



2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Providing leadership

Message from the Chair and CAO

Thank-you to our many dedicated partners, volunteers, funders, staff and members for a great 30th year. Together, we have made excellent progress within our watershed in protecting our natural resources for present and future generations. We truly appreciated the huge demonstration of support for our work, past and present, by the over 125 guests who attended our 30th anniversary celebration in October.

We live and work in a unique landscape that is teeming with lakes, rivers and tributary streams. Together with our municipalities, we have the privilege of promoting important resource management on a watershed basis. A healthy, sustainable environment is the foundation of a healthy community and a vibrant economy. A clean, sustainable water resource and water supply is vital, and that remains our focus.

Our projects within the Lake Scugog watershed, highlighted in this report, are crucial to the long term sustainability of the lake, which is a huge driver of the local economy, a source of drinking water and enjoyed by many for its fishing, boating and wildlife. In 2009, we focused on completing the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan and are pleased to have our environmental action centre, Scugog Connections, fully operational in Port Perry as we proceed with the implementation of a number of actions identified in the plan. We also opened Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area this summer to low impact recreational uses. This is the first conservation area established within the Township of Scugog.

As we look ahead to implementing priority actions within the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan, we are moving immediately downstream and are pleased to be launching next year a lake management plan for Sturgeon Lake and its tributaries, through support from the City of Kawartha Lakes. Engaging all partners in this initiative and focusing together on common objectives and solutions is essential.

Across the watershed, we have continued to provide a range of programs and services, such as flood forecasting and warning, low water response, shoreline protection services, research that will be used to protect municipal drinking water sources and planning services.

To respond to the demands placed on us, we have enhanced our Planning and Regulations department to enhance our delivery of timely and quality planning advisory services, and to provide proactive regulations administration. These services help protect people and their property from flooding, erosion and other natural hazards. To complement our additional capacity and expertise in this area, we will be enhancing our planning and regulations tools by completing an update to our regulations mapping and rewriting our planning and regulations policies in 2010 in collaboration with our municipal partners. We want our process to easily integrate with municipal processes, and we want applicants to easily and clearly understand our role, mandate, responsibilities and requirements regarding their planning and permit applications.

It has been a pleasure to be part of Kawartha Conservation during an exciting 30th year, and help continue the organization's important work. As we move forward, we will continue to form critical partnerships and work with our watershed communities to ensure a healthy environment for everyone.



A blue ink signature of Jim McMillen.

Jim McMillen
Chair



A blue ink signature of Rob Messervey.

Rob Messervey
CAO

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.

By operating at a watershed level, we see the bigger picture; how actions upstream can have an impact downstream, across private properties and municipal boundaries.

Across the watershed, 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.

Our business is watershed management



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Member of



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

Maintaining a healthy Lake Scugog watershed

Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan

The Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan will help ensure the long-term environmental and social sustainability of Lake Scugog and its resources. This year, we completed a draft of the plan, including an Implementation Plan and State of the Watershed Report. These documents underwent an extensive peer review.

In 2010, we will be holding open houses around the lake, finalizing the plan and implementing various strategies and recommendations.



Blue Canoe



The Blue Canoe team, from left: Stewardship Technician Garrett Wood, Stewardship Lead Technician Tamara Tucker, and Stewardship Technician Jessie VanAllen.

Visiting 969 homes this year, the Blue Canoe team has completed visits to all 1,630 residential shoreline properties around Lake Scugog. The team provided practical environmental information, resources and easy actions to help landowners enhance their properties and improve the health of the lake.

As a result of the visits, landowners made over 450 commitments to environmentally friendly practices such as shoreline naturalization, reducing fertilizer use, having a septic system inspection and switching to phosphate-free soaps.

Shoreline Naturalization

We developed demonstration sites around Lake Scugog which have provided educational opportunities and are highlighting different naturalization techniques and products, while addressing local shoreline concerns on public property.

This year, we completed shoreline naturalization demonstration sites on Lake Scugog at Birdseye Park in Port Perry; behind Vos' Independent in Port Perry; and at Cartwright Peace Park in Caesarea.

