

## Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan

The Township of Scugog initiated the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan (LSEMP) through Kawartha Conservation in 2003. This extensive water monitoring project will identify environmental threats to Lake Scugog and recommend remedial action.

Identifying and modifying activities that contribute to an overloading of nutrients will ensure that Lake Scugog continues to provide an abundant supply of clean water and recreational opportunities for many years to come.

## Nonquon Subwatershed Plan

This study, undertaken to address the pressures on the Nonquon River ecosystem, was completed in 2005. A master drainage plan for the industrial area west of Port Perry has been developed to handle stormwater runoff while recognizing fisheries and natural heritage features. The next step will be to implement the recommendations of the study.

## Nonquon River Fisheries Management Plan

The Nonquon River Fisheries Management Plan is a study stemming from the Subwatershed Plan. It has three primary objectives: to determine current conditions of fisheries in the Nonquon River watershed; to supplement existing water quality data; and to provide the Township of Scugog with information for future municipal planning. Partners include the Township of Scugog, Region of Durham and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

We are studying the fish community, physical habitat, water temperature, and water quality. Technicians have collected field data from 70 sites including the Nonquon main channel, the Nonquon tributaries and the Layton River.

As the plan moves into its final year in 2006, collected data will be analyzed and public input will be sought for inclusion in the final report.

## Natural Heritage Mapping

The Township of Galway-Cavendish & Harvey has contracted Kawartha Conservation to complete Ecological Land Classification (ELC) for the Township in support of their Official Plan. The projected completion date is 2007. ELC mapping will then have been developed for the entire watershed, as we have already completed mapping for Durham Region and the City of Kawartha Lakes.

## East Cross Forest

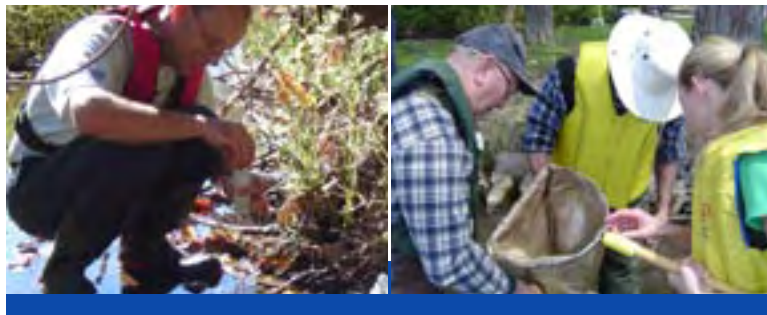
East Cross Forest is located on the Oak Ridges Moraine in the southeast corner of the Township of Scugog. A biological inventory and mapping of area vegetation was undertaken and the East Cross Forest Report was completed in 2005. This research will provide a basis on which to prioritize management activities.

## Partnering for the Environment

The **Trent Conservation Coalition** (TCC) is a working partnership of five regional conservation authorities (CAs) including Kawartha Conservation, Otonabee, Lower Trent, Ganaraska and Crowe Valley. Recently the TCC completed a study on the groundwater conditions and characteristics of municipal wells throughout the Trent River watershed. This data will form the basis for **Source Water Protection Planning** that the TCC will deliver through the *Clean Water Act* that was introduced into draft legislation in late 2005. We also gathered additional background information for Source Water Protection Planning which will be beneficial as we move forward with this initiative in 2006.

The **Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition** (CAMC) is a coalition that works to advance the science and understanding of the Oak Ridges Moraine, and to protect the form, function and linkages of the Moraine. Kawartha Conservation is one of nine conservation authorities in the CAMC that continues to work towards its four primary goals: to define and protect natural heritage; to support a trail system; to ensure effective stewardship of the Moraine; and to build partnerships to provide education, information and land securement opportunities on the Moraine.

The first **Haliburton-Muskoka Children's Water Festival** was held near Minden in late September, 2005. Children's water festivals are interactive, educational events that are taking place annually in over a dozen locations across Ontario. Under the leadership of the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association, Kawartha Conservation was pleased to be a partner in hosting this three-day event in which almost 1,000 primary school children learned about the value of water by visiting more than 30 activity centres.



