

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION

2012 Annual Report



Message from the Chair and CAO

Kawartha Conservation's Strategic Plan, adopted by the Board of Directors in 2012, sets out a new vision for our organization and for our watershed communities - "A sustainable watershed with clean and abundant water and natural resources assured for future generations." Our 5-year plan has been developed through our engagement with dozens of stakeholders, municipal leaders, community leaders, agency representatives, and our Board and staff. Our success toward achieving our vision will be measured by the position we take as leaders in:

- Protecting our lakes and water resources,
- Partnering with the agricultural community, and
- Developing watershed science.

This year, we helped to facilitate the completion of a Source Protection Plan for municipal drinking water systems in the Kawartha-Haliburton Source Protection Area. With approval of the Plan by the Minister of the Environment expected by early summer, 2013, implementation will begin in conjunction with our partner municipalities later in the year.

Our focus on lake management planning has been maintained.

We are pleased to report that for Sturgeon, Balsam, Cameron, and Pigeon lakes plans are under way thanks to the collaborative effort of our Community Advisory Panel, Executive Liaison Group, and Science and Technical Committee. These plans, integral to the long-term sustainability and health of our lakes and their watersheds, can only be successful if the entire community assumes responsibility and takes actions to protect our water resources. A number of organizations have stepped up to assist us with the development of these plans – shoreline property owners, urban residents, and lake association members, to name a few.

"Our success will also be contingent on the continuation of strong support from our municipal partners and the interests and efforts of citizen volunteers, stakeholders, and other partners."

We are most pleased with our developing relationship with the agricultural communities in our watershed. This sector has been actively involved in helping us update policies that guide us in our role in reviewing planning documents. Their commitment to and assistance with fostering partnerships with residents and landowners to enable on-farm stewardship projects has been most welcome.

In 2012, the expansion of our administrative headquarters was initiated. The financial support of our watershed municipalities is very much appreciated in providing our organization with a suitable space to conduct our Board meetings, engage our citizens and stakeholders, and to properly accommodate staff.

We would like to thank everyone who shared in our activities in 2012. The accomplishments highlighted in the following pages are a tribute to your support.

Donna Villemaire
Chair



Rob Messervey
Chief Administrative
Officer



About Kawartha Conservation

Kawartha Conservation is a watershed-based, non-profit organization established by our municipal partners in 1979 under the Ontario Conservation Authorities Act. We are one of 36 conservation authorities operating in Ontario and a member of Conservation Ontario.



Vision

A sustainable watershed with clean and abundant water and natural resources assured for future generations



Mission

To provide leadership in watershed management and conservation



Mandate

Outstanding water quality and quantity management, supported by healthy landscapes through planning, stewardship, and science

2012 Board of Directors

CHAIR

Donna Villemaire
City of Kawartha Lakes

VICE-CHAIR

John Hancock
Region of Durham
(Township of Scugog)



Director Chuck Mercier (right) presents a photo to Director Ron Hooper during the 2012 AGM in recognition of his 5 years of service as a board member.

DIRECTORS

Jim Chaplin
Township of Cavan Monaghan

Ron Hooper
Region of Durham (Municipality of Clarington)

Don LaCombe
Township of Galway-Cavendish & Harvey

Chuck Mercier
Region of Durham (Township of Scugog)

Ted Smith
Region of Durham (Township of Brock)

Heather Stauble
City of Kawartha Lakes

Pat Warren
City of Kawartha Lakes

The Kawartha Watershed

A watershed is an area of land drained by a common stream, river, or lake system. The Kawartha 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 seven major stream systems drain this land area, emptying into Pigeon Lake at Bobcaygeon.

On the south side of the watershed, the Oak Ridges Moraine causes water to flow northward into Lake Scugog and Pigeon Lake. Water in Lake Scugog then continues northward into Sturgeon Lake via the Scugog River. From the north side of the watershed, water flows off of the Canadian Shield through the Gull and Burnt rivers into Balsam and Cameron lakes. The majority of this water flows over Fenelon Falls into Sturgeon Lake, with a small amount flowing into the Lake Simcoe watershed through Balsam Lake.

Water from Sturgeon Lake flows into Pigeon Lake and the rest of the Kawartha Lakes to the east, and finally into the Trent River.



Strategic Planning



The Kawartha Conservation 2012 to 2016 Strategic Plan was completed in early 2012. It creates both a blueprint for and a road map to a long-term destination for our organization. It guides every aspect of our business by describing what we need to sustain our watershed, while reflecting a corporate vision that includes our partners. We have taken the time to reach out and engage those whom we serve, listening and continuing to learn.

The plan outlines priority outcomes and strategic actions that contribute to three key strategic goals, which include the following:

1. Safeguard people, property, and communities from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion
2. Conserve and restore a healthy, resilient environment, and
3. Develop greater scientific knowledge of the watershed that advances decision-making.

To help us achieve these goals, we are focused on connecting with and engaging others, while providing excellent client service.