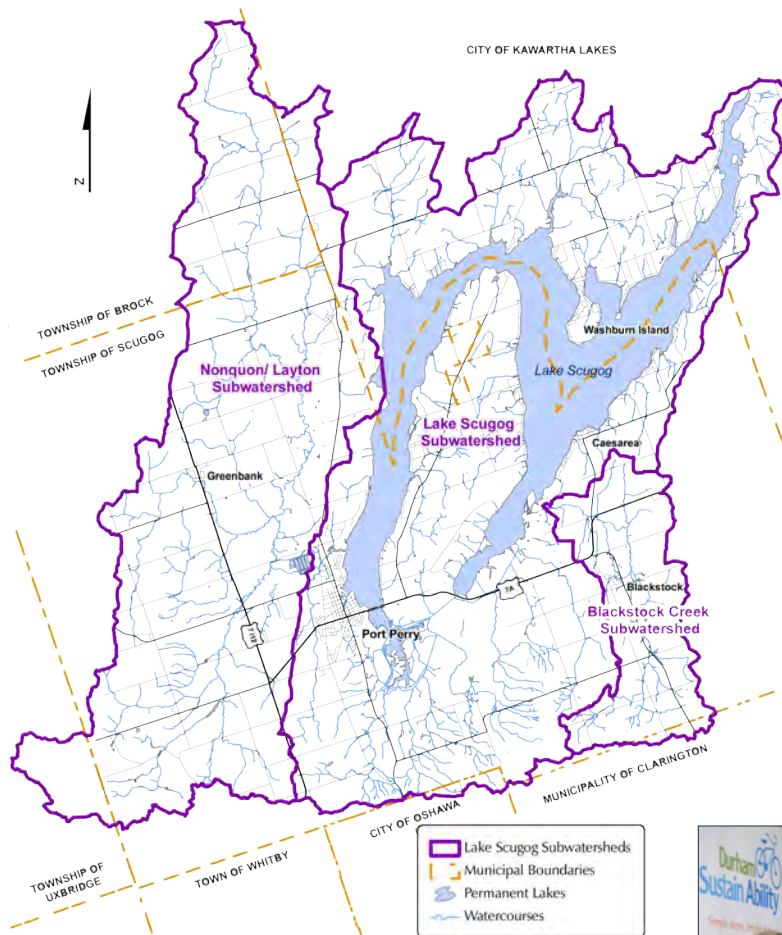


From left: Ty McFadden and Stewardship Technician Garrett Wood plant native species in Birdseye Park, Port Perry.

These sites have involved many volunteers who included the Port Perry High School Horticulture Class, the Port Perry High School Environment Club, Fleming College and local community members and groups.

In total, we held 18 planting events with 173 volunteers who planted 1,641 native plants. We also gave 10 presentations to cottage associations, students at area schools, and community and youth groups.

Lake Scugog Watershed



Scugog Connections

Scugog Connections is an environmental action centre for local residents looking to take steps to ensure a sustainable quality of life around Lake Scugog. It opened at 126 Water Street in downtown Port Perry on November 26, 2009.

This project is an outcome of the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan, in which we identified Port Perry and other urban areas in the watershed as large contributors of phosphorous and other pollutants to the lake.

Scugog Connections has been made possible by a three-year, \$225,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and financial support from the Region

Scugog WATER Fund

This grant program assists landowners with a wide range of stewardship projects in the Lake Scugog watershed by providing up to 50% of the project cost, up to a maximum dollar amount.

In 2009, funding was provided for the following:

- 11 well upgrades
- 1 private septic system project
- 6 well decommissioning projects
- 6 erosion control projects
- 2 agricultural Best Management Practices, which included manure storage and stream crossing projects.

Next year, we will be focusing on agricultural Best Management Practices in the Blackstock Creek Subwatershed, one of the nutrient 'hot spots' identified in the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan.



Official opening of Scugog Connections. From left: Carlie McDonald, Scugog Connections; MPP John O'Toole (Durham); John Stafford, Ontario Trillium Foundation; Mayor Marilyn Pearce, Township of Scugog; and Dave Pridham, Kawartha Conservation.

of Durham. It is led by Durham Sustainability, in partnership with Kawartha Conservation, Durham Land Stewardship Council and the Scugog Lake Stewards.

