



P.O. Box 2338, 1545 Monaghan Road,
Peterborough, ON K9J 7Y8
705-743-5599 • kawarthalandtrust.org

March 22, 2021

RE: Protection of former Millbrook Jail site

To whom it may concern:

Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) is a registered charity generally operating within the geographic boundaries of the City of Kawartha Lakes, City of Peterborough and Peterborough County. Incorporated in 2001, our mission is caring for the lands entrusted to us and helping others protect the land they love in the Kawarthas. Our main focus is on conserving properties of high ecological importance and we encourage sustainable nature appreciation activities on those properties where possible. We currently protect over 4,500 acres of land across 22 properties and assist in the management of 5 additional properties, including the John Earle Chase Memorial Park which we manage on behalf of Parks Canada – Trent Severn Waterway.

KLT recognizes the importance of the former Millbrook Jail property as an ecological and hydrological asset on the landscape. We also recognize the community assets present on the property, such as the presence of trails for passive recreation and the park like setting for tobogganing and picnicks.

KLT is actively exploring the options to secure this property to protect its conservation values. This could take the form of KLT owning the property, or of KLT holding a Conservation Easement Agreement (under the Conservation Lands Act RSO 1990 C28) on the property, negotiated with its owner to protect key features. This assumes that the property will eventually become available for either donation to a registered charity, or full or partial purchase.

The support of the local community will be essential for KLT to be able to participate in the protection of this property. Whether the property is owned by KLT or by another community-based organization, permanent protection will require the following:

- A local, incorporated volunteer organization to accept responsibility for the annual maintenance and associated costs of the property.
- A dedicated group of local volunteers willing to champion the project and raise funds required for both property purchase and a sufficient endowment to ensure the perpetual care of the site.
- Clearly defined zones on the property identifying which areas are to remain natural and minimally disturbed, which areas can see more active recreational use, and which areas might be appropriate for future development of buildings or infrastructure based on the needs of the community.

The majority of the effort and funding for this project will need to come from the community. However, KLT can support the community in fundraising for the protection and care of this property through providing expertise, tax receipts, and potentially staff and volunteer time. As a valued partner



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in the conservation movement in Ontario with a significant local track record, KLT may also be able to leverage various funding opportunities from federal or provincial sources if the securement takes place before 2023.

KLT's approach to conservation is focused on working collaboratively with landowners, government and the community to successfully complete conservation projects with benefits to all stakeholders. This project offers a significant opportunity to ensure that a valuable community asset remains available for public use while ensuring that the natural heritage conservation values on the site are conserved and enhanced. The project has the potential to meet the goals of various stakeholders, rights holders, community groups and levels of government and we look forward to working towards that potential.

Sincerely,

John Kintare
Executive Director, Kawartha Land Trust