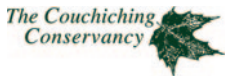




# Landowner Stewardship Program





## What is Landowner Stewardship?

As a private landowner, you have intimate knowledge of your land and you play a key role as caretaker of its valuable ecosystems. Landowner stewardship is about caring for your land in a way that preserves its environmental, economic and cultural values, keeping it healthy for today and for the future.

## What is the Landowner Stewardship Program?

The Landowner Stewardship Program supports landowners, like you, who are interested in preserving the environmental values of their property. Through this voluntary free program, trained staff offer guidance about environmentally-friendly land management practices that are tailored to your environmental goals. The Landowner Stewardship Program will give you the opportunity to learn more about your land, its ecological features, and ways you can protect and steward your property while keeping the wildlife and species who find refuge there in mind.

## How can we help?

If you have questions about preserving the environmental values of your property, we are here to help! Our trained staff will take a walk with you on your property to discuss your property's unique features and develop your stewardship goals.

We can offer guidance on topics such as:

- Environmentally-friendly land practices
- Identifying and controlling invasive species
- Sourcing and planting native flowers, shrubs and trees
- Creating and maintaining wildlife habitat
- Stewarding wetlands and making your shoreline wildlife-friendly
- Opportunities to permanently preserve land
- Special projects and more

**Landowners like you have joined our Landowner Stewardship Programs because they care about their properties and the species that reside there. We hope that as you read, you see yourself and your stewardship vision for your property reflected in their stories.**

## SUPPORTING NATURE IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

We had already been working to support wildlife on our property for many years before we heard about the Landowner Stewardship Program. After all, our extensive gardens are full of beautiful native plants that support pollinators and birds. However, just beyond our yard along the Bruce Trail was a wall of buckthorn and garlic mustard, invasive plants that outcompete native plants and trees and harm ecosystems.

Knowing the buckthorn was more than we could handle on our own, we contacted the Bruce Trail Conservancy to see if we could get some guidance through the Landowner Stewardship Program. BTC staff were able to get in touch with the municipality that

owned the land, who quickly worked to remove the buckthorn from the area. When our neighbours heard about the Landowner Stewardship Program and saw what a difference the buckthorn removal made, they wanted to get involved too! Once the invasive species had been removed along the fence lines of 5 different properties, we all decided that we wanted to do more to support wildlife and create a natural corridor along the trail. With the help of BTC staff, we planted 75

different native trees, shrubs and wildflowers along the trail behind our yards. Now, the birds and bees that visit our garden will be able to travel throughout the corridor, getting food and shelter along the way. Plus, we'll



Photo: Lyndsey Wilkerson



Photo: Toby Rowland



be able to enjoy the scenery without a wall of invasive shrubs blocking the sunshine and native plants. Next year, we plan to keep tackling the invasive garlic mustard to give those native plants more room to grow.

– Susan and Leslie, Bruce Trail landowner stewards

## PROTECTING THE FOREST WHILE ADAPTING TO CHANGE

I've been living on my property on the edge of the Niagara Escarpment for over 30 years, so I have a strong connection to the land. I love showing off my beautiful escarpment views and even have photos of the original homestead. But, with new developments cropping



Photo: Gary Hall

up all around my property, I'm concerned about the future of my land. Over the past decade, in addition to an increase in development, I started noticing new plants that I wasn't familiar with moving into the forest. When I found out that these plants were invasive, I got involved in the Landowner Stewardship Program to get some help with managing them and preserving the health of my woods. BTC ecologists visited my property and worked with me to create a stewardship plan that will balance my desire to preserve the health of my woodlot with my goal of maintaining privacy from all of my new neighbours. The plan includes the gradual removal of invasive plant species combined with the planting of native trees and shrubs. Some generous BTC volunteers offered to help with the invasive plant removal, and we had our first work day this fall. I know that this will be a long-term project, but I'm feeling positive about it now that I have the support of the BTC.

– Denis, Bruce Trail landowner steward





## PROTECTING THE ORO MORAINÉ THROUGH CARING STEWARDSHIP

With our life-long love for nature, we were thrilled to find a property in Oro-Medonte, ON with everything we dreamed of- wetlands, woodlands, grasslands, hills and valleys. It made our hearts sing, so we sold everything we owned and moved in. At the local fair, The Couchiching Conservancy volunteers told us about their programs, and so began our journey of discovery. We were particularly drawn to the Citizen Science program and attended training sessions to increase our knowledge of species identification and monitoring so we could apply these practices to our own property. Staff introduced us to the Landowner Stewardship Program and we were so excited to participate.

Conservancy staff worked with us to develop a management plan with specific stewardship goals for our property. In our first year in the program, we have actively monitored our property for reptiles, amphibians and species at risk and placed eight salamander boards. Since our involvement

with the Conservancy, we have become dedicated supporters and volunteers and are undergoing a Conservation Easement Agreement where our property will remain protected and wild forever. We hope, by sharing our story, we can spread awareness and encourage other landowners to protect their property through caring stewardship.



