



**American Friends of
Canadian Land Trusts**

Among Friends

THE NEWSLETTER OF CROSS-BORDER CONSERVATION

Our newsletter, “Among Friends”, celebrates recent cross-border conservation milestones reached through collaborations with our Canadian partners and Americans dedicated to preserving their lands in Canada.

WHAT'S INSIDE

AFCLT Mission and Board of Directors | PAGE 2

**Blazing a Trail for Cross-border
Conservation, B.C. | PAGE 3**

**Little Island Protected, Big Ontario
Conservation Impact | PAGE 4**

**The Journey to Ontario's First Cross-border
Conservation Easement — Echo Island | PAGE 5**

**Gift of a Jewel on a Gem of an Island in
New Brunswick | PAGE 6**

**Another Cross-border Breakthrough
in Georgian Bay, ON | PAGE 7**

Our Donors | PAGES 8 AND 9

**The Benefits of Gifting Appreciated Stock to
Charity | PAGE 10**

American Friends Financial Report 2014 | PAGE 11

**Why Support American Friends with your
Financial Gift? | BACK**

AUTUMN IN NOVA SCOTIA
BY DENNIS JARVIS, FLICKR.COM



American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts

American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts (American Friends) is a U.S. charity that preserves Canada's natural heritage in some of the country's most ecologically significant areas, conserving scenic landscapes, sensitive watersheds, important habitat for fish, bird and wildlife and recreational resources. American Friends accomplishes its mission through partnerships with Canadian land trusts and Americans who own strategic conservation properties in Canada. Together with its partners, American Friends is protecting landscapes treasured by citizens of both countries.

www.afoclt.org

Sandra Tassel | Program Coordinator
360 -515-7171 | P.O. Box 4482 | Seattle WA 98194

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Blazing a Trail for Cross-border Conservation, B.C.



BEACH AND SWING ACCESSED BY NEW TRAIL ON GABRIOLA ISLAND, B.C.

JOSEF AND KEANA VEISEN

OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS, Illinois resident Sally Robinson has witnessed huge changes in the Gulf Islands of British Columbia. Recently, Sally made B.C. history when she limited the amount of future change that will occur on her 23-acre waterfront property on Gabriola Island, by donating a conservation covenant to American Friends.

Sally's gift, which was facilitated by the Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (GaLTT), was the first of its kind in B.C. If other American landowners follow Sally's lead, they can have a significant impact on the future of the Gulf Islands' unique natural character because they collectively own over 13,660 acres.

Land prices in the Gulf Islands have soared over the three decades since Sally bought her old farm. Large and very visible houses increasingly mar the shores. Sally and her family worried about the future of her beloved B.C. retreat. Placing a conservation covenant over the land prevents development of the two other potential homesites. The reduction in Canadian capital gains taxes as a consequence of the donation makes it feasible for future generations to inherit and steward this special place.

The Douglas-fir forest, cobble beach, mature Arbutus and Garry Oaks, together with the spectacular piece of coast, made Sally's land a protection priority for GaLTT. She also granted a license to GaLTT to build a trail through the woods and to the beach access on her property, as part of the network GaLTT is creating all over the island.

Sally says there are many winners in this arrangement. "The tax savings helped defray the costs of creating the covenant, Gabriola has its trail, the property will be monitored by GaLTT when I am back in Illinois, and we also blazed a path through the tax tangle for other similarly motivated z landowners to follow." As she planned, Sally's gift demonstrates how fragile island landscapes can be protected, while offering value to the broader community.

For more information contact John Peirce, Gabriola Land and Trails Trust, info@galtt.ca.



JOHN PEIRCE OF GALT T INTRODUCES VISITORS TO "ROBINSON WOODS"

SANDRA TASSEL

Little Island Protected, Big Ontario Conservation Impact

ECHO ISLAND IS SMALL, but its permanent protection can have a major impact on cross-border conservation in Ontario. This conservation easement donated to American Friends is the first known instance of an American donor giving an easement over property in Ontario to a U.S. land trust. The gift provides a land protection road map for the many other American owners of priority conservation properties in the province.

