

RAINY LAKE CONSERVANCY



Preserving the Rainy Lake Watershed

[News Update November 2013](#)

OLTA Conference Highlights First Cross-Border Conservation Easement – developed by Rainy Lake Conservancy

Carolyn Wallis attended the annual conference of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) in Orillia, north of Toronto, and was the highlight of a panel on “Innovations in Cross-Border Conservation Partnerships”. The panel, led by Sandy Tassel, Program Coordinator of the American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts, was celebrating the first Ontario cross-border easement, our very own Echo Island, owned by the White family. Rainy Lake Conservancy was featured as a land trust that is protecting land through conservation easements, as well as outright donations.

Carolyn also attended workshops on Building a Board that Works, Mobilize Your Board, Conservation Easement Issues and Complexities, and Conservation Finance & Organizational Readiness.

The highlight of the Conference was a showing of “Chasing Ice”, a documentary produced by a nationally-known National Geographic photographer, about the rapid melting of the glaciers in Greenland and Alaska, which he documented through time lapse photography. The film is available on Netflix and is a must see.

The Plenary Session was led by Steve Hounsell, Chair of the Ontario Biodiversity Council, who presented Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy. One of the targets is “by 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are conserved through well-connected networks of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.” Bill noted that biodiversity loss and climate change are linked at the hip. “We are living off the principal, not the interest, of our planet—this is not Sustainable.” He also noted that conservation is not about protecting one property; it is about supporting a network of conservation lands. Private landowners need each other to support conservation of their landscape-----this mirrors the mission of the Rainy Lake Conservancy.

Phyllis Callaghan Gets the Highest Honour at the OLTA Conference

Phyllis received the 2013 Ontario Land Trust Alliance Volunteer Vision Award for her extraordinary efforts to shepherd the Echo Island Conservation Easement. Phyllis was lauded for her selfless and tireless work to see the easement through the many versions reviewed by Rainy Lake Conservancy, White Family, attorney Ian Attridge and American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts. While Phyllis undoubtedly did not expect the amount of work this would entail, she never looked back and has provided the “glue” to get the first Ontario cross-border conservation easement over the goal line.



L-R: Bill Lougheed, Executive Director, Georgian Bay Land Trust; Sandy Tassel, Program Coordinator, American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts; Ian Attridge, Barrister and Solicitor; Carolyn Wallis, representing Rainy Lake Conservancy; John Vigen, Ramsland Vigen Appraisers in Duluth, appraiser for Easement.

Introducing our new Rainy Lake Board Members:

Mary Graves and **Joe Gauss** were elected as board members at RLC's Annual General Meeting, August 11, 2013.

Mary is a Southern Minnesota farm girl who moved to the borderland in 1979. After a week-long honeymoon on Kabetogama Lake, she said she was hooked on the area! She started working at Voyageurs National Park in 1980 and eventually became Chief of Natural and Cultural Resources, the position she occupies today. As a quilter, Mary incorporates images, stories and memories of Rainy into her quilts. Although she has travelled the world and witnessed countless wonders, Mary says that Rainy Lake is still a beautiful place to come home to. We are fortunate to have Mary on our Board of Directors and look forward to working with her to accomplish our goals in the watershed.

Joe is a retired oil and gas geologist from Texas who first came to Rainy Lake in 1969 with his wife April and their 4 month old son Joey to see the island retreat that his parents had just purchased. What they found were two “rustic” but infested cabins on a pile of rocks in the middle of nowhere which they promptly fell in love with. Over time they acquired the island and now their grandchildren refer to the place as Papa’s lake. Joe is a strong believer in keeping Rainy Lake and the watershed as natural as possible but he is realistic in recognizing that the lake population will continue to grow as time marches on. He therefore believes that stronger ties should be formed with the local communities to get them on board with respect to the Conservancy’s goals and objectives. The Conservancy is pleased that Joe has taken the position of Secretary with the RLC Board of Directors.

The Board is always on the lookout for members to serve on committees. Please contact Chery Wilson (info@rainylakeconservancy.org) if you would like to offer your services as a volunteer.

If you haven’t renewed your membership this year, now is the time to do it. You may send your cheque directly to the **Rainy Lake Conservancy, P.O. Box 223, Fort Frances, ON P9A 3M6.**

or

visit the website www.rainylakeconservancy.org.

In the section called, **How to Help/Join/Donate**, you will find 2 ways to renew:

1. at the link called **Renew Your Membership** you can download the membership form and mail it along with your cheque to: Rainy Lake Conservancy, P.O. Box 223, Fort Frances, ON, P9A 3M6 **or**, Rainy Lake Conservancy, P.O. Box 391, International Falls, MN 56649.

2. in the sub-section called: **Join Now**, you can fill in the online form and pay by credit card. After you have submitted your membership form, our data base administrator, Chery Wilson, checks each such online transaction to determine if you are renewing a previous membership or joining for the first time.

Family Membership: \$40

Single Membership: \$30