Our Strategic Goals



Protecting

Safeguard people, property, and communities from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion



Conserving & Restoring

Conserve and restore a healthy, resilient environment



Discovering

Develop greater scientific knowledge of the watershed that advances decision-making

Lake Management Planning

Plan Development and Monitoring

Lake management planning is about ensuring the long term sustainability and health of our lakes and watersheds. It is a process that brings together stakeholders from across the region to identify the issues impacting lake health and develop a plan for managing them based on sound watershed science.

The City of Kawartha Lakes has made a strong commitment to lake and watershed health by investing in plans for lakes across the municipality, including Balsam, Cameron, Sturgeon, and Pigeon lakes, with a commitment to initiate plans for Canal, Four Mile, and Mitchell lakes in 2013.

Throughout 2012, we continued our scientific research and monitoring of the lakes to gather detailed information and provide analyses for characterization reports that will form the basis of the plans. A characterization report and plan will be developed in 2013 for Sturgeon Lake, in 2014 for Balsam and Cameron lakes, and 2015 for Pigeon Lake, which was initiated this year. A monitoring report with preliminary results for Balsam, Cameron, and Sturgeon was published in November 2012.



The Executive Liaison Group provides high-level guidance for lake management planning. At a meeting in March: Dean Linda Skilton, Fleming College; Karen Bellamy, District Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources; Councillor Brian Junkin; Director Pat Warren; Rob Messervey, CAO; Michael Benner, Manager of Policy Planning, City of Kawartha Lakes; Dave Pridham, Manager of Technical and Stewardship Services; Mayor Ric McGee; Chair Donna Villemaire; Richard Scott, Heritage Planner, Trent-Severn Waterway; and MPP Laurie Scott. Douglas Erlandson, vice chair of the Community Advisory Panel was also present.



The Pigeon Lake Management Plan is officially launched in March at Bobcaygeon Settler's Village. From left to right: Mayor Ric McGee; Councillor Pat Warren; Councillor Pat O'Reilly; Dave Pridham, Manager, Environmental and Stewardship Services; Councillor Brian Junkin; Doug Erlandson, Community Advisory Panel; Councillor Stephen Strangeway; Mike Benner, Manager of Policy Planning, City of Kawartha Lakes; Al Horsman, CAO, City of Kawartha Lakes.

In addition to the regular water quality and quantity sampling for the plans, we undertook a shoreline classification project with the University of Toronto to identify the amount of artificial versus natural shoreline around Sturgeon Lake. We also took sediment samples from the northeastern arm of the lake to identify any movement of contaminants in sediments, complementing our sampling taken the previous year at the mouth of the Scugog River.

Stakeholders, through various committees, have provided crucial input and direction to the research and development of the plans. In 2012, there were four Community Advisory Panel meetings, two Science and Technical Committee meetings, two Special Project Committee meetings, and an Executive Liaison Committee meeting.



Resource Technician Ben O'Reilly uses a YSI handheld multiparameter meter to measure dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, and temperature in Balsam Lake. Water samples are also collected and measured for total phosphorus (TP), total suspended solids (TSS), metals, anions, and all chemical forms of nitrogen, including total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN), total ammonia ($\text{NH}_3 + \text{NH}_4^+$), nitrite (NO_2^-) and nitrate (NO_3^-).



A shoreline classification survey is undertaken on Sturgeon Lake, in partnership with the University of Toronto. The survey will help determine the current state and health of the shores.

Environmental Management Planning

Port Perry Stormwater Management Plan

This plan is an outcome of the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan, which identified the western basin of Lake Scugog, particularly the area immediately offshore of Port Perry, as a significant source of nutrient and sediment loading in the lake. By implementing the recommendations in the Port Perry Stormwater Management Plan, it is estimated that the amount of nutrients, sediments, and other contaminants in stormwater runoff could be cut by more than half.

With support from the Region of Durham and the Township of Scugog, we completed and presented a final draft of the plan at open houses in December, with the plan scheduled to be finalized in 2013.



Oak Ridges Moraine Watershed Planning

Earlier this year, we finalized watershed management plans for subwatersheds on the Oak Ridges Moraine that included Blackstock Creek, East Cross Creek, Nonquon River, and the South Lake Scugog Tributaries. The plans were developed in partnership with the Region of Durham to assist the Region in meeting its obligations under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act.

The watershed management plans provide a current information resource for municipalities, consultants, developers, landowners, and resource users. They include information about watershed conditions, environmental stresses and threats, and give direction for protecting and sustaining important watershed features.

Integrated Community Sustainability Planning

The City of Kawartha Lakes continued developing an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) called “Our Kawartha Lakes.” We participated as lead for the Water Focus Group to help identify specific actions and plans that will contribute to “a community with clean and abundant water assured for future generations.”

A draft of the plan, completed in September, has four key goals for water:

1. Healthy lakes, rivers, streams and shorelines through lake management and watershed planning, and official plan and zoning by-law provisions;
2. Enhanced municipal infrastructure and systems, including sewage treatment plants and storm water, water conservation, and promotion of the Kawartha Lakes as an International Centre of Excellence for Water Quality through innovative technologies and investments;
3. Enhanced outreach, education, communication and stewardship to achieve a community with clean and abundant water; and
4. Groundwater supply sustainability.



