

MUSKOKA
CONSERVANCY



Muskoka Steward

WINTER 2024



Allen Flye

We regret to relay the news of the passing of Allen Flye. Allen was a huge supporter of Muskoka Conservancy. Allen and wife, Jinny, donated the South Monck Meadows Nature Reserve in 2018. This Nature Reserve is over 70 acres of ecologically significant land that is now permanently protected thanks to their generous donation.

Past director, John Burton, had a wonderful memory of Allen to share. “At some point, probably over 30 years ago, Jinny and Allen were contemplating moving to Muskoka on a permanent basis. I was going somewhere warm for a few weeks that winter and was looking for a dog sitter. Allen suggested that he would come and house/dog sit while I was gone. Finally, the ashes had to be emptied from the fireplace. Allen dumped the live coals into the composter and of there was a melt down. He replaced the composter of course. Oddly enough I used that composter until this year when a landscaper crushed it with his bulldozer.”

John worked with Allen on the garden tour, the cottage tour and the awards committee. “Allen and Jinny did move to Muskoka despite the threat of melting composters. He had a sharp mind and an even sharper wit. He will be missed.” says John.

Allen was also the Land Steward on Turner Island. We are grateful to him for all of his hard work and dedication to the Conservancy. We send warm wishes to Allen's family during this difficult time.



Allen at Turner Island

Webinars

Join our next webinar; Changing the Face of Water Quality Management with special guest Dr. Neil Hutchinson.

Date: March 19th, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM—11:00 AM

Location: Zoom (link sent after registration)

Email info@muskokaconservancy.org to register

Muskoka Conservancy's monthly webinars are all uploaded onto our YouTube Channel. Learn about nature topics at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC72AAAdp7ZPjvNFG81jTB6g>

[UCh72AAAdp7ZPjvNFG81jTB6g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC72AAAdp7ZPjvNFG81jTB6g)

A photograph of a hand wearing a blue nitrile glove holding a round-bottom flask filled with a clear liquid. The background is a blurred image of water and trees.

**THE CHANGING
FACE OF WATER
QUALITY
MANAGEMENT**

WEBINAR
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
DR. NEIL HUTCHINSON

MUSKOKA
CONSERVANCY

Tuesday, March 19th, 2024
Zoom Platform

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

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

There are real reasons for optimism

By Scott Young

It's hard not to get taken in by the optimistic hype of a moon base, colonizing Mars, and the lure of space tourism. The ingenious technology! Lifestyles of the rich and famous! It's so futuristic and marvellous!

Then the lunar lander Odysseus tripped and fell on the moon, and we—we who are firmly connected to Earth—took note. Is this an opportunity to stop and think? Will people recognize this was a big waste of resources when we've got real problems here at home?

Absolutely...NOT. The brave faces are out in front of it with talk about human ingenuity and perseverance, and the next rocket to infinity and beyond is already on the launch pad.

Here at the nature conservancy of Muskoka, we get it if you're feeling bleak about the state of our one and only Earth. Some days we feel a little bit flat too (rest in peace, Flaco the Owl). Recently, we came across a quote that caused us feel a little better:

"If we have the power to turn another planet into Earth, then we have the power to turn Earth back into Earth."

That's by astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, and for us, he helps put into perspective that we as a species might have misplaced our priorities, just a tad.

We have a climate and biodiversity crisis on Earth. We have ocean acidification. And what are we doing? More war, more rockets, more highways, more cardboard boxes at your door when you get home from work. I suspect most of us know we've got a problem. But hmm...What to do? What? To? Do?

Hint: it's organic. It's a natural. It's artisanal...

Okay, maybe it's not artisanal, but it is fully baked! It's called nature conservation! It's attainable! It has proven results! It directly addresses global issues like climate change and biodiversity loss while having direct benefits in local communities where land is protected, like here in Muskoka. Muskoka Conservancy has been acquiring land for nature conservation for over 30 years. We have an ambitious Board of Directors with plans to acquire more land to benefit more people and make a greater contribution toward an international effort to solve our most serious global environmental challenges.

