

Kawartha Conservation 2008 Annual Report



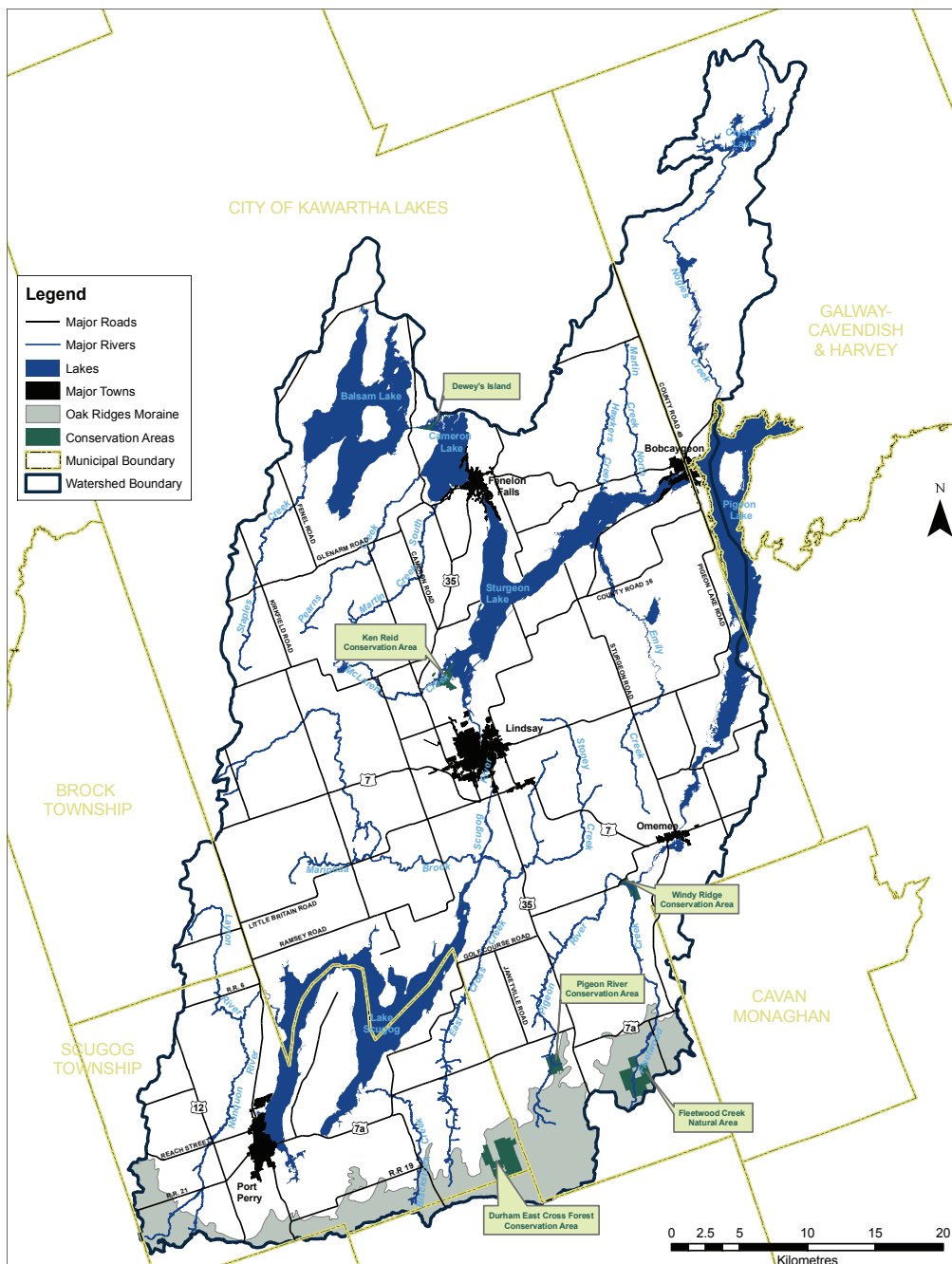
Corporate Vision

Our vision for the future is
abundant, clean water within a healthy landscape.

