

2010 Annual Report



Message from the Chair and CAO

A healthy, sustainable environment is the foundation of a healthy community. Our business is watershed management and our focus continues to be clean, abundant and sustainable water resources within a healthy landscape.

We have so many partners, funding agencies and volunteers to thank for helping us strive to achieve our objectives. We thank our lake management planning partners and community volunteers who assist us with implementing the recommendations in the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan, completed in 2010, and the Port Perry Storm Water Management Plan. We also appreciate the efforts of our Friends of Kawartha Conservation board members, who support us through a variety of environmentally conscious initiatives, including the launch of an off-leash dog park in the Ken Reid Conservation Area. We also receive tremendous support from our high schools, colleges and universities with student placements that complement our work in return for our providing a learning experience. Of course, our municipal partnerships are key in the delivery of our core programs. There are many more examples.

Lake Management Planning continued to be a priority in 2010. We finalized the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan, establishing six strategic areas for actions, including a renewed emphasis on stewardship activities by property owners to help reduce the amount of nutrients entering the lake. We also initiated the Sturgeon Lake Management Plan with key partners in the region, as part of a new, multi-phased lake management program that will see the initiation of a plan for Balsam and Cameron lakes in 2011, Pigeon Lake in 2012, and additional lakes through the City of Kawartha Lakes beginning in 2013. Each of these plans will provide a scientific understanding of the various issues and identify stresses affecting the lakes, enabling appropriate responses that provide both short- and long-term environmental protection.

We also enhanced the ability of Kawartha Conservation to provide timely, relevant and quality input to municipal planning matters and to effectively administer our regulation (O. Reg 182/06). We have completed the building of capacity and expertise in our planning department, updated our mapping, and drafted new planning and regulations policies. This work contributes to the protection of environmentally sensitive areas in our communities, and helps to protect against the loss of life and property damage from flooding and other natural hazards.

As you will read in the following pages, Kawartha Conservation undertakes a wide range of activities that support a healthy natural environment, recognizing that it is a key component of a strong local economy and healthy communities in the Kawartha region. We encourage you to learn more about what we do and how you can get involved.

As 2011 begins, we would also like to express our gratitude to the members who are retiring from the board for their many years of dedicated service to Kawartha Conservation. These members include Peter Franzen, Lynn Philip Hodgson, David Marsh, Jim McMillen, Larry O'Connor, Lloyd Robertson and Alex Ruth. We welcome the new members of the board and look forward to working together to achieve our goals.



Donna Villemare
Chair



Rob Messervey
Chief Administrative Officer

Who is Kawartha Conservation?

2010 Board Members

CHAIR

Donna Villemaire
City of Kawartha Lakes

VICE-CHAIR

Peter Franzen
Township of Galway-
Cavendish & Harvey

DIRECTORS

Lynn Philip Hodgson
Region of Durham
(Township of Scugog)

Ron Hooper
Region of Durham
(Municipality of
Clarington)

David Marsh
City of Kawartha Lakes

Jim McMillen
Region of Durham
(Township of Scugog)

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

Lloyd Robertson
City of Kawartha Lakes

Alex Ruth
Township of Cavan
Monaghan

- We are a community-based, resource management organization that helps ensure the conservation, restoration and responsible management of water, land and natural habitats through programs and services that balance human, environmental and economic needs.
- We address the environmental issues and concerns of our municipal partners and watershed communities by providing local, practical solutions on a wide range of natural resource issues. These include:
 - **Protecting communities from flooding, low water and other natural hazards, according to provincial legislation;**
 - **Providing advice on municipal planning decisions affecting the sustainability of our water and land resources;**
 - **Environmental and lake management planning;**
 - **Stewardship activities; and**
 - **Managing lands which are important to watershed health.**
- Many of our programs and services implement various legislation, government policies and guidelines.

Kawartha Conservation was formed under the *Conservation Authorities Act* by our municipal partners on October 31, 1979.

Our mandate is outlined in Section 20 of the Act:

20. (1) The objects of an authority are to establish and undertake, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, a program designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals.

- R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27, s. 20.

Why should we manage our natural resources?

- **A healthy natural environment is a key component of a strong local economy and healthy communities**

Why use a watershed approach?