The Rainy Lake Conservancy (RLC), a small all-volunteer Canadian charity, facilitated the gift from the White family, originally from the Chicago area. Three generations have cherished Echo Island's forest, shoreline and simple cabin over the last 50 years. Desire to both have the retreat serve future generations of their family and to retain the pristine quality of Rainy Lake motivated the donors to make this pioneering gift.

Echo Island is one of nearly two thousand islands scattered throughout Rainy Lake's 345 square mile area (890 km²) straddling the border of Minnesota and Ontario. Voyageurs National Park is located on the southeastern corner of the lake on the US side of the Lake. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is also within the Rainy Lake watershed.

The conservation easement restricts future development, preserving the subject property and also reducing its market value. The latter outcome



ECHO ISLAND, RAINY LAKE, ON

PHYLIS AND DALE CALLAGHAN

reduces Canadian capital gains taxes that are due when property is transferred from one generation to the next, whether the owners are Canadian or American.

As a U.S. charity, contributions to American Friends are deductible against U.S. income, and can also reduce U.S. estate taxes. American Friends is a "prescribed donee" in Canada, meaning that land and easement donations are effectively not subject to capital gains taxes. This special tax status granted by the Canadian government recognizes that successful preservation of large landscapes that are shared by Canada and the U.S., such as Rainy Lake, depends on the generosity of citizens of both countries.



COURTESY WALLIS FAMILY

GENERATIONS OF THE WHITE AND WALLIS FAMILIES HAVE CHERISHED ECHO ISLAND AND RAINY LAKE

The Journey to Ontario's First Cross-border Conservation Easement — Echo Island

BY DALE AND PHYLLIS CALLAGHAN, FROM THE RAINY LAKE CONSERVANCY PERSPECTIVE



RAINY LAKE'S PINE FORESTS AND ISLANDS ARE HIGH PRIORITIES FOR PROTECTION

STEPHEN WEPPLER, FLICKR.COM

WHEN SAM WHITE'S HEIRS donated a conservation easement over Echo Island to American Friends, they and the Rainy Lake Conservancy (RLC) completed a multi-year journey and reached a preservation milestone. Because this gift was the first of its kind in Ontario, the journey turned out to be a slow paddle rather than a fast ride in a speed-boat! This is the story of how RLC, the donors and American Friends got there.

Everyone involved knew from the start there would be the legal equivalent of stormy waters as we developed an easement document acceptable to the Canada Revenue Agency, the US Internal Revenue Service, and the Province. Fortunately we were a good paddling team and we arrived at our destination none the worse for wear. We, at RLC, are proud that we protected a rare piece of Ontario's endangered White Pine habitat and charted a course for others who will embark on similar journeys to preserve special places in Ontario.

RLC works to conserve lands and waters treasured by Canadians and Americans. Our area includes the famous Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe Area, Quetico Provincial Park, the Rainy Lake Islands

Conservation Reserve and many other protected places.

A number of metaphorical shoals created by title issues, appraisal questions and government procedures slowed us down at times. Passion, patience and good humour kept us all going to the end.



DALE AND PHYLLIS CALLAGHAN,
RAINY LAKE CONSERVANCY

Having survived

our maiden voyage, we are now in the process of protecting 3 more properties on Rainy Lake with American Friends. It has been rewarding to work with such professionals. They are first and foremost individuals committed to conservation, a shared goal that drives land trusts to venture into uncharted waters!

For more information contact Dale and Phyllis Callaghan, Rainy Lake Conservancy, info@rainylakeconservancy.org

Gift of a Jewel on a Gem of an Island in New Brunswick



MR_WAHLEE, FLICKR.COM

THE DRAMATIC SEA CLIFFS ON THE NORTHEAST COAST OF GRAND MANAN ISLAND

"IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO US, OUR LAND MIGHT BE DEVELOPED." This concern motivated a couple from Vermont, who want to remain anonymous, to donate nearly 59 acres (24 hectares) on Grand Manan Island to American Friends, in a transaction facilitated by the Nature Trust of New Brunswick (NTNB). This is the first New Brunswick donation to American Friends.