Following public consultation and review, the plan will be put forward for adoption by City Council.

Kawarthas... Naturally Connected

A Natural Heritage Strategy involves identifying a system of key natural features, significant land uses, and cultural values, and establishing a long-term plan that connects natural features and areas. Kawarthas... Naturally Connected is a strategy for Peterborough and the Kawarthas. It will contribute information to lake and environmental management planning, stewardship activities, land-use planning, and other activities across the landscape.

The strategy is led by the Victoria Stewardship Council and Kawartha Heritage Conservancy, along with the City of Kawartha Lakes, Otonabee Conservation, Peterborough municipalities, other agencies, local stakeholders, and Kawartha Conservation.

In 2012, we completed Phase 1, which involved identifying how much of the landscape and natural features to contain in the system, such as wetlands, forests, river corridors, lakes, and meadows. Phase 2 will consider how to connect the natural features and implement the natural heritage system tools which are developed through the project.

Drinking Water Source Protection



Jim Hunt, Chair of the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Committee, and Jennifer Stephens, Trent Conservation Coalition Project Manager, talk about the Trent Source Protection Plan. The meeting at the Lindsay Ops Community Centre was one of six held across the region in April.

As part of the Trent Conservation Coalition, we completed a draft Source Protection Plan for the Kawartha-Haliburton Source Protection Area, which was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment in August.

The plan includes policies that will help address significant threats to municipal drinking water sources, based on detailed assessment reports that consider the physical conditions and land uses within vulnerable areas around municipal systems. Vulnerable areas are where municipal drinking water systems draw surface or groundwater.

To complete the final draft of the Source Protection Plan, we facilitated regular meetings of a Municipal Working Group and held six public meetings across the region in April. A final review and comment period occurred in July. Implementation will begin after the Ministry has approved the plan in 2013.

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program

This program provides support to landowners within the vulnerable areas identified in the Trent Assessment Report for Drinking Water Source Protection. Over \$100,000 was provided in 2012 for 26 projects that reduced or eliminated threats to municipal drinking water. We also installed 30 signs with the City of Kawartha Lakes to help identify and raise awareness of the vulnerable areas.



A manure storage project in the Kawartha-Haliburton Source Protection Area. By covering and situating manure on a concrete pad, nutrient runoff is significantly reduced.

Stewardship

Early Stewardship Actions

As lake management plans are developed, we are implementing stewardship actions based on some of our early research findings. With a large amount of development around the lakes, initial efforts are targeted to shoreline protection and best management practices. Shorelines, critical to the health of the lakes, are ribbons of life that provide oxygen, food for wildlife, cover, and a barrier to contaminants.

Activities will be expanded in subsequent years to other landowners, such as urban and agricultural properties, and will target identified hot spots.

Blue Canoe Program

The Blue Canoe Program was initiated in the spring of 2012, with funding support from the City of Kawartha Lakes and RBC Blue Water Project for a 3-year period.

In our first year, we spoke with and provided information about shoreline management to over 790 people on Balsam, Cameron, and Sturgeon lakes. This involved going dock-to-dock and door-to-door in lakeside communities, holding 4 dock talk events, and giving 10 presentations to cottage and rate payer associations.



The Blue Canoe Program is launched on June 20, 2012 in Ken Reid Conservation Area. From left to right: Councillor Gerald McGregor; Dave Pridham, Manager, Environmental and Stewardship Services; Shalin Abbott, Stewardship Coordinator; Chris Appleton, Chair, Community Advisory Panel; Mayor Ric McGee; Rob Messervey, CAO; Director Pat Warren; Chair Donna Villemaire; and Councillor Stephen Strangway. In the canoe are Kawartha Conservation Stewardship Assistants Christine MacCormack and Kellie Sherman.



Kawartha Farm Stewardship Collaborative

The Kawartha Farm Stewardship Collaborative completed 60 projects on 39 farms across the region in 2012. The collaborative includes Ducks Unlimited Canada; the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association); Farms at Work; Lakeland Alliance; stewardship councils for Peterborough, Northumberland, and Victoria; Community Stream Stewards Program; and the Otonabee, Lower Trent, Ganaraska, and Kawartha conservation authorities.

Projects included the following:

- Installation of over 20.5 km of livestock exclusion fencing to prevent livestock from accessing streams, causing erosion, and adding nutrients directly to the water
- Restoration of over 170 hectares of wetland through planting and fencing
- Restoration of over 270 hectares of upland areas.



Shoreline Protection

The City of Kawartha Lakes supported three shoreline naturalization projects on municipal properties in Lindsay and Bobcaygeon. With volunteers and City staff, 500 plants were put in along the shoreline at 50 Wolfe St., Lindsay. At Rivera Park, we completed a second phase of planting by adding 52 plants, and at Riverview Park in Bobcaygeon, we put in another 200 plants. In each of these projects, the plants were native species that have deep roots that will help stabilize the shorelines.



