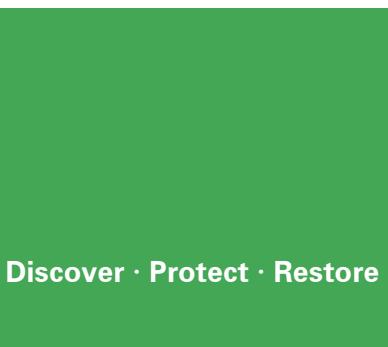
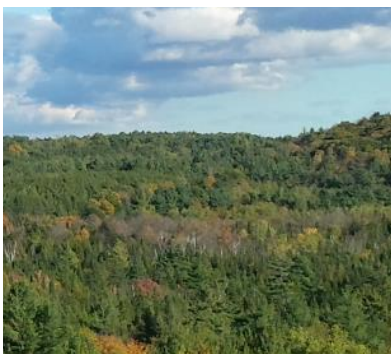




KAWARTHA CONSERVATION

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Discover · Protect · Restore



KAWARTHA
CONSERVATION

Welcome to our 2014 Annual Report

As you review the many accomplishments highlighted in the report, you will see that our engagement with our member municipalities, partner agencies and organizations and residents is absolutely key to our success in working to build a healthy, vibrant watershed. To all of you who have partnered with us, thank you for assisting us in restoring and enhancing our environment.

As established in our Strategic Plan, and through our collaborations, our goal is to continue to strive for outstanding water quality and quantity management, supported by healthy landscapes. We do this through planning, stewardship and science and the delivery of high-impact, cost-effective and relevant programs and projects.

As we move forward into 2015 with our new Board of Directors, we need to thank our outgoing board members for their dedication and support for our efforts over the years they served, helping us continue to be a respected and resilient organization.



Pat Warren
2014 Chair
Kawartha Conservation



Rob Messervey
CAO
Kawartha Conservation



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.

2014 Board of Directors

CHAIR

Pat Warren
City of Kawartha Lakes

VICE-CHAIR

John Hancock
Region of Durham (Township of Scugog)

DIRECTORS

- Jim Chaplin
Township of Cavan Monaghan
- Ron Hooper
Region of Durham
(Municipality of Clarington)
- Don LaCombe
Municipality of Trent Lakes
- Chuck Mercier
Region of Durham
(Township of Scugog)
- Ted Smith
Region of Durham
(Township of Brock)
- Heather Stauble
City of Kawartha Lakes
- Donna Villemaire
City of Kawartha Lakes

Balancing society, environment, and economy

Kawartha Conservation is a watershed-based organization established in 1979 by our municipal partners under the *Ontario Conservation Authorities Act (1946)*. We use planning, stewardship, science, and conservation lands management to protect and sustain outstanding water quality and quantity supported by healthy landscapes. We focus our programs and services within the natural boundaries of the Kawartha watershed, which spans a total of 2,563 square km. Under agreements we also provide technical planning services and lake management activities in areas of the City of Kawartha Lakes outside of our watershed jurisdiction.

Abundant, clean water is the lifeblood of the Kawarthas. It supplies our drinking water, maintains property values, sustains an agricultural industry, and contributes to a tourism-based economy that relies on recreational boating, fishing, and swimming. Our programs and services promote an integrated watershed management approach that balances human, environmental, and economic needs.

We are governed by a Board of Directors comprised of elected representatives from our municipal partners: The City of Kawartha Lakes, Region of Durham, Township of Scugog, Township of Brock, Municipality of Clarington, Municipality of Trent Lakes, and Township of Cavan Monaghan.

