



A2A

Algonquin to
Adirondacks
Collaborative

NEWS

FALL
2016

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President's Message

▶ By Sarah Walsh

In the spring of 2016 I became President of the A2A Board, an exciting time of growth in the development of the Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative.

As Vice President, I had worked with the Board to create the organization's new strategic plan, which was accepted and ratified by our partners in March. Now as President I will implement it to guide A2A over the next five years in our work with partners and members to achieve our dream of an ecologically connected A2A region—good for nature, good for people.

There are 3 major projects in that plan: embarking on Conservation Action Planning (CAP), the A2A Trail project, and Road Ecology - reducing the impact of roads on wildlife. In the next five years, we hope to meet not only the goals of these projects, but also to build the long-term capacity of A2A to continue its work.

Doing more for the A2A region means we need more members, more staff and more financial resources for our projects. Resources are also necessary so that we can help our conservation partners across the region create the healthy, connected habitat needed for wildlife survival and human well-being.



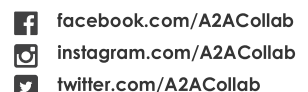
We need your help to achieve this. Please consider joining A2A as a new member, or increasing your membership level. Giving is as easy as visiting <http://www.a2acollaborative.org/support-us.html> or by filling out the membership form located at the back of this newsletter. Your gift will help us build the support needed to address the threats to wildlife in the A2A region.

As we head into 2017, I want to thank all who have long supported A2A, as well as the new members, partners and volunteers who have engaged with us this year. It's been especially inspiring to see the number of volunteers who are interested in helping with Conservation Action Planning, the A2A Trail and A2A's committees. I look forward to seeing what 2017 holds for all our exciting endeavors!

We are grateful for support from



A2ACOLLABORATIVE.org
19 Reynolds Rd., Lansdowne ON K0E 1L0



Are you ready to hike?

►By Emily Conger

Over the past year a lot of progress has been made to create the A2A Trail, inspired by the journey of [Alice the Moose](#), including presentations to many municipalities on the Canadian side, and the development of a proposed trail on both sides going from Adirondack to Algonquin Parks .

In the map below, the dotted line is Alice's journey from Adirondack to Algonquin Park and the red line is the proposed A2A Trail.



This Inaugural Trek will be an exploratory hike along the entire route, open to those who would like to join us going north or south on the proposed A2A Trail. It is planned for October of 2017, celebrating Canada's 150th birthday at the same time. We anticipate hikers joining us for as long as they wish, from either end or along the way. While we can expect services in some towns, there won't yet be a lot of amenities, so hikers will be responsible for meeting their own needs. Be watching for more information in the A2A Spring newsletter.

Consider being a Pilgrim for Nature!

Although the A2A Trail project is still in its infancy, an intrepid group of A2A hikers has a radical plan: In the fall of 2017 some Americans start at Adirondack Park and some Canadians at Algonquin Park and then meet in the middle of the A2A region—maybe even on the international bridge— and continue on to the other park.

Why a hike? To raise awareness of the A2A Collaborative and our dream of an ecologically connected A2A region that sustains a full range of native wildlife and enhances people's quality of life for generations to come. We also hope to bring in many new members, and raise the funds needed to make this dream a reality.

We believe the A2A Trail will inspire people who live in or visit the A2A region to get involved, to stand up for the wild and an A2A region that is healthy and vibrant – for wildlife as well as for our own well-being.



Along the A2A Trail, Leeds and Thousand Islands Township, Ontario

Photo credit: Emily Conger

A2A Launches Conservation Action Planning Project

►By David Miller

A2A is excited to announce that we have received funding for one of our core projects – Conservation Action Planning (CAP) in the A2A region! Through a successful SEED Grant application with the Ontario Trillium Foundation, we now have the funds to complete an A2A landscape scale CAP framework, a top priority identified during the 2016 A2A Partner Meeting.

The A2A corridor represents one of the most biodiverse regions in North America, and one of the last opportunities in eastern North America to create north/south connections that can sustain ecological functions and build resilience to threats such as climate change. Decisions made in isolation or within artificial jurisdictional boundaries can't be effective at addressing corridor scale issues that span these boundaries.

To face this challenge, the project will develop and test the feasibility of an innovative, landscape corridor level approach to applying the Conservation Action Planning Framework and explore ways to integrate bigger-picture thinking within smaller-scale efforts being made by partners and others in the A2A corridor.