Oak Ridges Moraine watershed plans

We are developing watershed plans for the four watersheds that originate on the Oak Ridges Moraine within our jurisdiction in the Region of Durham, including Nonquon River, Blackstock Creek, East Cross Creek and Lake Scugog Tributaries.

In 2009, we initiated a Community Advisory Committee and collected data for all four watersheds.

For the Nonquon River and East Cross Creek watershed plans, we also held 2 open houses and distributed questionnaires to involve local communities in the planning process.

There were also additional activities for the Nonquon plan, which include 2 Technical Steering Committee meetings, and completion of a draft characterization report, a surface water quality report, and draft preliminary management recommendations.

We are also proud to be a member of the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition which advances the science and understanding of the moraine and works with governments and communities to protect it.

Nonquon River Fisheries Management Plan

This year, we completed the Nonquon River Fisheries Management Plan. This plan provides current information on fish and fish habitat, and science and community based management strategies to improve the fishery.

In addition to finalizing the plan, we held 2 open houses and hosted a Check Your Watershed event with 19 volunteers who checked 63 sites for water flow, stream width, depth and other aspects.



Nonquon River watershed volunteers checked 63 sites during Check Your Watershed Day on July 18.

East Cross Creek Aquatic Resources Management Plan

This plan, like the Nonquon River Fisheries Management Plan, addresses increasing pressures on aquatic resources and involves the development of recommendations to maintain the health of aquatic ecosystems in East Cross Creek.

This year, we established a Steering Committee, finalized a background report, held 2 open houses and initiated a planning document.

Stormwater management

Port Perry and other small, urban communities within the Lake Scugog watershed contribute significant amounts of nutrients and other pollutants to the lake.

The Port Perry Stormwater Management Plan will help reduce the effects of stormwater runoff by recommending and developing best management practices and stormwater controls.

In 2009, we located and identified existing infrastructure, determined runoff contaminant loading, developed reports and held an open house to present stormwater management options.

We also finalized the Nonquon Industrial Tributary Area aquatic assessment, and water quality, hydrology and geotechnical investigation reports.

Conserving significant natural features

Conservation and natural areas

We own and manage a total of 2,900 acres of land which includes valleys, provincially significant wetlands, natural areas and forests containing important interior habitat. This land includes Ken Reid Conservation Area, Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area, Windy Ridge Conservation Area and Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area.

We also manage 1,098 acres which includes the Fleetwood Creek Natural Area and property adjacent to the Windy Ridge Conservation Area on behalf of Ontario Heritage Trust. We also manage Dewey's Island, in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, in order to protect a provincially significant wetland.

Many of these areas are open to the public to allow the community and visitors to enjoy the natural environment and learn about the natural world around us.

Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area

This conservation area protects a large area of environmentally sensitive land on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Of significant importance are springs and seepage areas of the Pigeon River and East Cross Creek headwaters, the associated wetlands and upland riparian areas. The East Cross Creek tributaries, join with others to form East Cross Creek, which eventually flows into the Scugog River.

The conservation area also protects area species at risk and specialized wildlife habitat.

This year, we accomplished the following:

- Held a grand opening ceremony on June 25
- Acquired 302 acres, bringing the total to 1,134 acres
- Pursued additional land securement and leasing options with property owners in the area of interest
- Completed a management plan
- Developed sustainable trails and constructed a northern trail system

This year, we accomplished the following:

- Conducted Ecological Land Classification ground-truthing and a spring flora survey in Ken Reid Conservation in preparation for a management plan update
- Replaced a board walk in Ken Reid Conservation Area
- Replaced a bridge in Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area, with assistance from the Stewardship Rangers, and installed updated entrance and trail signage
- Planted trees in Ken Reid Conservation Area, Windy Ridge Conservation Area, and Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area in recognition of Minister Donna Cansfield, Inaugural Chair Dave Murray and Pollution Probe's Quentin Chiotti for their participation at our 30th Anniversary.

- Installed signage
- Held a tree planting event with the Port Perry Beavers
- Completed reports on:
 - Surface water quality
 - Groundwater quality
 - Soil and sediment quality.