A plentiful supply of clean water is a key component of our local, natural infrastructure. Our surface and groundwater resources supply our drinking water, maintain property values, support agricultural and tourism industries and sustain wildlife.

Kawartha Conservation is the local environmental agency through which we can protect our natural resources. We help ensure the conservation, restoration and responsible management of water, land and natural habitats through programs and services that balance human, environmental and economic needs.

The Kawartha Conservation Watershed



The Kawartha Conservation watershed drains 2,563 square kilometres of land, an area roughly bounded by Port Perry in the south, Kinmount in the north, Manilla to the west and Omemee to the east. Five major lakes and five stream/river systems drain through this land area.

*Our business is
watershed
management*

Member of



Message From the Chair



It is with great pleasure to have served as Chair in 2008, as we continue to make progress toward the protection of our valuable watershed resources.

We need to protect these resources for the benefit of our communities and for everyone who relies on a healthy environment for their livelihoods and quality of life. As we face increasing pressures from population growth, development and environmental challenges such as climate change and invasive species, our work as watershed managers takes on greater significance.

Among our many accomplishments in 2008 is a successful cleanup in Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area, where over 100 volunteers helped clear garbage, scrap metal, cars, tires and hazardous waste. This area contains the headwaters of East Cross Creek, which flows northward into the Scugog River, and is a source of drinking water for many people.

Research continued under various plans, such as the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan, which is resulting in a comprehensive report with recommendations and a comprehensive stewardship plan to improve and protect Lake Scugog. In addition, the Blue Canoe team visited over 675 shoreline properties on Lake Scugog to provide property owners with expert advice, resources and tools for improving the health of their homes, properties and the lake.

These are just a few of the accomplishments you will read about in the following report—accomplishments that would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff and many supporters, including our municipal partners, funding partners, volunteers, community stakeholders and residents.

As we move forward in 2009, I am confident that we will have a stronger organization that will continue to benefit our watershed community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry O'Connor'.

Larry O'Connor
Chair

2008 Board of Directors

CHAIR

Larry O'Connor
Township of Brock (Region of Durham)

VICE-CHAIR

Donna Villemaire
City of Kawartha Lakes

DIRECTORS

Peter Franzen
Township of Galway-Cavendish & Harvey

Lynn Philip Hodgson
Township of Scugog

Ron Hooper
Municipality of Clarington (Region of Durham)

David Marsh
City of Kawartha Lakes

Jim McMillen
Township of Scugog (Region of Durham)

Lloyd Robertson
City of Kawartha Lakes

Alex Ruth
Township of Cavan Monaghan

The Board of Directors are appointed by our member municipalities which include the City of Kawartha Lakes, the Township of Scugog, the Township of Galway-Cavendish and Harvey, the Township of Brock, the Township of Cavan Monaghan and the Municipality of Clarington.

The Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan

The objective of the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan (LSEMP) is to improve the health of Lake Scugog. Research and remediation work is carried out under the guidance of a steering committee comprised of representatives from partner agencies, as well as Port Perry and area volunteers. Early remedial actions were begun in 2007 and include the Blue Canoe (p. 7) and the Scugog WATER Fund (p. 7). A final report, including recommended remedial actions and an implementation plan will be completed by the end of 2009.

This plan is funded by the Region of Durham and the City of Kawartha Lakes.

