

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**KAWARTHA  
CONSERVATION**

Discover • Protect • Restore



**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**  
Engaged communities that love, respect and appreciate our natural environment.

*Our* **MISSION**  
To champion watershed health as the recognized leader in natural asset management.

*Our* **FOCUS**  
Outstanding water quality and quantity management, supported by healthy landscapes through planning, stewardship, science and education.

## 2022 Board Members

CHAIR – Andy Letham (City of Kawartha Lakes)  
VICE CHAIR – Scott McFadden (Township of Cavan Monaghan)  
Kathleen Seymour-Fagan – City of Kawartha Lakes  
Pat Dunn – City of Kawartha Lakes  
Jeff Forbes – Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation  
(Non-voting member)

Ted Smith – Region of Durham (Township of Brock)  
Ron Hooper – Region of Durham (Municipality of Clarington)  
Robert Rock – Region of Durham (Township of Scugog)  
Ron Windover – Municipality of Trent Lakes

### *First Nations Land Acknowledgement*

We would like to acknowledge that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which we are located. Today, this area is home to many indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We acknowledge that our watershed forms a part of the treaty and traditional territory of the south-eastern Anishinaabeg. It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we live and work. To honour this legacy, we commit to being stewards of the natural environment and undertake to have a relationship of respect with our Treaty partners.

## Message from the Chair and CAO

It is said, ‘It takes a village to raise a child’; the same can be said for protecting people, property, and the environment. Reflecting on 2022, this has never been more relatable to the environment we live in today. As we connect and collaborate with our municipal partners, organizations, volunteers, farmers, businesses, residents and visitors, we continue to work together to protect and restore our watershed in engaging, inspiring, and innovative ways.

During the past year, we were joined by hundreds of volunteers to plant trees that will have long-lasting benefits for our watershed, our communities, and our environment. Our staff have worked with countless students at the elementary, secondary and post secondary level to better understand our environment and help invest in our future. We have worked with many landowners, urban, rural, and agricultural to invest in projects that will help protect and enhance our lakes, rivers, and streams for a healthier environment?

In our desire to protect people, property, and the environment, we have recorded more than 20,000 observations of temperature, conductivity, flow, precipitation, climate and more across our watershed to better understand and make decisions for the future. Our Conservation Lands staff have invested time and energy into

improving trails and infrastructure at our conservation areas, In December, we witness thousands of visitors come to Ken Reid Conservation Area to take part in our annual Christmas at Ken Reid event, and new in 2022, the Illuminated Forest, which provided a new opportunity to showcase the benefits of spending time in nature to a an even bigger audience.

Our partnerships with both the business community, including Fenelon Falls Brewing Co., Seven and Forty Six Shop, Lindsay Home Hardware, and Wild Rock Outfitters, as well as community organizations including the Kawartha Lakes Food Source, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, Canadian Mental Health Association, and the Kawartha Lakes Public Library inspired opportunities for valued collaborations in reaching the communities and audiences we service, both in and outside of the watershed.

Following two years of a global pandemic, 2022 allowed us to refocus on our core business – people, and supporting them to make our communities better, our environment better, and our future better. With our Vision of ‘Engaged communities that love, respect and appreciate our natural environment’, our work is just beginning and we are eager to continue following this path.

**Andy Letham** - Chair

**Mark Majchrowski** - CAO



# Protect and Restore

Nature and humans are endlessly intertwined. Protecting nature means protecting humans as well. The forests, lakes, rivers, and wetlands that surround our communities provide habitat for thousands of plant and animal species, while also providing humans with drinking water, fresh air, natural spaces, and more. For over 40 years, Kawartha Conservation has been working to protect these natural resources, balancing environmental capacity and human need to ensure the ongoing health of our watershed and the many beings that live within it.

Each time a water sample is taken, a tree is planted, an invasive plant is culled, or a stewardship project is implemented, we are taking steps towards a healthier, more informed, more sustainable future. It is imperative that we continue to work collectively with landowners, volunteers, businesses, and government partners to ensure the health of our watershed and the safety of people, property, and public infrastructure.



## Ensure the ongoing health of our watershed

### Lake Dalrymple Management Plan

As part of the second year of the Lake Dalrymple Management Plan, staff continued to monitor and conduct a number of surveys regarding water quantity, water quality, sediment quality and aquatic biology. Staff also recorded data around water and air temperature, precipitation, dissolved oxygen, nutrients and more to formulate a detailed picture on the ‘state of the lake’.