- **Watercourses flow where nature takes them – across municipal boundaries – allowing for a collaborative approach to short- and long-term environmental health**

Member of



**Conservation
ONTARIO**
Natural Champions

Contact:

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geninfo@kawarthaconservation.com

Planning and Regulations

- **Protection against the loss of life, property damage and social disruption**
- **Responsible management and protection of environmentally sensitive areas**
- **Compliance with provincial legislation at the local level**

What we do:

Planning

- Provide comments on behalf of the Province of Ontario on natural hazards, including areas susceptible to flooding, erosion and unstable slopes, under Section 3.1 of the *Provincial Policy Statement* (2005).
- Provide advisory comments on municipally initiated applications:
 - Official Plans
 - Comprehensive zoning by-laws.
- Provide advisory comments on planning applications initiated by private landowners and developers:
 - Official Plan and zoning by-law amendments
 - Draft plans of subdivisions
 - Draft plans of condominiums
 - Consents
 - Minor variances
 - Site plan approvals
 - Stormwater management plans.
- Comments provided take into consideration applicable legislation, guidelines and policies, such as the *Green Energy and Economy Act*, *Drainage Act*, *Greenbelt Act*, *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act* and *Plan, Planning Act*, *Provincial Policy Statement*, and many others.
- Provide information to clients on natural heritage features:
 - Wetlands
 - Shorelines of lakes, rivers and streams
 - Ravines, valley, river and stream corridors
 - Significant natural areas
 - Groundwater
 - Fish habitat protection.
- Through an agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, comments are provided with respect to potential impacts on fish and fish habitat.
- An extended planning agreement with the

Planning and Regulations in 2010

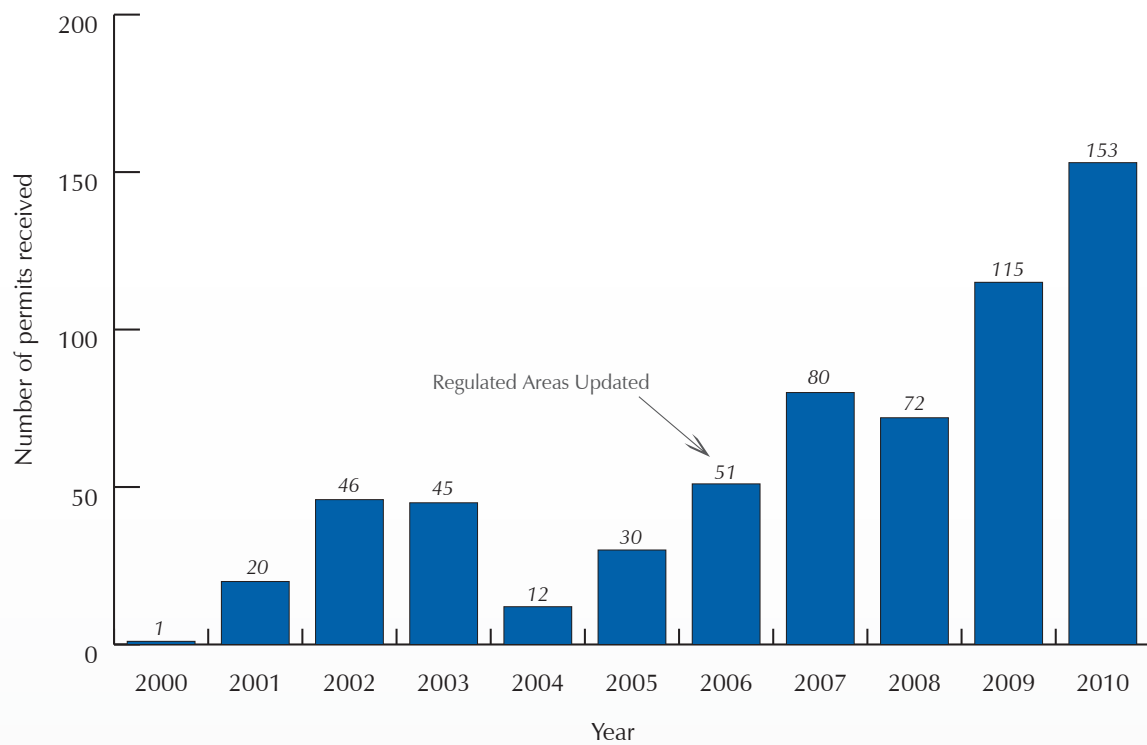
- Reviewed over 200 planning applications and 153 permit applications
- Updated and refined maps which help identify regulated areas; held public open houses to receive input on draft versions; finalized and distributed the maps to member municipalities; and held meetings with municipal staff involved with planning and development
- Reviewed and drafted an update of our watershed planning and regulation policies with input from key municipal staff
- Enhanced our services by restructuring our organization to create and hire 4 key positions
- Provided input to the North Durham Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