2008 accomplishments:

- Held 4 Steering Committee/Sub-Committee meetings.
- Educated the public about the LSEMP, its goals and objectives at Fleming College, the Lake Scugog Conference and the Kawartha Protect Our Waters (KPOW) Annual General Meeting.
- Determined phosphorous and nitrogen loads and balances for the 2007–2008 hydrologic year.
- Collected 8 to 10 water samples bi-weekly from locations in Lake Scugog tributaries and the lake.
- Collected 26 precipitation samples.
- Established a flow monitoring station on Fingerboard Creek.
- Continued measurements at flow monitoring stations on Nonquon River, Blackstock Creek and East Cross Creek, and calculated yearly flow volumes for these watercourses as well as for several others, including Cawkers Creek and unnamed tributaries.
- Calculated the annual Scugog River flow volume through the Lindsay Trent-Severn Waterway dam.
- Prepared and submitted a technical report for Fisheries and Oceans Canada regarding water and sediment quality sampling results.

Oak Ridges Moraine Watershed Planning

The *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan* was developed in 2002 as a regulation of the 2001 *Oak Ridges Moraine Act*. Further to the plan, various watersheds with headwaters beginning in the Oak Ridges Moraine will have their own plans completed. This planning is supported by the Region of Durham.



Iryna Shulyarenko, Hydrologist, monitors groundwater on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

2008 accomplishments:

- Identified the Nonquon River as a priority watershed for the first of four plans. As part of planning activities for the Nonquon River watershed, we drafted background documents such as a Terms of Reference (work plan), Scope of Services, Work Breakdown Structure, a Communication Plan and sections of a Characterization Report.
- Collected further data on water quality, baseflow and water quantity.

In 2009, we will be holding community open houses to guide plans for the Nonquon River and East Cross Creek watersheds; and completing a draft of the Nonquon River watershed plan and a characterization report for the Blackstock Creek watershed.



Lady Slipper flowers in a wetland on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The Nonquon River Fisheries Management Plan

This plan was initiated to guide the management of Nonquon River fisheries. This plan will help protect and enhance fish and fish habitat; promote the economic benefits of a healthy fishery; and provide a framework for fisheries management.

This plan is supported by the Region of Durham, and developed in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

2008 accomplishments:

- Completed a draft of the Nonquon River Fisheries Management Plan (NRFMP) which was posted to the Environment Bill of Rights website.
- Held a steering committee meeting.

In 2009, we will be holding community open houses, finalizing the plan and forming an Implementation Committee.



Measuring a Creek Chub.



Documenting fish catches.



Setting up a hoop net in East Cross Creek.

The East Cross Creek Aquatic Resources Management Plan

Under this plan, we are assessing the past and current state of the fish community in portions of East Cross Creek, the extent and limitations of this fishery, water quality and the physical conditions of the subwatershed. This information will assist in the formation of a comprehensive management plan to protect East Cross Creek.

This plan is supported by the Region of Durham, and developed in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

2008 accomplishments:

- Drafted Terms of Reference (work plan) to guide the management planning process.
- Drafted a background report to document existing conditions.
- Provided landowners with information packages about our findings.
- Completed fish population research and fish habitat surveys.
- Deployed and retrieved temperature loggers that recorded hourly water temperature.
- Collected aquatic insects (benthic macro-invertebrates) which indicate water quality.
- Conducted brook trout spawning surveys.

In 2009, we will be holding community open houses and finalizing the plan.

Nonquon River Subwatershed Study Implementation

The Nonquon Industrial Tributary Area (NITA) is located west of Port Perry in the Township of Scugog. The tributary that flows through the industrial area drains approximately 1090 acres of land, through a provincially significant wetland and into the main channel of the Nonquon River. The Nonquon River Subwatershed Study Implementation addresses the recommendations of the Nonquon River Subwatershed Study and the Nonquon Tributary Master Plan. It focuses on flood prevention and the protection of aquatic resources. This project is supported by the Township of Scugog and the Region of Durham.

2008 accomplishments:

- Drafted a background conditions report for the proposed on-line stormwater management facility within NITA that includes: water quality assessments, fisheries assessments and hydrology assessments.
- Completed the aquatic assessment that examined the fish at the site, including habitat characteristics.
- Undertook water quality analysis and prepared a water quality summary report for the tributaries within NITA.
- Summarized data from ongoing hydrological investigations.

