



## Spring/Summer Issue 2006

### New EMAN sites at rare

The Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN) is a national network of over 450 partners from a variety of agencies and organizations.

Environment Canada is the coordinating partner for the network through the EMAN Coordinating Office (EMAN CO). The network includes approximately 100 case study sites characterized by long-term multi-disciplinary environmental work conducted by a multitude of agencies, as well as a variety of less comprehensive sites, such as forest plots.

A function of EMAN CO is to cooperatively develop standardized ecological monitoring protocols. To date, the Coordinating Office has developed a suite of 14 protocols which can be implemented together to enable a place-based analysis of change over time for a variety of environmental attributes and functions. These protocols are implemented by over 75 EMAN partners and agencies across Canada with a wide range of skills and capacity: from Parks and professional scientists to community groups. By following a standardized methodology for monitoring, the data collected by these agencies can be recognized as scientifically valid and more easily compared and integrated to conduct assessments of ecosystem change.

Ecosystem monitoring is a priority at **rare**. The site is ideal for monitoring long-term change since **rare** is adjacent to one of Canada's fastest changing landscapes, resulting from urban development.

With generous funding through Environment Canada's Science Horizons Internship Program, **rare** has hired Shannon Holton to develop an ecosystem monitoring framework. Shannon is a recent grad of the University of Waterloo with an honours degree in Environment and Resource Studies and a minor in Biology. In addition, Shannon graduated in 2001 with top marks from the Ecosystem Management Technician program at Sir Sandford Fleming College.

Both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems will be addressed. At the present time stream and river monitoring at the **rare** site is seen to be a priority. Shannon, **rare's** Science Horizons Intern, will implement an aquatic monitoring program establishing baseline water quality conditions in four wadeable watercourses on the **rare** property while implementing a science-based protocol for collecting and interpreting water quality conditions on those watercourses.

Further objectives of this initiative are: to involve the public in water quality monitoring in the future as a means of having the public understand and appreciate the significance of surface water resources; establishing a scientifically sound method of identifying any changes in water quality through time and provide the basis for determining the direction and magnitude of water quality change; and to provide the opportunity for comparisons through time as improvements to the agricultural land use practices are implemented.



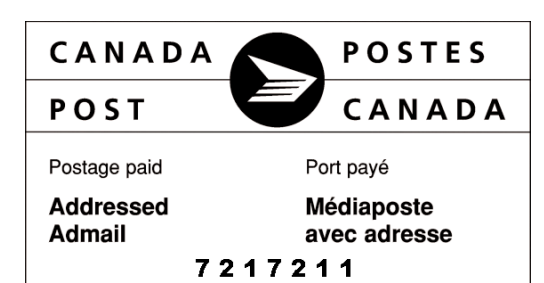
Environment  
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### Inside this Issue

rare organics .....	2
Inaugural Lecture .....	2
A Tribute to Jane Jacobs .....	3
Nature Notes.....	3
A Natural Investment .....	4
Protecting rare in perpetuity .....	6
How You Can Help.....	7
Archaeology.....	8
Leadership.....	8



## ***rare organics***

The 913-acres of environmentally sensitive lands owned by ***rare*** Charitable Research Reserve encourage public and academic exploration and understanding of our community - ecologically, culturally, and historically.



Since 2002, the ***rare organics*** program has invited community participation in the transition and restoration of the lands in its care. With the help of many volunteers, it has offered a weekly produce-box to an ever-growing list of community subscribers. With funding from local donors, government programs such as Eco-Action and Carrot Cache in Toronto,

***rare*** has begun to move from 5 acres of certified organic land to 50 acres of "transitional" organic land, the first stage in a multi-year process to move from conventional agriculture to certified organic production. It has also had its Environmental Farm Plan approved by the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition.

Some of the land, such as the field known as "Toboggan Hill" on the south side of Blair Road, will be planted with a cover crop such as red clover to restore soil health. As the site matures and progresses toward the 100-year vision to return it to a rich forested landscape with a series of open spaces nestled within it, we are also learning new methods of improving our lives in a more densely and richly varied landscape.

This coming year, ***rare organics*** will build on its accomplishments to launch a larger Sustainable Agriculture Project. The new location at Springbank Farm, 681 Blair Rd., is accessible to visitors, and we invite you to visit the farm this summer. The charity will also participate in the Collaborative Regional Alliance of Farmer Training (CRAFT) - a network of 13 organic farms in SW Ontario committed to educating future farmers.

