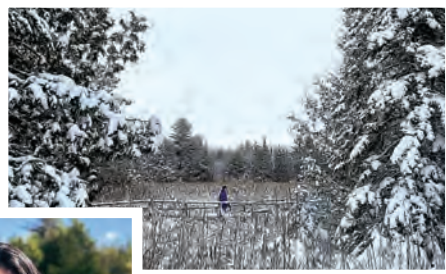
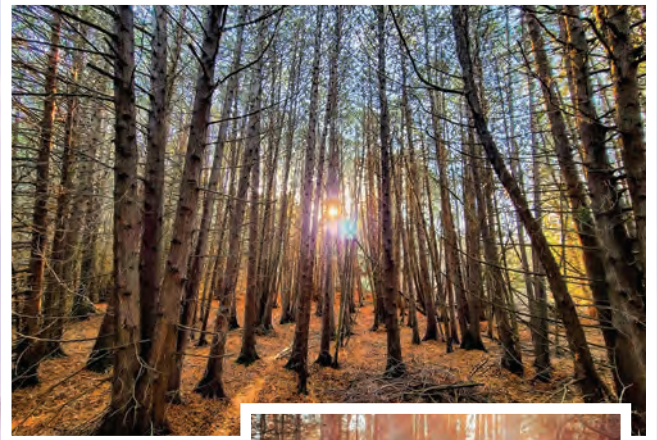




KAWARTHA CONSERVATION

Discover • Protect • Restore



2020 ANNUAL REPORT
LEADERS IN
INTEGRATED
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT

Our Corporate Values

OUR VALUES GUIDE OUR ACTIONS,
AS THEY SHAPE THE KIND OF
ORGANIZATION THAT WE ARE PART OF.
IN ALL OF OUR DECISION-MAKING
WE WILL:

- Act with Integrity
- Value Knowledge
- Promote Teamwork
- Achieve Performance Excellence
- Foster Innovation

Our VISION

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

Our MISSION

To be leaders in integrated
watershed management
and conservation.

Our FOCUS

Outstanding water quality and
quantity management, support
by healthy landscapes
through planning, stewardship,
science and education.

2020 Board of Directors

- CHAIR – Ted Smith Region of Durham (Township of Brock)
- VICE-CHAIR – Andy Letham City of Kawartha Lakes
- Pat Dunn - City of Kawartha Lakes
- Kathleen Seymour-Fagan - City of Kawartha Lakes
- Ron Hooper – Region of Durham (Municipality of Clarington)

- Deborah Kiezebrink – Region of Durham (Township of Scugog)
- Angus Ross – Region of Durham (Township of Scugog)
- Cathy Moore – Township of Cavan Monaghan
- Ron Windover – Municipality of Trent Lakes

Message from the Chair and CAO



To say 2020 was a challenging year would be an understatement. Kawartha Conservation, like all our Conservation Authority colleagues, municipal partners, businesses, agencies, and organizations locally and around the world, felt first-hand the unprecedented impacts, uncertainty, and strain of Covid-19.

We continue to feel the long-term implications of the global pandemic locally as we adapt to new ways of operating as an organization.

Public health and safety took on a new urgency while terms like social distancing and remote work became the new norm.

And through a year that was anything but normal or easy, Kawartha Conservation staff, with the support of our Board of Directors was able to adapt, overcome and grow as an organization.

In April, one month after the start of the global pandemic and amidst federal, provincial, and municipal states of emergency, we launched our new award-winning website. The launch provided staff and our

customers with access to a host of online services and information that positioned Kawartha Conservation well for adapting to change.

The vision for a technology driven, innovative organization spearheaded by the Kawartha Conservation leadership team, prior to the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, helped accelerate the adoption of new processes that allowed staff to be available, responsive and customer-driven in a time of great uncertainty.

Planning and permitting functions progressed without pause, aided by the new online permitting application and e-commerce abilities.

Ever-important work to measure and analyze our water resources by the Integrated Watershed Managed team continued as the Kawartha Watershed experienced several months of low water conditions, as well as increasingly more frequent intense extreme weather events.

Conservation Areas staff rose to the challenge of families and individuals flocking to all our conservation areas. The dramatic increase in visitors required organization, signage, garbage collection and sanitization

to ensure a safe, clean, and positive visitor experience.