A trail sign is unveiled at the Grand Opening of Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area on June 25. From left: Kim Gavin, Executive Director, Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation; Mayor Marilyn Pearce, Township of Scugog; Chair Jim McMillen.



We celebrated our 30th Anniversary on October 21, 2009 at the Lindsay Golf and Country Club with over 125 people from across the region. Guest speakers included Ontario Minister of Natural Resources Donna Cansfield, MPP Rick Johnson, Kawartha Conservation's Inaugural Chairperson David Murray, Pollution Probe's Dr. Quentin Chiotti and local municipal leaders.



"Your focus since 1979 on 'abundant, clean water within a healthy landscape' has made a difference across the broad expanse of your watershed. As you celebrate your 30th anniversary, you can take justifiable pride in all that you have accomplished."

- Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources

From left to right: MPP Rick Johnson (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock), Minister Donna Cansfield, Vice-Chair Donna Villemaire, Chair Jim McMillen.

A brief history of Kawartha Conservation

The idea behind conservation authorities came about in the 1940s out of concern for problems such as flooding, erosion and the loss of natural areas. Discussion between the province of Ontario, municipalities and local groups concluded that the management of natural resources should involve the local community, be based on a watershed, and be done through partnerships. Based on these guiding principles, the Conservation Authorities Act was passed in 1946. Today, there are 36 conservation authorities in Ontario, of which Kawartha Conservation is the youngest.

Kawartha Region Conservation Authority, shortened to "Kawartha Conservation" in 1997, was formed in October 1979 after local citizens had advocated, beginning in the 1960s, for the creation of a local conservation authority.

Twenty-two municipalities partnered to form Kawartha Conservation.

While the watershed boundaries are the same as in 1979, the twenty-two municipalities have since undergone amalgamation and now number seven.

For many years, our headquarters were located in Heritage House in Fenelon Falls. Eventually, we outgrew this space and built our present Administrative Centre in Ken Reid Conservation Area in 1992.

Ken Reid Conservation Area was our first acquisition in 1981. We later opened Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area in 1991, Windy Ridge Conservation Area in 2004 and Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area in 2009. We also began managing Fleetwood Creek Natural Area in 1989, on behalf of Ontario Heritage Trust, and Dewey's Island in 1994 in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

In the early days, staff looked after the health of our watershed by

providing input to the municipal land use planning process, acquiring and managing conservation lands, flood forecasting and warning, private land stewardship initiatives and an education program.

In the mid 1990s, dramatic funding cuts by the provincial government required significant cuts to service. This prompted the formation of the Friends of Kawartha Conservation in 1996 to help fund conservation initiatives.

We began regaining environmental management opportunities in 2000, as amalgamation saw municipalities take a leadership role in the environment.

Today, Kawartha Conservation plays an important role in the protection of our natural resources through a diversity of programs and services focused on water quality and quantity.



All in favour of Conservation

Lindsay's representatives to the Kawartha Region Conservation Authority, Rhys Williams and Mayor Flynn, right, cast their votes in the election of a chairman for the new Authority. All 25 members of the conservation group will join efforts to ensure better control of the watershed in terms of flooding, water quality, wildlife and recreation.

Lindsay This Week reports on February 13, 1980 the election of Dave Murray as Kawartha Conservation's inaugural Chair.



Grand Opening of Windy Ridge Conservation Area on October 13, 2004. This conservation area helps protect the Fleetwood Creek wetlands, where Pigeon River and Fleetwood Creek join.



Grand opening of a new boardwalk in Ken Reid Conservation Area in 2002. A sign recognizes Friends of Kawartha Conservation and the many supporters who raised \$60,000 for materials and helped in the reconstruction.



Charles Sauriol receives the Kawartha Conservationist Award in 1987 for helping secure environmentally significant lands in the watershed. The award was presented by Chair David Murray. General Manager Ian Macnab is seated on the right.



The Painted Turtle Playhouse taught kids across the watershed in the 1980s about the environment and the role of conservation in their lives.



Construction of our Administrative Centre in Ken Reid Conservation Area, 1992. The environmentally-friendly building features geothermal heating and cooling; energy efficient lighting; and solar reflective, argon gas-filled windows.