**There are still spaces available in our Community Shared Agriculture Food Box Program - please call for information, 650-9336 x116.**

We are extremely grateful to the many individuals, businesses and foundations that have made contributions to our project - past, present and future.

## **Urban Ecological Restoration & Management at *rare*: Why Research Should Matter to and Citizens and Academics.**

**Wednesday, June 14th  
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm  
*rare*, 1679 Blair Road, Cambridge.**

Please join us for the inaugural presentation of the ***rare*** Research Lecture Series. We welcome Dr. Stephen Murphy (B.Sc.) Hons., Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Environment and Resource Studies at the



University of Waterloo, a member of *rare*'s Environmental Advisory Team and Co-Director of Research to discuss a topic which so clearly illustrates ***rare's*** priority objective. Dr. Murphy is Vice-Chair of the Society for Ecological Restoration Ontario, and the author of over 100 peer reviewed publications, books & book chapters, and technical reports. Please RSVP to Rachel at 650-9336 ext 122.

## ***rare* Wish List**

### **Just some of the things that we could use...**

Food scales, Slide projector, Binoculars, Spotting scope, locking filing cabinets, garden tools (shovels, wheelbarrows, spades, gloves), hardware tools, laser printer, volunteers ...

Thank you! Please call Rachel to arrange for delivery or pick up, 650-9336 ext. 122.

**"*rare* to me is an organization that facilitates and supports local, organic agriculture and encourages community involvement."**

*Caitlin*

## **rare** pays Tribute to Jane Jacobs

The Board, staff and volunteers of **rare** wish to express their regret at the passing of Jane Jacobs. Ms. Jacobs was a supporter of the effort to preserve the 913-acres held in trust by **rare**, in one of the fastest growing areas of the country. In one of her encouragements to **rare** volunteers she said "Thanks. Thanks from all of us.



This sort of thing helps everyone, whether they know it or not. So thanks. And congratulations." After hearing of her passing, Keith Ainsworth, **rare's** Board Chair said, "Jane Jacobs certainly understood what we are trying to do." Mr. Ainsworth adds, "And her words of encouragement meant a lot to us. I think she was proud of our plans to make this special property a real feature of the Region. She understood the importance of such spaces to a community and, as her thanks indicate, she also applauded the unique research agenda that benefits a much larger population."

Ms. Jacobs readily related to the struggle to save the features that made for strong societies and good cities. Her own fight to stop a freeway from ruining Greenwich, just one of her earliest - of many - important measures attributed to her leadership. When asked by a **rare** volunteer how she had the strength to carry on, fighting and raising funds for her causes, Jacobs said "You have no choice. It's wicked to start a fight you don't intend to win. You let down your supporters and it discourages others from ever taking on a battle themselves. In conversation with one of our volunteers, Jane encouraged **rare** to get the local public on board. She warned, "Do not underestimate their importance. What you need first and foremost is a "nest of hornets" that can be stirred into action if there are ever any threats to the project. "

She will be missed by many. Thanks, Jane, from all of us.

