



January Newsletter 2019

Ruthven Park

National Historic Site

Welcome Education Coordinator – Michael Berry

We are pleased to welcome Michael to Ruthven Park as he fills the position of Education Coordinator for a one-year term. He is taking over for Natalie Shakespear who will be leaving on February 19th for leave.

Michael graduated from Sir Wilfrid Laurier University with an Honours Bachelor of Arts followed by a Bachelor of Education from Nipissing University School of Education. With experience working as a Natural Heritage Education Assistant with Ontario Parks he will fill in very well with Ruthven's focus of nature and history. His goal is to provide students and visitors with an immersive education and encourage them to do their best in all that they do.

Please join us in welcoming Michael to our Ruthven team.



"I would like to thank everyone for welcoming me to Ruthven for the coming year! I am eager to learn and continue delivery of high-quality educational programming and look forward to meeting all visitors!"

-Michael

Best wishes to Natalie on her upcoming maternity leave and new chapter in her life– enjoy!

Seeking Students for this Summer

Did you ever want to know what it would be like to work at a National Historic Site? Here is your opportunity.

Ruthven Park is seeking three (3) university or college students with relevant skills and experience to fill the following positions:

- **Interpretation and Visitor Engagement Assistant**
- **Education and Programs Assistant**
- **Tourism and Events Assistant**

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 26. Please include a cover letter with your resume and send to info@ruthvenpark.ca.

For further information and job description visit <http://ruthvenparknationalhistoricsite.com/participate/work-or-volunteer/>.

Please note that the above student positions are contingent upon the receipt of funding.



Volunteer at a Unique Not-for-profit Organization

The Lower Grand River Land Trust Inc. established a strong tradition of volunteer involvement since its incorporation in 1993. As owners and managers of Ruthven Park National Historic Site the commitment to volunteerism has continued.

As a volunteer you will:

- Be exposed to the workings of a 1,500-acre unique site which focuses on cultural and natural conservation
- work individually or in a group
- be matched with tasks that suit your interest or skills
- assist and receive training by staff
- meet and socialize with other volunteers
- learn new skills
- and much more

Applications are accepted year-round however tasks depend on current projects, hours of operation or seasons. Visit the following to learn more or contact the staff at Ruthven Park if you have further questions.

Volunteer application forms are available online: <http://ruthvenparknationalhistoricsite.com/participate/work-or-volunteer/> (scroll down beyond the "Work at Ruthven Park" section).



Membership – A great way to connect with the Lower Grand River Land Trust Inc.

Take a minute and think about joining the Land Trust? Your membership supports the ongoing conservation whether it be cultural or natural areas of Ruthven Park, a 1,500-acre property and the only publicly open national historic site in Haldimand County.

As the Land Trust is a not-for-profit, non-government organization we strive to maintain the site through earned revenues such as admissions, rentals, memberships and rely on donations and our endowment fund to maintain the site and make it safe and attractive for visitors like you. Your support really counts!

Our goal is to present the site as the Thompson family left it for the enjoyment of our many visitors.

There are several options and benefits for purchasing a membership for you or as a gift for a friend just click here for information.

- the ongoing operations of Ruthven Park
- education and public programs
- conservation of the cultural and natural heritage and landscapes
- preservation of the site for enjoyment of present and future generations

Membership Rates

	One Year	Two Year
Student	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00
Individual	\$ 30.00	\$ 55.00
Couple	\$ 40.00	\$ 75.00
Family	\$ 50.00	\$ 95.00
Corporate	\$ 100.00	\$ 175.00

In Memoriam

The Lower Grand River Land Trust Inc. announces with regret the recent passing of two of its members.

Norm Pomfret

By Marilyn Havelka CAO

Norm Pomfret passed away January 4, 2019. He was a valued friend and volunteer of Ruthven Park. In 2005, Norm started to collect data on butterflies during spring and summer months at Ruthven. We would see him with his net and writing pad in hand walking the trails and meadows of the Ruthven property. His wife Mary joined Norm in the census work in 2007 and together they recorded the abundance and distribution data on butterflies at times on very hot, humid summer days. In the fall they would forward an annual seasonal summary to the Toronto Entomologists, Hamilton Naturalist Club and to Ruthven where it is shared in our newsletter. Norm was a lifelong learner and his interests included nature and history and as such was a regular attendee at a variety of events held at Ruthven. Norm was a soft-spoken and friendly gentleman with a great sense of humor. He will be truly missed.



Ron Clark

By Betsy Smith President

It is with the deepest respect that we announce Ron Clark passed away on Monday, January 14, 2019. Ron became a Lower Grand River Land Trust Board Director in 1997 and was a member of our Finance Committee for over a decade. His knowledge of agriculture, land management and conservation, and finance was of vital importance to the Board. Ron believed strongly in the importance of community and quality education and was quick to offer funding for an education program at Ruthven Park. The Ron and Nancy Clark Foundation began their sponsorship in 2006 of \$500,000 to establish JOY, the Ruthven Education Program appropriately named to honour his sister Joy who was an admired elementary school teacher in Haldimand County. In 2014 the Foundation donated another \$500,000 to continue the JOY program and in June 2018 that pledge was once again renewed. This funding of JOY has allowed 25,000 students the opportunity to experience an extensive Ontario curriculum-based education program on historical, environmental and conservation topics. Ron was a gentleman of integrity and honesty and believed that educating the youth of today is vital. We are indebted to him for providing Ruthven Park the opportunity to continue to carry on his wish.... the youth of today are the stewards of tomorrow.



