

Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative

“Connecting with respect”

19 Reynolds Road,
Lansdowne,
ON K0E 1L0

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A2A COLLABORATIVE INAUGURAL PARTNER MEETING

A2A will begin its life as a true Collaborative on March 29 and 30th, when it conducts its Inaugural Partner Meeting, a chance for our increasingly large number of Partners to begin to work together through A2A for conservation of this amazing region. Who are these Partners?

They are organizations from hundreds of kilometers apart—all the way from St. Lawrence, Lewis and Jefferson Counties in New York to Prince Edward and Hastings Counties to the west, to Lanark and Renfrew to the north, and to Frontenac, Leeds and Grenville near the St. Lawrence -- in other words, most of the A2A Region!

A2A Vision: An A2A region comprising a resilient, ecologically interconnected landscape that sustains a full range of native wildlife and enhances people’s quality of life for generations to come.

Through attainment of this vision, the landscape will:

- *Support a rich mosaic of interconnecting wildlife habitats*
- *Sustain ecological integrity*
- *Strengthen native biological diversity*
- *Provide resilience to climate change impacts*
- *Function as a critical link in conserving native biodiversity in eastern N. America*
- *Inspire an increasingly strong stewardship ethic and sense of “home place” among residents of the A2A Region*

A2A Mission: To conserve and restore the A2A region to realize the A2A Vision.

A2A aims to achieve this mission by:

- *collaborating with our partners at bi-national, national, regional and local levels to develop strategic and site-specific initiatives*
- *establishing a strong scientific understanding of the A2A region*
- *providing partners with leading edge science-based knowledge to guide planning and stewardship action across the A2A region*
- *supporting grassroots and on-the-ground efforts that help implement our Vision and Mission*
- *promoting ecologically sustainable land use*
- *engaging in public outreach and education*
- *fostering a sense of pride and home-place among the residents of the A2A region*

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A2A COLLABORATIVE INAUGURAL PARTNER MEETING (continued from front page)

They are organizations that have decided that working together can increase their effectiveness and help them with specifics such as outreach. A2A partners represent land trusts, field naturalists, federal and provincial ministries in Canada, conservation authorities, stewardship organizations, wildlife oriented groups, and groups with an interest in conservation of particular water bodies, such as cottager's groups, for a total of 21 groups as of this writing. To learn more about them, please go to Partners on our website www.a2alink.org

In addition to partners, we have also invited groups to the meeting which play an important role in the landscape, but who haven't yet formally joined.

At the meeting we will be asking each representative to identify their organization's projects

or programs where other partners or A2A as a whole could help. Reps will also be asked to come to a consensus about projects of a broader nature that would be done on a larger regional or international basis that fit A2A's mandate. And finally they will be asked to ratify A2A's Draft Mission and Vision statements and as much of the Draft Strategic Plan as possible, which has been circulated in advance to them.

In setting up this Inaugural Partner Meeting, A2A is extremely lucky to have had the help of Dr. Nicole Klenk of the University of Toronto. As a researcher she is interested in learning more about cross-border environmental work and governance. She has brought funding to allow partnering groups to attend. She will conduct a focus group to allow the Collaborative to work on Climate Change as a cross-border issue as part of the meeting.



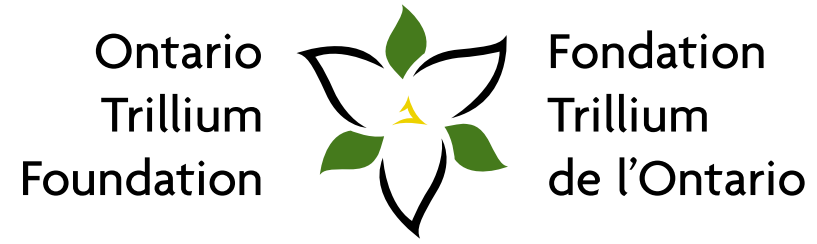
Page 2 of 8 Egan Chutes Provincial Park, near Bancroft, Ontario (photo: Steven H. O. Jones)

A2A Receives Grant to Hire Coordinator

The Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative is thrilled to announce that we have recently received a \$172,600 grant over 3 years from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to build our capacity. It has allowed us to hire our first full-time coordinator, Lilith Wyatt (see article p. 4) and rent office space.

A2A has been an entirely volunteer-run organization for many years. We have been able to hire personnel to do project work, but project grants rarely contain a significant percentage to further the capacity of the organization itself. And our 'office' has been in the homes of our many volunteers.

Our new A2A office, starting March 1st, is at 19 Reynolds Road, south of Lansdowne, at the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve building, where we have received our mail for many years and held numerous meetings. We are especially pleased that FABN could accommodate us, since our work is so complimentary, and Don Ross and his staff have been so helpful to A2A over the years.



An agency of the Government of Ontario.
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario.