Corporate services continued to drive innovative change across the organization, with the implementation of virtual meetings as the new norm, the further expansion of our remote engagement and collaboration capabilities, to launching a new VoIP phone system in December which has transformed our organization and allowed us to continue to focus on being a customer-focused, customer-driven organization.

The last year was not easy, for anyone. Businesses, individuals, families, and organizations continue to adapt to a constantly changing environment. And through it all, Kawartha Conservation has focused on the opportunities; choosing to embrace how we can adapt to work better and smarter, while providing the programs, services and supports that matter to our water community.

The last year has shown that you cannot predict or prepare for everything. We don't know what the future holds, but together, as a team and a community, with our colleagues, our municipal partners and the support of our Board of Directors, Kawartha Conservation and its staff will be ready to adapt to any challenge. 🍁

Ted Smith — Chair

Mark Majchrowski — CAO

Planning and Regulation



Continuing to meet the needs of our municipal partners and building community, Kawartha Conservation issued 407 Permits in 2020, with another 47 Permit Extensions, Revisions and Renewals.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS PROCESSED IN 2020:

Official Plan Amendment - 11
Zoning By-law Amendment - 27
Minor Variance - 35
Site plan - 15
Plan of Subdivision - 7
Plan of Condominium - 1
Consent - 32
Total – 128

ENFORCEMENT

Permit Inspections Completed: 10
Violations Reported and Confirmed: 17
Remediation Agreements Issued: 5

Permits and planning help protect property owners and their investment from natural hazards such as flooding, unstable soils, and steep slopes, while contributing to a healthy, sustainable environment in the Kawarthas.

Permitting Annual Report

Beginning in 2020, Conservation Ontario recommended that high growth Conservation Authorities should report least annually to their

Board of Directors on the timeliness of their approvals under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act, relative to Conservation Ontario prescribed CALC timeframes.

Although Kawartha Conservation is not considered a high-growth Conservation Authority, and there is no requirement at this time to provide annual reporting statistics, we are leaders in our ability to track our performance on permitting activities.

Kawartha Conservation produced its first Permit – Annual Report in July 2020. 🍁

Monitoring Our Water Resources



Lake Management Plan Implementation Coldwater Streams Monitoring

■ This program regularly tracks the quality of coldwater streams, which are unique and sensitive aquatic ecosystems that comprise approximately 15% of all streams in our watershed. These streams are under stress from climate change and development related impacts.

■ Water temperatures are tracked through the deployment of portable data loggers that are fixed in the water column all year. 30 sites are monitored and evaluated against science-based temperature thresholds.

■ This year we've invested in new technology, Bluetooth loggers, that enables us to save time and money when transferring data from each logging device to our databases.

Partnerships

We partnered with Fleming College to facilitate two student-run soil studies that look at the types of soil in various areas on the Windy Ridge and Durham East Cross Forest properties. This helps the students gather needed field experience and provides Kawartha Conservation with information that supports our habitat restoration planning for species at risk, including butternut planting and grassland restoration.

This project is of interest for those trying to manage deer populations on their properties. While this is not currently an issue on any of Kawartha Conservation-managed properties, the information gathered as part of this project will allow us to better understand deer movement at Durham East Cross Forest as preferred feeding areas are located across the property.

Durham Watershed Planning – Water Resources Mapping Project

■ This project defined and mapped Key Hydrologic Features (permanent and intermittent streams, lakes and their littoral areas, seepage areas and springs, and wetlands), and Key Hydrologic Areas (significant groundwater recharge areas, highly vulnerable aquifers, and significant surface water contribution areas), for the overlapping jurisdictions of Durham Region and Kawartha Conservation.

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Watershed Monitoring



LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

City of Kawartha Lakes Shoreline

PLANNING AND POLICY BACKGROUND

■ The recently completed Lake Management Plans identified that maintaining healthy shorelines within the City of Kawartha Lakes (CKL) is a priority objective for the community and recommended that enhanced shoreline planning and policy be considered to address existing and future development pressures around the lakes.

■ To assist with these efforts, we researched 22 Official Plans, and related approaches used by planning staff, of 18 single tier, upper tier, and lower tier lake-based municipalities in Ontario. In addition, we examined the relationship between shoreline development and water quality to identify any potential trends.

■ This project will provide CKL planning staff with background information to consider when updating land use policies that seek to improve the health of lake shorelines.