In 2009, we will be completing a final report on the feasibility of locating a stormwater management facility in NITA.

The Port Perry Urban Drainage Study

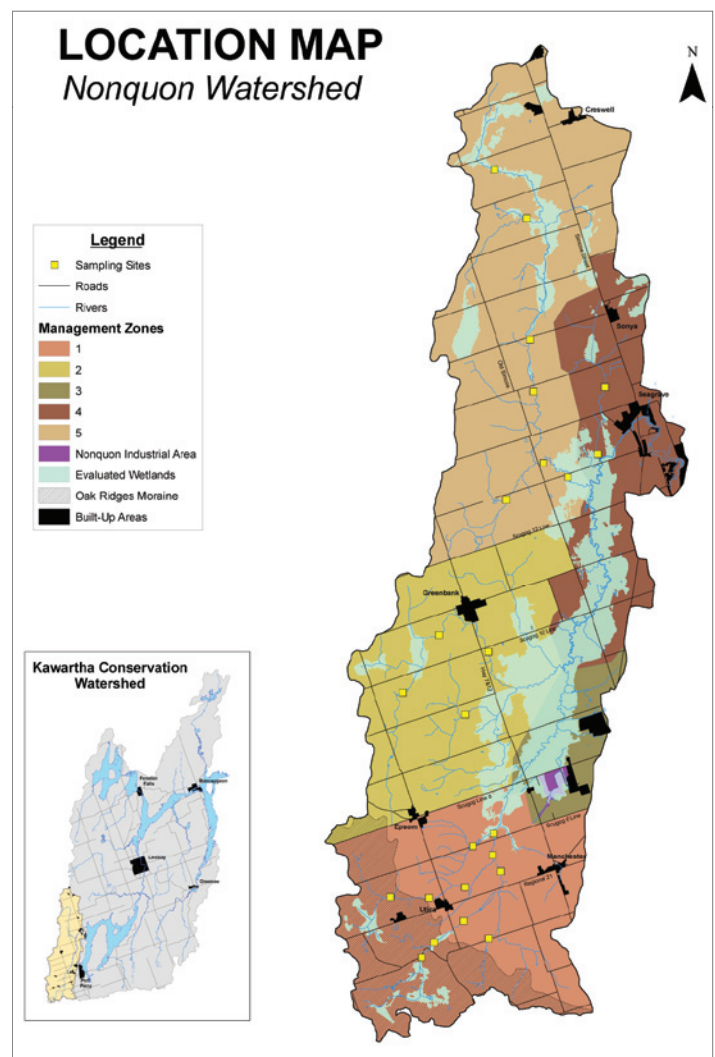
The Port Perry Urban Drainage Study is crucial to determining how to manage the runoff from urban areas. The Town of Port Perry and other small, urban communities within the Lake Scugog basin, while making up less than 3% of the total watershed area, contribute 15% of the total phosphorous and nitrogen that enters the lake as a result of local human activities.

This study, supported by the Township of Scugog and the Region of Durham, involves an inventory of storm sewers, manholes and other maintenance features within the Town of Port Perry and other urban areas.

2008 accomplishments:

- Identified type of feature and size, and the direction of water flow related to these features.
- Determined Port Perry sewer-sheds, and rated the effectiveness of current Storm Water Management practices for each sewer-shed.

In 2009, we will be completing the study.



The Blue Canoe

The Blue Canoe project is designed to reduce the amounts of phosphorous and nitrogen entering Lake Scugog from private land-use practices, and help people make their properties and houses more environmentally friendly. The Blue Canoe team meets with shoreline property owners to share information and resources that help them take action. The Blue Canoe is supported by the Region of Durham, the City of Kawartha Lakes, the Township of Scugog, EcoAction Community Funding, the Lakeland Alliance and Friends of Kawartha Conservation.