## **Nature Notes & Discoveries**

- In late fall 2005, John MacDonald and Chris Dalton observed scratching marks on a cedar tree at **rare** that they suspect was made by a **bobcat**.
- Also, in late fall, Moragh Lippert encountered a flock of about 20 **wild turkeys** on the way to the organic farm at **rare**.
- **Bald eagle** monitoring on 10 December 2005 by members of Friends of **rare**, Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists and residents of the Cambridge community located 8 eagles between Zellers Drive, Kitchener and Spottiswood, south of Glen Morris. Two adult **bald eagles** perched in the crack willow on **rare** lands upstream of the confluence, marking the 13th consecutive winter season that **bald eagles** have been observed at the confluence.
- During the Cambridge Christmas Bird Count, 18 December 2005, Jerry Guenther and Bill Wilson located an immature **black-crowned night-heron** perched on **rare** cliffs along the Grand River. A summer resident, this species is rarely seen in December in Waterloo Region. The last December sighting was in 1986 and, interestingly, that individual was perched in a tree on the very same cliff rim on **rare** (observed by Ted Cheskey and others).
- In mid-December, **great black-backed gull** and **glaucous gull** were observed by Bill Wilson and Jerry Guenther at the confluence. Both are considered "mid-winter" arrivals.
- Klaus Mohn spotted a drake **long-tailed duck** on 3 January in the river near the largest of the **rare** islands.
- A **yellow-rumped warbler** lingered about the riparian shoreline shrubbery of **rare** in mid-January.
- On 17 January, four **northern flickers** were spotted on the reserve. Five species of woodpecker reside in winter at **rare**. Can you name them?
- Ken Dance and Bill Wilson spotted three **bald eagles** on 24 January above the river through **rare**: two adults and one subadult. On Wednesday, February 8, Marilyn Armstrong observed four **bald eagles** at the same time at the confluence.
- This winter, **belted kingfisher**, **American robin** and **great blue heron** were observed each month, December to March. More than 200 **common goldeneye** overwintered in reaches of the river within and below **rare**.
- Residing on Queenston Road across the river from **rare** cliffs, Kim Ruddy and Andy Kelly had a **Carolina wren** visit their feeder in early March.
- On 11 March, Jerry Guenther, Ruth Kroft and Bill Wilson observed the first-of-spring **killdeer**, **red-winged blackbirds**, **common grackles**, **ring-necked ducks** at the confluence.
- On 19 March, eight species of waterfowl including **blue-winged teal** were observed upstream of the confluence in the baylet.
- Larry Lamb and Robert Messier watched and listened to two **trumpeter swans** fly over **rare** floodplain on 23 March.

"What's rare to me is discovering new trails!"

*Author unknown*

## A Natural Investment

"It's rare to see members from all parts & sectors of a community work together for the benefit of all!"

Paul K.

In spite of a raging snow storm on November 24, 2005, over 100 people gathered at **rare's** historic Lamb's Inn to launch the charity's major fundraising campaign. 'Twas a night to remember; a truly **rare** celebration of volunteers, friends, generosity, and sheer determination.

The evening's theme was 'What is **rare** to you?' And as Bob Burt of The Record wrote in his follow-up article the next day, "Volunteers and community leaders took [turns] describing what the reserve means to them." Here is an excerpt from that article:



Mayor Craig of Cambridge and Mayor Denouden of North-Dumfries Township converse at the Launch.  
Photo taken and donated by pirakStudios.

*North Dumfries Mayor Kim Denouden described it as a unique property and an environmental treasure.*

*Cambridge Mayor Doug Craig recalled how important the return of the American bald eagle had been in stopping plans for a system of roads and bridges through the property.*