Photo: Toby Rowland

– Evelyn Frantzke & Robert Williamson,  
Landowner Stewards

## BRINGING STEWARDSHIP DREAMS TO LIFE

We have been long time members, volunteers, and supporters of The Couchiching Conservancy. We have owned our property, the “Hermitage,” for over 40 years and it has become a beloved spot for hiking and snowshoeing by many individuals within the Conservancy community. We have been devoted to protecting our property’s diversity and rich history and have taken a next step of protection through a Conservation Easement with the Conservancy. We have big dreams for our property in terms of stewardship. Our vision is to enhance habitat for birds, control and manage invasive species, and implement Citizen Science activities where we can monitor what species are inhabiting our property. This is where the Landowner Stewardship became a perfect fit for us. Staff at the Conservancy worked with us to develop a management plan consisting of goals and resources of how we could work towards these specific stewardship visions. Throughout our involvement in the program thus far, we have set up trail cameras on our property, are monitoring for species at risk, and have installed salamander boards.

– Ron and Sharon Hancock,  
Landowner Stewards



Photo: Toby Rowland

## STEWARDING A WILDLIFE SANCTUARY ALONG THE WOLASTOQ/SAINT JOHN RIVER

Our property is a sanctuary for both flora and fauna, from wild grapes and iris to bulrushes and birch, from the symphony of the peepers in the spring, birdsong throughout the year, busy beaver, and wildlife tracks in fresh winter snow we hold space for the safety and well-being for all Nature's creatures. With 11.9 hectares (29.3 acres) of mutually, beaver



and man- managed wetlands in the Fredericton city limits, you are challenged to find undeveloped and natural urban locations like ours. As business owners along the Wolastoq/Saint John River, we walk our property daily and share energy with the land and the species residing here. We are grateful we can offer this unique piece of land protection through a landowner stewardship agreement with the Nature Trust of New Brunswick. We

steward this property in ways that benefit us while allowing the species that live here to thrive. Our family and staff are as invested as we are in our stewardship efforts maintaining the property with trail signs and with wildlife in mind. Our environmental stewardship efforts are seen each season as we admire the species that nest, breed, and migrate through our unique property. We know our efforts to maintain this reciprocal relationship benefit us as much as it helps our natural environment.

*– Wendy Carty and Bill Cook, Landowner Stewards and owners of the Iris Center for Mindfulness Peace and Healing in Fredericton New Brunswick*



## PROTECTING NEW BRUNSWICK'S FORESTS THROUGH LANDOWNER STEWARDSHIP

I have a long-standing passion for nature conservation, and was thrilled to begin my professional career as the Conservation Outreach Coordinator with the Nature Trust of New Brunswick. I purchased my land at Chickahominy in 2001 and fell in love with its forests, fields and cliffs. I was also excited to purchase land next to an existing Nature Trust preserve and then to enter into a voluntary stewardship agreement with the Nature Trust over my land. My stewardship is not strictly preservation of the land; I have cut some firewood and logs, and I cut some trees to encourage certain tree species over others. With this gentle 'forestry' work, I aim to nudge the forest towards old-forest conditions, wherein long-lived mature forest species such as Red Spruce, Yellow Birch, White Ash, White Pine and Sugar Maple once

again have a strong presence on the land. I also make sure there is an abundance of standing and fallen deadwood – which is home to much life in the forest. Mostly, though, my stewardship of these 90-odd acres is simply to watch how the forest grows and changes over time: stands of Balsam Fir, for example, gradually transitioning to more diverse and longer-lived species. I lived in an old farm house on the property for a few years; although I live in Nova Scotia for now, I often return to my property to visit the trees there, to look at some Red Spruce that I thinned more than a decade ago, and perhaps glimpse a pileated woodpecker or spot some black bear tracks. And of course, to hike my trail up to Chickahominy Mountain to enjoy the views of Sam Orr's Pond and the Passamaquoddy Bay. It's so pleasing to see my land nestled beside the Nature Trust's land, to know that together these lands are a home to a special bit of forest and its wildlife.

– *Jamie Simpson, Landowner Steward*



Photo: Susan Lapides

## How can you get involved with Landowner Stewardship?

To learn more and get involved in the Landowner Stewardship Program, contact us:



For landowners in the Couchiching-Severn area of Ontario, please contact Joelle Burnie at (705) 326-1620 or [engage@couchconservancy.ca](mailto:engage@couchconservancy.ca)



For landowners along the Bruce Trail in Ontario, please contact Mara McHaffie at (905) 529-6821 or [landownerstewardship@brucetrail.org](mailto:landownerstewardship@brucetrail.org)



For landowners in New Brunswick, please contact Cheyenne Currie at (506) 457-2398 or [cheyenne.currie@ntnb.org](mailto:cheyenne.currie@ntnb.org)

## Our Missions

### **BRUCE TRAIL CONSERVANCY:**

Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

### **THE COUCHICHING CONSERVANCY:**

Protecting the special natural features of the Couchiching region for future generations.

### **NATURE TRUST OF NEW BRUNSWICK:**

CONSERVE areas in New Brunswick that are ecologically significant, establishing nature preserves that remain protected forever;

STEWARD the nature preserves through a network of volunteers and supporters;

ENGAGE with the public on the importance of land conservation, New Brunswick's natural heritage, biodiversity, and species at risk.

## Our Funders

Thank you to our funders for making this program possible:

**Gosling Foundation**

**McCain Foundation** (Nature Trust of New Brunswick)

**Bass Pro Shops & Cabela's Outdoor Fund** (Nature Trust of New Brunswick)

**Wildlife Habitat Canada** (Nature Trust of New Brunswick)





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