2008 accomplishments:

- Visited over 675 homes on Lake Scugog.
- Held 2 Green mini-Expos in communities surrounding Lake Scugog (Port Perry and Little Britain). Over 80 members of the public attended these events, where they accessed information and resources for taking action

In 2009, the Blue Canoe will be completing shoreline visits around all of Lake Scugog.



Stewardship staff paddle Lake Scugog to visit waterfront residents.



Stewardship staff connect landowners to information and resources for protecting Lake Scugog at a Green mini-Expo in Port Perry.

The Scugog WATER Fund

This funding program helps landowners take action on the ground to protect surface and groundwater resources in areas where the Kawartha Conservation watershed overlaps Durham Region. The types of projects funded include erosion control (up to \$2,000), septic system upgrades (up to \$1,500), clean water diversion (up to \$1,000), well decommissioning (up to \$1,500), well upgrades (up to \$1,000), manure storage (up to \$8,000) and other beneficial management practices (up to \$8,000). This fund is supported by the Region of Durham.

2008 accomplishments:

- Over \$32,000 was allocated to fund 27 projects. The majority of the projects were well upgrades and decommissioning. Others included a manure storage project, 2 erosion control projects and an agricultural beneficial management practices project for fencing livestock.

The Kawartha Well Stewardship Fund

The Victoria Land and Water Stewardship Council partnered with Kawartha Conservation to launch the Kawartha Well Stewardship Fund. We received over 60 applications to receive funding for well decommissioning and upgrades in the City of Kawartha Lakes. Projects on 13 properties and one demonstration site were approved.

Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area

The 832-acre Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area is situated in the southeast corner of Scugog, on an ecologically sensitive area of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Years of illegal activity has damaged and polluted the land, which contains the headwaters of East Cross Creek. This conservation area helps protect this sensitive ecosystem and the water it supplies to surrounding residents and businesses. It will be opening to the community on June 25, 2009 for low-impact, recreational uses. This project is supported by the Region of Durham, the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation and the Township of Scugog.

2008 accomplishments:

- Reduced trespassing by 93%.
- Over 100 volunteers cleared 120 cubic yards of garbage, 9,000 pounds of scrap metal, 3 cars, 100 tires and 4 barrels of hazardous waste at a single clean-up event. The total value of this volunteer effort is estimated at \$24,000.
- Developed a draft Master Plan which includes strategies for trails, restoration, stewardship, a plantation and infrastructure development.
- Implemented a Preliminary Remediation Plan.
- Partnered with Ducks Unlimited to install duck boxes in wetland areas and hosted a variety of trail building workshops with Fleming College.
- Hosted Information Sessions.
- Inventoried natural heritage features.
- Constructed parking lots and drilled and monitored wells for groundwater quality.
- Held a mock emergency.



Volunteers prepare for the 2008 cleanup.



Large amounts of trash is hauled out of Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area during the 2008 cleanup.

Ken Reid Conservation Area



Staff from various conservation authorities get hands on experience at a trail building workshop.



A boardwalk is rebuilt, thanks to a generous donation. It crosses over a wetland area and connects the Cedar Forest and the Camp Loop trails.

Shoreline Naturalization

Our Shoreline Naturalization Program helps create natural buffer zones along shorelines to maintain healthy lakes and rivers. Natural shorelines prevent erosion, filter surface water runoff and provide wildlife habitat. This program is supported by the Region of Durham, EcoAction Community Funding, Durham Land Stewardship Council, Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation, Shell Canada Ltd., Parks Canada and Friends of Kawartha Conservation.

2008 accomplishments:

- Consulted with sixteen property owners, which involved offering technical expertise and resources.
- Engaged over 400 volunteers in 13 planting events at three demonstration sites on Lake Scugog.
- Held three workshops; in Bobcaygeon, Port Perry and Coboconk.
- Held eight education sessions with students.
- Presented at five community events.
- Conducted nine courses for real estate agents on watershed stewardship for shoreline and rural properties.



Students from Immaculate Conception High School help naturalize the shoreline behind Reid's Independent Grocer on Lake Scugog.