Stewardship staff, Tracy Roxborough and Kellie Sherman, install new signs and fencing at Lindsay Rivera and Bobcaygeon Riverview parks where native plants were put in earlier along the shore.

We held a riparian buffer (shoreline naturalization) training session in June with volunteers from the Victoria Place community on Pigeon Lake. They are planning to create a buffer along a shoreline that is shared by residents in the community.

Keeping shorelines clear of plastic and other garbage also helps protect wildlife, water quality, and the beauty of our waterfronts. We coordinated a shoreline cleanup in Nayoro, Lion's Riverview, and Rivera parks in Lindsay with volunteers on September 15, as part of the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. It also provided an opportunity to speak with participants about the ecological importance of shoreline protection.



Volunteers, and City of Kawartha Lakes and Kawartha Conservation staff naturalize the shoreline along the Scugog River at 50 Wolfe St., Lindsay. 500 plants were put in, all of which are native species.

Lake Scugog Watershed Plan Implementation

Nutrient and sediment loading in Lake Scugog has contributed to an acceleration of the natural aging process of the lake, in which there is more aquatic plant growth and sedimentation. Conditions had been improving, but decreased this year due to a much warmer than normal winter and lower than normal precipitation. With less water, nutrient concentrations increased, contributing to more aquatic plant growth than usual.

A Community Advisory Committee, established last year, has enabled stakeholders to become more involved with the implementation of the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan and stewardship activities. Participants include representatives from the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, Ministry of Natural Resources, Scugog Lake Stewards, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, residents from Lake Scugog waterfront and urban areas, the Scugog Chamber of Commerce, and Scugog Connections. The group focused efforts on reducing nutrient loading from the largest contributors, mainly urban and agricultural land uses within the watershed.



The LSEMP Community Advisory Committee, from left to right, are: Tom Phipps, Lake Scugog resident, Scugog Lake Stewards; Brian Springer, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation; Rhonda Coppaway, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation; Carlie Arbour, Durham Sustain Ability; Donovan Smith, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee; Ken Oldfield, Port Perry Urban resident, Scugog Lake Stewards; Dave Mowat, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation.

The Scugog WATER Fund, supported by the Region of Durham, was enhanced to include both urban and agricultural best management practices, resulting in \$30,000 in grants being provided to 16 projects valued at over \$54,000. This included four urban and 12 agricultural projects that will each contribute to a healthier Lake Scugog.

View Lake Communications produced and donated a video, with production support from Scugog Connections. It features a landowner who undertook a shoreline erosion control project in the East Cross Creek subwatershed. The project was completed with funding from the Scugog WATER Fund. Visit www.kawarthaconservation.com/waterfund to view the video and find out more about how erosion control can help protect tributaries and lakes.

Part of our urban nutrient reduction efforts also included the creation of a riparian buffer along, and stream restoration within, William's Creek in Port Perry. This was undertaken with the Community Stream Stewards Program (Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters) and Scugog Connections.

At Roy Carter Park in Blackstock, we installed a 100 foot long riparian buffer with the Community Stream Stewards Program.



Native plants are put in along a tributary in Roy Carter Park which empties into Blackstock Creek. The project was undertaken in March with the Community Stream Stewards Program to help improve the quality of water entering Lake Scugog from the creek.

A science class from Port Perry High School came out to a water quality monitoring demonstration at William's Creek in April to learn how science can help us focus our actions and protect the environment. There was also a presentation in the classroom on the ecological importance of planting trees in the Scugog watershed.

In September, over 50 community members learned about the successes and environmental challenges in the Scugog watershed during a tour, which was co-hosted with the Community Stream Stewards Program and Scugog Connections.

Tree Seedling Purchase Program



Increasing the natural cover in our watershed is a priority outcome of our 2012 to 2016 strategic plan. Forests increase soil and stream bank stability, filter water, recharge aquifers, and clean the air, in addition to providing windbreaks, shelter belts, and wildlife habitat. In partnership with the Victoria Stewardship Council, we sold over 14,500 tree seedlings to 76 landowners.

Stewardship Technician Tracy Roxborough gets tree seedlings ready for pick-up by landowners.

Environmental Monitoring Services

Tracking changes in the landscape helps us identify issues early on, while gauging the effectiveness of current activities. We assess watershed health on a continual basis by maintaining a core watershed monitoring network that tracks trends in water levels and quality, and pressures on habitats. This network is expanded when additional information is needed for projects such as lake and environmental management planning.

We receive tremendous support and information for both the core and expanded networks from volunteers, co-op students, and organizations that include the Balsam Lake Association, Fleming College, Kawartha Lake Stewards Association, Kawartha Protect Our Waters, the Ministry of the Environment, Trent Severn Waterway, Trent University, and others.

We will be using the monitoring information collected over the past several years for a watershed report card in March 2013, which will include grades for the conditions of surface water, forests, groundwater, and wetlands (see www.kawarthaconservation.com/reportcard). By making this and other environmental information and research publicly available, we are helping facilitate informed decision making across the landscape.