**We're on the Web.** To download this Review as a pdf, or to learn more about Kawartha Conservation's services and projects, visit us online at our newly revised website [www.kawarthaconservation.com](http://www.kawarthaconservation.com).



**KAWARTHA CONSERVATION**  
277 Kenrei Road, Lindsay, ON K9V 4R1  
T: 705.328.227, TF: 1.800.668.5722  
[www.kawarthaconservation.com](http://www.kawarthaconservation.com)

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*Leading the way to abundant clean water within a healthy landscape*

# 2005 in Review



## Environmental Advisory Services

As a service to our member municipalities, the Environmental Advisory Services team reviews planning applications from an environmental perspective and provides advisory comments to the appropriate municipality and the landowner. Staff reviewed a total of 565 applications in 2005.

The review process includes considering the potential impact of natural hazards to people, property and the environment, as well as the preservation of natural heritage features (wetlands, lake shorelines, rivers, streams and other significant natural areas), and the impact of natural hazards (flood plains and erosion prone areas).

In the spring of 2005, a new Provincial Policy Statement was released that strengthens the ability of Conservation Authorities to protect both the safety of residents and the watershed environment.

## Regulations Undergoing Updating

As a result of a provincial initiative called the *Red Tape Reduction Act* in the late 1990's, amendments to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act were passed and the regulation was renamed *Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shoreline & Watercourses* (Ontario Regulation 97/04). Conservation authorities (CAs) were given two years to bring their own policies into accordance with the new regulation which ensured continuity throughout all CAs.

Kawartha Conservation held a series of information sessions during November to provide the public with the opportunity to view maps of the proposed regulated areas and to provide comments. In December, we secured authorization to submit our proposed revised regulation to the Ministry of Natural Resources. Approval is expected in the spring of 2006.

## Kawartha Water Watch

This water monitoring program relies on volunteers to test lakes, rivers and streams throughout the summer months. They sample for total bacteria and total phosphorous, pH, turbidity, alkalinity and also take secchi disk measurements on lakes. The samples are sent for lab analysis and all the data is then compiled by Kawartha Conservation for further interpretation.

Kawartha Conservation hosted two workshops in 2005 to teach volunteers to test water quality by classifying and counting Benthic macro-invertebrates (bugs living in the water). Participants can now use this monitoring method in addition to their water chemistry sampling efforts.

## Flood Forecasting and Water Level Monitoring

Kawartha Conservation monitors daily precipitation through its Flood Forecasting and Warning program to provide advance warning of potential flooding in order to save lives and minimize property damage. In 2005, four **Watershed Condition Bulletins** were issued.

Information about water levels and volumes is constantly and instantly available through stream gauges that continuously monitor and transmit the data to our office. This information is valuable to us in providing flood forecasting. It is also useful to municipalities in planning for future development. We manage several gauge stations within our watershed: at Mariposa Brook, Nonquon River, Pigeon River and Nogies Creek. We're proud to announce that our newest station at Blackstock Creek, became operational in 2005.

The **Low Level Water Condition** program is operated regionally by Kawartha Conservation as part of a provincial program to ensure a sufficient water supply for Ontarians. From July through October of 2005, the Kawartha watershed was in a Level 1 condition. This condition is declared when precipitation levels fall to below 70% of historical normal levels for three consecutive months. Kawartha Conservation formed a Water Response team to educate the public and encourage a 10% voluntary reduction in water usage.

## Groundwater Monitoring

Groundwater is an important source of drinking water for millions of Ontarians. As part of a provincial network incorporating 400 wells, Kawartha Conservation monitors ten groundwater wells within the Kawartha watershed. Through these efforts, information about groundwater quantity and quality is collected to use as a baseline for future water management.

## Surface Water Monitoring

Kawartha Conservation performed seasonal testing on a monthly basis at eleven surface water sampling sites within our watershed during 2005. We gather this data through the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network and samples are analyzed by the Ministry of the Environment. This information is an important tool in determining changes in surface water quality and identifying potential problems.