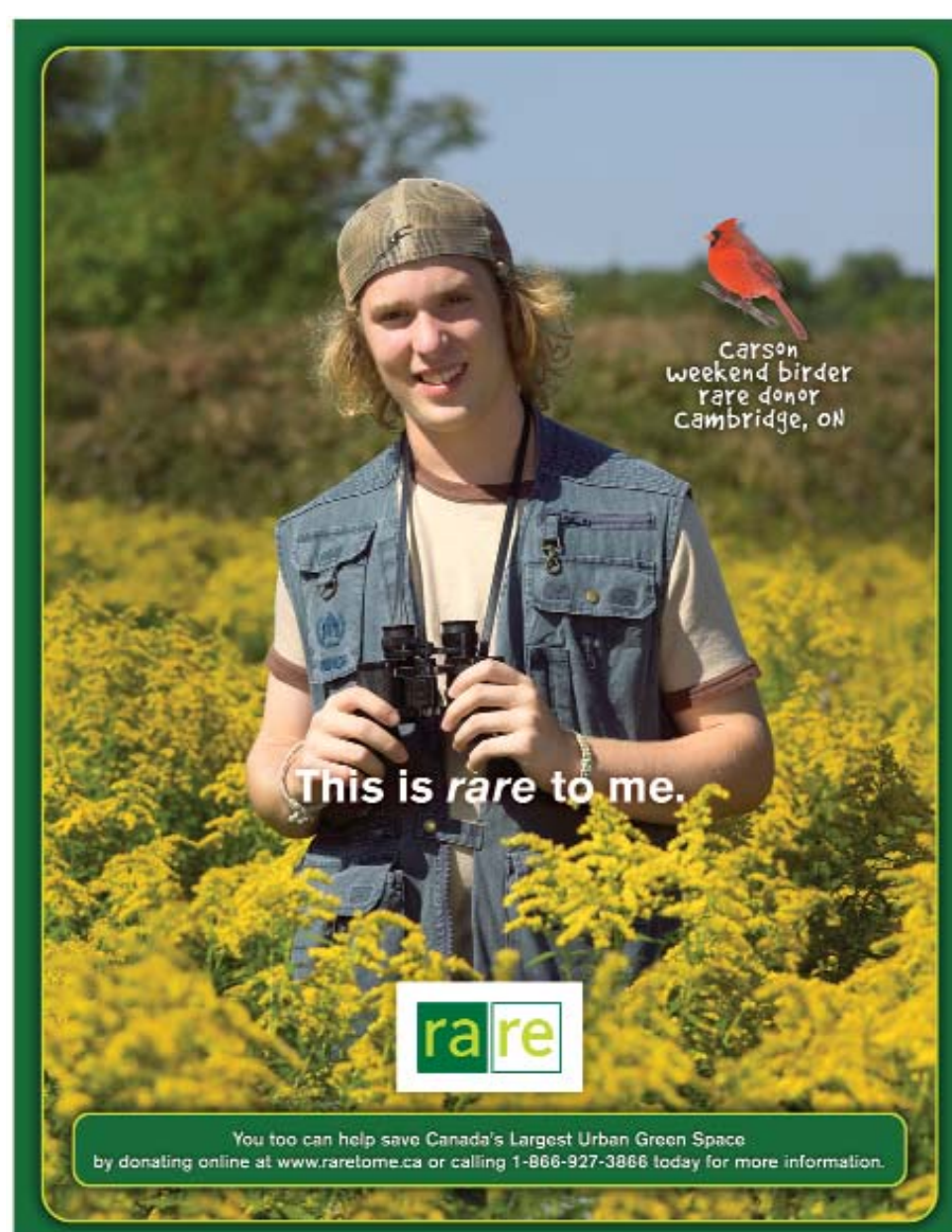
*With [the traffic] debate over, Regional Chair Ken Seiling noted that people on both sides of the issue have pulled together to work for the reserve. "That's what's really important now," he said. "At the end of the day I think we'll be judged by the way we treat our natural and rural land and that makes what we do here today important."*

The campaign - **A Natural Investment** - will allow this charitable organization to realize its vision of reservation, restoration and reconciliation, in perpetuity. The goal is divided into 3 main categories:

### Interpretive Facilities

**\$ 3,200,000**

In addition to a Resource House and Slit Barn, both of 1840s limestone, the historic Lamb's Inn in the village of Blair will be renovated to become the primary facility for all aspects of the research and education programs and the main point of entry for the community.



### Conservation Ecology

**\$ 3,760,000**

The three major branches of conservation ecology - reservation, restoration and reconciliation - are relatively young disciplines, which play a crucial role in our striving for biodiversity. Even in its early days, **rare** is providing answers through peer-reviewed research to fundamental questions in basic ecology, a place for practitioners and researchers to communicate with each other and with teachers and students at all levels, and strategies for growth management to address increasing concerns about urban sprawl

### In Perpetuity

**\$10,040,000**

Setting aside land and attempting to keep it from degradation is currently the dominant strategy of conservation, one we participated in by:





- convincing the University of Guelph that **rare** could pay the \$5,400,000 negotiated price (plus fees) for this special 913-acre parcel of land that would otherwise have been purchased (at a much higher price) for aggregates or development AND when the historic Lamb's Inn building in Blair came onto the market in late 2004, making the bold decision to purchase it for \$740,000 so that our Interpretive Centre could be located in the Village, not on sensitive land (Financing was arranged and the campaign must now retire this debt.)
- undertaking a 2-year effort and expenses of over \$900,000 to provide the environmental assessments, access to Smart Growth experts, that would convince the Region to protect the **rare** lands and to strengthen the protection for all green spaces in the Region
- planning for a \$3 million endowment fund that will subsidize operations in perpetuity.

**"rare to me is the only limestone cliffs in the Region, the rare plants, rare birds, rare alvar habitat and the rare co-operation & determination to preserve them forever."**

*Chris G.*

## Thank You

To date, hundreds of individuals, businesses and foundations have lent their support financially to fund **rare's** operations and advancements. Thank you from all of us; your help to preserve this special property will have lasting benefits for generations and will have regional, national and even international implications.