The A2A CAP project will:

- Develop an approach that captures the ecological concerns at the landscape corridor scale of A2A.
- Explore how to engage the full range of stakeholder perspectives and cultures – from the conservation science community, to traditional knowledge and citizen science – and explore how to engage various interests – rural landowners, naturalists, those who use the land such as trappers, farmers and recreation groups – in a collaborative process.
- Determine the form a corridor scale CAP would take – asking what framework or information is important to encourage, direct, and support local scale conservation action planning.

A2A is fortunate to have hired Megan Ihrig, a conservation planner with extensive experience with both the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Carolinian Canada, to help us deliver the CAP project over the next year. We look forward to working with all our partners on this important initiative – stay tuned for more news as the work evolves.



Pipeline Update

►By Emily Conger

As we reported last fall, A2A is involved in the National Energy Board's (NEB) hearings about Energy East, a pipeline that would transport 1.1 million barrels per day of bitumen, a hard-to-clean-up, tarry oil product, to the east coast. Most of it will go on tankers for export.

This represents a massive increase in pipeline capacity that will lead to an expansion of the Tar Sands in Alberta at a time when scientists are warning that we must keep 80% of the known oil and gas reserves in the ground to avoid the most extreme effects of global climate disruption.

A2A has been granted intervener status and funding to assess the potential impacts on the A2A region, particularly on wildlife habitat and connectivity, water quality, and social impacts. We will also investigate safety and spill response plans. A2A will be arguing that this pipeline's contribution to global climate disruption, possibly the greatest threat to our region's wildlife and people, should also be allowed as evidence by the National Energy Board in determining whether or not it should be built.



The solid line shows the proposed repurposing of an existing gas pipeline through the A2A region; the dotted line the proposed extension

Photo credit: Council of Canadians

The map above shows how Energy East crosses right through the Canadian part of the A2A region. A2A has hired Shared Values Solutions, a firm specializing in energy issues, to assess TransCanada's massive application through the lens of what would happen in the A2A region. They will also help us craft the questions we should ask the applicant, in addition to our oral and written submissions to the NEB. We have also hired Emily Ferguson, creator of the website 9B Communities, to help us investigate community issues concerning Energy East.

Partner Profile: Plenty Canada

► By David Miller

A2A has a long-standing working relationship with Plenty Canada and its Executive Director, Larry McDermott. Larry sits on the A2A Board and chairs the Strategic Planning and Indigenous Affairs Committees. Plenty Canada is a natural partner for A2A, sharing many of the same objectives and collaborative approaches.

Plenty Canada is an Indigenous registered charity that facilitates access to resources, sharing them with Indigenous peoples and other community groups around the world in support of cultural preservation, environmental protection, and sustainable development goals.

Based out of a wonderful centre in Lanark County – complete with a sustainable centre and trail network – Plenty has established a Mission that resonates with the A2A partner network:

At Plenty Canada we recognise that people are part of the environment and we sustain healthy lives only when the environment as a whole is healthy. For us the environment and the bio-diversity of our environment are a precious treasure we need to protect.



Sustainability Centre at Plenty

Photo Credit: Plenty Canada

The work of Plenty Canada is rooted in the deep connection between Indigenous knowledge, environmental protection, and sustainable development. Plenty Canada provides technical, educational, financial and other support for local community organizations to emerge, who identify priorities and strategies for small scale development that is economically, environmentally, socially, and culturally sustainable. Recent work and projects include workshops on Indigenous knowledge in Forest Stewardship Council Certification, Analyzing the Benefits and Drawbacks of Biodiversity Offsetting in Ontario, and the Role that Indigenous Food Sources Play in the Healthy Development of Indigenous Youth, youth workshops, and summer internships that are centred around enhancing community connections and the overall sustainability level of their Main Office in Lanark.

For more information and to learn how to support this impactful partner organization, please visit their website at: <http://www.plentycanada.com/>

Meegwetch to Plenty Canada for their excellent work and ongoing support of A2A!



Jeff Beaver sharing traditional knowledge about wild rice

Photo Credit: Plenty Canada

Turtle Rescue

►By Emily Conger

Driving down Hwy. 41, just past Kaladar, I spotted that distressing blur on the road that told me a turtle was trying to cross. I pulled over, and noticed that another driver going north, had done the same. “Are you here for the same reason I am?” I asked. “The turtle?” the young man replied. So the two of us converged on the turtle to help it cross, but then realized it had already been struck. The rear part of its carapace was severed and there was blood on the highway. The other driver picked up the turtle and asked what we should do. I suggested, “There is a wildlife rescue hospital in Napanee and I’m heading that way. Do you want me to take it?”