Flood Forecasting and Water Level Monitoring

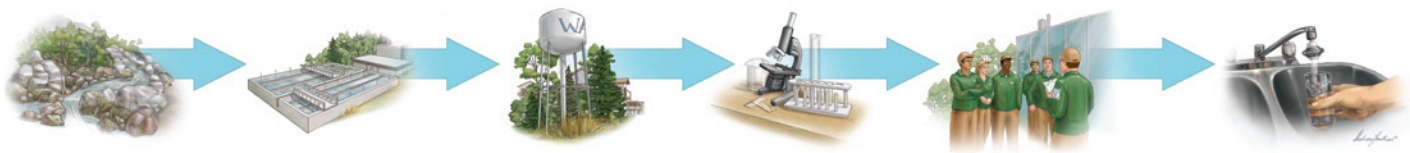
Flood forecasting and water level monitoring involves the monitoring of watershed conditions daily and providing advance warning of high water situations by issuing flood bulletins, advisories and warnings to municipal emergency staff and the local media. We also assist in the preparation and maintenance of flood emergency and response plans.

2008 accomplishments:

- Issued 7 Watershed Bulletins and 1 Flood Advisory that included 5 updates.
- Completed regular snow surveys at 4 watershed stations to provide an estimate of the volume of water stored in the snowpack that will flow through our watershed during the spring melt – or during any significant mid-winter thaw.
- Monitored precipitation and water levels daily at 7 stations.
- Maintained and updated a Flood Contingency Plan which was distributed to all member municipalities and agency partners, and updated our Flood Operations Manual.
- Managed a database on water levels and precipitation that is used for other projects and programs at Kawartha Conservation.



The snowpack is monitored throughout the winter to forecast potential flooding when it melts.



Drinking Water Source Protection

Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) is simply protecting our drinking water sources from contamination or overuse. The Government of Ontario has made a commitment to ensure that every watershed in the province has a source protection plan.

Under the umbrella of the Trent Conservation Coalition (www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca), five conservation authorities are sharing knowledge and expertise to assist with the development of source protection plans for their source protection areas under the *Ontario Clean Water Act*.

2008 accomplishments:

- Finalized characterization reports for the Kawartha-Haliburton source protection area. These reports provide highly detailed information on physical geography, water resources, human settlement and impacts in the watershed.
- Finalized the Drinking Water Source Protection Terms of Reference (work plan), to protect municipal drinking water systems. This document has been approved by the Ontario Minister of the Environment.
- Began preparing an assessment report to identify potential threats to municipal drinking water.
- Visited 2,080 homes to provide information and funding for projects that help protect municipal drinking water sources.
- Held 3 workshops, in Little Britain, Bobcaygeon and Minden, to educate people about Drinking Water Source Protection and available funding.
- Provided \$7,086 through the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program for 2 septic system upgrades and one pollution prevention review.

In 2009, we will be completing an assessment report that identifies vulnerable areas and threats to drinking water sources.

For more information:

www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca



Staff answer questions on Drinking Water Source Protection in Fenelon Falls, February 28, 2009.



Permits and Planning

Under Ontario Regulation 182/06, *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses*, we provide recommendations on development applications to municipalities and the public. To do this, we maintain an information base and mapping products that enable our planners to evaluate development proposals with respect to sensitive sites such as wetlands, floodplains, riparian zones and steep slopes. This service helps protect human life and property from various natural hazards and helps ensure the preservation, enhancement and rehabilitation of natural features.

2008 accomplishments:

- Received and processed over 350 planning applications, 76 applications for Section 28 regulations (under the *Ontario Conservation Authorities Act*) and reviewed 109 applications for potential developments.
- Updated Ecological Land Classification data.



Students learn about the importance of water management and how it affects our watersheds during the Haliburton-Muskoka Children's Water Festival.