City of Kawartha Lakes

1,815 km within watershed

Municipality of Trent Lakes

237 km within watershed



Protecting



Conserving & Restoring



Discovering

Township of Brock

36 km within watershed

Township of Cavan Monaghan

8 km within watershed

Township of Scugog

457 km within watershed

Municipality of Clarington

10 km within watershed

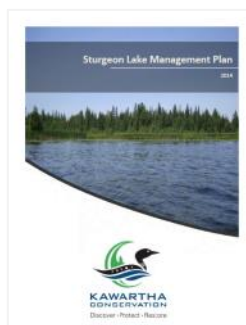
Shaping the future of our lakes

Science-based lake management planning is a process for understanding the pressures and issues impacting our lakes and determining priorities for management activities to sustain their environmental and economic health. Each year, since 2010, we have begun a new plan for various lakes in the City, each involving 3 years of research plus another year for plan development and approvals. Lake Management Plans have been completed or are underway for Sturgeon Lake (2010 to 2014), Balsam and Cameron Lakes (2011 to 2015), Pigeon Lake with support from Otonabee Conservation (2012 to 2016), Canal and Mitchell Lakes, which are being developed in partnership with the Lake Simcoe and Region Conservation Authority (2013 to 2016), Four Mile Lake (2013 to 2017), and Head and Shadow Lakes (2014 to 2018).

Community provides input

At three open houses held in August, over 135 attendees provided important input on the lake management plans being developed across our watershed. The open houses were hosted in Fenelon Falls, Cobocok, and Kirkfield, and crucial feedback and valuable comments were provided through these forums. Combined with scientific research, the observations and concerns of people who use the lakes will shape the actions and recommendations in each plan.

Sturgeon Lake Management Plan Finalized



The Sturgeon Lake Management Plan was initiated in 2010, and has involved 3 years of research. The goal is to maintain and enhance the environmental health and economic sustainability of Sturgeon Lake and the lands that drain to it. Plan development was a collaborative effort among many agencies, groups, and stakeholders who have an interest in the health of our lakes. The plan includes a set of recommendations and actions based on the research as well as public input. In March of 2014, the plan was finalised and approved by the Community Advisory Panel and was later endorsed by the Executive Liaison Group and by the City of Kawartha Lakes Council.

Important decisions about our lakes can't be made without the guidance and input of many partners and stakeholders. In 2014, we hosted and attended a variety of meetings with key representatives to help guide our lake management planning work.

- Three Community Advisory Panel meetings
- Two Science and Technical Committee meetings
- An Executive Liaison Group meeting
- A variety of lake association meetings, AGMs, and one-on-one meetings with key stakeholders on the lakes





Working towards a healthier Lake Scugog

Managing Port Perry's Stormwater

In early 2014, we distributed the Port Perry Stormwater Management Plan to stakeholders. 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 plan, it is estimated that the amount of nutrients, sediments, and other contaminants in stormwater runoff could be cut by more than half, with phosphorus loading being reduced from 630 kg per year to 315 kg.

Following a successful pilot project in 2013, six stormwater drains in downtown Port Perry were fitted with catch basin insert bags this year. These bags work like a filter cloth by capturing any sediment in rainwater runoff, including sand, leaves, and other grit. Some of the bags collected over 10 kg of sediment, preventing it from being carried through the stormwater system and into Lake Scugog.

The Scugog WATER Fund in 2014

The Scugog WATER Fund, supported by the Region of Durham, encourages best management practices that help protect Lake Scugog. In 2014, \$20,000 in grants were provided to 17 projects with total investment of over \$53,000 with landowner contributions. The activities included 11 well decommissioning projects, 2 erosion control projects, 2 well upgrades, 1 private septic system replacement, and 1 urban runoff control project.

Port Perry Bay Enhancement Project

Engagement with the Working Group for a Healthy Lake Scugog proceeded throughout the year in the development of the Port Perry Bay Enhancement Project. Kawartha Conservation is assisting with science, monitoring, and proposal development to support a dredging and shoreline enhancement program in the southern portion of the Bay. The working group involves staff from Parks Canada, members of the Scugog Lake Stewards, Township Council members and staff and local business owners. Kawartha Conservation is currently taking additional sediment samples from Port Perry Bay, and is working with Toronto Region Conservation Authority to complete an additional hydrographic survey of proposed dredging and disposal locations. A detailed proposal will be completed by the fall of 2015 for federal review and approval.