Reps from Home Depot present rare Executive Director, Moragh Lippert with a donation to assist with restoration work. Photo taken and donated by pirakStudios.

**"rare to me is the precious appreciation of this natural landscape, but unfortunately the realization that it will be a constant battle to keep it."**

*Author unkown*

**"The contagious intense dedication of the staff here at rare, which in today's society is rare, makes it a real joy to come here week after week."**

*Dan B.*

What is **rare** to you?

Patti Leather, **rare's** Community Relations Manager, is happy to talk with you about partnership and funding opportunities. She can be reached by calling 650-9336 ext 118 or by email: [pleather@raresites.org](mailto:pleather@raresites.org)

## Protecting *rare* in perpetuity

Over the years, *rare's* special property has been protected from forestry, development and a proposed 4-lane highway that would have eliminated the natural splendour - and the promotion of biodiversity - on this special piece of land.

Having survived all previous threats, *rare* is now well positioned to survive in perpetuity. The plan to ensure this outcome has three main components:

### 1. Legal:

- the lands are held in trust by a public charity, governed by an arms-length Board of Directors, including a representative from the Grand River Conservation Authority, and managed by a professional staff
- the lands are about to be built into the Region's Official Plan as an Environmentally Sensitive Landscape (ESL), a new designation and the first of its kind in the Province, and
- rare* is in discussion with a number of NGOs with similar mandates seeking a conservation easement that will provide yet another layer of security against future development.



Regional Chair Ken Seiling speaking to the audience at the *A Natural Investment Launch*. Photo taken and donated by pirakStudios.

"What is *rare* to me? This sacred space will offer much 'learning' to future generations."

*Patsy M.*

### 2. Financial:

- a full campaign plan has been developed to raise \$17 million (see details in this newsletter)
- more than \$5 million has been raised toward this goal and the mortgage has been reduced by over \$1, 400,000
- in addition to a major gift effort, which is actively underway and has the support of a Campaign Cabinet, *rare* is about to launch an e-campaign, a grassroots effort to involve thousands of individuals, regardless of the size of their gifts. See [www.raretome.ca](http://www.raretome.ca).



From left to right: Paul Koch, John Pollock, Mayor Kim Denouden, Mayor Doug Craig, Sierra, Louise MacCallum, Moragh Lippert, Heather, Dan Barendredgt, Grace, Carson, Michael Barnstijn, Gerry Martiniuk, Keith Ainsworth, and Chuck Corrigan. Photo taken and donated by pirakStudios.

### 3. Public Support

-the moral at, and support for, *rare* is at an all-time high, with over 1,000 individuals agreeing to be in touch via email to help support the effort and to speak out on its behalf. As Jane Jacobs said, we now have a "nest of hornets that we can poke" if the property is threatened. This is, perhaps, *rare's* most potent safeguard.

If you would like to be on our list of supporters, please send a note to [pleather@raresites.org](mailto:pleather@raresites.org)

