

Leading the Way...



2006 ANNUAL REPORT
KAWARTHA CONSERVATION

... to abundant clean water within a healthy landscape

Kawartha Conservation- a partnership of municipalities working for the environment



*Leading
the way to
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Each year, through environmental monitoring, plan review and stewardship programming, we increase our understanding of the precious water resources here in the Kawartha Watershed. As municipal partners, this shared knowledge means we are better equipped to balance the needs of the environment with the needs of our residents.

Three years of monitoring Lake Scugog and its tributaries through the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan have yielded important insights into the causes of the lake's excess nutrients. This information will guide future actions in order to improve the health and extend the productive life of the lake, both for the residents of the Township of Scugog and for the City of Kawartha Lakes that draws its drinking water from the Scugog River.

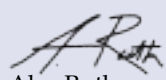
We completed the research phase of the Nonquon River Fisheries Management Plan in 2006 and held the first public consultation session in the late fall.

In October, we were the beneficiary of a generous gift of 552 acres of land within the East Cross Forest. With financial assistance from the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, the Township of Scugog, and Region of Durham, we will work towards restoring this property and opening it as a multi-use conservation area in 2009.

Source water protection continued to be a part of our management efforts. This provincially funded initiative is enabling us to learn more about our water resources, particularly surface and groundwater sources that service municipal drinking water systems.

In early September we were pleased to cohost the Conservation Authorities Biennial Tour with our conservation authority neighbours Ganaraska Region and Otonabee. It was a great opportunity to showcase both natural and cultural features of our watershed.

Following the municipal elections we welcomed five new members to the Board of Directors. We look forward to working with them over the next four years, as we share the challenge of leading the way to abundant clean water within a healthy landscape.


Alex Ruth
Chair

2006 Board of Directors

Kawartha Conservation was formed in 1979 by neighbouring municipalities who voted to cooperatively manage their shared natural resources on a watershed basis. Today, six municipalities share governance of Kawartha Conservation through representation on our Board of Directors.