Ongoing Building Conservation Work

The widow's walk at Ruthven is a unique and significant character –defining feature of the Greek Revival mansion. Over time the wooden balustrades have deteriorated with sections of wood losing its integrity and copper roof was failing. The building conservation committee forwarded a request for proposal to qualified contractors who had extensive experience in roof conservation and wood repairs. Roof Tile Management (RTM) were the successful bidders and started the work in late November. Staff have been amazed by the perseverance of the workers who have been on the roof during the cold blasts of winter coming off the Grand River. Currently they are in the last stages of finishing up with the replacement of the copper roof.

The wood balustrade and benches were removed from the roof and taken to RTM's workshop in Mississauga. In keeping with the Land Trusts conservation philosophy, all sound wood is being retained and only deteriorated areas will be replaced. In this case modified pine called Accoya will be cut, molded, and fitted to match the original dimension and profiles exactly. Accoya is a modified pine product created from sustainably-sourced wood and is environmentally friendly, durable and stable. The wood hatch is being restored in situ.

The widow's walk is very vulnerable to weathering including periodic atmospheric changes with temperature, moisture and wind. It had been periodically repaired in areas where wood had deteriorated but this is the first complete restoration undertaken since the Lower Grand River Land Trust took over the site in 1994.

As per the easement agreement the Land Trust's holds with the Ontario Heritage Trust, the project was vetted by the Trust and then approved. We thank Parks Canada through its National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places for their financial contribution for this work



On the other hand, the workers from Harrison Bros. Construction waited until the weather warmed up. The snow needed to melt, and the roof had to be dry so that the cupola could be perched back on the roof. It had been removed in the fall while the Coach House asphalt roof was replaced with new prefinished steel roofing.

Beat the winter blues, sign up for a program or two

February 16th – Calligraphy Workshop with Quills –Jenn Lewis will share her talents and teach the art of Calligraphy. Pre-registration is required, \$225.00 includes materials which will be yours to take home.

March 6th – Historic Rag Rug Workshop with Helen Sluis at 7 p.m. – All materials are provided. \$45 - Pre-registration is required.

Upcoming events continued...

February 18th - FAMILY DAY – 1:00 p.m. Start with a hike and scavenger hunt on Ruthven's grounds. Enjoy light refreshments in the Coach House then stay for the live show with birds at 2 p.m. with Wild Ontario! The show will be followed by a "nose-to-beak" meet-and-greet. Admission by donation. Appropriate for all ages. Dress for the weather and ground conditions. Wild Ontario show is on rain or shine! Pre-registration **not** required.

March 2nd – 10 a.m. -3 p.m. Ruthven Park NHS Grand Bridal Show held in our intimate Historic Coach House. Meet with local vendors to plan your event whether it be at Ruthven or another venue. Free admission. Swag bags for the first 100 guests and door prizes throughout the day.

Ruthven is Open March 11-15th for March Break

Educational and fun for the whole family Programs are offered all week beginning at 11 a.m. Bring a Picnic lunch, eat in the Coach House or on the grounds before your tour!

Monday - Mad Science will warm you up with a "Beach Day with Bugs".

Tuesday – Want to learn how the Thompson Family made butter, cheese and ice cream? Join us for a presentation by the Dairy Farmers of Ontario.

Wednesday – Step back in time to a nineteenth century classroom, participate in pen & ink and chalk & slate activities with staff visiting from Wilson MacDonald School Museum.

Thursday – See up close and learn all about common backyard birds with Ruthven's bird banders.

Friday – Lorrie Green will share her passion for turtles, talk about their importance and species that are found locally.

No need to book in advance, \$25 for a family pass includes tour of the Thompson Mansion Fun for the whole family!

After lunch, family tours of the Thompson Mansion available from 1-3 p.m. on the hour, last tour at 3 p.m.

NOTE: ALSO, TOURS FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC WILL BE OFFERED FROM 1 P.M. UNTIL 3 P.M ON THE HOUR, LAST TOUR AT 3 pm.

March 15th – Irish Whiskey Tasting with host and whiskey connoisseur John Stirrit (member of the Order of the Quaich). Enjoy traditional music from the British Isles and Newfoundland with Billy and the "Goat Set". Sample a unique selection of Whiskies – snacks will be served between tastings. Hear about the Irish who settled in the former Town of Indiana. **\$50.00 per person, pre-registrations if required.**

The Lower Grand River Land Trust Inc. c/o Ruthven Park National Historic Site
243 Haldimand Hwy #54, Box 610, Cayuga, Ontario N0A 1E0 • 905.772.0560 email: info@ruthvenpark.ca
website: www.ruthvenpark.ca THE LOWER GRAND RIVER LAND TRUST INC.

The LGRLT is a non-government, not-for-profit, charitable, community-based organization. The LGRLT has a mandate to protect land for its natural, cultural and agricultural values, as well as for education and research in its jurisdiction.

Wedding Spotlight

“A Picture-Perfect Winter Wedding at Ruthven Park”



Most couples consider Ruthven Park for their summer weddings because of the grounds, nature and the option to be outdoors. However, when a couple books a winter wedding, we know they won't be disappointed. On January 19th Ruthven hosted Brooke and Alan's beautiful winter weddings. With the snow and their beautiful horse and sleigh, it made a memorable statement. If you are interested or would like more information regarding weddings at Ruthven Park, contact our Operations Coordinator; info@ruthvenpark.ca.



Winter Rates are available!