The property is known as Seven Days Work Cliff, referring to the spectacular striated bluff that plunges to the surf of the Bay of Fundy. Some imaginative person was reminded of the biblical reference to God's creation of the world.

The donors say their gift was inspired by the beauty of this parcel and the entire island, together with their commitment to the residents of Grand Manan. "We decided to protect the property while we are alive for the welfare of the island, and its future, not just for our pleasure of being in this beautiful place."

"We loved walking the trails," reminisces the wife, referring to the network maintained by the Grand Manan Trails Association. "As you pass through the forest, along the cliffs, you see the shining sea, the birds. You get a feeling of wilderness." The beloved "Red Trail" traverses the edge of Seven Days Work Cliff, giving hikers views to the horizon, often replete with whales, seals and migrating raptors.

"It would be a blow to the island if our land was developed. Tourism is more and more important for the economy here. Trails are key to attracting visitors

to Grand Manan. They don't want to walk by house after house. It would be like being in suburbia."

For their peace of mind the couple asked NTNB to steward their treasured land after they are gone.

Because the donors are U.S. taxpayers, NTNB arranged for the gift to be made to American Friends.

"Grand Manan is a beautiful and environmentally fragile New Brunswick gem. Protecting its special landscapes is a high priority for NTNB, but land there is very expensive, especially if it has an ocean

view," says Renata Woodward, Executive Director of NTNB. "We are thrilled that the Americans who owned Seven Days Work Cliff wanted to conserve their property and were willing to donate it."

The future of this treasure is as a natural, scenic refuge. "It feels good to know our land is protected. It would have been terrible to lose it."

For more information contact Renata Woodward, Nature Trust of New Brunswick, (506) 457-2398, naturetrust.nb.ca

We decided to protect the property while we are alive for the welfare of the island, and its future, not just for our pleasure of being in this beautiful place.

New Brunswick
land donor

Another Cross-border Breakthrough in Georgian Bay, Ontario



THE QUIET SPLENDOR OF GEORGIAN BAY

GARY MCGUFFIN, WWW.GARYANDJOANIE.MCGUFFIN.COM

A RARE POTENTIAL CONSERVATION DONATION in Georgian Bay Ontario, with a common potential preservation pitfall, produced a successful gift and good news for landowners and land trusts.

Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) had an opportunity to protect an undeveloped island featuring undisturbed stands of White Pine and Red Oak, open rock barrens and coastal meadow marsh. The rock barren and marsh are ideal habitat for two rare species: the Eastern Foxsnake and the Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake.

This scenic, developable and valuable property was owned by nine individuals, some Canadian and

Finding a way for Canadians and Americans who share ownership of environmentally important lands to receive favourable tax treatment is a true breakthrough.

Ian MacLeod
GBLT's Land Protection
Committee

some American, all descendants of five area property-owners who acquired the island more than 60 years ago. The Canadians controlled 60% of the total ownership and the Americans 40%. Although all of the owners agreed they wanted to protect the island there wasn't an organization that could accept tax deductible donations from both Canadians and Americans.

GBLT's leaders knew the American donors could give to American Friends. However, they also knew that the Canadians would have the best tax outcome if they donated to GBLT through Environment Canada's Ecological Gifts Program (EcoGifts).

To make the donation financially realistic for all the owners, GBLT and American Friends agreed to each accept the share of title belonging to the donors from their respective country. Despite this being entirely new for both organizations and Environment Canada, all the parties' efforts resulted in the first ever EcoGift of a Canadian-American owned property. GBLT and American Friends now co-own the new preserve in the Point au Baril area.