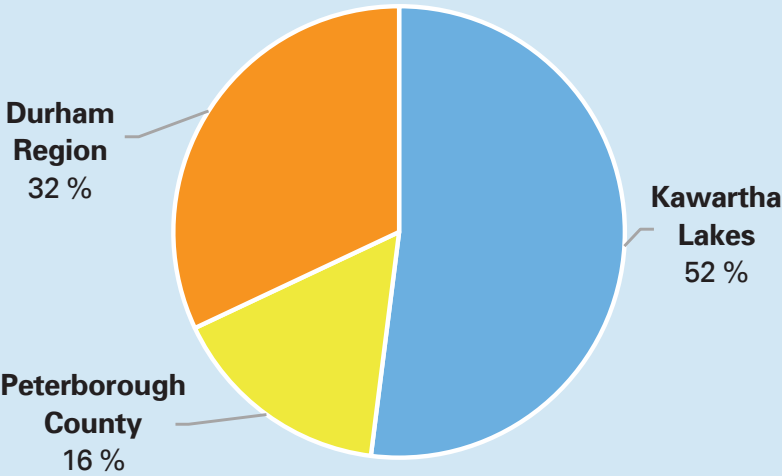
■ More than 80 people attended two open houses at the Carden Recreation Centre to learn about and contribute to the Lake Dalrymple Management Plan in consultation with a working committee of 10 local stakeholders.



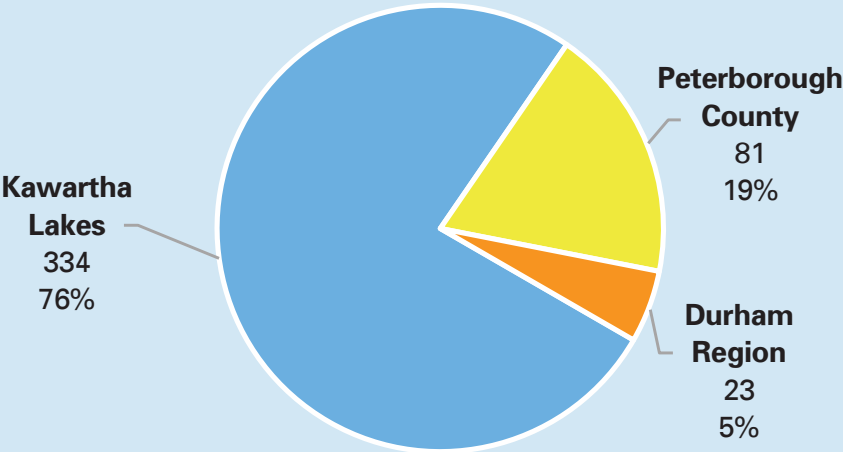
Aquatic Plant Control – \$506,660.00 awarded from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to research collaboratively (Kawartha Conservation, Parks Canada, Carleton University, Ontario Tech University, University of Ottawa, and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority) for a 2-year study (2023 and 2024) to focus on key lake management issues including aquatic thrusters as an aquatic plant control option in Lake Scugog and Sturgeon Lake, Canal Lake, both of which are high priority for aquatic plant management needs.



### Planning Applications Reviewed (2022)



### Permits Issued (2022)



Planning and permitting play a crucial role in the conservation and preservation of natural resources and habitats within the Kawartha watershed. These processes ensure that development and human activities are carried out in a sustainable manner, while protecting the unique ecology and biodiversity of the area. By following proper planning and permitting procedures, Kawartha Conservation is able to balance the needs of the community with the need to preserve the environment for future generations. The organization’s commitment to responsible land use and conservation is reflected in its comprehensive planning and permitting processes, and is a key aspect of its mission to protect and enhance the natural heritage of the Kawartha watershed.





# Encourage participation in environmental initiatives

- Working with private landowners and business, stewardship staff implemented nine streambank restoration and fish habitat improvement projects on urban rivers in Kawartha Lakes.
- Implemented an agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) project with a farmer to restore a biodiverse vegetated buffer along an 800-metre stretch of stream that runs through crop land as part of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Talbot River Healthy Environment Initiative.
- Awarded 33 landowner and 2 community organization Water Fund grants to implement environmental projects that benefit water quality across our watershed.
- Secured a multi-year partnership with the OMAFRA to create the Talbot River Healthy Environment Initiative. The program will support the agricultural community by undertaking projects to improve water quality.



## Board approved a 10-year Environmental Monitoring Strategy

In 2022, the Board of Directors approved a 10-year Environment Monitoring Strategy. The strategy will guide our monitoring activities and investment moving forward. To provide direction for this strategy, the project team developed a high level goal and clear objectives that set out areas of focus for the next 10 years.

The goal of the strategy is to provide a cost-effective environmental monitoring network that facilitates evidence-based decision making, and that provides accessible, real-time science and data to our community, while aligning with our strategic goals and that of our municipal partners.