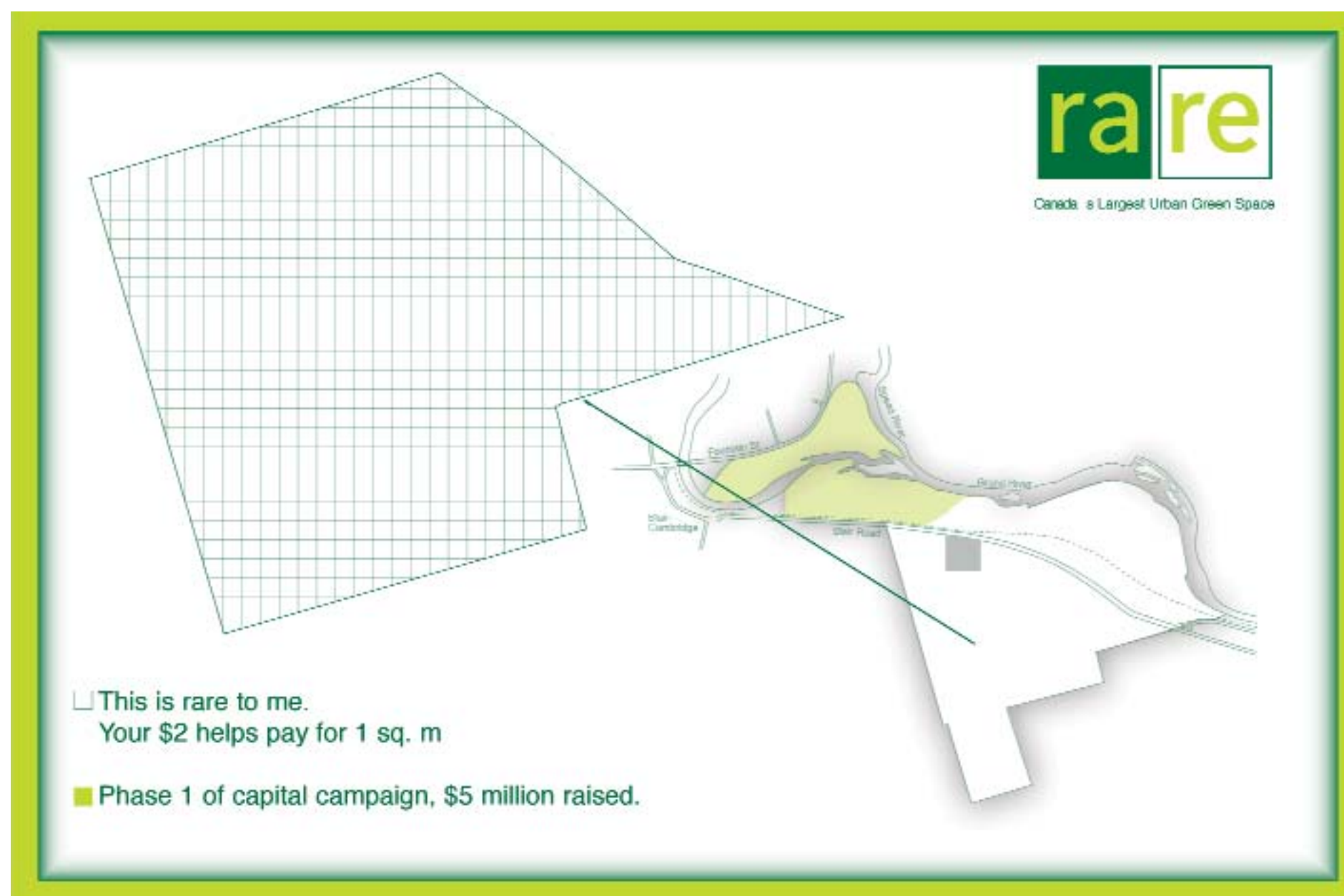
"*rare* is to me... A piece of my childhood & those memories preserved for my granddaughter."

*Anita H.*

## How Can You Help?

Preserving Canada's Largest Urban Greenspace is a unique and challenging opportunity. It takes very little for you to be able to make a big difference.

**You can help save *rare*, one square meter at a time and turn the map green! Visit [www.raretome.ca](http://www.raretome.ca) and help protect the reserve, intact and in perpetuity.**



**All it takes is \$2 for you to preserve a square metre of *rare* forever.**

Please visit [www.raretome.ca](http://www.raretome.ca) and donate right now! It's easy, secure and cost effective for the charity. Or, if you prefer, complete the pledge card below and mail to: **rare**, 1679 Blair Rd. Cambridge, N3H 4R8

## yes, i want to support rare!





name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_

postal code \_\_\_\_\_

telephone & email address \_\_\_\_\_

method of payment    ☐ cheque    ☐ visa    ☐ mastercard    ☐ American Express

card number \_\_\_\_\_      expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

name on card \_\_\_\_\_      signature \_\_\_\_\_

1679 Blair Road    +1 519 650 9336 voice    rare@raresites.org  
 cambridge, ontario    +1 519 650 5923 fax    www.raresites.org  
 canada N3H 4R8

☐ I would like to contribute (a tax receipt will be automatically issued for all gifts over \$15, under \$15 upon request only)  
☐ \$50    ☐ \$75    ☐ \$250    ☐ \$500    ☐ \$1000    ☐ other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please use my gift for the most pressing need.  
 (if you wish, you can designate your gift to a specific project. please specify.) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please put my email address on your list to receive the **rare e-bulletin** about exciting news, imminent threats to the property, wildlife sightings on the property, etc.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I understand my name (or the name of someone I designate) will be displayed permanently on the property. please indicate, clearly, exactly how you would like this name displayed.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Archaeology: A *rare* Moment

By John MacDonald

We put our shovels into the ground and passed the dirt through metal mesh, sorting the larger objects from the finer soil matrix. From one of these soil intrusions Peter Brennan and I recovered three small flakes of chert from on top of a limestone bluff overlooking a lower terrace nearer to the river. These flakes, or chips, were small, finger nail in size, and all were of Onondaga chert (similar to flint). This particular chert originates from near Lake Erie and would have been carried here either through procurement at source or through trade, passing from person to person. Either scenario is equally plausible.