We also love the location! Our office is about as close to our U.S. partners as possible, while still being on the Canadian side of the border. The FABR building is right at Ivy Lea, on the north side of the Thousand Islands International Bridge.



The Ontario Trillium Foundation grant we received will also permit us to purchase office equipment for our new Coordinator to use.

While we will not be able to staff the office every day, we anticipate being able to announce a schedule in the near future of hours the office will be open. So keep an eye on the website, and come to visit us soon!



A2A @ Frontenac Biosphere Arch Building, 19 Reynolds Road, south of Lansdowne

A2A Hires its First Full-time Coordinator

The A2A Collaborative Board of Directors is thrilled to announce that, thanks to our grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, after an extensive search we have found a Coordinator! Her name is **Lilith Wyatt**. We had over 50 applications, some of them very impressive. But Lilith stood out from the rest, and we hoped that she would accept our offer of employment. We knew that we were asking her to leave a prestigious position at McGill University in Montreal, where she is the Sustainability Officer. Happily, she had wanted to live in the A2A region to be closer to family, and had planned to move here in the future.

Lilith grew up in Kingston, Ontario, and has a strong attachment to this rugged landscape. Both her honours and master's theses examined how to connect people to the natural world so that they may act to protect it. She believes that collaborative partnerships are the most effective way to scale up the sort of work that must be both tailored to local context and guided by a shared vision.

Of particular interest to us was that Lilith has initiated collaboration and cooperation among students, faculty and staff on the McGill campus to accomplish the shared goal of a more sustainable university. She helped to do strategic planning with them to

create a cohesive, non-hierarchical team of staff and student interns.

Lilith will be working to increase the A2A Collaborative's capacity through fundraising and building a team to work on conservation, while at the same time helping our increasing number of Collaborative Partners to accomplish the parts of their work that contribute to the A2A Vision and Mission.

The A2A Board is looking forward to March 28th, when Lilith officially joins our organization. You can meet Lilith at the Annual General Meeting March 30th.



Be a Natural Gardener, not a Zookeeper

On March 27 in Belleville, Terry Sprague & Bea Heissler present Be a Natural Gardener, not a Zookeeper. It's all about natural gardening and wildlife attraction and control.

This is the fifth event in the Winter Speaker Series for the Hastings Stewardship Council. The naturalization event takes place at the Township of Thurlow Community Centre at 516 Harmony Road, north of Belleville (and west off hwy. 37), on Thursday, March 27 at 7 pm. There is no cost, but donations will be gratefully accepted at the door. All are welcome to attend. For further information, please contact Matt Caruana at The Hastings Stewardship Council:

613-391-9034 or email: info@hastingsstewardship.ca

Algonquin Land Claim Negotiations Continue in Eastern Ontario

By Ken Buchan, President Ottawa Chapter, Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society.

Since the early 1990's the Algonquins of Ontario (comprising most of the Algonquin First Nations in Ontario), the Province of Ontario and Canada have been engaged in negotiations towards a Land Claim Treaty (www.ontario.ca/landclaims) which will cover 36,000 sq km, including much of the Ontario portion of the A2A region (<http://www.ontario.ca/aboriginal/algonquins-ontario-settlement-area-boundary>). The Treaty will involve both the transfer of specific lands to the Algonquins as well as a monetary settlement.

A Preliminary Agreement In Principle (AIP) (<http://tanakiwin.com/our-treaty-negotiations/preliminary-draft-agreement-in-principle/>) was presented for public discussion in December 2012, and public meetings were held across the region early in 2013. Draft versions of maps showing proposed land transfers were made available at that time. Since then there have been ongoing discussions concerning the Preliminary AIP between the negotiators and various stakeholder and members of the public. These discussions have related to basic principles in the AIP, as well as specific aspects such as land transfers, hunting, fishing, forestry and parks.

The Land Claim has implications for ecological connectivity in the A2A region. The Preliminary AIP affirms the fundamental importance of

ecological integrity and conservation. In addition, there is a proposal for a relatively large new provincial park in the Sharbot Lake – Ardoch area. Such a park would act an important “stepping stone” for movement of wildlife through the A2A region. However, some small parks or portions of parks are being considered for deregulation, and in some cases park users have expressed concerns. In addition, the Preliminary AIP is vague or appears contradictory in some sections, for example, in relation to public consultation processes and protection of existing parks. There is a need to clarify such issues in the Final AIP and the Treaty.

It is anticipated that a Final AIP will be released in the near future, and that it will form the basis of a Land Claim Treaty over the coming years.

The Algonquin Land Claim



The largest land claim being negotiated in Ontario. If successful, it will be the province's first modern-day treaty.