Township of Cavan-Millbrook- North Monaghan

Alex Ruth, Chair

Township of Brock

Larry O'Connor, Vice Chair

City of Kawartha Lakes

John Huke, Past Chair

Donna Villemare

Audrey Holden

Township of Scugog

Lynn Philip Hodgson

Blair Martyn

Township of Galway- Cavendish & Harvey

Guy Scott

Township of Clarington

Don MacArthur

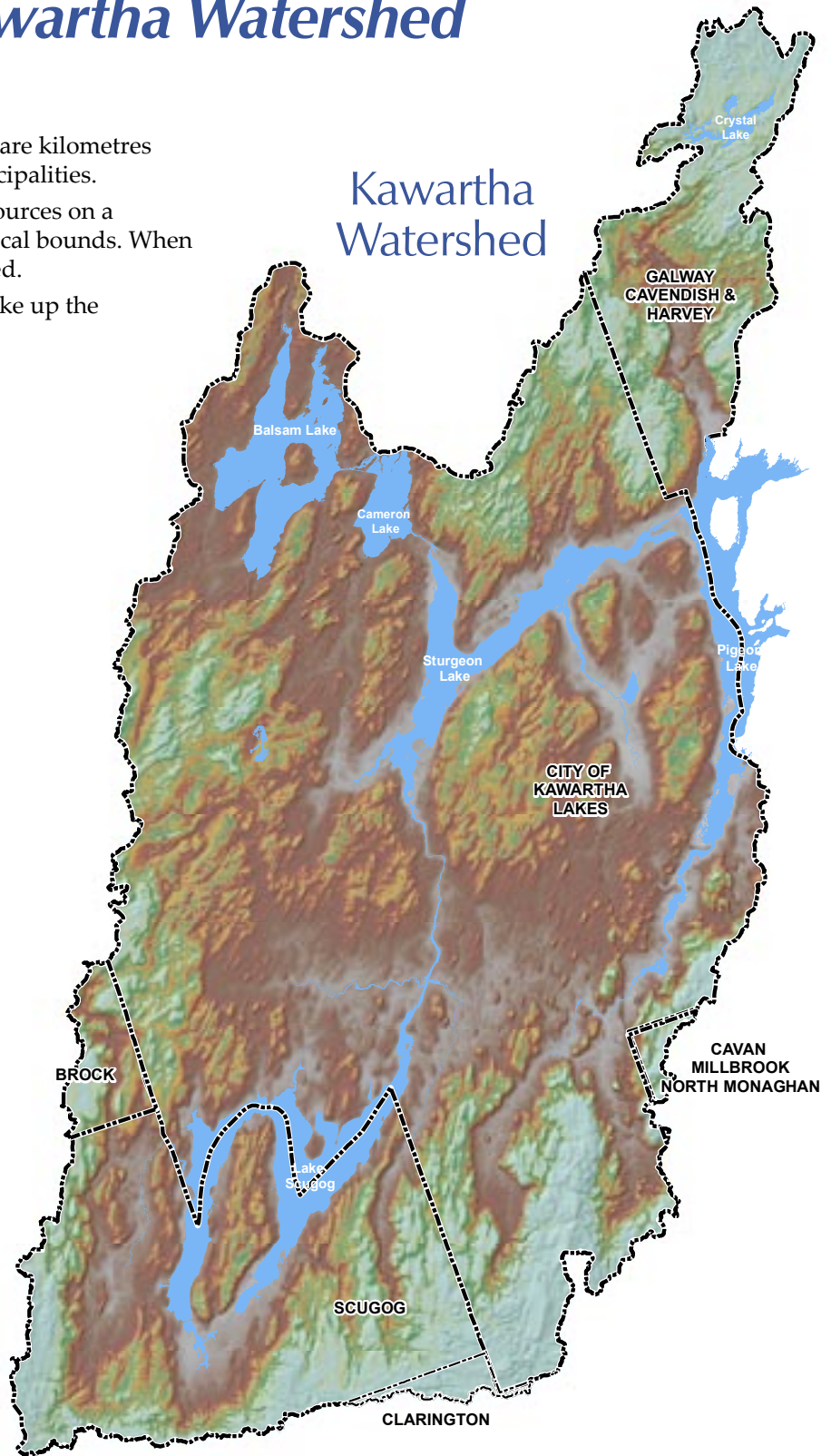


Managing the Kawartha Watershed

The Kawartha Watershed spans 2,563 square kilometres and intersects the boundaries of six municipalities.

It makes sense to manage our natural resources on a watershed basis, as waters know no political bounds. When it comes to water, we are all interconnected.

Five major lake and five river systems make up the Kawartha Watershed.



What is a watershed?

We all live in a watershed. It is an area of land that is drained by a common water body or water system, such as an ocean, lake, river, or wetland.



Kawartha Conservation is a proud member of Conservation Ontario, the umbrella organization representing Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities.

Monitoring our water resources

Protecting people and property

Flood Forecasting and Water Level Monitoring

Kawartha Conservation provides advance warning of potential flooding within the Kawartha Watershed in order to save lives and minimize property damage. We issued 7 flood messages in 2006. To provide this service we monitor precipitation on a daily basis, 24 hours a day.

With financial support from the Ministry of Natural Resources we recently installed updated rain gauges that enhance our monitoring capacity, providing not only the cumulative amount of precipitation, but also the rate per hour. This improves our ability to provide flood forecasting and enables our member municipalities to identify flood prone areas, which is valuable information when planning for future development. We manage five gauge stations within our watershed, at Mariposa Brook, Nonquon River, Pigeon River, Nogies Creek and Blackstock Creek.

In 2006 we also moved to a web-based communication system that enables us to distribute flood emergency messages in fax, voice mail and email form in a matter of minutes. This time-saving feature could potentially save lives, as even minutes count in an emergency situation.

Groundwater Monitoring

Groundwater is an important source of drinking water for millions of Ontarians, and is used commonly by residents throughout the rural areas of the Kawartha Watershed.

As part of the **Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network**, Kawartha Conservation monitors ten groundwater wells, giving us access to local groundwater quantity and quality information. This baseline data ensures that our watershed municipalities have the information they need to plan for future water management.

Surface Water Monitoring

Similar to the groundwater network, the **Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network** enables us to determine surface water quality in our watershed lakes, rivers and streams, and to identify potential problems. We completed monthly seasonal testing at 11 surface water sampling sites during 2006, and as part of the network agreement, the samples were analyzed by the Ministry of the Environment. This partnership initiative benefits both our local communities and the province.

Environmental Advisory Services

Environmental Advisory Services reviews planning applications from an environmental perspective on behalf of our watershed municipalities. We strive to balance environmental protection, economic development and human health and safety.