Ian MacLeod, Chair of GBLT's Land Protection Committee said, "Finding a way for Canadians and Americans who share ownership of environmentally important lands to receive favourable tax treatment is a true breakthrough. This has paved the way for more conservation because Canadian/American co-ownership is fairly common on the Bay. We are extremely proud of this accomplishment and grateful to EcoGifts and American Friends for their commitment to Georgian Bay."

For more information please call Bill Loughheed, Georgian Bay Land Trust (www.gbtl.org) 416- 440-1519.



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Financial Donors

GIFTS OF CASH AND SECURITIES from the following individuals and entities have been essential for establishing and growing American Friends' land conservation and grantmaking programs.

Jane Alexander
 Lucius Andrew III & Phoebe Andrew
 Anonymous
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 Lee & Laura Berg
 Brian W.H. Berguis
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ADAM BAKER, FLICKR.COM

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 Robert & Cornelia Wood
 Joyce Zakim

Land Donors

AMERICANS WHO CARE DEEPLY about Canada's lands, waters and communities are choosing to donate their conservation properties to American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts. Cross-border conservation is made possible by their philanthropy and stewardship ethic.

Anonymous Northfield, VT	John & Priscilla Lillie Highlands Ranch, CO	Peter Newell Portland, OR
Ronald F. Desideri Arlington Heights, IL	D.A. Livingstone & Patricia Palmer Raleigh, NC	Old Man Creek LLC Baltimore, MD
Marietta Garber Cincinnati, OH	Pauline Naughton Paxton, MA	Sarah Ann Robinson Springfield, IL
John & Ann Gilpin Roxbury, CT	Neil Family Enterprises Stowe, VT	Elizabeth Burd Stevenson Telluride, CO
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Robert & Lee Ann Kinzer Alexandria, VA	Margaret Newell Weaverville, NC	John & Natasha Suter Ithaca, NY
James E. & Sherie Krughoff Downers Grove, IL	Martha Newell Missoula, MT	White & Wallis families St. Davids, PA
Merloyd Lawrence Boston, MA		

Protecting Canadian Conservation Lands Owned by Americans

THE STORIES IN THIS NEWSLETTER ELOQUENTLY EXPLAIN why Americans who own Canadian properties donate them to American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts. Their gifts protect natural lands, clean water, abundant habitat and quality of life for citizens of both countries.

American Friends was created to make such gifts legally possible and financially feasible. Thanks to the work of our many land trust partners, legal and tax advisors and most of all to the intrepid first land donors who helped fine tune the process, American Friends has completed fourteen transactions, led by nine Canadian organizations, located in five provinces. The total appraised value of these gifts is close to \$7 million USD.

Each gift conforms to all provincial and federal requirements, from both the U.S. and Canada, and is carefully vetted by the conservation professionals who serve on American Friends' board. American Friends operates in accordance with the Standards and Practices established by the U.S. Land Trust Alliance.

American Friends partners with Canadian organizations that meet extensive and stringent criteria that evaluate their mission, experience, governance and financial stability. The local land trust partners are responsible for land management and conservation easement stewardship.

For detailed information about cross-border conservation, and the unique knowledge and experience available through American Friends and its partners, please visit the Resources section of our website (www.afoclt.org). Or contact Sandra Tassel, Program Coordinator, (360) 515-7171, info@afoclt.org.

Investing in the Future of Your Favorite Canadian Landscape

WITH THE U.S. STOCK MARKET at an all-time high and investment advisors talking about market “corrections”, savvy donors are evaluating the benefits of giving securities this year, instead of cash. American Friends’ supporters who own stocks that have increased in value substantially can donate shares to American Friends, so the organization can invest in conservation in Canada. Every dollar received by American Friends returns eighty dollars in land value.