Evening Grosbeaks (photo: Thomas G. Bancroft)

Cross Border Conservation Comes of Age

By Sandra Tassel, American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts

Migrating wildlife, living waters, shifting eco-systems and weather systems unify the A2A landscape and connect our human communities without regard for the international border. Centuries of economic, political, cultural and familial interactions between Canadians and US citizens also demonstrate the porous and unnatural character of the border. American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts (www.afoclt.org) is the conservation organization born from the historical linkages between our two countries.

Hundreds of years of land and resource acquisition in Canada by American businesses and individuals resulted in a bi-national ownership patchwork in some of Canada's most scenic and environmentally significant areas. Examples of this phenomenon within the A2A landscape include the Canadian side of the Thousand Islands and along the St. Lawrence and in the Gatineau area. Generations of American families have treasured their fishing camps, lakeside cottages and island retreats. Canadian land conservation entities value these properties as strategic preservation opportunities. American Friends exists to facilitate donations from US taxpayers of land and conservation easements that achieve those strategic resource protection objectives.

Prior to the founding of American Friends, Canadian charities and government agencies did not have a financially attractive donation mechanism to offer to conservation-oriented landowners from the US. Potential donors had to choose between US or Canadian tax benefits from their charitable gifts. American Friends is 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. Now US taxpayers can obtain comparable tax incentives for their donation as have been available to Canadians through the Ecological Gifts Program.

In the 2 ½ years since American Friends accepted its first land donation, it has partnered with 8 land trusts in 5 provinces to complete 13 gifts of fee title and conservation easements. These projects permanently preserve nearly 3,000 acres of wetlands, rivers, lakefront, forests, and coastline for all of the species that need undeveloped lands and clean water. We look forward to partnerships to advance the preservation in the A2A landscape.

Contact Sandra Tassel, Program Coordinator, for more information. (360) 515-7171 or info@afoclt.org

NOTICE: Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative's 2014 AGM

Dear A2A Members,

This is your official notice and invitation to the Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative's 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 30, 2014 starting at 2:00.

Before this year's AGM we will be holding the Inaugural A2A Collaborative Partner Meeting, which takes place over 2 days. Both meetings will be held at the Quality Hotel Royal Brock in Brockville, just south of the Hwy. 29 (Steward Blvd.) exit from the 401 Highway. (full agenda, address of venue below).

The A2A Collaborative Partner Meeting will be a chance for leaders of the organizations to meet one another, figure out shared interests and opportunities, practise working together on key issues and do strategic planning. As an A2A member you are welcome to observe the Partner Meeting at any stage, which takes place starting at 9:00 on March 29th and finishes before the Annual General Meeting on the 30th. If you are planning to attend this part, please notify Bryarly McEachern: bryarly@gmail.com so that we can order a lunch for you on Saturday and/or Sunday at a cost of \$12.00, payable at the time to A2A.

At the AGM, in addition to conducting the business of A2A, we will be detailing the immense strides the A2A Collaborative has made this year in terms of becoming the facilitator of conservation action and hub of information on the landscape between and

including our two great anchor parks: Algonquin and Adirondack Parks. As of this writing the A2A Collaborative has 20 official organizational partners, from both the U.S. and Canadian sides of the border.

And we have more important news: We have hired our first full-time Coordinator, Lilith Wyatt. We are thrilled to have her with us. Her area of expertise is transformative sustainability education: connecting people to the natural world that they know, love and want to protect. This interest, explored through both her B.Sc. and M.A., has taken her around Canada and as far as Antarctica. Most recently, she has worked in McGill University's Office of Sustainability. Lilith will officially begin her work with A2A on March 28th on a 3-year contract, with thanks to funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

So, please come meet Lilith and A2A's new partners and hear about all the projects A2A is now involved with. We very much hope that you will be able to attend!

With all best wishes, Emily Conger,
President Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative

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ONTARIO, K6V 4W3
PH: 613-345-1400 FAX: 613-345-5402
EMAIL: sales@qualityhotelbrockville.com



**For those of you who have not yet renewed for 2014,
we are including a membership form...**



Algonquin to Adirondaks Collaborative

2014 Membership

Our mission is to provide leadership and facilitate collaboration among partners to restore, enhance, and maintain ecological connectivity, ecosystem function, and native biodiversity, while respecting sustainable human land uses in the Algonquin to Adirondacks region. We will work at international, national, regional, and local levels to develop strategic and site-specific initiatives to achieve connectivity.

New Membership _____ Membership renewal _____

Cost \$25.00 per year

Please send to 19 Reynolds Road, R.R. 1. Lansdowne ON K0E 1L0 in Canada
or P.O. Box 1 Wellesley Island New York 13640 in the U.S.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email Address: _____ Website: _____ Affiliation: _____

I would you like to receive information from A2A including notices of upcoming events by regular mail _____ by e-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 _____ Other _____.

Would you like to volunteer for A2A? _____ If so, in what capacity? _____

I have the following talents/interests that might be helpful to the A2A effort:

Comments: _____ *Charitable receipts issued for Canada.

www.a2alink.org