Outreach and education

In addition to the numerous workshops, courses, and events listed above, we communicated with our watershed community through the media. This year, we distributed 24 media releases on topics ranging from opportunities for private landowner stewardship, grants and community input on plans and projects, to activities in conservation areas. These releases contributed to over 400 media hits in newspapers, magazines, radio, TV and the Internet, which resulted in more than 7 million impressions.

The Haliburton-Muskoka Children's Water Festival is an annual event that motivates students to become water stewards in their homes, classrooms and communities. This year, we participated in the 4th Annual Haliburton-Muskoka Children's Water Festival on October 2 and 3. Over 450 students in grades 4 and 6 from schools across the City of Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton and Muskoka learned about water at over 35 activity centres that combined hands-on learning with messages relevant to their environment and daily lives.

Friends of Kawartha Conservation

Friends of Kawartha Conservation is a registered charitable organization that provides support to Kawartha Conservation for conservation and stewardship initiatives that help protect and improve our environment.

This year, Friends transferred over \$50,000 to Kawartha Conservation from the EcoAction Community Funding Program for the Blue Canoe project and Shoreline Naturalization Program.

Friends also held their 4th annual guided spring nature walk in Ken Reid Conservation Area.

2008 Friends Board of Directors

President: Bob Allen

Vice-President: Barb Elliot

Secretary-Treasurer: Bob Pool

Directors: Todd Allen, Chris Ellingwood, Margot Fawcett, Ron Fevang, Ellen Woodward

Kawartha Conservation Board Appointees:

Larry O'Connor, Donna Villemaire



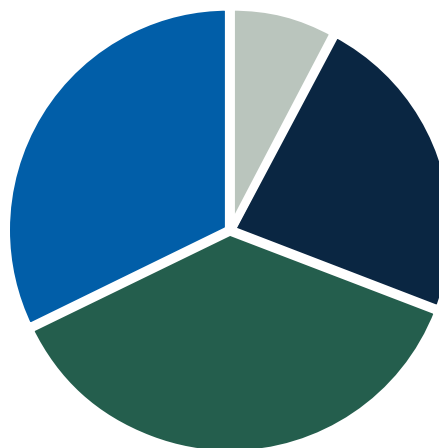
2008 Financial Statements

Revenues



	29 %	Program Generated Revenues
	7 %	Donations and Grants
	21 %	Municipal Levy - Special
	40 %	Municipal Levy - General
	3 %	Government Grants

Expenditures



	32 %	Environmental Protection and Restoration
	8 %	Environmental Advisory Services
	23 %	Corporate Services
	37 %	Environmental Technical Services

Extracted from audited financial statements. Full copies are available upon request.

Thank-you !!

Our thanks to the many people and organizations who have helped us advance conservation:

- Blackstock Beavers
- Blackstock Cubs
- Blackstock Scouts
- City of Kawartha Lakes
- Conservation Ontario
- Ducks Unlimited
- Dunsford Elementary School
- Durham Land Stewardship Council
- Durham Stewardship Rangers
- EcoAction Community Funding Program
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Fleming College
- Friends of Kawartha Conservation
- Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation
- Immaculate Conception Catholic School
- Kawartha Water Watch volunteers
- Lakeland Alliance
- Lindsay Collegiate and Vocational Institute
- Municipality of Clarington
- Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Ontario Ministry of the Environment
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Parks Canada
- Parkview Public School
- Port Perry High School
- Private citizens
- R.H. Cornish Public School
- Region of Durham
- S.A. Cawker Public School
- Scugog Lake Stewards
- Shell Canada Ltd.
- St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School
- Township of Brock
- Township of Cavan Monaghan
- Township of Galway-Cavendish & Harvey
- Township of Scugog
- Trees Ontario
- Trent-Severn Waterway
- Trillium Lakelands District School Board
- Victoria Land and Water Stewardship Council



277 Kenrei Road
Lindsay ON K9V 4R1
T: 705.328.2271

geninfo@kawarthaconservation.com
www.kawarthaconservation.com