So the turtle became my passenger, motionless on the floor of the car. It wasn’t until I slowed for a light at Napanee, that it began to scratch weakly. When we arrived at Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre, Sue Meech, the director there, examined the turtle, a Blanding’s, which is a Species at Risk. She told me that she was pretty sure it could be saved.

Sue is a Registered Nurse who immigrated to Canada in 1964. She started wildlife rehabilitating by accident one day about 15 years ago, when the local humane society asked her to take in some orphaned raccoons. She and her husband started cage-building, and as fast as they built, the animals came. Build it and they will come! Sue herself is a full time volunteer. As she would say, “No one could afford to pay me for the hours I put in here. But it is my passion, and I enjoy every minute I spend caring for wildlife.”

Wildlife rescuers return animals to the wild, which means that our Blanding’s, which has now fully recovered, has gone back to help propagate this species in a wetland as close as possible to where I found him.

Sandy Pines aids A2A’s effort by saving injured wildlife, many of which are victims of trucks and cars. But of course many don’t survive, underscoring the need for better wildlife passageways for animals, such as the ones A2A is working on creating on the 401 highway with our Road Ecology project. If only all the highways in the A2A region had overpasses, underpasses and fencing to prevent the maiming and slaughter of wildlife in the first place! But in the meantime, Sandy Pines is there to help. The rescuers there rely on donations from the public. If you want to donate or learn more about them, please visit <http://www.sandypineswildlife.org>.



Tax Benefits for American Donors!

As you may recall from our Spring 2014 newsletter, prior to the founding of American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts (AFCLT), A2A did not have a financially attractive donation mechanism to offer to conservation-minded landowners from the US. *But now A2A is officially a partner of American Friends, a US 501(c)(3) charity with the mission of protecting Canada's natural heritage. It also has special tax status from the Canadian government.*

With A2A as a partner and "grantee" of AFCLT, US taxpayers can obtain comparable tax incentives for their donations as those available to Canadians. This means that it is now possible for Americans to donate to A2A and receive a charitable receipt for income tax purposes for all donations of \$200 or more.

To make a donation to A2A by cheque through the American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts, you can download [this form](#) which has all the details.

Or you can donate on line at:

<https://www.afocl.org/donations/donation-form/>



Black Rapids Wetland

Photo credit: Emily Conger



Charleston Lake Park

Photo credit: Emily Conger

Be sure to select Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative as the Grant Recommendation from the drop down menu.

American Friends retains a small portion of each contribution to administer its grant program as outlined in the recommendation form. If you request that American Friends make a grant, please consider designating an additional amount to help American Friends increase its capacity to preserve Canada's land and water resources.

American Friends can also accept tax deductible gifts of securities, allowing you to avoid incurring capital gains taxes associated with selling appreciated stocks or bonds securities. Please contact American Friends for instructions on donating securities.



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We like to feature stories from our members in this newsletter. Please contact the editor at emconger.lostbay@gmail.com if you have a story you would like to contribute.



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2017 Membership Form

Our dream: A resilient, ecologically interconnected landscape that sustains a full range of native wildlife and enhances people's quality of life for generations to come.

Help us make it happen: Join to Donate to A2A!

Memberships can now be treated as donations, which means that we can issue you a charitable receipt. You can choose whatever level of membership you wish each year. Please be as generous as you can this year so that A2A can:

- ▶ provide safe passageways for animals to cross highways
- ▶ build the A2A trail connecting Algonquin and Adirondack Parks
- ▶ provide the research, resources and facilitation needed by A2A's 50+ partners to restore habitat and connectivity in this unique, fragile A2A landscape

Please send your donation to 1 Jesse Street, P.O. Box 88, Lansdowne ON K0E 1L0 in Canada or P.O. Box 1 Wellesley Island New York 13640 in the U.S or complete an online membership at A2ACollaborative.org. If your U.S. donation is \$200 or more, please see previous page for instructions to receive tax benefits.

In appreciation of our donors, we will be pleased to send to those donating \$1,000 or more an original framed watercolour of the A2A region, and to those donating \$500 – \$1,000 a hardcover book about the region. All donors of \$100 or more will be recognized on the A2A website, unless anonymity is requested.

Membership Level:	Shagbark Hickory	Blue Beech	Black Ash	Yellow Birch	White Pine	Red Oak
Cost:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25

Name: _____

New: Renewal: Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Affiliation: _____

I am enclosing a cheque for _____, made out to the Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative.

I would you like to receive information from A2A including notices of upcoming events by:

regular mail: by e-mail:

Would you like to volunteer for A2A? _____ In what capacity? _____