## Conservation Lands

Kawartha Conservation manages four conservation areas that together protect 700 hectares of wetlands, forest and environmentally significant land.

Our conservation and natural areas are open to the public during daylight hours. Visitors are welcome to use the many kilometres of trails to walk, hike, snowshoe, cross country ski or cycle. Group camping facilities for day and overnight use are available at the Ken Reid Conservation Area.

Schools and organized groups make day trips to our natural areas for outdoor education, nature appreciation, day camps, community events and more.

*Conservation areas protect vulnerable natural areas while providing public access.*

- Ken Reid Conservation Area
- Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area
- Fleetwood Creek Natural Area
- Windy Ridge Conservation Area

## Shoreline Naturalization

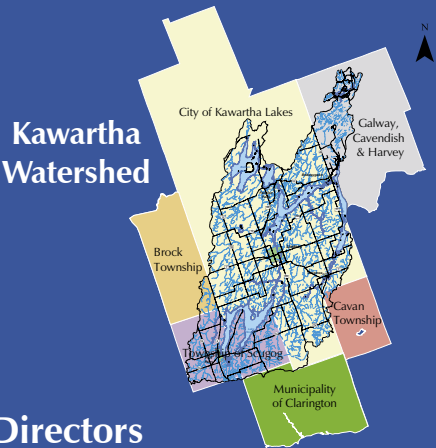
The Shoreline Naturalization program offers education and support to landowners and professionals interested in naturalizing shorelines throughout the Kawartha watershed.

Several public demonstration sites were undertaken in 2005, with funding provided by public and private bodies, and with volunteer labour. Nayoro Park in Lindsay and William's Creek in the Township of Scugog both saw significant naturalization, with more proposed for 2006.

Free shoreline workshops were held in Bobcaygeon, Port Perry, Caesarea, Fenelon Falls and Coboconk through the spring, summer and fall months to introduce landowners to economical and effective shoreline naturalization techniques. A day long Shoreline Symposium featuring several speakers was held in the spring for landscape professionals and realtors. One-on-one consultations were offered free of charge to waterfront landowners to assist them in taking on shoreline naturalization projects.

To provide a further incentive to landowners to naturalize, a grant program was introduced in 2005 in partnership with the Victoria Land and Water Stewardship Council and the Durham Land Stewardship Council. The grant for qualified landowners matches labour and materials costs up to a maximum of \$500.

A popular Ontario Real Estate Board accredited course entitled 'Marketing and Understanding Shoreline Properties' was introduced in 2005 and was well received. Approximately 100 realtors participated in the course which ran three times throughout the year and will continue in 2006.



## Our Board of Directors

*Kawartha Conservation was formed in 1979 by municipalities who voted to cooperatively manage watershed resources. Today, six municipalities share a governing role through our Board of Directors.*

### City of Kawartha Lakes

Donna Villemaire, Vice-Chair  
John Huke, Past Chair  
Audrey Holden

### Township of Scugog

Lynn-Philip Hodgson  
Blair Martyn

### Township of Brock

Larry O'Connor

### Township of Galway-Cavendish & Harvey

Guy Scott

### Township of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan

Alex Ruth, Chair

### Township of Clarington

Don MacArthur

## Volunteers and Partners Working for the Environment

*Our thanks go out to the many volunteers and partners who contributed significantly to our efforts in 2005:*

- Cameron Lake South Shore Cottage Association
- Community Planting Day volunteers
- East Cameron Lake and Area Ratepayers Association
- Fenelon Falls Secondary School, grade ten science students
- Four Mile Lake Cottage Association
- Friends of Kawartha Conservation
- I.E. Weldon Secondary School students
- Kawartha Water Watch Volunteers
- Kawartha Weather Watcher
- Kinmount Park Estates Cottage Association
- Lindsay Collegiate and Vocational Institute students
- St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School students
- Scugog Lake Stewards Inc.
- Shoreline Naturalization Advisory Council members
- Sir Sandford Fleming College students

### Partners:

- Victoria Land and Water Stewardship Council
- Durham Land Stewardship Council
- Lakelands Conference