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■ Key Hydrologic Features and Areas are important components of water resource related land use policies as guided by various provincial policy directives including the Provincial Policy Statement, Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Greenbelt Plan, and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

■ This information provides planning staff with the most up-to-date planning information necessary to advance municipal land use planning approvals and projects and will streamline and expedite comments on planning applications. 🍁

Flood Forecasting



Flood forecasting is one of the most important services that Kawartha Conservation provides to our residents and member municipalities.

A timely warning of upcoming high-water conditions is critical to helping everybody to prepare and be better able to respond.

In 2020, 15 Flood Messages were issued as part of our Watershed Monitoring program. 🍁

**For more information
visit us at
kawarthaconservation.com**

Flood Messages Issued:

- 13 Watershed Conditions Statements
- 3 Watershed Conditions Statements specific to Kawartha Lakes
- 1 Flood Watch
- 1 Flood Warning.

ONTARIO LOW WATER RESPONSE

Kawartha Conservation in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry helps in the coordination and support of local response in the event of a drought as part of the Ontario Low Water Response Program.

In 2020, a dry summer led to a four-month low water condition across the Kawartha watershed.

- Level I Declared on July 6th
- Level II Declared on July 16th
- Downgraded to Level I on September 16th
- Returned to Normal conditions on October 30th

Education



P.A. Day Camp

Kawartha Conservation staff held their first P.A. Day Camp of 2020 on January 31 with 14 eager participants. Activities included a Winter Snowshoe Hike, feeding chickadees and Scavenger Hunt. Participants also had fun with Animal Valentines Day Crafts, including Bee Mine and Owl Always Love you.



Innovation Hub

Kawartha Conservation continued to offer a number of high-quality professional development training opportunities for businesses and organizations across Ontario through our Innovation Hub.

The Innovation Hub provides both technical and soft skill training opportunities which are all delivered in a personal, classroom setting at our administrative offices in the beautiful Kawartha Lakes. 🍁

COURSES IN 2020 INCLUDED:

- Project Management for Practitioners
- Ontario Building Code Part 8, Onsite Sewage Systems Exam Prep – Weeklong course
- Preparing PMI Application Webinar
- Septic systems Webinar

The two-day, online, Introduction to Ice River Engineering, in collaboration with EPIC Training, facilitated by University of Saskatchewan Professor, Dr. Karl-Erich Lindenschmidt, proved to be very popular. Twenty participants took part, from a variety of federal and provincial governments, consultants and conservation authority staff.

Connecting People to Nature



We have been focussed on providing opportunities for people to enjoy nature, which has become more important as the pandemic took hold early in the year. Our activity focussed on physically distanced, responsible

sessions and programs that allowed our community members to enjoy nature at their own pace.

- Hosted two Owl Prowl workshops with over 55 participants in total
- Hosted seven Forest Therapy Walks with over 115 participants
- Participated in a Forest Therapy Documentary "Forest Bathing,

Rooted in Science"

- Partnered with the Public Library to provide the Story Walk on the Pond Loop for the month of December
- The "Talking Forest App" developed for January 2021 launch to facilitate Covid -19 remote learning and a low-risk community activity. 🍁

Flood Plain Mapping



A flood plain is an area around a stream, river, or body of water where water will travel during a flood event. Collecting information about ground elevation, land use, rain and snow melt, culverts and bridges, and stream profiles allows us to model what a major flood event might look

like and map where the flood plain exists.

We use flood plain mapping to support regulations that limit existing and new development inside the flood plain to protect your personal safety and property from flood hazards.

In 2020, staff completed the Mariposa Brook Flood Plain

Mapping Study, as well as finalizing the McLarens Creek Flood Plain Mapping Study. The McLarens Creek Floodplain Study will be peer reviewed and approved in 2021.

The Haliburton Flood Plain Mapping project for the Burnt and Gull River has been initiated and is currently in the preliminary stages. 🍁

Lake Management Plan Implementation

One of the key highlights for 2020 was the completion and approval of the 10-year Kawartha Conservation Stewardship Strategy. The aim of the Stewardship Strategy is to foster a stewardship ethic where landowners, business owners, municipalities, and partners across the watershed are engaged and dedicated to having a positive impact on their own land. Positive impacts may include conserving healthy, resilient ecosystems; protecting water resources; and restoring natural features and function.

The approved Strategy is designed to accommodate flexibility throughout its implementation, enabling our team to react to the individual needs of our community and emerging issues on the landscape while meeting the strategic targets identified.