City of Kawartha Lakes affords the benefits of environmental reviews of information for planning applications where a conservation authority does not exist.

Regulations

- Regulate development in areas prone to hazards from natural events, or natural instabilities on the ground. This incorporates areas such as river and stream valleys, steep slopes, watercourses, floodplains and wetlands, plus an allowance associated with each of these features.
- Issue permits under the *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses* regulation (Ontario Regulation 182/06) for development or site alteration proposed within regulated areas.
- Review permit applications for alterations to shorelines and/or watercourses, including municipal agricultural drains, with respect to potential impacts on fish and fish habitat, in accordance with an agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- Educate and seek compliance with the regulation.

Section 28 Permit Applications Received, 2000 to 2010



An aerial view of Fenelon Falls. Photo by Lou Wise.

Environmental Research and Monitoring

- **Assess the environmental health of our watershed by gathering information on surface water, groundwater, aquatic habitats, flood events and natural heritage**
- **Provide direction and technical leadership for our environmental programs and services**
- **Provide local environmental information for use internally and by member municipalities, government and partner agencies, interest groups and the community**
- **Drinking Water Source Protection** - Detailed assessment of potential threats to municipal drinking water sources for use in the development of a plan to reduce the threats.
- **Environmental Management Planning** - Provide current information resources for municipalities, consultants, developers, landowners and resource users and recommendations for achieving plan objectives. Plans in development include the Port Perry Stormwater Management Plan; watershed Plans for Oak Ridges Moraine tributaries within the Region of Durham; and East Cross Creek Aquatic Resources Management Plan. Plans being implemented include the Nonquon River Fisheries Management Plan; and the Nonquon River Subwatershed Plan.

What we do:

- **Lake Management Planning** - The development of "Action Plans" determined from detailed field inventories of specific subwatersheds or lakes and identification of natural features or factors affecting their health. Planning and implementation is directed by steering committees comprised of landowners, volunteers and representatives from community organizations, governments and agencies. The Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan was completed in 2010. The Sturgeon Lake Management Plan was initiated in 2010.
- **Flood Forecasting and Warning** - Issue timely forecasts and warnings about potential flooding to member municipalities and the public, to protect lives and property; and help update municipal emergency management plans. Maintain a real-time water level and precipitation monitoring network consisting of 7 stations, supplemented with information from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Trent-Severn Waterway, weather forecasting networks and related agencies.
- **Ontario Low Water Response** - Coordinate a local response in the event of drought conditions in the watershed.
- **Surface water quality monitoring** - Sampling at over 45 stations through the watershed, involving the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network, volunteer participation through partnerships with community groups, and other program related research activities.
- **Groundwater quality and quantity monitoring** - Monitoring through 11 wells under the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN), the collection of baseflow information (groundwater contribution to streams) at over 120 sites and stream temperature monitoring at over 80 sites.
- **Kawartha Water Watch** - A program which involves volunteers in water quality testing throughout the watershed.
- **Environmental Information Services** - Support for program areas and projects by managing and representing large amounts of information in maps.



During Check Your Watershed Day on July 17, volunteers took measurements, such as stream width, depth and flow, at various sites along East Cross Creek, Blackstock Creek and southern Lake Scugog tributaries.