We provide advisory comments to the appropriate municipality and the landowner to ensure that development has regard for the environment and won't lead to problems on adjacent lands. During 2006 we reviewed a total of 485 applications that included: information requests (144), legal inquiries (55), severances/application for consent (80), minor variances (83), official plan amendments (9), zoning by-law amendments (38), site plan approvals (16), subdivisions (6) and Section 28 regulations (54).

Provincial amendments to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act required conservation authorities to bring their regulations into line with the Act by May, 2006. Our renamed and updated regulation *Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shoreline & Watercourses* (Ontario Regulation 182/06) was approved by the Minister of Natural Resources and is now in effect across the watershed.

Spotlight on Stewardship -

Kawartha Water Watch

Kawartha Water Watch volunteers were once again out on the lakes, rivers and streams of the Kawarthas during the summer months of 2006. Their work included:

- sampling for total bacteria, total phosphorous, pH, turbidity, and alkalinity,
- taking secchi disk measurements to measure water clarity on lakes
- performing benthic macroinvertebrate (bottom dwelling insects and larvae) sampling, an alternate means of determining water quality

This program, now in operation for ten years, provides the samplers with information about their water quality, and at the same time assists us in monitoring water quality and tracking changes over time.

Providing opportunities to enjoy, learn from and respect our natural environment

Conservation Lands

Kawartha Conservation manages five 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. No motorized vehicles are allowed in our parks.

Dozens of schools and organized groups make day trips to our conservation areas annually for outdoor education, nature appreciation, day camps, and community events.

Kawartha Conservation manages these five natural areas that provide wonderful opportunities for visitors to enjoy nature while protecting watershed resources.

- Ken Reid Conservation Area
- Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area
- Windy Ridge Conservation Area
- Fleetwood Creek Natural Area
- Dewey's Island Natural Area

Dewey's Island is a small tract of land in Rosedale, which was acquired by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) with assistance from Kawartha Conservation and Parks Canada in order to protect it from future development. In 2006 we began working with island residents to resolve trail maintenance issues as a result of escalating ATV use.

East Cross Forest

East Cross Forest is located in the southeast corner of the Township of Scugog, on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Trespassing by motorized vehicles and illegal dumping were having a negative impact on the environment of this rural area. The East Cross Task Force was formed to bring together a variety of stakeholders, including Kawartha Conservation, to strategize ways to address these issues.

In 2005, it was determined that Kawartha Conservation would lead an initiative to acquire property in the area and create a conservation area. The ORMF generously contributed funds to assist us in this goal, and in October, 2006 Durham entrepreneur Erast Huculak donated 552 acres of property to form the foundation of the conservation area. Two smaller properties were acquired soon after.

Our goal is to acquire an additional 1,000 acres in order to protect and restore the remainder of this sensitive area, and to create a natural area for the public to enjoy.

Shoreline Naturalization

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

In 2006, four public demonstration sites were undertaken with funding provided by EcoAction, a program of Environment Canada. Austin Sawmill Park in Kinmount, Rainbow Bridge in Lindsay, and William's Creek and Birdseye Park in Port Perry each had an area of waterfront planted with a buffer strip to reduce erosion, discourage Canada geese from settling and improve water quality. Elementary, highschool and college students worked with conservation staff to plant hundreds of wildflowers and shrubs at each demonstration site.

Shoreline workshops were held in Nogies Creek, Bobcaygeon, Port Perry, Caesarea and Coboconk during the winter and spring to educate landowners about inexpensive and effective shoreline naturalization techniques. One-on-one onsite consultations were also offered free of charge to waterfront landowners to assist them in taking on shoreline naturalization projects.

For the second year, a grant program was offered in partnership with the Victoria Land and Water Stewardship Council and the Durham Land Stewardship Council to provide incentive for landowners to naturalize their property. Qualified landowners see their investment in labour and materials matched to a maximum of \$500.

A second Ontario Real Estate Board accredited course was introduced in 2006 entitled 'Wells, Septics and Understanding Healthy Homes'. Courses were run in Lindsay and Port Perry, affording realtors the opportunity to learn about the environment while earning professional development credits.



Natural Heritage

Kawartha Conservation is a partner in the Caring for the Moraine Ganaraska Hills initiative funded by the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation. The tall grass prairie restoration project in the southeastern section of the City of Kawartha Lakes involved a prescribed burn and subsequent prairie grass planting.