Additional Highlights from 2020 included:

KAWARTHA LAKES IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

- Beach Sampling program as part of the Shoreline Stewardship as part of our ongoing partnership with the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit
- Omemee beach and Garnett Graham Park both sampled 40 times for e-coli to monitor and improve water quality in the beach area

17 LANDOWNER GRANTS \$38,525 TOTAL GRANTS LEVERAGING \$107,590 IN LANDOWNER INVESTMENT

- 2 tree planting
- 3 Livestock fencing
- 2 Manure Storage
- 1 cover crop

- 1 Urban rain garden
- 2 shoreline erosion
- 2 Well upgrade
- 4 septic upgrades

THREE COMMUNITY GRANTS \$8,865 TOTAL GRANTS LEVERAGING \$12,436 IN COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

- Waterfowl monitoring project
- School yard tree planting
- Community climate action engagement project

COMMUNITY DEMONSTRATION SITE

- Kent St. Tree Cell project implemented as part of the revitalization efforts.
- Underground structure supports 3 street trees along the north side of Kent Street
- Improved urban canopy, reduced runoff, reduce heat island effect

- \$15,000 in leveraged funding from RBC

DURHAM REGION LAKE MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Six Landowner Grants \$15,500 total grants leveraging \$41,080 in landowner investment.

- 1 urban rain garden
- 3 well decommissions
- 1 Septic upgrade
- 1 livestock fencing

RAIN BARREL SALES

- 50 Rain barrels sold watershed wide
- 10,500 L of rainwater storage reducing peak flows after rain events and water demand in dry months

TREE SEEDLING SALE

- 11,275 planted in the watershed through the sale revenue from seedlings \$15,065

Conservation Lands



Connecting people to Nature:

- Maintained 35 km of trails throughout our Conservation Areas
- Created 1 km of new trails through Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area

Environmental Restoration / Rehabilitation:

- Durham East Cross Forest Clean up – 20 cubic yards of metal, lumber, burnt tires, household garbage, and assorted building supplies removed

Security / Safety

- Installed seven additional security cameras across our Conservation Areas as a response to Covid 19 closures

- Partnered with Kawartha Lakes Police Services to increase surveillance of Ken Reid Conservation Area during Covid-19 closure
- Hosted Durham Regional Police ATV training course at Durham East Cross Forest for six officers over three days
- Removal of a beaver dam at Pigeon River Conservation Area to reduce flooding of nearby road, trails, and properties
- Decommissioned 100 feet of illegal access points throughout Durham East Cross Forest
- Upgraded the public washroom facilities at Windy Ridge Conservation Area
- Enhanced sanitation and signage related to COVID 19 throughout all 5 CAs including:
 - Directional signage
 - Twice daily washroom sanitization
 - Park Closure signage

Technology

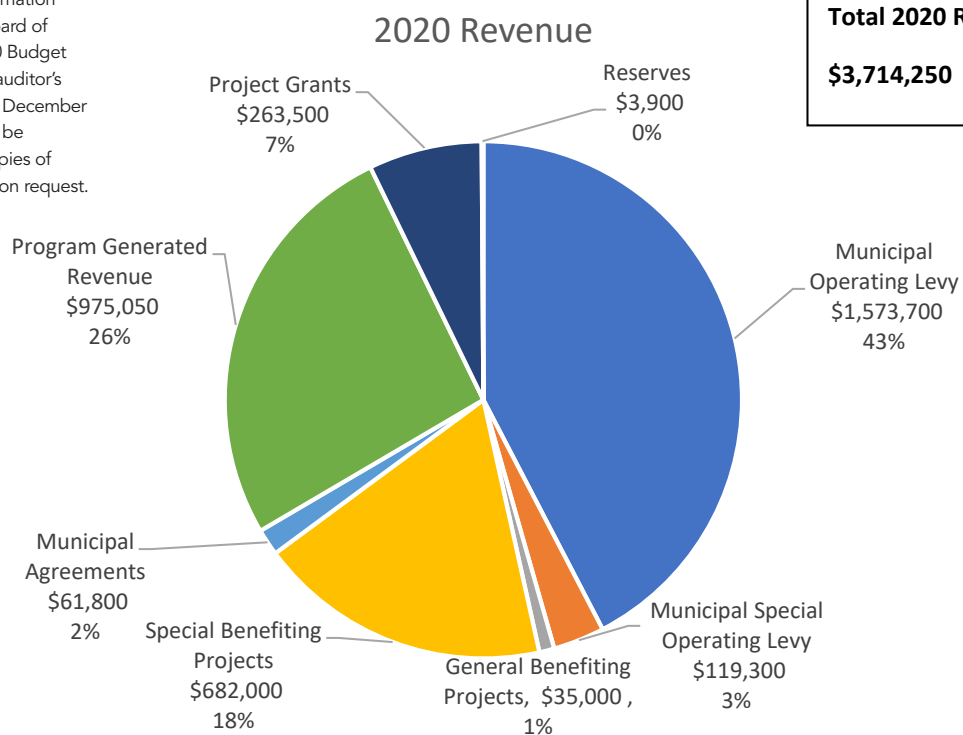
We successfully implemented a number of technological enhancements in 2020, to support our member municipalities, internal staff, watershed residents and visitors, as well as our building and development communities, ultimately providing a greater level of customer service.

