



LOCAL FAMILY GIVES GENEROUSLY TO PROTECT NATURE

Long Point Basin Land Trust Expands Protected Area with Addition of the DeCloet Family Forest Legacy

NORFOLK COUNTY, ONTARIO, July 23, 2025 — The Long Point Basin Land Trust (LPBLT) is thrilled to announce the addition of the DeCloet Family Forest Legacy, an 18 hectare (44.3-acre) property in Norfolk County. This significant acquisition enhances habitat connectivity and underscores the enduring conservation legacy of the DeCloet family, particularly that of retired farmer and philanthropist, Paul DeCloet, and his brother Ben DeCloet.

The DeCloet Family Forest Legacy adjoins the existing 123.5-acre (50-hectare) Paul DeCloet Forest, donated by Mr. DeCloet to Norfolk County in 2021. This earlier donation safeguarded a biodiverse area home to 26 tree species, including unique Carolinian varieties such as tulip trees and sassafras.

“The DeCloet family is proud to further support the expansion of conservation lands in Norfolk County through protection of adjacent lands by the Long Point Basin Land Trust,” said Paul DeCloet.

The DeCloet Family Forest Legacy features a diverse mix of wetland and forest, including habitats associated with cold-water streams vital to the region’s ecology. LPBLT plans to undertake restoration efforts, such as removing invasive species and seeding open areas with native plants, to help the land evolve into a thriving successional forest.

“These lands build on a vital creek corridor that protects a rich variety of wildlife habitat and clean, cold water,” said Wendy Cridland, Executive Director of LPBLT. “The DeCloet Family Forest Legacy not only expands our network of protected areas but also highlights the profound impact that individual and family contributions can have on protecting nature.”

This acquisition contributes to LPBLT’s larger conservation goals and aligns with Canada’s commitment to reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. With the addition of the DeCloet Family Forest Legacy, LPBLT now stewards a total of 1,201 acres within the Long Point basin, one of the most diverse ecosystems in Canada.

“We are fortunate to have natural spaces like the DeCloet Family Forest Legacy here in Canada.



Conserving forested lands helps us reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support biodiversity, and sustain a healthy environment for the local community. It is more important now than ever that we work to protect and restore spaces like this, ensuring they remain a vital part of our strategy to tackle climate change.” -The Honourable Julie Dabrusin, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

That shared commitment to conservation was demonstrated by the DeCloet brothers, who contributed an incredible \$400,000—about half the total project costs. “As a family with deep roots in Norfolk County, we take pride in knowing this forest will be protected and enjoyed forever,” said Ben DeCloet. “Through this gift, we hope to encourage others to reflect on how they too can leave a lasting legacy for future generations.”

Donations to support ongoing restoration and long-term stewardship of these critical properties are welcomed. To contribute, visit longpointlandtrust.ca/donate.

This project was undertaken with the financial support of Environment and Climate Change Canada, The Walter J. Blackburn Foundation, the James N. Allan Family Foundation, Paul DeCloet, Ben DeCloet and many other generous donors.

Family Acorn Planting Event

On May 17, 2025, a family acorn planting event took place at the newly acquired DeCloet property, hosted by the DeCloet family.

In addition to planting acorns, a wide variety of native grasses, wildflowers and other tree seeds were planted on this property to create habitat for native species, including pollinators, from insects and birds to other species higher on the food chain. Over time, the site will add to the forested corridor along Clear Creek, protect the soil and help to increase carbon storage.

To view photos from the event, visit: <https://longpointlandtrust.ca/profile-in-giving-decloet-family/>

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ABOUT LONG POINT BASIN LAND TRUST

Long Point Basin Land Trust (LPBLT) is a charitable organization dedicated to protecting and restoring ecosystems in the heart of Carolinian Canada. Since 1996, LPBLT has conserved 1,201 acres across 17 nature reserves. You can help protect these vital habitats as a donor, volunteer, or advocate. Visit longpointlandtrust.ca/get-involved to learn more

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the federal Department of Environment and Climate Change.

ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund

Canada's Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF) is a \$1.4 billion, ten-year fund (2021–2031) administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada to help conserve, restore, and enhance the management of ecosystems such as wetlands, peatlands, forests, and grasslands, in order to help tackle the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. The NSCSF focuses on three main objectives: (1) conserving carbon-rich ecosystems at high risk of conversion to other uses that would release their stored carbon; (2) improving land management practices to reduce their greenhouse gas emission-causing impacts on Canada's ecosystems; and (3) restoring degraded ecosystems. Overall, these projects will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and increased carbon sequestration, while also providing benefits for biodiversity and human well-being.

For more information

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