Shorelines: The 'ribbons of life'

Shorelines are critical to the ecological health of our lakes and rivers! Properly managed shorelines can help improve water quality, reduce erosion, and provide important wildlife habitat. In 2014, we provided outreach to shoreline residents, and worked with many engaged community groups and partners to help improve the quality of shorelines across our watershed.



Volunteers from the Fenelon Falls Horticultural Society and City of Kawartha Lakes staff hard at work planting a shoreline buffer, and volunteers undertaking restoration work at Garnet Graham Park in Fenelon Falls in June (left) and October (right).



Volunteers at Nayoro Park in Lindsay during a volunteer maintenance day in October.



Volunteers from Environmental Action Bobcaygeon at Riverview Park in Bobcaygeon during a volunteer maintenance day in October.

Shoreline Outreach

- In May we presented to 35 students at Fenelon Falls Secondary School about shoreline naturalization
- In July, we provided shoreline outreach to 87 homes and cottages on the Nonquoun River

Our very own Green Heroes

Environmental Recognition Awards

Highlighting some of the outstanding people, groups, and businesses who have demonstrated a commitment to protect and improve the watershed



Kawartha Conservation's 2014 Environmental Recognition Awards recipients (holding plaques from left): Doug Erlandson, Lake Management Planning Community Advisory Panel; Graham Wilkins, Paluski Boats; Barbara Karthein, Lake Scugog Stewards; and Paul Kindy, Trent Matters. With them are, (from left): Ted Smith, Vice-Chair Kawartha Conservation; Rob Messervey, CAO Kawartha Conservation; Ross Morton, Vice-Chair of the Community Advisory Panel; and Heather Stauble, Chair, Kawartha Conservation.

Individual Conservationist Award

Barbara Karthein

- Co-founder, long-standing member and the current President of the Lake Scugog Stewards
- Piloted a biological control program for Eurasian milfoil in Lake Scugog
- Led many significant shoreline recreation and stormwater management projects

Community Conservationist Award

Trent Matters

Property owners association which has advocated for improvements to the Canal and Mitchell Lake environments, supported research, and mobilized the community to take responsibility for environmental management.

Partner Award

Lake Management Planning

Community Advisory Panel

- Outstanding contribution to the advancement of lake management planning across the City of Kawartha Lakes and Municipality of Trent Lakes
- The significant investment of time and effort by volunteer members of the Panel to address issues impacting our lakes and watersheds, has significantly benefitted our water and land resources through the development of strategies with community and landowner input

Business Award

Paluski Boats

Provided a 'blue canoe' at 50% of value to be used in a 2015 draw to support and advocate our shoreline stewardship program.



2014 Board of Directors Award

Each year the Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors donates \$500 to the Fleming College Academic Awards Program. The money is to assist students with the cost of continuing their education in a related field. The 2014 recipient was Cameron Winters, who was presented with the award during the ceremony of his graduation from the 4-year Ecological Restoration Joint Diploma/Degree program at Fleming College. Following his graduation, Cameron continued his studies through enrollment in a Master of Science Degree Program at Trent University in the Environmental and Life Sciences Graduate Program, studying algae. 2014 Board of Directors Chair Pat Warren and CAO Rob Messervey made the award presentation on behalf of the Board .
Congratulations Cameron!

Creating a network of local stewards

Greening Your Grounds workshops 'take root'

Two-part *Greening Your Grounds* workshops were hosted by Kawartha Conservation and held in four different locations across the watershed in September and October. Workshops were held in Port Perry, Greenbank, Fenelon Falls, and Lindsay, and were designed to help landowners learn about a variety of stormwater landscaping projects they could implement on their properties. Subject matter experts from the community assisted in developing and delivering the workshops, and participants were provided with a 55 page colour guide, *A Homeowners Guide to Stormwater Landscaping Projects*, to help demonstrate how to make the best of the rainwater that falls on their property.



