



NEWSLETTER

Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative 19 Reynolds Road, Lansdowne ON K0E 1L0 613-659-4824 www.a2alink.org

SPRING 2015

You're Invited!



AGM Keynote Speaker:
Michelle Kanter
Executive Director,
Carolinian Canada Coalition

With this notice all A2A members and partner organization representatives are officially invited to the Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative's 2015 Annual General Meeting on Saturday, March 28th, at the Brockville Museum, 5 Henry St, Brockville, Ontario, 613-342-4397. Registration will start at 9:30 a.m., program at 9:50 a.m.

What's on tap this year? As a collaborative, A2A is looking for the best ways to involve partners in decision-making and do the work of conservation and connectivity in a way that embodies respect, equity, and empowerment. With a whopping 37 partners, it's important to get it right!

How best to facilitate that discussion? We've invited Michelle Kanter, the Executive Director of Carolinian Canada Coalition (CCC) since 2003, to be our keynote speaker this year. The CCC (caroliniancanada.ca) has had a lot of successes working with partners on conservation. Michelle will help us learn what has worked and what hasn't in advancing a collaborative conservation strategy in the large Carolinian ecoregion of southern Ontario.

Like A2A, the CCC is a registered charity, and like us, ecoregional in nature. Its territory stretches from Toronto to Windsor, encompassing the Carolinian

Life Zone of southern Ontario. Also like A2A, the CCC brings together diverse sectors, people, and governments to collaboratively conserve unique habitats and promote green infrastructure.

After Michelle speaks, you will have a chance to ask questions and help hammer out the best structure for the A2A Collaborative to work with partners.

What have A2A partners been up to? Next there will be a chance for partner organization representatives to briefly showcase their projects that further the A2A Vision and Mission. After lunch we will have the A2A Business meeting for members—your chance to participate in choosing new directors for 2015-2016, learn about the accomplishments of A2A over the past year, review the Collaborative's finances, and set priorities for the next year.

How do I sign up? Since we will be providing lunch, we ask you to please register in advance by emailing Lilith Wyatt, A2A Coordinator, at coordinator@a2alink.org or by phoning 613-659-4824 by March 20th to let her know you will be attending. Include any dietary restrictions.

We look forward to seeing you there!

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR SUPPORT FROM



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Another major pipeline, Energy East, is being proposed by TransCanada to carry Alberta tar sands oil across the A2A region

Map courtesy of Council of Canadians

Pipelines, Pipelines

We invite all partners, particularly those in the north, to work with A2A on this issue

EMILY CONGER

In A2A's December 2013 newsletter we told you about how the A2A Collaborative had gained intervenor status in the National Energy Board's hearings on the reversal and repurposing of Enbridge Line 9B. The mandate of the NEB doesn't allow submissions concerning upstream or downstream effects (such as Global climate change) so in our submissions, A2A asked the National Energy Board (among many requests) to improve safety standards and improve emergency response plans, with improved response times and proximity of first responders in the event of a rupture of the pipe, as well as to require more valves to prevent large quantities of oil, tar sands bitumen being one, from entering streams and rivers during a rupture, before granting Enbridge permission to begin shipping through this 38 year old pipe.

In March, 2014 the NEB granted Enbridge approval, but with some very important conditions, many based on submissions from intervenors. It noted that Enbridge had not demonstrated that it had identified all the Major Water Crossings and that only 6 out of 104 of those identified had safety

valves installed within 1 km of the water! Without valves there could be large amounts of oil flowing into a river or creek even if the pipeline had been shut off. Several others of A2A's concerns have been addressed, but not one that asked for hydrostatic (water under high pressure) testing of the entire line. Enbridge says that this might produce or widen existing cracks in the line. The NEB is still deliberating on this, and no Leave to Open has been granted.

Now another major pipeline (Energy East) to carry Alberta tar sands oil is being proposed by TransCanada to cross the A2A region to transport it for export at ports on the St. Lawrence and Saint John, New Brunswick. In the A2A region, the oil would be carried in a 40 year old repurposed gas pipeline. Energy East would be North America's largest pipeline, carrying 1.1 million barrels of oil per day. If it leaked for just 10 minutes, it could spill 1 million litres of oil into nearby water or land.

Energy East follows a northern route, curving below Algonquin Park, and then going through suburban Ottawa, and then turning south and east to the Quebec border and then to the sea. Affected communities in the A2A region are Mattawa, Pembroke, Ottawa, Kemptville and Morrisburg and Cornwall. A2A has applied for Intervenor status on this pipeline project as well, and will be doing extensive research along the route. We invite all partners, particularly those in the north, to work with A2A on this issue.