Water Quality Monitoring

As part of our core network, we conducted 8 rounds of surface water sampling at 11 strategic sites across our watershed, as part of the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN), in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment. In addition, six volunteers and one community organization monitor 19 sites through our Kawartha Water Watch program, which is partially funded by community groups.

We also collected and analyzed benthic macroinvertebrates (stream insects) from 10 sites, through a partnership with, and support from, the Ministry of the Environment, and support from volunteers who helped process the samples. The types of insects found indicate the health of tributaries and the presence or absence of specific pollutants.

We completed year 2 of a 5 year project with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and other conservation authorities that looks at the types of benthic macroinvertebrates in healthy streams. This will increase our knowledge of the differences between healthy and less healthy streams, and help us refine our research. This year, we took samples at 8 sites, and the MOE sampled 2 sites, also within our jurisdiction.

Co-op students helped install and retrieve 30 data loggers for measuring stream temperature. This data is also needed for monitoring and assessing the health of streams.

In late 2012, we entered into a partnership with the Ontario Headwaters Institute to undertake a joint scoping exercise to identify and assess indicators of headwater tributary health. There are currently few indicators that have been identified through Canadian studies. A better understanding will contribute to future watershed monitoring in Ontario.



Fleming students in the Applied Ecology course learn Seine netting techniques at Ken Reid Conservation Area in November. This included netting, measuring, weighing, identifying, and learning how to keep the fish caught alive.



Fleming College students Bobbi Fisher and Chad Kivisto volunteer their time and skills to process aquatic insect samples. The samples will help us determine the health of tributaries.

Groundwater Monitoring

Our groundwater monitoring network involves a partnership with, and support from, the Ministry of the Environment, through the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN). We operate and monitor 13 wells within our watershed, as part of the larger, provincial network consisting of 480 wells.

In 2012, we completed the construction of, and began sampling at, two new PGMN wells in Galway-Cavendish and Harvey. A rain gauge was installed at one of the wells to enable us to estimate the relationship between precipitation and groundwater levels.

We monitored the amount of groundwater entering watercourses at over 120 baseflow and 30 stream temperature sites. These activities help us identify critical sources of groundwater and important recharge and discharge areas, the potential location of cold-water fish habitat, and how aquifers might react to changes on the landscape or from changes in the climate.



The exposed riverbed in Hawkers Creek in August. A Level 1 low water condition was in place from July to October.

Ontario Low Water Response

A Level 1 low water condition was declared in July, and remained in effect until October 15. This was due to a reduced snowpack during the winter months, an earlier spring, less infiltration to groundwater aquifers, and a lack of precipitation that lasted until September.

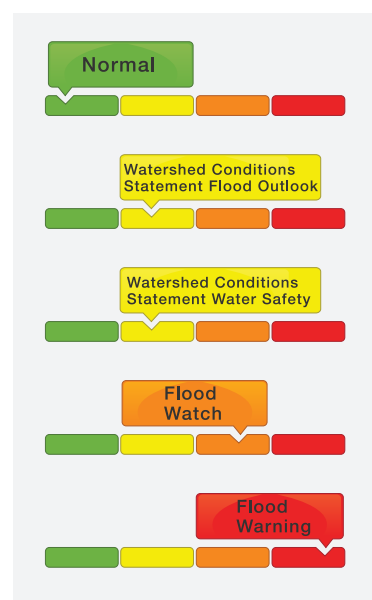
Level 1 is declared when we receive only 80% of the normal amount of precipitation over a 3 month period. It is the first indication of potential water supply problems. Level II indicates a potentially serious problem, and Level III a failure of the water supply to meet demand. Each level calls for a different response.

Flood Forecasting and Warning

We issued one Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook in October due to concerns about flooding from Hurricane Sandy. While flooding was anticipated in other parts of the province, we issued the statement to ease concerns, advising that flooding was not likely in our watershed. We maintain a flood forecasting and monitoring network on a 24/7 basis to determine the potential for flooding.

In 2012, conservation authorities updated the terminology for flood messages to be consistent across Ontario and with other weather related warnings.

In preparation for flooding, we regularly update a flood contingency document, including a Flood Contingency Plan and Operation Manual for Flood Forecasting and Warning. We also provide input to municipal flood response plans, and train Kawartha Conservation staff to coordinate a flood response.