Another successful year for the Blue Canoe Program!

In the third year of our Blue Canoe Program, staff were able to reach 1025 people through door to door visits, dock to dock visits, and other outreach activities. In the first two years of the program, a total of over 3375 shoreline residents were communicated with, with a focus on education and outreach.

The Blue Canoe Program was initiated in the spring of 2012, with \$25,000 per year funding support from both the City of Kawartha Lakes and the Ministry of the Environment. The program involved presentations and conversations with property owners about how they can help protect the health of the lakes; and surveying knowledge, attitudes, values, and behaviours. The program also included programming and communications. A grant application was approved under the OMAFRA Rural Economic Development Program in 2015 and expansion into Canal, Mitchell, Four Mile, Shadow, Head, and Big Bald Lakes. The Municipality of Trent Lakes also provides support from the City of Kawartha Lakes.



Tree Seedling Distribution Program



With promotional assistance from the Ontario Woodlot Association, Kawartha Chapter we were able to sell just under 13,500 native grasses and tree seedlings in 2014. These will be used were planted by landowners for stewardship projects such as shoreline naturalization and rural reforestation on private land across our watershed.

talks, and community meetings. Combined with the nearly 2350 people which surpasses the three year project goal of 3150.

ity of Kawartha Lakes and RBC Blue Water Project for a 3-year period. health of Balsam, Cameron, Sturgeon, and Pigeon lakes; seeking s to assist with lake management plans and enhance stewardship oment Fund for \$25,000 to help support continuing the program into kes has become a new funding partner for the program, with continued



Giving our watershed a check up

Good surface water quality is needed for drinking water, recreational activities, agriculture, tourism, industry, fish and wildlife habitat, and to maintain the overall health of our watershed. Surface water monitoring data supports the management of land and water use activities that can impact water quality. In 2014, a total of 1,200 samples were taken from a variety of locations across the watershed by staff, volunteers, and students.

Samples are taken to monitor:

- Water quality
- Phosphorus levels
- Water temperature
- The health of benthic macroinvertebrates (stream insects and other invertebrates)
- Aquatic life and health

Reporting on the Health of the Oak Ridges Moraine

Along with eight other Conservation Authorities in Ontario with jurisdiction along the Oak Ridges Moraine, Kawartha Conservation began development of a science-based sub-watershed level report card to assess the health of each sub-watershed along the Moraine. Four health indicators are reported on: Forest conditions, surface water quality, groundwater quality, stream temperature and cold water fish. This report card will be released in early 2015, and it will be a key tool to help inform the 2015 Provincial Plan Review for the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.



Flood forecasting and Low water response

Flood forecasting and warning is a fundamental responsibility delegated to Conservation Authorities by the province. We fulfill this duty by monitoring water levels, precipitation, and watershed conditions. This involves operating a real-time water level and precipitation monitoring network of 7 stations, supplemented with additional information from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment Canada, weather forecasting networks, and related agencies. Our activities also include the preparation and maintenance of flood contingency and flood response plans, daily monitoring of water levels and precipitation, assessment of potential flood threats, communication with municipalities and the community, and participation in municipal flood response activities when required.



In 2014 we issued 15 flood messages, which included one Flood Warning, 8 Flood Watches including 3 updates, and 6 Watershed Conditions Statements. We also revised and updated our Flood Operations Manual. We organized and held a Public Information Session on May 8th, called Managing Water Levels and Flooding on Lake Scugog at the Scugog Island Community Centre. We also received a grant for nearly \$4,000 from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in support of the Ontario Low Water Response Program.

Protecting natural features & keeping us safe from flooding and erosion

In 2014, we reviewed and commented on 34 severances, 44 minor variances, 5 Official Plan amendments, 16 zoning by-law amendments, 7 subdivision proposals, 42 legal inquiries, 8 site plan approvals, and 28 information requests.

