in Muskoka is happening because of you!

Scott Young



Pictured: Spotted Salamander

We regret to relay the news of the passing of Rose-Maria Koetitz at the age of 88 in early September 2023. Rose - Maria Koetitz was a large donor to Muskoka Conservancy. In 2022, Muskoka Conservancy was gifted Lake Rosseau Headwaters, a 428 acre property. This is currently the largest property protected by Muskoka Conservancy and was generously donated to us by Rose-Maria Koetitz.

She was born in Germany and when she was 19, she moved to Canada where she became a teacher. As an avid animal lover, she dedicated much of her time to helping preserve wildlife and nature. She participated in wildlife rescue with Aubrey Tournay at Aspen Valley Wildlife and the Zoocheck wildlife protection charity. Both Zoocheck and Aspen Valley Wildlife are animal sanctuaries. Her passion for nature was inspiring and we know that her land donation will help to protect many species in Muskoka.



Pictured: Bull Frog

Thanks to her generous donation, 428 acres of wetland and forest will be permanently protected as a Nature Reserve. This land includes a large wetland that leads into the Rosseau River. It is important to protect this wetland as it is part of a filtration process that has heavy influence on water quality in Muskoka.

Natural wetland are critical to 20% of species in Ontario. Rose-Maria's considerate donation of this property means that many species are now permanently protected.



INVASIVE SPECIES UPDATES

Muskoka Conservancy has been working with volunteers to fight invasive species each year on our nature reserves.

At Bert and Millie's Marsh, volunteers have come out to help on all 3 of the Phragmites Phighting Days. These days consisted of spading the invasive phragmites plants and putting them into dark garbage bags. These bags are then left to "cook" in the sun for several weeks until the plant and its seeds are no longer able to spread and reproduce. These bags are then emptied in the composting site on the property to decompose.

This year, in an effort to reduce the amount of phragmites returning again in the spring, a restoration experiment was conducted. This experiment consisted of volunteers and staff planting 200 meadowsweet plants. Meadowsweet is a native plant which typically grows in marsh environments including at Bert and Millie's Marsh. The goal outcome is that the meadowsweet will grow healthy and continue to spread seeds which will eventually keep the phragmites at bay.

Invasive phragmites originally came from Eurasia and now pose a threat to Canada's native species. The invasive phragmites produce a biochemical that is released from its roots into the soil which makes it difficult for other plants to grow in that soil. This results in an upset in the natural biodiversity of the area.

Community Engagement

Recently, Conservation Coordinator, Amanda, visited a Montessori School in Huntsville. The students listened to a short Winter Tree Identification presentation to teach them key characteristics that can be used to differentiate between tree species, specifically, in the winter when most trees have lost their leaves. Then they got the opportunity to head outdoors and put their knowledge to the test in their own school yard.



Save the date
GIVINGTUESDAY
is November 28th 2023



www.GivingTuesday.ca | [#GivingTuesdayCA](https://twitter.com/GivingTuesdayCA)

Save the Date - November 28th, 2023 is Giving Tuesday in Canada.

Double your impact by donating to Muskoka Conservancy.

Every act of generosity counts!



The Shoreline Pendant

The Shoreline Pendant is back by popular demand. Visit Britton Gallery in Bracebridge of the Britton Gallery website to get this limited time pendant!

25% of all proceeds are being donated to Muskoka Conservancy

Muskoka Woolscapes

Muskoka Yarn Connection has a limited edition collection of hand painted superwash merino wool highlighting the unique and fragile beauty of our Muskoka Landscapes.

A percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Muskoka Conservancy

Visit Muskoka Yarn Connection:

345 Ecclestone Dr. Bracebridge

www.muskokayarnconnection.shop

Muskoka Woolscapes

NEW

LIMITED EDITION

A collection of hand painted superwash merino wool highlighting the unique and fragile beauty of our Muskoka landscapes.

A percentage of all proceeds from this collection will be donated to MUSKOKA CONSERVANCY, a charitable land trust organization protecting and nurturing our wetlands, and forests since 1987.

Muskoka Yarn Connection
345 Ecclestone Drive
Bracebridge
www.muskokayarnconnection.shop

INVASIVE SPECIES
WEBINAR
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
JENNA WHITE

November 28th, 2023
Zoom Platform
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Call 705-645-7393 ext 200 or email
info@muskokaconservancy.org to register

MUSKOKA CONSERVANCY

Join our Invasive Species webinar with guest speaker, Jenna White! This webinar is happening **November 28th, 2023** from **10:00AM—11:00AM** via the Zoom platform.

Email info@muskokaconservancy.org to register!

If you missed any of our previous webinars, you are in luck! We recorded and uploaded them to our YouTube page. Check it out by searching "Muskoka Conservancy YouTube" or using the link: <https://www.youtube.com/@muskokaconservancy5091>

Interested in nature conservation in
Muskoka?

We would love to hear from you!



Have your say in Muskoka
Conservancy's new Strategic Plan.

Scan the code or use the link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdle7JYPe1xfE1c6ArWp622j0>

Learn more about
Planned Giving through
Will Power



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Muskoka Conservancy Staff

Executive Director	Scott Young
Conservation Coordinator	Amanda Porter
Operations Coordinator	Camryn Williams

Muskoka Conservancy's Shop Items
Available at the Muskoka Conservancy
Office, 47 Quebec Street, Bracebridge or
in Toronto from Elizabeth Mason at
(416) 924-4868!

Our items include coffee mugs, toques,
books on butterflies and reptiles, note
cards, and "Made in Canada" tea towels.

For shop inquiries, email-
info@muskokaconservancy.org

Online

Visit
muskokaconservancy.org
click donate in the top right

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Phone



Call 705-645-7393 ext.200
to make a donation over
the phone

Mail

Send a cheque or
credit card information
to:

Box 482
47 Quebec Street
Bracebridge, ON
P1L 1T8



In Person



Always welcome to visit
our office at
47 Quebec Street
in Bracebridge

Our Nature Quest program runs year-
round, so be sure to check out our
website and social media for updates
on upcoming events!