

Tuesday, December 19 2023
Talisman Update

Excerpt from:

Protecting Talisman Lands Association
<https://www.protecttalisman.ca/>

The Grapevine, 2023 Review, and 2024 Intentions
Monday, December 18 2023 6:29 am

Dear Friends,

The end of the year is a great time to reflect on how far PTLA has come and set some intentions for 2024. The community spirit and camaraderie that is being built around this very important issue is so gratifying and we at PTLA are very grateful to you all for being on this journey with us.

But first, the (trusted) grapevine reports that BVDG has submitted their application, entering the pre-consultation phase, i.e. the application is incomplete. There will now be a period of going back and forth with the municipality, tweaking their application until it is deemed complete and therefore ready to be formally submitted. What this means is that things are moving forward, and it is **time for our community to come together, raise money, and our voices** to help Council and other levels of government know that a huge number of residents want to keep the Valley green and natural and **the exorbitant costs arising from this sort of rural development are not ones that we want to be burdened with.** 2024 will be the start of the middle of the journey and we know the community is there every step of the way.

Looking back at 2023's amazing accomplishments, that couldn't have happened without your [donations](#):

1. **Hired** Natural Heritage experts who did:
 1. **A fish study** found brook trout among other important species in a tributary of the Beaver River, which means that development will need to be set back further than originally thought
 2. **A bat study** finding several threatened and endangered species
 3. **A bird survey** that confirmed bobolink and meadowlark habitat on the upper lands.

4. **Organized and participated** in the first-ever Beaver Valley bioblitz alongside a huge number of volunteers and local groups
2. **A karst expert** started mapping the area's karst features. Development on karst areas can negatively impact water supply and quality
3. **Planners** provided expert advice on the new (draft) zoning by-law and the Niagara Escarpment Plan
4. **Lawyers** on retainer to advise on the best path forward in the short term and with the Ontario Land Tribunal
5. **Partnerships** with organizations such as the Escarpment Corridor Alliance and the Beaver River Watershed Initiative
6. **Grew** our donors and supporters
7. **Launched** a new website with the help of amazing volunteers
8. **Joined** about 140 community members for a genuine community visioning session in Flesherton. Three of our councillors attended as did Brian Ellis and Phil Calvano, owners of the hotel and ski hill lands.

We are a volunteer organization that cannot do what we do without your donations so please consider a gift. Remember if you donate before December 31, it will offset some 2023 taxes.

All the best and Happy New Year to all!

In conservation,

Jeanette on behalf of PTLA

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