Under *Ontario Regulation 182/06*, we issued 272 permits, responded to 72 complaints, and issued 18 violations. We also monitored progress on 3 active remediation agreements.

Mapping Floodplains

Up-to-date floodplain mapping is important to municipalities in planning future growth and development in settlement areas, and is especially important in planning for flood emergencies. In 2014, we provided our input to five City of Kawartha Lakes Secondary Plans to help identify lands that may be subject to flooding and unsuitable for development within the settlement areas of Lindsay, Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, and Omemee.

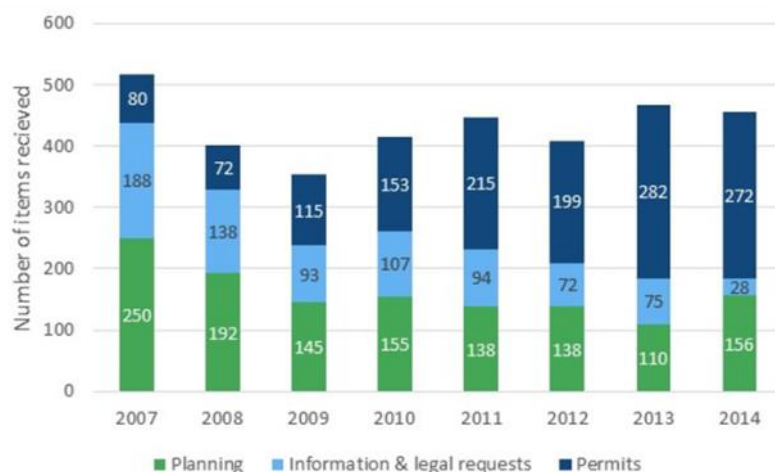
We also continued floodplain mapping studies this year to determine regulatory flood lines. In February, we presented the findings from the Ops #1 Drain/Jennings Creek watershed Floodplain Mapping Study to our Board of Directors, to stakeholders at an information session in early March, and finally to the City of Kawartha Lakes Council later that month. After a series of stakeholder meetings and workshops throughout the summer months, the floodplain management policies for the Ops #1 Drain/Jennings Creek watershed in Lindsay were finalized and approved by our Board of Directors in September.

Field survey work was conducted at additional flood damage centres to support the preparation of floodplain mapping in Fenelon Falls, Little Britain, Omemee, Bobcaygeon, and Lindsay over the next several years.

Protecting Drinking Water at the Source

The Source Protection Plan for the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region was approved by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change on November 14, 2014. The Plan, effective on January 1st, 2015, sets out policies that will protect the water sources that supply the 22 municipal drinking water systems within our area. The Plan was developed over several years and is based on technical studies, collaborative policy development, and extensive public consultation. The process was guided by a Source Protection Committee made up of representatives from municipalities, business, industry, First Nations, landowners, and other stakeholders.

In 2013, the City of Kawartha Lakes proposed to delegate responsibility to Kawartha Conservation for undertaking the duties of a Risk Management Official and in 2014 this delegation agreement was approved. A Risk Management Official was hired in December, and this individual will be responsible for development and implementation of Risk Management Plans that include measures to reduce or eliminate contaminant risk to municipal drinking water systems.



Improving & Acquiring Greenspace

Our conservation areas provide magnificent green spaces for the local community, and recreational opportunities that include hiking, picnicking, paddling, biking, cross-country skiing, and a wide range of wildlife viewing.

New boardwalk finalized at Pigeon River Headwaters

In 2013, we were provided with Canadian Infrastructure Improvement Fund support for construction of a boardwalk at Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area. With further funding support from Ducks Unlimited, and the hard work of various community volunteers including the LCVI Goldstar Program, the boardwalk was constructed.