RBC Wealth Management

The Benefits of Gifting Appreciated Stock to Charity

by Patrick Swesey, Financial Advisor, RBC Wealth Management, Bellingham, WA

If you are considering making a charitable contribution this year, it is in your best interest to make your money work for you – and your favorite nonprofit. Gifting appreciated stock is one of the most effective means to achieve those two goals — courtesy of today’s U.S. tax laws.

THE BENEFITS OF GIFTING APPRECIATED STOCK

- The satisfaction of knowing your money is invested in a cause important to you.
- Capital gains taxes on the stock are avoided.
- You will be eligible to receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift.

To qualify for these special tax advantages, the security must have been held for at least one year. A gift of stock in certificate form should be postmarked by December 31 or your financial advisor can arrange for a year-end gift of stock from your account.

Your gift of appreciated stock is fully deductible up to 30% of your adjusted gross income. For example, if your adjusted gross income is \$100,000, up to \$30,000 of long-term appreciated stock and other capital gain property may generally be deducted, although high-income donors may be subject to a partial phase-out of itemized deductions. Any excess can generally be carried forward and deducted over as many as five subsequent years.

HOW DONATING \$10,000 IN STOCK CAN BENEFIT YOU

Take a look at the tax savings associated with donating securities. The chart below assumes you donate shares of stock worth \$10,000 that you purchased for \$2,000 several years ago. As you can see, the net result of gifting securities is much better than selling them and contributing the proceeds.

	Donate Appreciated Securities Outright	Donate \$10,000 Cash	Sell Securities and Donate Cash
Charitable Deduction	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Ordinary Income Tax Savings (assumes 35% rate)	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
Capital Gains Tax Paid (assumes 15% tax rate on \$8,000 gain)	\$1,200 saved	N/A	\$1,200 paid

For information on how to convert your stocks into an investment in permanent protection of Canada’s land treasures please contact: Sandra Tassel, Program Coordinator, info@afoclt.org, 360-515-7171, 360-515-7171

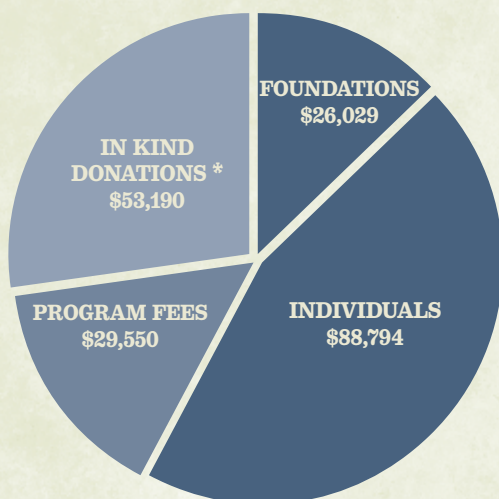
Patrick Swesey contact info: Telephone (360) 756-3513 Fax (360) 738-0528 Email patrick.swesey@rbc.com

The information included in this article is not intended to be used as the primary basis for making investment decisions. RBC Wealth Management does not endorse this organization or publication. Consult your investment professional for additional information and guidance. RBC Wealth Management does not provide tax advice. All decisions regarding the tax implications of your investments should be made in connection with your independent tax advisor.

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American Friends Financial Report – FISCAL YEAR 2013/14

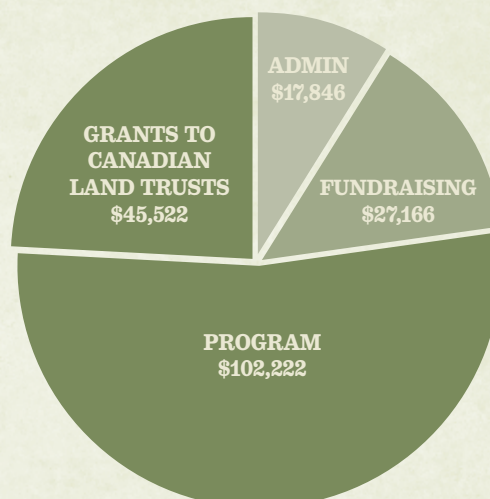
REVENUE \$198,246



REVENUE SUMMARY

Administrative	\$	683
Contributions		114,823
Grants	26,029	
Individual	88,794	
Program Fees		29,550
In Kind Donation		<u>53,190</u>
Total Revenue	\$	\$ 198,246