• We installed our first-ever conductivity logger at Blackstock Creek, which will track changes in dissolved salts in the water over time and give an indication of when contaminants might be entering the stream as seen by spikes in the data collected.







- Worked with 25 Fleming College students to collect live stake material for a Bring Back the Fish project.
- With the support and participation of property owners and municipal partners, protected and enhanced 17.6 hectares of land in 2022 through the 50 Million Trees program and other projects.
- Partnered with 68 waterfront landowners along Lake Scugog to inventory nearshore fish habitat conditions for a 2023/2024 project to enhance fish spawning shoal habitat as part of the Lake Scugog Enhancement Project.
- Exceeded the Stewardship Strategy target of selling and planting 21,000 trees across the watershed by more than 56 percent, selling and planting 37,362 trees and shrubs in 2022.

It's inspiring to see Kawartha Conservation and community members working together towards a sustainable future. By collaborating and taking action, they're able to make a positive impact in the community and preserve the natural beauty of the area for future generations. It's heartening to see the power of collective action and the commitment of residents to creating a better world.

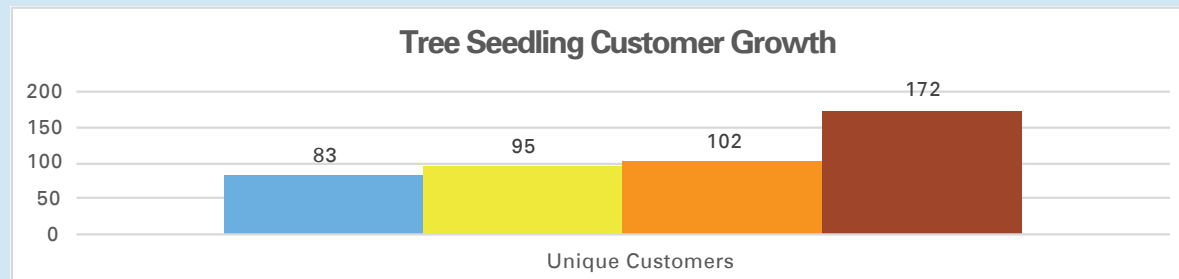
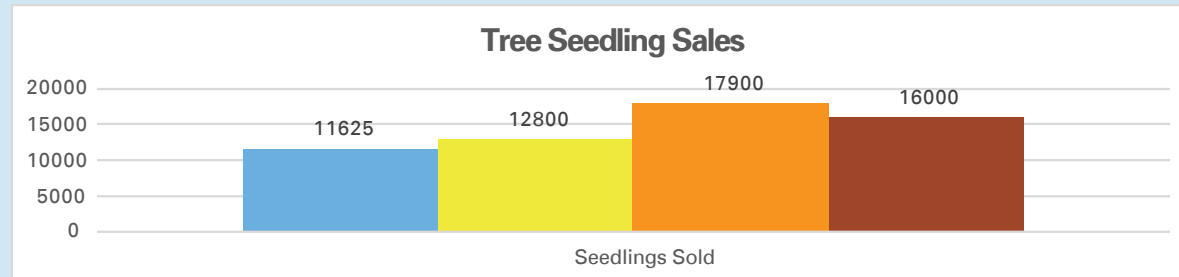


2019

2020

2021

2022



■ Worked with landowners to restore and enhance 5,860 ft or 1,786 metres of streambank and shoreline

■ With the support and participation of property owners and municipal partners, Stewardship staff protected and enhanced 17.6 hectares of land in 2022 through the 50 Million Trees program, Port Perry Community Tree Planting, Bring Back the Fish, Water Fun, OMAFRA projects and more.

■ Connected with 126 individuals, families and businesses in 2022.