Environmental Research and Monitoring in 2010

- Completed Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan, and began plan implementation
- Launched Sturgeon Lake Management Plan
- Completed final draft of Port Perry Stormwater Management Plan with input from municipal staff
- Completed draft of East Cross Creek Aquatic Resources Management Plan and submitted to stakeholders for review
- Continued data collection for Oak Ridges Moraine watershed planning
- Completed an update of the Nonquon River Subwatershed Plan
- Completed the Proposed Assessment Report for Drinking Water Source Protection program
- Continued research and monitoring activities across watershed with volunteers, lake associations and other partners
- Held Check Your Watershed Day event with 25 volunteers who collected information about streams on the Oak Ridges Moraine



Official launch of the Sturgeon Lake Management Plan on Oct. 8, 2010 in Ken Reid Conservation Area. The planning process brings together many people and organizations from across the watershed to define and undertake research, develop recommendations on how to protect and enhance the lake, and implement recommendations. Many thanks to all of the organizations and people involved in this project. Please see www.kawarthaconservation.com/sturgeonlake for more information about the plan and participants.

Environmental Protection and Restoration

- **Encourage sound environmental practices according to identified needs and recommendations from the outcomes of environmental studies, management plans and from community interest**
- **Assist municipal partners, private landowners and community groups with enhancing, restoring and protecting their properties, while contributing to overall watershed health**
- **Conservation and natural areas** - Protect key water and natural features, and provide recreational and nature appreciation opportunities. Areas we own and/or manage include Ken Reid Conservation Area, Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area, Fleetwood Creek Natural Area, Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area, Windy Ridge Conservation Area and Dewey's Island Nature Reserve.
- **Scugog WATER Fund** - An outcome of the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan, this fund provides financial assistance to landowners within the Lake Scugog watershed in Durham Region for projects which help reduce nutrient loading in Lake Scugog. The focus in 2010 was on agricultural projects.
- **Urban Stewardship Program** - An outcome of the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan and the Port Perry Stormwater Management Plan to help reduce nutrient loading from urbanized areas around the lake.
- **The Tree Seedling Program** - A partnership with the Victoria Stewardship Council to provide seedlings in bulk to rural landowners in the City of Kawartha Lakes.

What we do:

- **Shoreline Naturalization Program** - Provide educational outreach and public demonstration sites, in addition to helping landowners naturalize their shorelines by providing free technical consulting and funding support.
- **Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program** - Provide grants to landowners for projects that help protect municipal drinking water sources, as part of the Drinking Water Source Protection program under the *Clean Water Act*.



Volunteers planted over 600 shrubs in Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area on Oct. 23, 2010. The shrubs were purchased through a grant from TD Friends of the Environment.

Environmental Protection and Restoration in 2010

- Provided 40 shoreline naturalization consultations
- Completed 3 shoreline naturalization demonstration sites around Lake Scugog
- Cleaned Birdseye Park, Palmer Park, Joe Fowler Park and Baagwating Park in Port Perry as part of the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup
- Provided \$21,155 in grants under the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program for projects that help protect municipal drinking water sources.
- Held workshops and information sessions with partners on headwaters, rural property stewardship, invasive species, shoreline naturalization, how to maintain a naturalized shoreline, potential threats to municipal drinking water, wetlands, conservation areas, and equestrian land stewardship
- Engaged volunteers from the John Howard Society, Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, Cubs, Port Perry High School, and Community Living in stewardship activities
- Participated on the Steering Committee for Scugog Connections and collaborated on projects in support of Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan implementation
- Provided \$32,000 in grants through the Scugog WATER Fund for private land projects that help protect Lake Scugog.
- Produced and distributed the guide book, *Living in Town: How you can help protect Lake Scugog*, plus created web pages at kawarthaconservation.com/livingintown
- Distributed 16,300 tree seedlings to rural landowners
- Planted over 1,700 trees and shrubs
- Participated in the Haliburton-Muskoka Children's Water Festival



Volunteers cleared litter from a 1 km stretch of shoreline along the Port Perry waterfront during the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup on Sept. 18, 2010.



In partnership with the Victoria Stewardship Council, we distributed over 16,000 tree seedlings to landowners in the City of Kawartha Lakes in the spring of 2010, as part of an annual distribution.