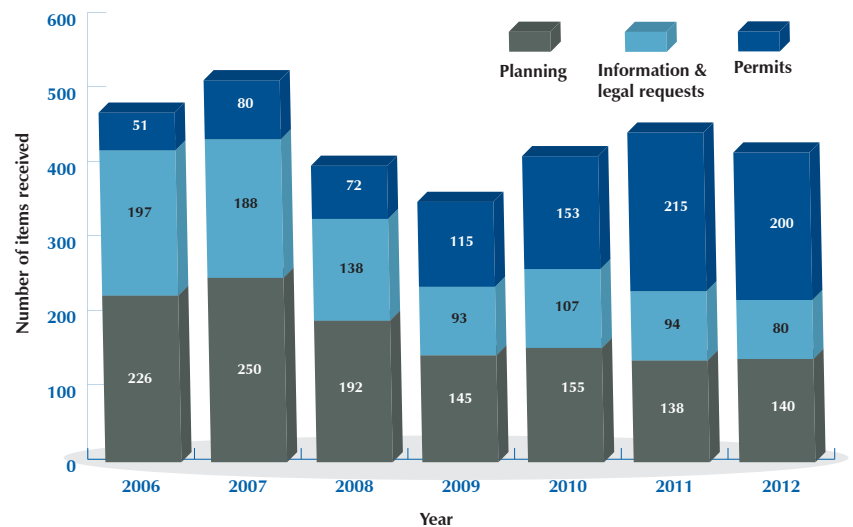
Planning and Regulation

The Planning and Regulation department provides environmental reviews of municipal planning applications and inquiries, and regulates development activities in areas prone to natural hazards (under Ontario Regulation 182/06). These areas include flood plains, steep slopes, and unstable soils and bedrock. In reviewing planning related items, we provide advice, recommendations, and specific conditions for development to ensure proposals have regard for public safety and the environment.

In 2012, we reviewed and commented on 51 severances, 46 minor variances, 6 Official Plan amendments, 4 subdivision applications, 19 zoning by-law amendments, 12 site plan approvals, 44 information requests, and 28 legal inquiries, plus held numerous pre-consultation meetings. We also reviewed 25 applications concerning the protection of fish habitat, under a Level 3 agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Under Ontario Regulation 182/06, we issued 200 permits, responded to 50 complaints, and issued 10 violations.

Planning applications, information and legal requests, and Section 28 permit applications received, 2006, to 2012



Watershed Plan Review and Regulation Policies

The Board of Directors approved an update of our Watershed Plan Review and Regulation Policies, which went into effect on July 1. The policies guide us when providing advice to municipalities on planning matters and evaluating permit applications for development proposals.

Consultation with stakeholders was an important part of the update. There were two stages during the update when we received input from the general public. Over a two-year period, consultations were also held with watershed municipalities, adjacent conservation authorities, federal and provincial agencies (Parks Canada, Trent-Severn Waterway), the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the building/development sector, conservation organizations (including Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters), and the agricultural community (including the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and the Durham and City of Kawartha Lakes agricultural boards). Consultations with the agricultural community were particularly comprehensive.

“The result is policy and regulation that supports both the City of Kawartha Lakes key agricultural sector and sound conservation.”

- Paul Reeds, City Of Kawartha Lakes Agricultural Development Advisory Board Member



Updated Fee Schedule

New fees were approved by the Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors for implementation beginning January 1, 2013. They were updated to better reflect the costs of providing planning and regulation services. This update was undertaken through consultations with watershed municipalities and neighbouring conservation authorities, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the building and agricultural sectors, and other stakeholders.

Large Fill Procedural Guideline

Under *Ontario Regulation 182/06*, we regulate the placement of fill in river and stream valleys, hazardous lands (including flooding and erosion hazards), and areas adjacent to or within wetlands or watercourses. A new procedural guideline was approved by our Board of Directors and went into effect on February 22, 2012.

The Large Fill Procedural Guideline provides an outline of how we receive and process applications, and a description of the requirements necessary to ensure that the placement of fill will not negatively affect the control of flooding, erosion, pollution, or the conservation of land, and to ensure that there are clear and consistent information requirements.

We planned and co-hosted with the Township of Scugog a symposium on large-scale fill in January 2013. Over 280 participants from across the province, representing rural communities, industry, agencies, municipal and provincial governments, and the aggregate, science, construction, and law sectors, discussed gaps, issues, and solutions. See www.kawarthaconservation.com/fill for more information and videos.



Environmental Commissioner of Ontario Gord Miller provides a keynote address during a large-scale fill symposium in Port Perry, January 2013. He explains why fill should be the responsibility of those who generate excess soils.

Floodplain Mapping Study

We initiated, with the City of Kawartha Lakes, studies of 12 priority flood prone areas to help plan future growth and development, and contribute information to the City's Emergency Management Plans.



Paul Buckley, Kawartha Conservation GIS/Survey Technician, surveys culverts and bridges in the Ops Drain/Jennings Creek watershed for a floodplain mapping and engineering project.

The studies involve identifying how much water is on the land and how it will move through ditches, streams, and rivers, to predict where flooding would occur and by how much during various types of storm events.

We are also examining the feasibility of a 2-zone floodplain management approach for the Ops #1 Drain/Jennings Creek watershed in Lindsay, in the area of Kent St. W., McLaughlin Rd., Hwy 35, and Jennings Creek, to accommodate safe development. Under this approach, restricted development may be permitted in the flood fringe if certain established standards and procedures are undertaken to ensure safety. This study for OPS#1 Drain/ Jennings Creek will be completed in 2013.

Over the next 2 years, studies will be completed for flood prone areas in Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, Little Britain, Omemee, and other flood damage centres.