Enhancements Include:

- Successful launch of the new award-winning Kawartha Conservation website in April 2020
- Created additional mapping functionality to the online planning/permitting applications in August 2020
- Launched an organization-wide VoIP telephone system in December 2020, to allow for more responsive remote work responsiveness
- Promoted the online parking app to reduce in-person parking pass purchases. Online parking pass purchases increased from 7% in 2019 to 50% in 2020.

Sources of Revenue

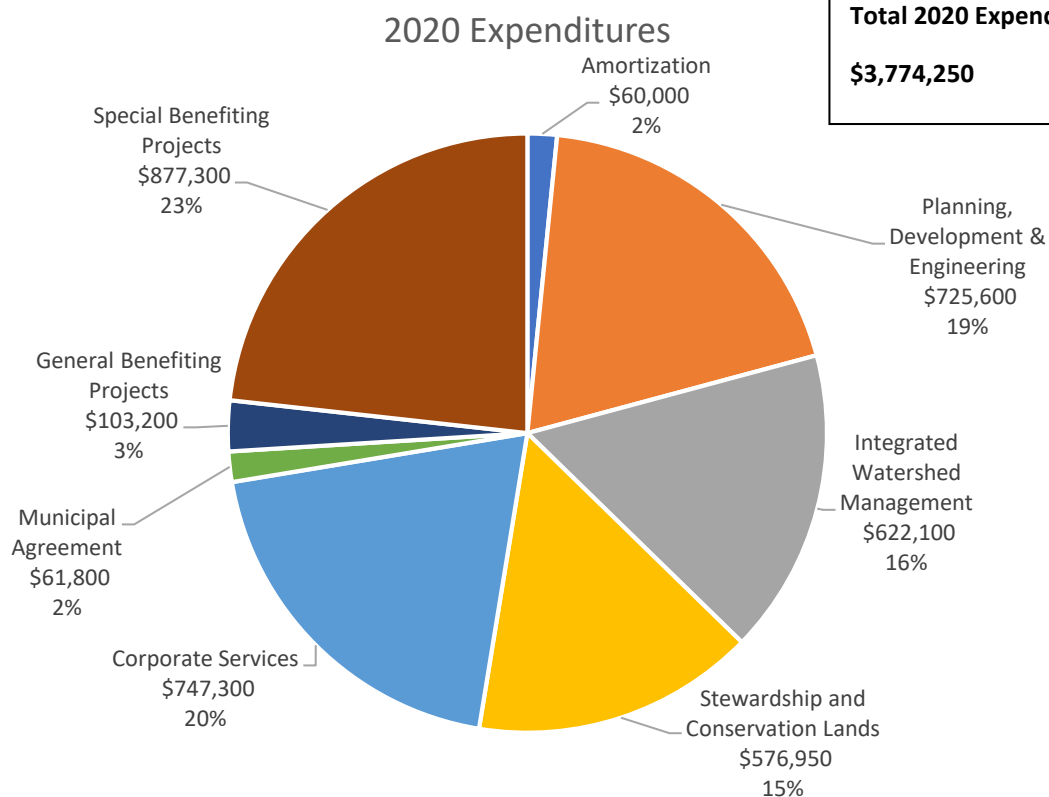
NOTE: This financial information is condensed from the Board of Directors' Approved 2020 Budget Summary. The complete auditor's report for the year ended December 31, 2020 is anticipated to be available in May 2021, copies of which will be available upon request.



Total 2020 Revenue

\$3,714,250

Expenditures



Total 2020 Expenditure

\$3,774,250