SARAH WALSHA2A BOARD MEMBER
SCIENCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) is a community based, non-profit conservation organization located in Clayton, New York. For 30 years, TILT has worked to conserve the natural beauty, diverse wildlife habitats, water quality and outdoor recreation opportunities of the 1000 Islands region by accepting conservation easements, acquiring property and by establishing accessible areas available for public enjoyment. Currently, TILT protects over 8,200 acres of land, including both fee-owned and conservation easement lands, which consist of important wetland, grassland and woodland habitats. In addition, TILT has over 40 miles of trails that are open to the public year-round. Throughout the year, TILT also hosts our annual TILTreK series, which promotes living, learning and conserving in the 1000 Islands.

TILT became a partner of the A2A Collaborative in 2014 as TILT's conservation work, particularly the conservation of island corridors and connected lands, aligns perfectly with the A2A mission. Located just south of the border and situated in the heart of the Frontenac Arch, TILT's conservation work has provided larger conservation areas where traveling mega fauna, such as moose, can move safely through this important corridor to the Adirondacks to the south and to Algonquin Park to the north. Wetland conservation and habitat restoration has long been a focus of TILT's conservation work. This has provided high quality wetlands to migratory waterfowl and other migratory birds as important stopping and nesting habitat as they move through the region. By conserving these high quality conservation areas, TILT is creating stepping stones for migration between Adirondack and Algonquin Parks, and ensuring healthy wildlife populations for the future.

The Thousand Islands Land Trust is proud to be a Partner of the Collaborative and looks forward to working with A2A to continue great conservation and connectivity work in the Frontenac Arch Region.

Photo courtesy of Corinne Mockler

Thousand Islands Land Trust

Creating the Connection in the Thousand Islands





Rich Phillips scouting out A2A Trail alternatives

Pilgrimage TRAIL

EMILY CONGER

Do you remember the top priority big regional project that partners of A2A agreed on at our first big Partner Meeting in March of 2014? It was to have a trail that connected our two iconic parks—an A2A Trail/Pilgrimage: a large-scale international project.

What has happened since that time? A committee was organized to flesh out and advance the project, using the notes from the meeting, to put together enough background information and funding available to bring on partners.

The idea is that the A2A Trail will roughly follow the route of Alice the Moose in her epic 570km/354mi Adirondacks to Algonquin journey in 2000–01. It will provide a high quality hiking experience on a trail between Adirondack State Park and Algonquin Provincial Park, with a network of side trails to nearby destinations of cultural, historic, and recreational interest. Like the Camino in Spain, in addition to great recreational opportunities, the A2A Trail will act as an economic driver for eco-tourism and it will bring attention to the unique aspects of the A2A region and the importance of landscape connectivity to the area's biodiversity.

In the fall of 2014, trail planner Richard Phillips donated his time and talents to developing a conceptual route for the New York portion, mapping a trail from the central Adirondacks to traverse the mountainous and wild Adirondack landscape down into the rural St. Lawrence lowlands to Wellesley Island in the St. Lawrence River. There it would join the Ontario portion of the Trail. By design, the A2A Trail would pass within sight of various rivers, ponds, wetlands and other natural features to enhance its aesthetic quality.

Partner organizations of A2A such as the Frontenac Arch Biosphere have teamed up to advance the concept on the Canadian side. We have already acquired funding to get started from the National Trails Coalition and from donor Paul McKay, and mapping in Canada is now underway.

There are a number of big decisions to be made, and as partners join, they will provide direction, particularly in their part of A2A's massive geography.

The next steps in this process will be securing funding for detailed trail planning and design, and securing one or more partner organizations to implement the plan.

**For those of you who have not yet renewed for 2015,
we are including a membership form...**



Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative
2015 Membership Form

***Facilitating a network of partners to connect lands and people
across the Algonquin to Adirondacks region,
a critical link for biodiversity and resilience
in eastern North America***

To renew your membership online, please visit:
<http://www.a2alink.org/join-a2a.html>

To renew by mail, please send this form and a cheque to:
19 Reynolds Road, Lansdowne, ON, K0E 1L0 in Canada
or P.O. Box 1, Wellesley Island, NY, 13640 in the U.S.

Cost: \$25.00 per year

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Affiliation: _____ Website: _____

I would like to receive information from A2A including newsletters and notices of
upcoming events: by e-mail by regular mail.

I would like to make a charitable donation* to A2A to connect and protect habitat for
this region's wildlife and for improved air and water quality of:

\$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$_____ *Charitable receipts issued for Canada.

I would you like to volunteer for A2A! I have the following talents/interests that might
be helpful to the A2A effort: _____

Comments: _____