Conservation and Natural Areas

Our five conservation and natural areas help protect over 1,200 hectares of ecologically sensitive areas in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Region of Durham, and provide natural spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Maintenance and management activities took place throughout the year. In 2012, we were pleased to receive assistance from the Lindsay Collegiate and Vocational Institute through co-op placements, the Peterborough MNR District Stewardship Rangers, Port Perry Beavers and Cubs, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Fleming College, Invading Species Awareness Program, Friends of Kawartha Conservation, and others.



Drainage is installed at Howlers Corners to keep the site dry all year round. The off-leash park will open in June 2013

A large amount of work took place in Ken Reid Conservation Area on Howlers Corners off-leash dog park, which included grading, installing drainage features, and planting grass. Many thanks to all of the sponsors and donors, including the City of Kawartha Lakes which is providing \$7,500 in matching funding through the 50/50 Community Project Capital Fund. Howlers Corners is a project of Friends of Kawartha Conservation with support from the John Howard Society of Kawartha Lakes & Haliburton.

A successful mustard pull was held by the Invading Species Awareness Program. With volunteers, they took on a new patch of garlic mustard that had sprouted,

and returned to another area that had been pulled the previous year to exhaust the seed bank in the soil.

In Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area, a 100-metre boardwalk that had reached the end of its life was removed. Many thanks to the Peterborough MNR District Stewardship Rangers for their help. The boardwalk is being replaced in 2013.

In Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area, the Port Perry Beavers and Cubs planted 350 tree seedlings in April.

Fleming College students initiated a management planning project for the coniferous plantations in Fleetwood Creek Natural Area, and looked at the feasibility of establishing tall grass prairie habitat.



The Peterborough Stewardship Rangers assist staff in July with the removal of a boardwalk in Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area. The boardwalk, which had reached the end of its life, is being replaced in 2013.



A new gate is installed at the north entrance of Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area. It allows horses to access the trails, while preventing motorized vehicles from entering.

Environmental Recognition Awards



Environmental Recognition Award Recipients, January 2013. From left to right: Vice Chair John Hancock; Mike Belliveau, Vice President of the Kawartha Lakeshore Area, RBC; Nancy Sullivan, Manager of Client Care at the Lindsay Branch, RBC; Brian Armstrong, B. Armstrong Contracting Inc.; Kathy Armstrong, President, Killarney Bay-Cedar Point Cottage Association; Andrea Hicks, Program Coordinator, Community Stream Steward Program; Sandy Wansbrough; Chair Donna Villemaire; Rob Messervey, CAO.

The Environmental Recognition Awards highlight some of the outstanding people, groups, and businesses who have demonstrated a commitment to protect and improve our watershed. This year, we introduced a new category to recognize business contributions, in which there were two recipients.

Business Award

B. Armstrong Contracting Inc.

- Regularly checking to see if a permit is required before building
- Applying for 4 permits in 2012, and always having all of the proper paper work
- Complying with permit requirements
- Providing valuable input to our planning policies and fee schedule updates.

Business Award

RBC Blue Water Project

- Supporting the Blue Canoe Program by providing \$75,000 over 3 years
- Enabling Kawartha Conservation to hire, train, and support 2 to 3 seasonal staff to speak to shoreline property owners on over 2,600 properties on Balsam, Cameron, and Sturgeon lakes to encourage and help with practices that protect the environment.

Partner Award

Community Stream Steward Program

- Supporting three urban tributary restoration projects in Port Perry in 2012, by providing funding, site plans, and the coordination of project materials
- Leading an educational tour of the Lake Scugog watershed in 2012 with community members, and staff and councillors from the Township of Scugog
- Being a major headwaters stream restoration partner in the region since 2003 (Kawartha Conservation was involved with the development of this program and a member of the original project steering committee in the early 2000's). Their very first project was on the main tributary of the Pigeon River, immediately upstream from Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area.

Awards

Individual Conservationist Award

Sandy Wansbrough

- Volunteering with Kawartha Water Watch over the past 10 years
- Research and advocating on environmental issues, including PCBs in Sturgeon Lake
- Participating in KPOW, the Lindsay Ops Landfill Public Review Committee, and Friends of Kawartha Conservation
- Participating in the City of Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee from 2003 to 2004, and initiating their Hero Award
- Working with the Friends of the Osprey and helping install a nest platform in Ken Reid Conservation Area on Feb 24, 2004
- Always taking time to share stories and information with people.

Community Conservationist Award

Killarney Bay-Cedar Point Cottage Association

- Naturalizing a previously mowed grass parkette on Balsam Lake
- Planting approximately 35 metres of native plant stock with community members
- Setting a visual example for others to follow
- Supporting the Balsam & Cameron Lake Management Plan through participation on the Community Advisory Panel.



Sandy Wansbrough (left) with a Fleming College student identifying aquatic insects from a sample, October 14, 2004.

2012 Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors Award

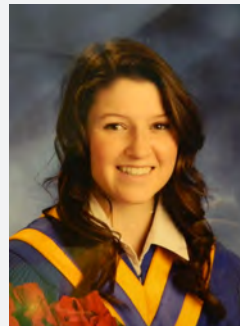


Cara Hernoud, recipient of the Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors Award

Cara Hernoud is the recipient of the new Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors Award, which was presented by Chair Donna Villemaire and CAO Rob Messervey on June 1 at Fleming College.