EXPENSES \$192,756



EXPENSES SUMMARY

Administrative	\$	17,846
Fundraising		27,166
Program		102,222
Grants to Canadian Land Trusts		<u>45,522</u>
Total Expenses	\$	\$ 192,756

***American Friends is especially grateful for the probono legal services of:**

Murray Braaten, Lando&Co LLP
 Peter Forestell, Q.C., Cox & Palmer
 Konrad Liegel, Konrad J. Liegel PLLC
 Mark McHughan, Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
 Paul Peterson, HGR Graham Partners LLP

COMPLETED PROJECTS SUMMARY

	Acres Conserved	Appraised Value
Prior Years	1,953	\$5,168,847
FY13/14	<u>499</u>	<u>\$1,455,529</u>
Totals	2452 acres	\$6,624,376

Sustaining Corporate Partners Program

CORPORATIONS interested in investing in protection of landscapes beloved by generations of Canadians and Americans can underwrite the work of American Friends and its partners at a national, regional, provincial or local scale. We invite business leaders to participate in American Friends innovative cross-border alliances with U.S. taxpayers who own strategic conservation properties in Canada. Sustaining Corporate Partners benefit by expanding the preservation of priority lands in Canada, obtaining unparalleled leverage for their contributions and communicating with their markets about their commitment to protecting Canada's natural heritage for future generations.



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Why Support American Friends with your Financial Gift?

CANADIAN LAND TRUSTS work tirelessly to protect the landscapes and communities that are cherished by citizens of both our countries — and many others. Their work reflects pride and love for Canada's heritage. Financial contributions from people like you — who appreciate Canada's lakes, rivers, shorelines, wetlands, forests and wildlife — are essential to ensure the permanent protection of these special places.

One way American Friends assists organizations dedicated to protecting Canada's iconic landscapes is by facilitating gifts of cash, securities and land from US taxpayers. American Friends is recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a publicly-supported charity, therefore gifts are tax deductible for U.S. taxpayers.

Please consider including American Friends and its partners in your charitable giving.



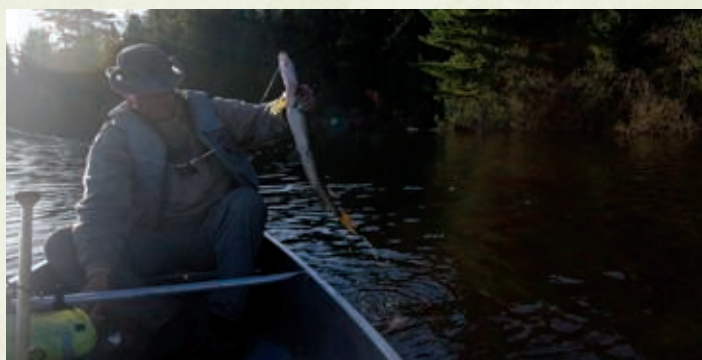
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☐ Count me in! I am a friend of Canada's natural heritage!

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of \$ _____ (U.S. dollars) to support the conservation work of American Friends.

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL (in case we have questions about your gift)

DONATION OPTIONS: I am interested in providing funding for:

- ☐ The cross border conservation work of American Friends
- ☐ Supporting the following Canadian land trust:

(We will contact you to obtain a grant recommendation)

Please keep me posted about new milestones in cross-border conservation. I prefer:

- ☐ email ☐ US postal service ☐ both

Please send your contribution to: American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts, P.O. Box 4482, Seattle WA 98194

For more information or to donate stocks, bonds, other securities or real estate please contact:
Sandra Tassel, Program Coordinator, 360 -515-7171, info@afoclt.org