

Ecological Gifts Program

Donor Profile



Conservation Easement Agreement and Fee Simple Donation on the Saugeen Peninsula, also known as the North Bruce

In 1972, Isobel purchased a property in the Stokes River watershed on the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula, also known as the **North Bruce**. Considered unappealing by others, she knew this persistently wet area was a hotbed of biodiversity. With her husband, Les, and her children in tow, Isobel spent most weekends and vacations exploring the land, becoming intimately familiar with its features and species.

“My parents shared a deep respect for, and interest in, nature. They learned the names of all the birds that visited this land, and in later years, did the same with bog plants and orchids, learning the Latin and common names of 50 or so species,” says Anita, Isobel’s daughter. As Isobel and Les discovered during their ramblings, the land is home to multiple rare plants, which they meticulously catalogued and photographed, and shared in presentations to friends, family members and nature groups.

Isobel had roots on the North Bruce, and a deep affinity for its unique landforms and species. However, she was worried about increasing agricultural activity, resource extraction and cottage activity in the area. This concern spurred Isobel’s original land purchase in 1972, and three decades later, her decision to seek permanent protection for the land.



In 2000, Isobel spoke with her daughter Anita about establishing a conservation easement agreement for her beloved bog. When Isobel died the following year, Anita worked with the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, a charity dedicated to the establishment and protection of nature reserves in the Niagara Escarpment area, to complete the process, finalizing the conservation easement agreement in 2006.

“It felt good to honour my mother’s wishes and arrange for the protection of this land she knew and loved so intimately.” Fifteen years later, the bog received even greater protection when Anita donated the land outright to the Conservancy with no conditions attached.





Detailed information on the tax benefits of the Ecological Gifts Program can be found in the publication **Donation and Income Tax Scenarios**, available on the EGP website (www.canada.ca/ecological-gifts).

Other incentives to donate through the EGP:

- The value of the donated property can be determined by the federal Minister of the Environment before the decision to proceed with the gift is made.
- The donated property is protected and preserved in perpetuity.

The Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy was thrilled to receive this land through the Ecological Gifts Program. At 11 hectares, the property may not be particularly large, but is strategically placed within the boundaries of a provincially significant wetland and provincial area of natural and scientific interest. In addition, it is located near many other reserves belonging to the Conservancy, making it a central part of the escarpment's natural heritage network.

Anita is steadfast in her support for the Ecological Gifts Program. **“I couldn't recommend it more. Knowing this land will remain in its wild state, and be forever in the care of conservation experts, brings me great piece of mind. It's exactly what my mother would have wanted.”**

**Do you own land that contains natural habitat, such as a forest, prairie, wetland or shoreline?
Would you like to see it protected for future generations?**

Through the Government of Canada's Ecological Gifts Program, landowners can donate their land, or a partial interest such as a conservation easement agreement, to an eligible recipient organization that will care for it forever, such as a land trust, conservation organization, or government. In addition to the peace of mind that the land will be forever protected, donors can receive significant income tax benefits including elimination of any tax on the capital gain.

For more information, visit the Ecological Gifts Program website at:
www.canada.ca/ecological-gifts

Cat. No.: En14-563/2-2024E-PDF | ISBN: 978-0-660-74512-1 | EC24034

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