Sure, it's low tech and there's no billionaire buffoonery to keep us amused, but we haven't tripped on a moon rock, yet! So, if you can't go to space, why not help us protect even more space for nature here on Earth?

Fire and Ice Festival

Muskoka Conservancy supported the annual Fire and Ice Festival in Bracebridge this year. We had a bonfire on Manitoba Street and we were surrounded by food, activities and people enjoying the festival. Our bonfire attracted many people to stop by and warm up throughout the day.

We got to meet lots of people who were interested in nature conservation.

Thank you to our volunteers who came to help out and support Muskoka Conservancy!





Community Engagement

This winter, Conservation Coordinator, Amanda, revisited the Huntsville Montessori School. She presented a slideshow on Animal Tracks and how to identify which species made them.

Following the presentation, the students were provided with animal track identification tools and charts and spent some time in their school yard practicing.

MICHAEL FOSTER

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The theme is "PLAY".

You can submit your photos to
info@muskokaconservancy.org

Deadline is April 30th, 2024.

Each person is eligible for 4 entries and the winner will receive a mounted copy of their photo and be named at Muskoka Conservancy's AGM as the recipient of the Michael Foster Photography Award winner for 2024.



2023 winning photo.

Photo credits to Tammy Nash

Photography Workshop

Muskoka Conservancy is teaming up with Cobi Sharp. Cobi is a local nature photographer. She runs photo workshops and she has invited us to join her! This is a great opportunity to appreciate nature in Muskoka. You can sign up on her website: <https://www.sparkadventurephotog.com/>

Date: August 10th, 2024

Time: 9:00 AM—4:00 PM

Location: Hardy Lake Provincial Park

Cost: \$320 per person (lunch included)

A percentage of proceeds will be donated to the conservancy!



New Properties

Wolf Mountain Conservation Easement

Muskoka Conservancy is proud to announce the expansion of an important piece of conservation land at Wolf Mountain, Peninsula Lake.

Now 55-acres in size, the land is part of a natural migration route for wolves, and protects more natural shoreline within the Township of Lake of Bays! Former Muskoka Conservancy President, Norm Moffat, was the donor of this property. “My parents purchased land in Wolves Bay starting in the 1950s as a way of maintaining all of its natural beauty. Through the Muskoka Conservancy easement, this land will



remain protected through its natural state.”

The additional 20 acres also adds 1200 feet of protected shoreline. This brings the entire conservation easement up to 2000 feet of protected shoreline.



New Nature Reserve

This new nature reserve in Gravenhurst, is now our largest property with a whopping 597 acres!

With the addition of this new nature reserve, Muskoka Conservancy now protects 55 properties, 4,957 acres of land and 63,341 feet of shoreline in Muskoka. We are looking forward to getting to know this property better during the upcoming field season!

Visit the Muskoka Conservancy website using this link, to read the full article:

<https://www.muskokaconservancy.org/my-postdeb2aa18>

NATIVE PLANT SALE

Our annual Native Plant Sale will be happening again this spring in May. Keep an eye out for our Save the Date announcement on social media.



Become a monthly donor:

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E351068QE&id=5>

There are many ways to donate...

Online

Visit
muskokaconservancy.org
click donate in the top right

DONATE

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

Thank you to our official
partners

UNIQUE

Muskoka

**WILL
POWER™**

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

Muskoka Conservancy Officers

President	Bob Weekes
Vice President	Elspeth Wood
Treasurer	Peter Love

Board of Directors

Helle Tosine	Laura Thomas
Sue Sedgwick	Joanne Smith
Jenna White	Martine Brouillet
Samantha Hastings	Stephanie Grant
Dana Richardson	Stephen Fahner
Derrick Hammond	

Muskoka Conservancy Staff

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

Our Nature Quest Program runs year-
round. So be sure to check out our web-
site and social media for upcoming
events!