



Photo by RichardBH/Flickr

Introducing ALUS Peterborough

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters is pleased to bring the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program to the Peterborough region.

ALUS is a non-government program that recognizes that responsible environmental stewardship on private land benefits the entire community. The program provides support for farmers and rural landowners to enact and maintain projects that protect waterways, restore habitat for endangered species, plant native species, and other initiatives that benefit the ecosystem, including small game species habitat.

“Habitat must be a key component of our fish and wildlife conservation efforts,” says ALUS Peterborough program coordinator Henry Bakker. “OFAH members have observed many changing land use practices and are no doubt concerned about the loss and degradation of upland wildlife habitat. This program allows the OFAH to get more involved.”

To that end, the OFAH has secured funding for a three-year ALUS Peterborough pilot project, which will be farmer-driven and locally administered. ALUS recognizes that no one is more qualified to make conservation decisions about their land than farmers. The program gives farmers a voice in conservation, and empowers them to make and implement decisions that will enhance the ecological function of their farmland without impacting productivity.

A partnership advisory committee made up of local farmers and other community stakeholders provides direction for the program and makes all decisions as to how it is implemented in each of its active regions.

Many farmers across Canada have already discovered through ALUS that productivity and conservation are complementary goals.

The ALUS program is currently active in four other regions in Ontario, and in five provinces across the country.

ALUS Norfolk was the first to be established in Ontario and has been running continuously since the pilot project launched in 2007. It has since grown into a county-wide program involving more than 175 farm families with more than 1,200 acres enrolled in the program.

The other three ALUS programs in Ontario include Elgin County, Grey and Bruce Counties and Ontario East (Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, Prescott-Russell).

Funding for ALUS Canada comes from a variety of sources including municipal, provincial and federal governments, private foundations, stewardship councils, and agricultural and environmental groups.



Please contact ALUS Peterborough Program Coordinator Henry Bakker for more information on how to become involved in ALUS Peterborough.

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