Ms. Hernoud won the \$500 bursary as a result of her excellent academic standing and for helping advance resource management in the community. She is graduating from the Ecological Restoration Honours B.Sc.- Joint Trent-Fleming Degree/Diploma program, and is part of the first graduating class from this program. She is beginning a Master's of Science degree at the University of Victoria this year.

2012 Youth Environmental Bursary



Abby Follett, recipient of the Youth Environmental Bursary

Abby Follett is the first ever recipient of the \$500 Youth Environmental Bursary, sponsored by Kawartha Conservation staff. It was presented during the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School graduation ceremony on June 28.

Ms. Follett, who is beginning studies in Environmental Science at Trent University, has volunteered for many

environmental initiatives, including:

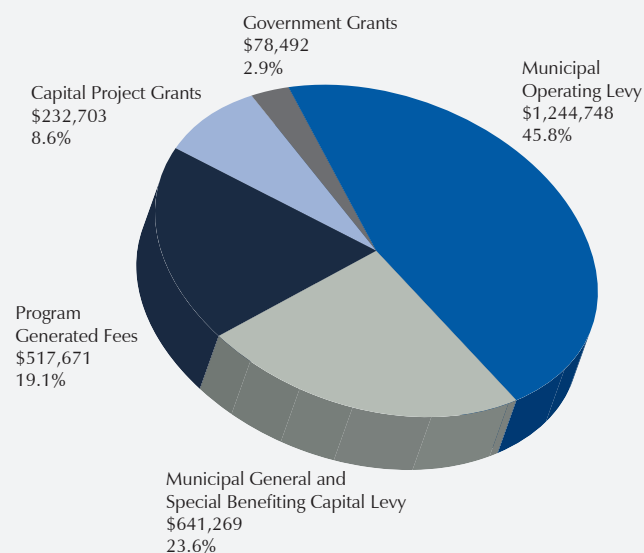
- Earth Day cleanups
- Omemee and District Horticultural plantings
- The Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program (through the Fleming College Fish Hatchery)
- Trans Canada Trail cleanups, and
- The creation of native gardens on school grounds.

The Kawartha Conservation Team

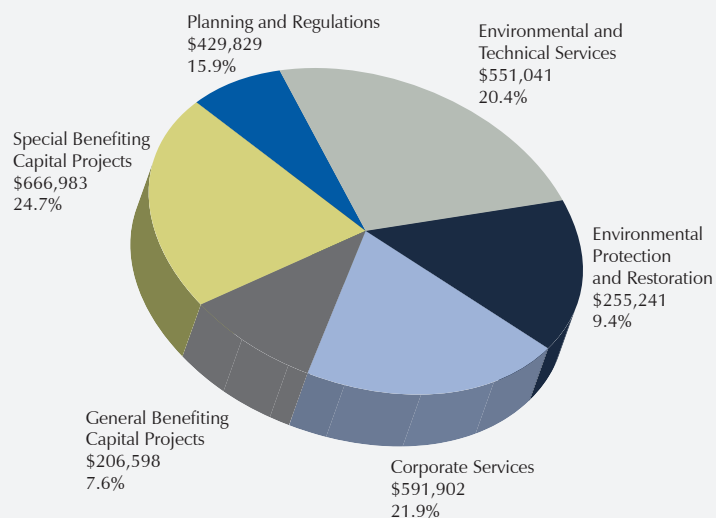
Rob Messervey	Chief Administrative Officer	Adrian Ristok	Conservation Areas Technician
Wanda Stephen	Director, Corporate Services	Tracy Roxborough	Stewardship Technician
Mark Majchrowski	Director, Watershed Management	Dawna Rycroft	Executive Assistant
Dave Pridham	Manager, Environmental and Stewardship Services	Kellie Sherman	Stewardship Assistant
Peter Waring	Manager, Planning and Regulations	Alexander Shulyarenko	Water Quality Specialist
Shalin Abbott	Stewardship Coordinator	Iryna Shulyarenko	Hydrologist
Nancy Aspden	Coordinator, Environmental Programs/GIS Specialist	Saleem Sial	Watershed Engineer
Paul Buckley	GIS/Survey Technician	Rob Stavinga	Watershed Resources Technician
Shawn Emmerton	Regulation Officer	Leah Stephens	Resources Planner
Cindy Haney	Administrative Assistant	Brett Tregunno	Aquatic Biologist
Jessie James	Conservation Areas Coordinator	Arlene Waite	Financial Assistant
Brent Kulba	Communications Specialist	Galen Yerex	Survey Assistant
Ben O'Reilly	Resource Technician	Lee Youmans	Planning Program Assistant

Financial Summary

Total revenues in 2012:
\$2,714,883



Total expenditures in 2012:
\$2,701,594



Full copies of the audited financial statements are available upon request.



For more information, contact Kawartha Conservation

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Photo: Marsh boardwalk in Ken Reid Conservation Area