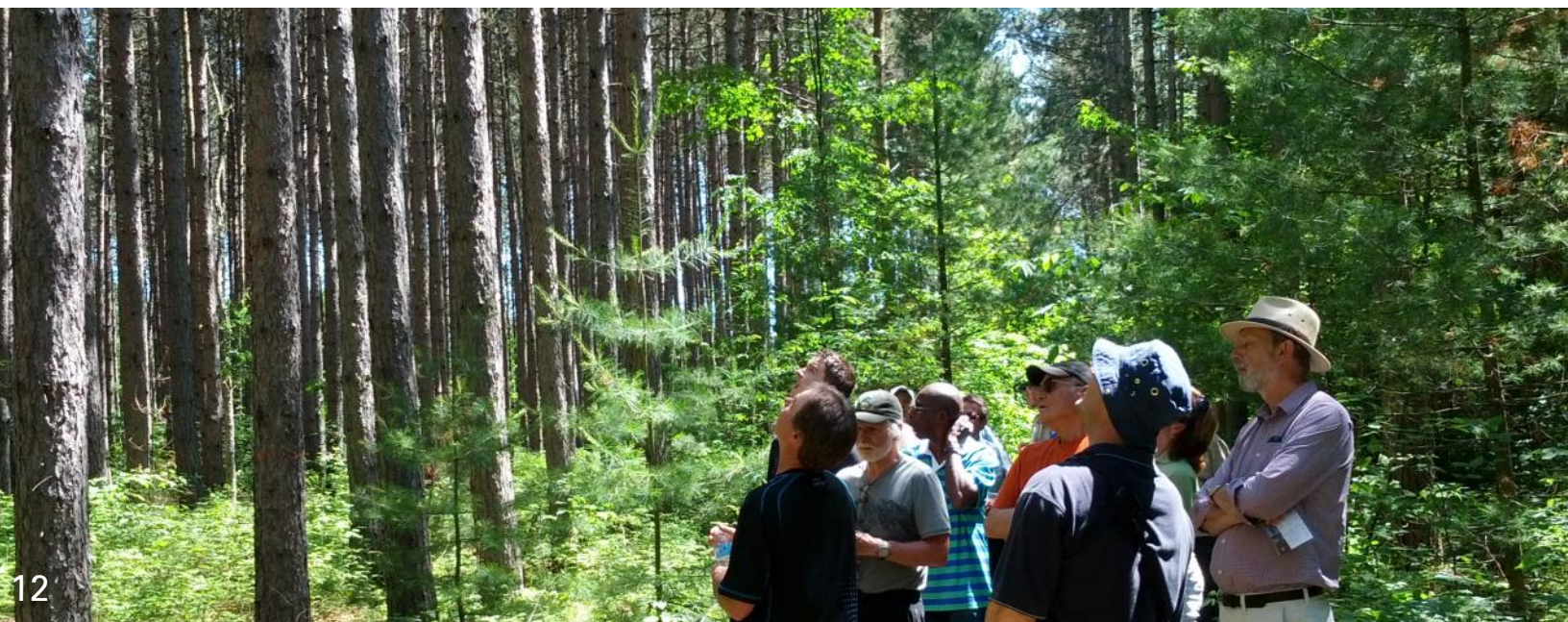
This year, the finishing touches were added to the boardwalk, and interpretive signage funded by Ducks Unlimited was installed. In early May, we partnered with the Fleming College Sustainable Trails Certificate Program, which provided 10 volunteers and one instructor to help complete a section of trail leading to the new boardwalk.

Thanks also goes to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Stewardship Rangers who dedicated an entire crew day towards cleanup of the boardwalk construction materials.



Durham East Cross Forest gets an addition!

In 2014, three properties totalling nearly 15 acres were acquired and added to Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area. An opening was held on June 26, 2014 at the Conservation Area to open a new south parking lot and trails, with local dignitaries and partner organization representatives in attendance. During the event, our CAO Rob Messervey, highlighted 5 properties that were acquired over the past 3 years through \$350,000 in support from the Ontario Heritage Trust, the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, Durham Region, and the Township of Scugog. The properties protect fragile natural habitat, and are designated as a Natural Core Area on the Oak Ridges Moraine.



