

Momentum builds for the Highlands Corridor!

Over the past four years the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) has been developing the concept of the Highlands Corridor as a nature-based solution to building climate change resilience, protecting lands and waters, and maintaining biodiversity. The Highlands Corridor covers approximately 100,000 hectares and connects three provincial parks in Ontario: Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands, Kawartha Highlands, and Silent Lake.

This swath of land is high in biodiversity including 42 identified Species at Risk, 30 provincially significant species and 48 regionally rare species. The HHLT is seeking protection of the 60,000 hectares of unceded crown land within the Highlands Corridor as a Conservation Reserve.



In February 2023, the County of Haliburton passed a resolution of support. MPP Laurie Scott hosted a very successful reception at Queen's Park in June and in August the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks consulted with HHLT Project Biologist, Paul Heaven to gather information about the Highlands Corridor, commending the HHLT on the comprehensiveness of their research, and the establishment of local and provincial support.

Paul Heaven, 2021. Pitcher Plant

Private landowners in the Highlands Corridor have also demonstrated support by joining the Partners in Conservation (PIC) program. 15 private landowners have joined PIC by enrolling in the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program. This program gives a significant tax break to landowners who provide good stewardship of their forested property. Over 1700 hectares of private land has been added, creating an important connectivity component to the crown land within the corridor.

Perched on the southern edge of the Canadian Shield, the corridor is comprised of a combination of forests, lakes, wetlands, and rocky barrens. Protection and maintenance of healthy habitats in the corridor benefits the whole ecosystem, including the lakes we love. You can help be good land and lake stewards by:

- Naturalizing your shoreline
- Maintaining native plant and tree diversity on your property
- Supporting wetland conservation in your area



corridor is rocky barrens. corridor You can help

Paul Heaven,

Is your property in the Highlands Corridor? Visit the Highlands Corridor website at www.highlandscorridor.ca, which includes a map of the corridor and an interesting video outlining the details of the Highlands Corridor project.

Note: The C.H.A. Board has provided a letter of support to the Land Trust for this project