Our first logo

Protecting people and property

Planning and regulations

We administer the *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses* regulation (Ontario Regulation 182/06). This regulation helps: prevent the loss of life from flooding, erosion and other natural hazards; protect property investment from flooding, erosion and other natural hazards; ensure new hazards are not created; and protect important natural features.

In addition, we review and provide advisory comments to our member municipalities on policy documents and applications submitted pursuant to the Planning Act; provide comments with respect to natural hazards; and, under planning agreements with some of our member municipalities, provide technical advice regarding natural heritage features and stormwater management.

This year, we accomplished the following:

- Restructured and realigned the organization to build capacity in our Planning and Regulations department.
- Reviewed a total of 353 planning and permit applications
- Reviewed 16 proposed projects with respect to their potential impacts on fisheries, under section 35 of the Fisheries Act as part of an agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Strengthened our focus on regulations administration and enforcement, resulting in several violation notices and 2 charges laid under our regulation.

Applications in 2009

TYPE OF APPLICATION	TOTAL
Severance	43
Minor Variance	39
Official Plan Amendment	10
Subdivision	6
Zoning By-Law Amendment	31
Site Plan Approval	16
Information Requests	54
Legal Inquiry	39
Permit Applications	115
TOTAL	353



Flooding at Valentia and Ranch Road, east of Little Britain, February 13, 2009.

Flood forecasting and warning

We monitor water levels through the operation of a real-time water level and precipitation network consisting of 6 stations, supplemented with additional information from Trent Severn Waterway, the Ministry of Natural Resources, weather networks and related agencies.

In February 2009, we responded to a winter thaw which prompted a Flood Warning, the highest warning level. Prior to this warning, we issued a Water Conditions Bulletin, and then a Flood Advisory which prompted municipal staff to prepare for the likelihood of flooding.

Flood forecasting messages in 2009:

- Watershed Conditions Bulletin – 7
- Flood Advisory – 3
- Flood Warning – 1

Ontario Low Water Response

We are responsible for coordinating a local response with a Low Water Response Team during periods of low water or drought emergencies.

The team includes agency, municipal, agricultural and cottage representatives, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

This year, we completed a watershed characterization and socio-economic analysis to assist in decision-making during a low water situation.

Monitoring watershed health

Environmental Monitoring

Monitoring of water quality and the changes occurring in our landscape helps us identify environmental problems early on. It also allows us to gauge the effectiveness of current planning and stewardship activities.

Some of the things we monitored this year included fisheries, benthic macroinvertebrates (aquatic bugs), stream temperature, stream flow, water chemistry, groundwater and natural heritage features.

Water Quality:

- Monitored 45 stations associated with water quality, which involved the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network, Kawartha Water Watch and benthic macroinvertebrates (aquatic bugs)
- Conducted sampling at 8 wells for the Provincial Ground Water Monitoring Network
- Collected data from 70 temperature loggers in streams throughout the watershed and compiled the information into a newly created database.

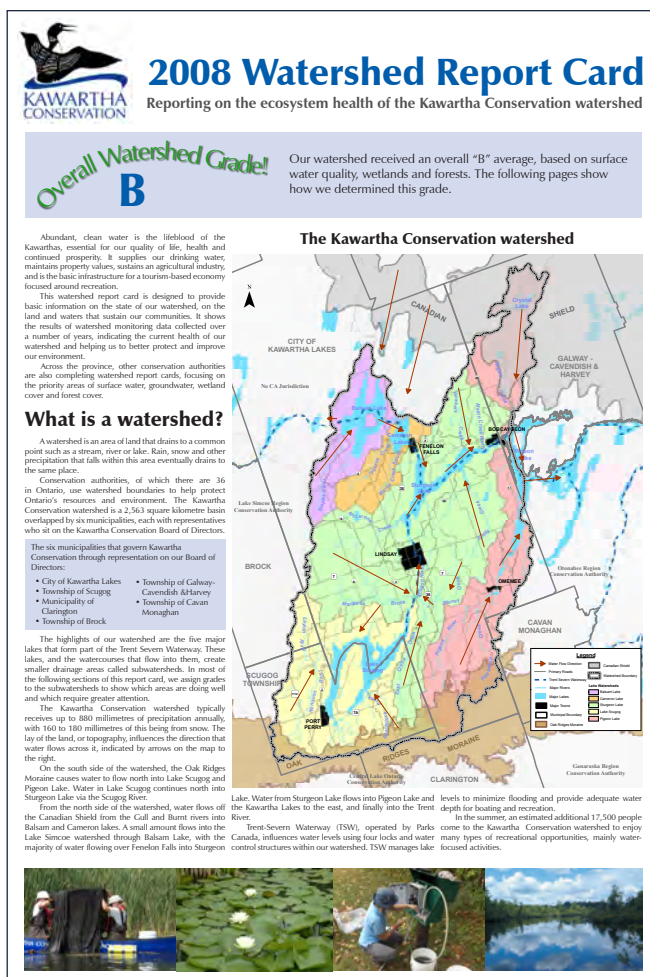
Water Quantity:

- Monitored 170 baseflow stations to measure the proportion of water entering watercourses from groundwater
- Established 2 new groundwater monitoring wells in Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area, as part of the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network
- Ongoing monitoring using a real-time water level and precipitation network consisting (see Flood forecasting and warning p. 10).

Kawartha Water Watch (KWW):

This program involves cottage associations and other environmental groups in the sampling of lakes and streams within our watershed. Accomplishments this year include the following:

- Participation of 5 new volunteers, bringing the total to 18 volunteers throughout the watershed
- Sampling in Jennings Creek in Lindsay by KWW volunteers for the first time
- Reactivation of sampling at Janetville Creek and East Cross Creek



We distributed our 2008 Watershed Report Card in January 2009 across the watershed through community newspapers and the Crystal Lake Cottagers' Association. Grades were given to the watershed as a whole, to lakes and rivers, and to subwatersheds for wetland and forest cover. Overall, the watershed received a B.

- Training on the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network Protocol for KWW volunteers
- A full report on the sampling conducted by volunteers for 2009 season.

Natural Heritage:

We participated in the Conservation Authorities Aquatics Group and the South Central Ontario Conservation Authorities Natural Heritage Discussion. Several staff also attended Ecological Land Classification courses by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Protecting municipal drinking water at the source

Drinking Water Source Protection

This program involves the protection of municipal drinking water at the source, and involves a threats assessment of groundwater and surface water on a site specific and watershed scale.

These activities support a Source Protection Committee in the preparation of Assessment Reports, to be completed by 2010, and a Source Protection Plan to be completed by 2012.

Under the *Clean Water Act*, the Source Protection Plan will proactively prevent potential threats from becoming significant and mitigate those that are posing a significant threat.

This year, we accomplished the following:

- Completed Tier 1 and 2 water budgets
- Continued preparation of an assessment report, to:
 - o Delineate Wellhead Protection Areas and surface water Intake Protection Zones
 - o Identify vulnerability, issues and threats for groundwater and surface water based municipal drinking water

sources.

- o Identify highly vulnerable aquifers and significant recharge areas
- Received council resolution for interim 2-yr Time of Travel and Intake Protection Zone 1 for stewardship eligibility
- Developed the 2010-2012 Kawartha-Haliburton Communication Plan
- Held 5 open houses in November and December, in Minden, Lindsay, Bobcaygeon, Little Britain and Port Perry.



Source Water Protection Technician Jessica Mueller (on right) answers questions about protecting municipal drinking water at an open house in Bobcaygeon on Nov. 30.

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program

This program was initiated to complement drinking water source protection planning activities under the *Clean Water Act*.

It assists landowners who live within a certain proximity to municipal drinking water intakes and sources with stewardship projects. These projects include septic system maintenance, well upgrades

and decommissioning, runoff and erosion protection, and pollution prevention reviews.

This year, we provided \$12,600 in funding from the Ministry of the Environment under the Early Actions program for an erosion control project and initiated pollution prevention review projects with municipalities.

Providing information about our local environment

Information and resources

We developed new information resources for various programs and services, while our other communication materials got a new look. These resources are available at our Administrative Centre in Ken Reid Conservation Area. Some are also distributed at various events and at locations such as Scugog Connections (126 Water St., Port Perry).