New 72-acre property donated on Balsam Lake

A property on South Bay in Balsam Lake has been donated to Kawartha Conservation by Carl Weldon and Janet Guillard through the Ecological Gifts Program. The federal Ecological Gifts Program provides tax incentives to people who donate ecologically significant lands.

The property is 72.3 acres of wetland located on the east side of Elm Tree Road with 1,547 feet of shoreline frontage on Balsam Lake. It is part of a much larger wetland complex that extends to the west across Elm Tree Road, and has potential to form a large wetland conservation area for education, viewing, and interpretation purposes.

Red Pine thinning at Fleetwood Creek

Thinning of Red Pine plantations in Fleetwood Creek began late this year and continued through to early 2015. Removing select trees from the plantation will enhance overall forest health and wildlife habitat. Opening the pine canopy allows for natural regeneration of native tree species, including White Pine, Sugar Maple, Black Cherry, and American Beech.



Kawartha Conservation Foundation

The Kawartha Conservation Foundation was launched on June 11th, 2014 by its new president and members of its volunteer board of directors. Since 1996, the Foundation, formerly Friends of Kawartha Conservation, has successfully contributed to the programs and projects of Kawartha Conservation. Vital support has been garnered for conservation lands infrastructure, shoreline naturalization, and community awareness and education through active fundraising and successful grant proposals.

One of the first priorities of the Foundation will be to direct fundraising efforts towards rebuilding an Osprey viewing deck at Ken Reid Conservation Area that was removed in 2013 due to structural issues. Until 2013 the platform provided hundreds of visitors each year with a unique wetland experience.



Getting us from plan to action

Our Corporate Services department supports each of the departments and the organization as a whole by providing administrative support, human resource services, coordination, policy development and implementation, health and safety, program direction and development, budgeting, and communications. This department also ensures program priorities are focused on our 2012 to 2016 Strategic Plan.

In 2014, we developed the framework for our new Talent Development Program. This new framework is intended to engage and support our staff and enrich the work experience, improve career growth, and provide job satisfaction. The Program opportunities include: job shadowing, professional development, in-house training and webinars, career mentoring, technology mentoring and executive coaching.

Finding efficiencies in our day-to-day work

We launched an organization-wide efficiency exercise after our Directors received Lean Six Sigma training, which is a business philosophy that focuses on improving efficiencies in how day-to-day operations are executed. Participating Staff were divided into groups and had 60 days to generate ideas, develop products, and put processes in place surrounding two Greenbelt projects focused on gaining efficiencies in writing reports, and improving the purchase to payment cycle.

Interacting with us online has never been easier!

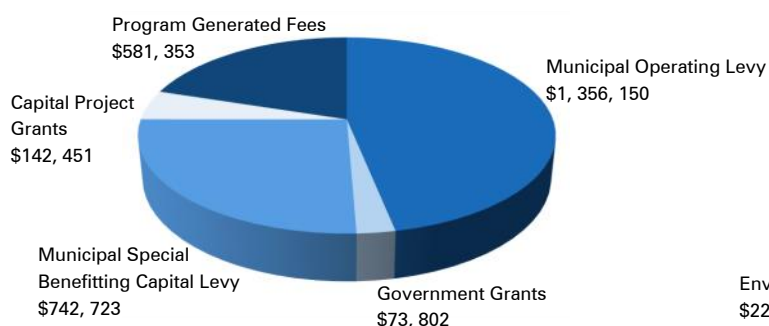
In 2014, we developed and launched a new corporate website with many updated features that improve the usability of the site. Some of the new features include:

- Information for property owners based on location: the shore, the farm, in town, and in the country.
- New mapping to help property owners assess if they need a permit for development
- New watershed section highlighting local natural features, flood forecasting messages, lake and environmental management plans, and information about each of the drainage basins in our area
- GPS integrated Conservation Area trail maps, allowing users to see exactly where they are on a trail and view interpretive information.