Increasing our understanding of the watershed

Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan

To improve water quality in Lake Scugog and its tributaries, and to prevent further degradation, the Township of Scugog enlisted Kawartha Conservation to undertake the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan (LSEMP) in 2003. The information gained from this project will greatly assist the Township in determining which remedial actions will deliver the greatest results most cost effectively.

After three years of monitoring at seven lake and seven tributary sites, we have learned that over half of the nutrients entering Lake Scugog are coming from surface water flow that is carrying runoff from neighbouring lands. This finding points to the importance of good stewardship and is an indication that the recently initiated Blue Canoe program may fill an important need.

Blue Canoe

Kawartha Conservation launched this program in 2006 in support of the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan. Blue Canoe crews, comprised of Kawartha Conservation and Scugog Lake Steward summer students, visited 158 homes to distribute information about the lake and shoreline living, and to survey residents about their concerns for Lake Scugog. Residents' issues include overabundant weeds, fluctuating lake levels, litter, nuisance geese, and decreasing fish and wildlife numbers.



Nonquon Subwatershed Plan

To address pressures on the Nonquon River ecosystem, this watershed study was undertaken and 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 plan recommendations.

Blackstock Creek Subwatershed Study

The Blackstock Creek Watershed originates in the Oak Ridges Moraine. In 2006 we undertook a study of the watershed funded through the Region of Durham. A management plan for land use planning and environmental protection will be developed from this research, enabling the municipality to make well informed decisions about protecting the natural systems within the area.

Nonquon River Fisheries Management Plan

The Nonquon River Fisheries Management Plan is a three year study involving the fish community, physical habitat,

water temperature, and water quality of the Nonquon River and its tributaries. The Township of Scugog, Region of Durham, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are partners.

In 2006 field collection was completed, a management plan was drafted, and an information session was held to invite public input. In 2007 the final management plan will be submitted to the Township of Scugog as a tool for guiding future development.

Natural Heritage Mapping

In support of the Official Plan of the Township of Galway-Cavendish & Harvey we have been contracted by the municipality to provide them with Ecological Land Classification (ELC) mapping. This will be a valuable planning tool for the Township. It also completes ELC mapping for the Kawartha Watershed, which includes a sizeable portion of the Region of Durham and all of the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Partnering for the Oak Ridges Moraine

The Oak Ridges Moraine is one of the most significant geological landforms and environmentally sensitive areas in south central Ontario. It is a ridge of sand, silt and gravel deposits stretching from the Niagara Escarpment to the eastern shore of Rice Lake.

Kawartha Conservation is one of nine conservation authorities in the **Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition** (CAMC) working to advance the science and understanding of the Oak Ridges Moraine, and to protect the form, function and linkages of the Moraine.

The **York-Peel-Durham-Toronto** (YPDT) coalition and the CAMC are conducting research on groundwater in the Moraine in order to assist municipalities facing development pressures. www.ypdt-camc.ca

Source Water Protection

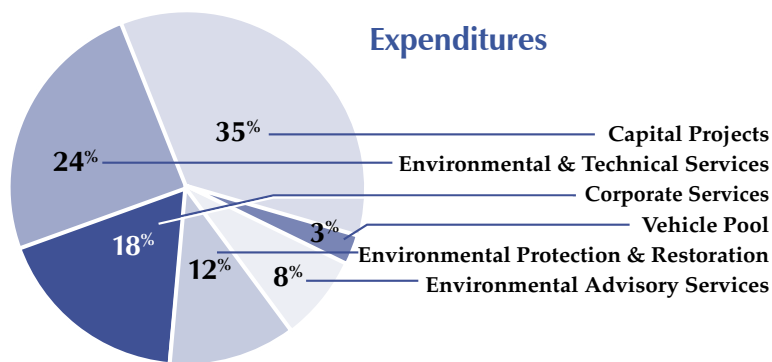
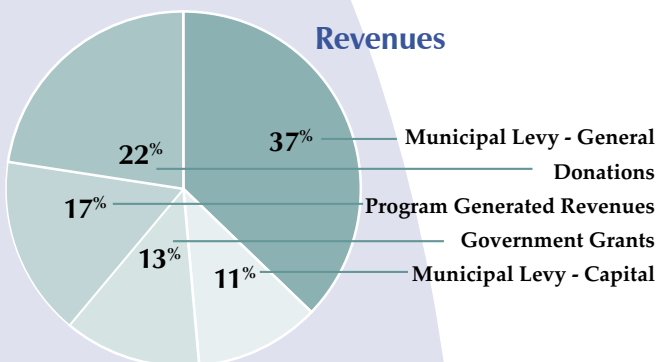
The provincial *Clean Water Act*, that received Royal Assent in October of 2006, aims to ensure that Ontarians have safe drinking water. It takes a multi-barrier approach that includes protecting the sources of municipal drinking water, including groundwater and surface water. As part of this process, conservation authorities are working with their municipalities to complete provincially funded scientific research on local sources of municipal drinking water.