We also manage large amounts of data about the environment that can be visually interpreted through maps. These mapping products assist in decision making relative to floodplain management, support policies in Official Plans and regulations, and in targeting actions on the landscape.

Some of our related accomplishments in 2009 include the following:

- Completed Official Plan mapping for the Township of Galway-Cavendish and Harvey
- Created a Watershed Atlas which includes details of each subwatershed within our jurisdiction.

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.

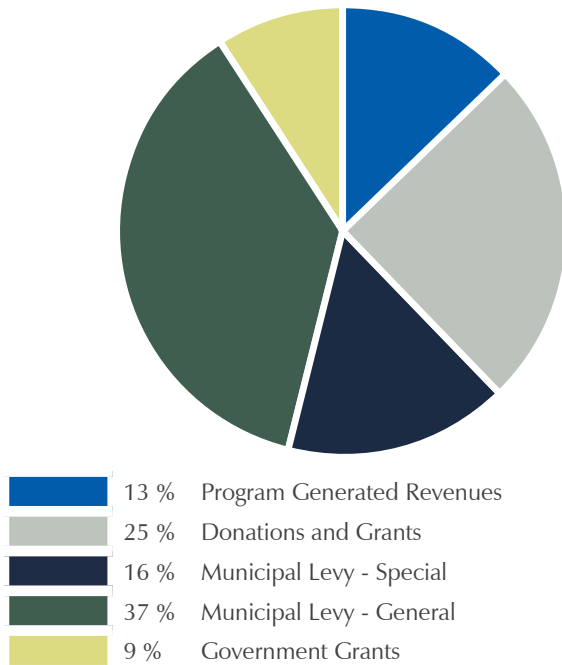
This year, Friends transferred over \$98,461 to us from the EcoAction Community Funding Program and the Ministry of Natural Resources for the Blue Canoe project and Shoreline Naturalization Program.



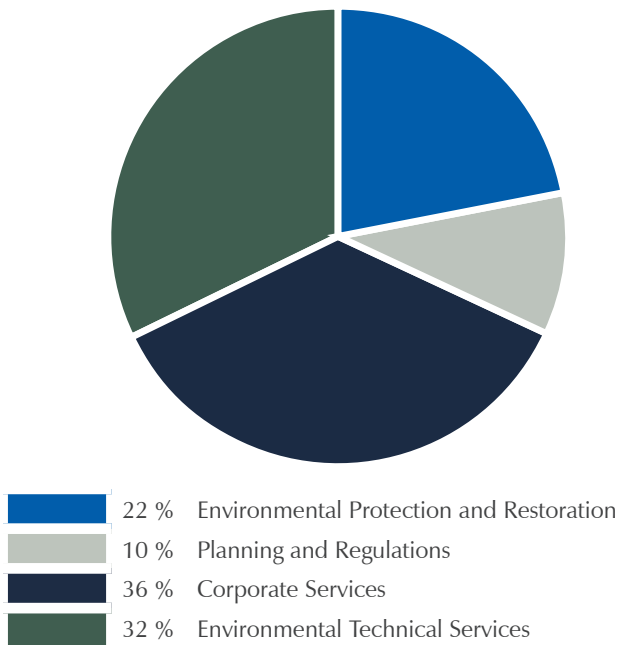
Investing in watershed health

2009 Financial Statements

Revenues



Expenditures



Extracted from the 2009 unaudited financial statements. Full copies of the audited financial statements will be available upon request.

Thank-you to our many volunteers, project partners and funding partners for their financial and in-kind support.

- Volunteers provided over 1,200 hours of their time to projects and programs that contribute to the health of our watershed and communities
- \$98,461 in grants through Friends of Kawartha Conservation helped fund the Blue Canoe project and Shoreline Naturalization Program
- \$480,620 in grants helped us acquire environmentally sensitive lands in Durham Region
- Property owners donated \$174,025 of environmentally sensitive land in Durham Region for conservation
- A \$4,900 grant helped us purchase office equipment as part of a provision for a full-time, 16 week placement
- \$12,500 in grants supported 6 seasonal positions

The Kawartha Conservation Watershed