The three flakes of equally small size suggest that someone - hundreds, or possibly thousands of years ago - was shaping a chert stone tool, putting final touches to the edges of a spear point, dart, or arrow head, in preparation for the hunt of deer or other prey. Their higher point of view would have allowed them to observe the animals passing on the lower terrace while they would not have been detected. And that is why we thought that we should test this spot for past human (archaeological) material remains. Deductive reasoning sometimes does work!

This find represents a brief moment in time, perhaps only minutes of what one person was doing thousands of years ago. However, we are still able to detect such moments these long years past. Wondrous is our conscious perception of time.



Leadership

### Board of Directors

**Keith Ainsworth**, Chair of the Board, Retired CEO, COM DEV

**Jim Chaplin**, Chairman, Canadian General Tower

**Karen Farbridge**, M.Sc., Ph.D., Office of V.P. Research at the University of Guelph and Professor in the Department of Political Science, Former Guelph Mayor

**Paul Koch**, P.Eng, Marketing & Management Consultant & Civic Entrepreneur

**Brian McGee**, CA, Partner of Zeifman & Company LLP

**Peter Krause**, Chair, Grand River Conservation Authority

### Contact Us!

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FAX: 519 650-5923  
E-mail: [rare@raresites.org](mailto:rare@raresites.org)  
Website: [www.raresites.org](http://www.raresites.org)



### Environmental Advisory Committee

**Ken Dance**, M.Sc., Owner, Dance Environmental

**Larry Lamb**, Manager Ecology Lab, Adjunct Lecturer, Environmental Studies, University of Waterloo

**Doug Larson**, Ph.D., Faculty Member, College of Biological Sciences, University of Guelph

**Alan Morgan**, Ph.D., Faculty Member, Earth Sciences, University of Waterloo

**Stephen Murphy**, Ph.D., Faculty Member, Environment and Resource Studies, University of Waterloo

**Bill Wilson**, retired Teacher, Naturalist, Regional Co-ordinator, Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas

### Archaeology Committee

**George Bradford**, Archaeology Enthusiast

**Peter Brennan**, Licensed Avocational Archaeologist

**Chris Dalton**, Licensed Avocational Archaeologist

**John MacDonald**, Archaeologist/Heritage Planner, Ministry of Culture, Province of Ontario

### Directors of Research

**Karen Farbridge**, Ph.D., Co-Director (see previous)

**Doug Larson**, Ph.D., Co-Director (see previous)

**Stephen Murphy**, Ph.D., Co-Director (see previous)

### Research & Education Committee

**Wynn Watson**, Ph.D., Committee Chair, Retired Chair, Biology, Wilfrid Laurier University

**Jason Bracey**, M.A., Teacher, Southwood Secondary

**Joy Roberts**, Ph.D., Owner, job consultants, President, Eramosa Institute

**Susan Trotter**, M.A., Teacher, New Dundee Public

### Staff

**Moragh Lippert**, Executive Director

**Catherine Beck**, Market Developer (HRSDC funded)

**Heather Cain**, Assistant Farm Manager, **rare organics**

**Ken Dance**, Land Steward

**Marcia Dawson**, Rural Development (HRSDC funded)

**Sandy Evans**, Business Manager

**Jessica Grealey**, Environment Canada funded

**Shannon Holton**, Science Horizons Intern

**Rachel Hull**, Community Outreach Coordinator

**Patti Leather**, Community Relations Manager

**MarthaGay Scroggins**, Farm Manager, **rare organics**

### Seasonal **rare organics** staff:

**Mark-Jan Daalderop**, Senior Intern

**Zara Fischer-Harrison**, Jr. Intern

**Jayne Melrose**, part-time Farmer