Kawartha Conservation is a partner in the proposed **Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region** with Otonabee, Lower Trent, Ganaraska Region and Crowe Valley Conservation Authorities. In 2006 we completed a draft watershed characterization report and a draft conceptual water budget for the Kawartha Watershed and the Gull and Burnt Rivers.

Providing value for investment

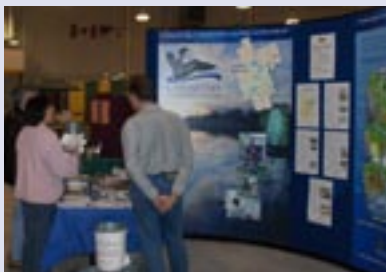
2006 Financial Summary

Extracted from audited financial statements. Copies of our full financial statement are available upon request.



For every dollar collected in levies, a further dollar is leveraged through partnerships and grants.

Connecting with Communities



Community fairs are a great way to connect with the watershed community.

Kawartha Conservation hosted booths at the Scugog Spring Garden Show, Port Perry Fair, Lindsay Central Exhibition and the 2006 International Plowing Match (IPM) near Keene.

We also participated in a variety of other community events, committees and speaking engagements in the Kawartha Watershed during the year.



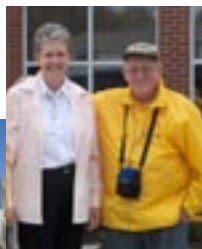
Kawartha Conservation is presented with a plaque of appreciation for providing in-kind support to the Children's Water Festival.

1,200 children from the Trillium Lakelands District School Board took part in the second annual Haliburton-Muskoka Children's Water Festival during September. Over 400 children from the City of Kawartha Lakes attended. We are pleased to provide in-kind support to this educational event.



Biennial Tour guests visited Sir Sandford Fleming College and the Centre for Alternative Wastewater Treatment in Lindsay.

Together with Otonabee and Ganaraska Region Conservation Authorities we hosted the 2006 Conservation Authorities Biennial Tour. Over 100 participants spent a full day travelling through the Kawartha Watershed, with stops at Nayoro Park, Ken Reid Conservation Area, Fleming College and downtown Port Perry.



Volunteers, precious natural resources!



Our thanks go out to those who contributed to the betterment of our watershed environment in 2006:

Cameron Lake South Shore Cottage Association
Community Planting Day volunteers
East Cameron Lake and Area Ratepayers Association
Fenelon Falls Secondary School students
Four Mile Lake Cottage Association
Friends of Kawartha Conservation
I. E. Weldon Secondary School students
Kawartha Water Watch
Kawartha Weather Watchers
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

Friends marks a decade of environmental support

Since 1996, the **Friends of Kawartha Conservation** have been raising funds for projects in the Kawartha Watershed. They have contributed well over a hundred thousand dollars and have given thousands of hours in volunteer labour.

In 2006 several founding members of Friends retired from the Board of Directors after many years of valued service. Marg Locke, Ted Hill, Larry Lenhardt and Nena Forrester have been a significant presence in the Friends, and will be missed. It was through their efforts that the boardwalk across the McLaren Wetland in the Ken Reid Conservation Area was rebuilt and reopened for public access and enjoyment in 2003.

Through their continuing financial support and stewardship, Friends provides valuable resources for conservation management in the Kawartha Watershed.

2006 Friends Board of Directors:

Janine Pilakowski, President	Ellen Woodward, Director
Rob Arsenault, Vice President	Barb Elliot, Director
Bob Pool, Secretary/Treasurer	Dennis Sage, Director
Chris Ellingwood, Past President	Kim Denison, Director
Ron Fevang, Director	



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We're on the Web. The 2006 Annual Report is available in pdf format on our website. It can be found under the **News & Events** link at www.kawarthaconservation.com.