Staff

Rob Messervey
Wanda Stephen
Mark Majchrowski
Dave Pridham
Peter Waring

Chief Administrative Officer
Director, Corporate Services
Director, Watershed Management
Manager, Env. and Technical Services
Manager, Planning and Regulations

Shalin Abbott
Nancy Aspden
Ron Baker
Leah Breivik
Paul Buckley
Cindy Haney
Jessie James
Brent Kulba
Mahmoud Reza Pejam
Jason Ross
Dawna Rycroft
Alexander Shulyarenko
Iryna Shulyarenko
Saleem Sial
Rob Stavinga
Brett Tregunno
Arlene Waite
Lee Youmans

Stewardship Coordinator
Coordinator, Env. Programs/GIS Specialist
Hydrology Technician
Resources Planner
Source Water Protection Planning Technician
Administrative Assistant
Conservation Areas Coordinator
Communications Specialist
GIS Specialist
Regulations Officer
Executive Assistant
Water Quality Specialist
Hydrologist
Watershed Engineer
Watershed Resources Technician
Aquatic Biologist
Financial Assistant
Planning Program Assistant



A public-access defibrillator, generously donated by The Mikey Network, is installed at our Administrative Centre.



A new accessibility ramp is constructed through a grant from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

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 focused on developing their mandate and new activities. This resulted in the development of plans for an off-leash dog park in Ken Reid Conservation Area, to be opened later in 2011.



Friends of Kawartha Conservation showcase the site of a proposed off leash dog park in Ken Reid Conservation Area, Dec. 17, 2010.

Many thanks to our volunteers and funding partners for their important contributions to watershed monitoring, restoration and protection.

We couldn't do it without your support!

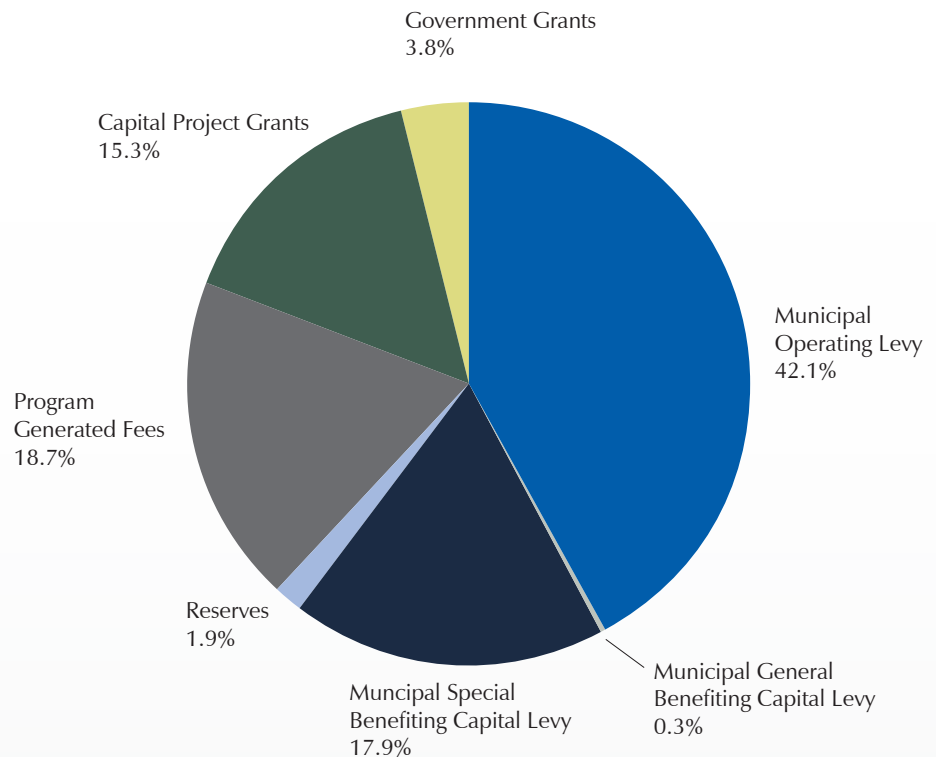
- **240 volunteers generously contributed 2,250 hours of their time**
- **\$179,800 in grants helped support conservation projects and infrastructure**

Thank you to all of our project partners, including:

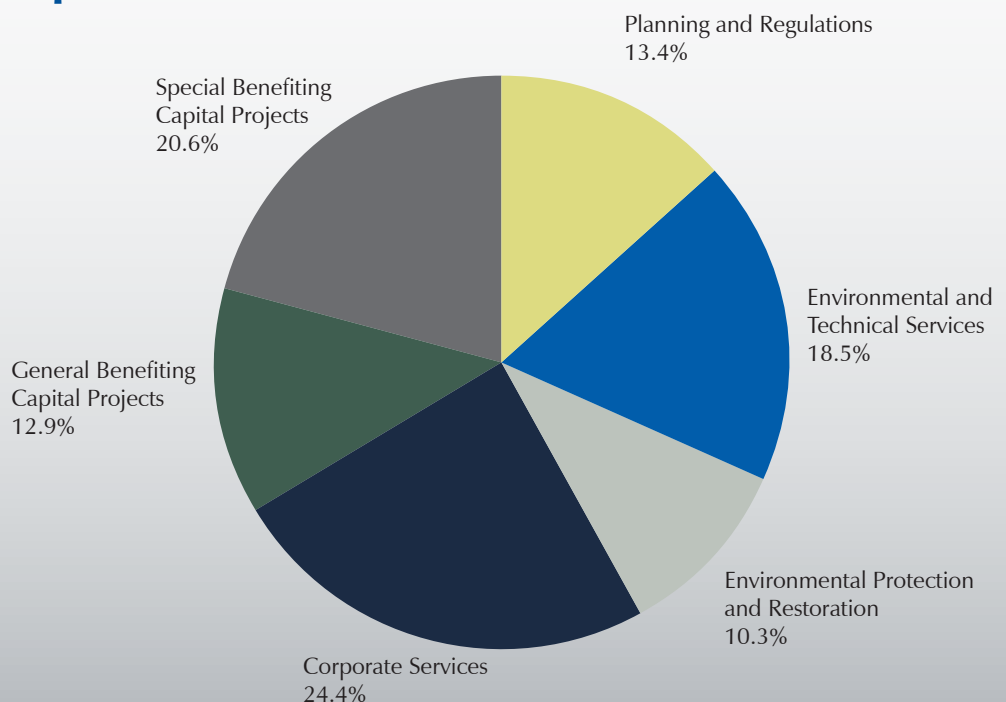
- All of the groups and people involved with the Sturgeon Lake Management Plan
- Durham Sustain Ability
- Fleming College
- Friends of Kawartha Conservation
- Kawartha Heritage Conservancy
- Lakeland Alliance
- Lindsay Art Gallery
- Ontario Heritage Trust
- Scugog Connections
- Scugog Lake Stewards
- Trent University
- Trent-Severn Waterway
- Victoria Stewardship Council
- *And many others*

2010 Financial Statements

Revenues



Expenditures



*Extracted from the 2010 unaudited financial statements.
Full copies of the audited financial statements will be available upon request.*

The Kawartha Conservation Watershed

- 2,563 square kilometers
- 12.5 % wetland
 - 57 Provincially Significant Wetlands
 - 48 Locally Significant Wetlands
- 32% forest
- 53 % agriculture
- 2.5% built-up/urban
- Canadian Shield in the north
- Oak Ridges Moraine in the south

City of Kawartha Lakes

- 1,815 km² within watershed

Township of Galway-Cavendish & Harvey

- 237 km² within watershed

Township of Brock

- 36 km² within watershed

Township of Scugog

- 457 km² within watershed

Township of Cavan Monaghan

- 8 km² within watershed

Municipality of Clarington

- 10 km² within watershed

**PORT
PERRY**

Coboconk

Dewey's Island
Nature Reserve

Balsam L.

Cameron L.

**FENELON
FALLS**

Ken Reid
Conservation Area

Oakwood

LINDSAY

Reaboro

BOBCAYGEON

Sturgeon L.

Dunsford

Pigeon L.

OMEMEE

Windy Ridge
Conservation Area

Janetville

Pigeon River
Headwaters
Conservation Area

Bethany

Fleetwood Creek
Natural Area

Durham East Cross
Forest Conservation
Area

Caesarea