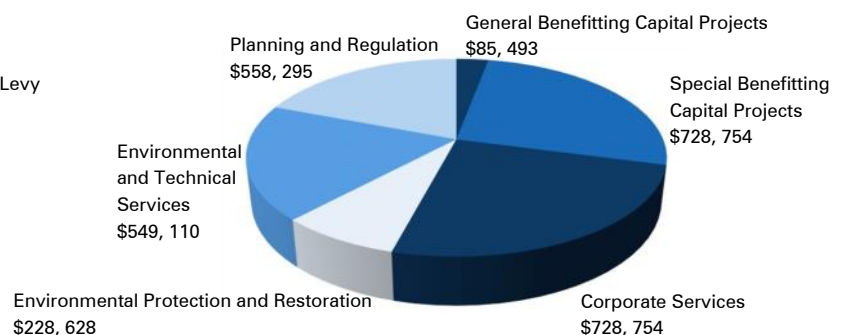


2014 Financial Summary

Total Revenues in 2014: \$2,896,479



Total Expenditures in 2014: \$2,912,678





Our Amazing Team

Rob Messervey	Chief Administrative Officer
Wanda Stephen	Director, Corporate Services
Mark Majchrowski	Director, Watershed Management
Dave Pridham	Manager, Technical and Stewardship Services
Peter Waring	Manager, Planning and Regulations
Nancy Aspden	Coordinator, Environmental Programs/ GIS Specialist
Jeff Burgess	Watershed Engineer
Shawn Emmerton	Regulation Officer
Brent Kulba	Marketing and Communications Specialist
Jonathan Hale	Conservation Areas Technician
Cindy Haney	Administrative Assistant
Jessie James	Conservation Areas Coordinator
Meghan McDonough	Resources Technician

Stacy Porter	Planning and Regulation Technician
Dawna Rycroft	Executive Assistant
Laura Salmon	Human Resources/ Health and Safety Advisor
Holly Shipclark	Stewardship Coordinator
Alex Shulyarenko	Water Quality Specialist
Iryna Shulyarenko	Hydrologist
Rob Stavinga	Watershed Resources Technician
Jenna Stephens	Environmental Program Assistant
Leah Stephens	Resources Planner
Brett Tregunno	Aquatic Biologist
Arlene Waite	Financial Assistant
Mike Wilson	Risk Management Official
Galen Yerex	Floodplain GIS/Mapping Technician
Lee Youmans	Planning Program Assistant

Recognizing years of dedicated service



During our AGM in February 2015, Vice-Chair Ted Smith presented years of service awards for staff. From left to right: Rob Messervey, CAO, 5 years; Lee Youmans, Planning Program Assistant, 5 years; Arlene Waite, Financial Assistant, 10 years; and Mark Majchrowski, Director, Watershed Management, 15 years. They are joined by Kawartha Conservation Chair, Heather Stauble and Board Member Ron Hooper. They each received framed photos by photographer and Director of Watershed Management at Kawartha Conservation, Mark Majchrowski.

The evolution of our logo

A new logo, style guide, and deployment strategy were developed in 2013, and the new logo was officially launched at our 2014 AGM in January. Following the unveiling of the logo at our AGM, we launched and began the deployment of our new and improved branding.

The updated Kawartha Conservation logo reflects our vision of a sustainable watershed with clean and abundant water, and natural resources assured for future generations.

Since 1979 the loon has figured prominently in our identity; a healthy population is an indication of good water quality. In our new logo, the loon merges with the waves, while the markings on its back reflect the sparkling waters of the Kawarthas.

We have also added the landscape to emphasize the important relationships between the land, shorelines, and water quality and quantity, with a new tag line that highlights our key strategic goals and invites you to become a partner in conservation.



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KawarthaConservation.com



Member of



Conservation
ONTARIO
Natural Champions