**\$75,500**  
Grants

**\$326,375**  
Community /  
Landowner  
Investment

**\$227,020**

**Kawartha  
Lakes  
Landowner  
Investment**

**\$11,750**

**Kawartha Lakes  
Community  
Investment**

**\$87,605**

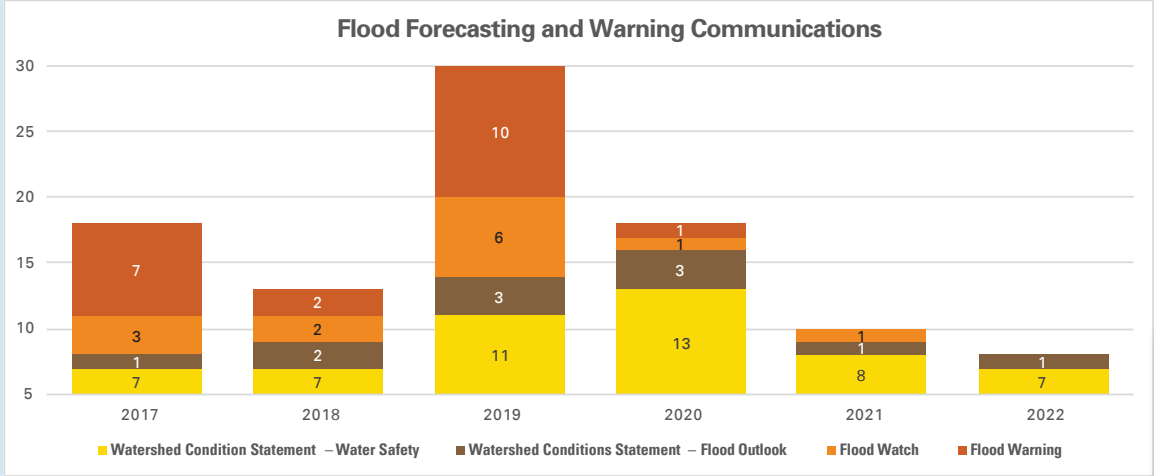
**Durham Landowner  
Investment**





# Ensure the safety of people, property and public infrastructure

As climate change results in more unpredictable weather across the Kawartha watershed, continual monitoring of flood warning and forecasting continues to be of paramount importance as conditions vary from year to year.



■ Surveyed dams, bridges and culverts within the Burnt and Gull River watershed supporting Flood Plain Mapping project.

■ Collected snow survey data at four snow courses (Indian Point, Ken Reid, Pigeon River Headwaters and Woodville) biweekly from November to April, providing data to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) surface water monitoring centre.

■ Detailed water quality monitoring occurred in multiple locations as part of watershed planning outcomes, including: Fingerboard Creek, Williams Creek, Nonquon River, Cawkers Creek, Layton River, Blackstock Creek, East Cross Creek, Sucker Creek, Janetville Creek, Stoney Creek.

■ Initiated updating the Climate Change Strategy, 2016.

■ Completed a s.34 Amendment to the Blackstock Municipal Drinking Water Systems which was approved by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) on Dec. 22, 2022.

■ Issued 26 s.59 Notices and Letters allowing development within vulnerable areas around municipal drinking water systems.

■ Negotiated three Risk Management Plans and two exemption letters with landowners or tenants engaged in significant drinking water threat activities within the vulnerable areas around municipal drinking water systems.



# Engage and Inspire

A strong community is one that is engaged, inspired, informed, and connected. Strong, collaborative, and innovative communities are part of what makes the Kawartha watershed such a rewarding place to live, work, and play. Home to many small businesses, lake associations, educational institutions, a bustling agricultural sector, and First Nations communities, we have the benefit of working with a wide range of people with diverse perspectives.

It is our responsibility to channel these perspectives, providing services, infrastructure, and community building opportunities that foster an inspired, engaged, and inclusive community; one that is able to positively impact their own future.

Impact, no matter the size, is something that can be made by anyone and everyone that understands the value of nature and is eager to learn and help protect it for future generations.

## Maintain and enhance our Conservation Areas to provide healthy outdoor experiences

Our conservation areas are the perfect place to enjoy the outdoors and calm the mind, spend time with family and friends and get physical exercise. We are dedicated to making sure our visitors enjoy their time at our conservation areas. Here are some of the ways that we have worked to enhance your time in our parks:

■ A popular summer hiking series with weekly walk and talks on trees, wildflowers, mushrooms and birds.

■ 11 Forest Therapy walks were held. Donations from the events went to the Canadian Mental Health Association.







## Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area

- New kiosk sign at Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area.
- New bridge installed at Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area allowing for the trail loop to be completed and other trail improvements
- Expanded the Talking Forest app to Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area.



## Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area & Fleetwood Creek

- New kiosk frames at Durham East Cross Forest and Fleetwood Creek Natural Area.

## Ken Reid Conservation Area

- Held the first-ever Kawartha Fall Festival at Ken Reid Conservation Area with more than 800 people attending.
- Christmas at Ken Reid event brought back this year.
- Launched the very popular Illuminated Forest at Ken Reid Conservation Area.
- New interpretive signs at Ken Reid Conservation Area.
- Nine yoga sessions were held at Ken Reid Conservation Area with a local yoga instructor, overlooking Sturgeon Lake.
- Developed a 9-hole disc golf course at Ken Reid Conservation Area.



## Community Building

Kawartha Conservation is more than just an environmental organization dedicated to the protection of people and property; Kawartha Conservation staff believe in building community through a variety of programs, services and experiences, bringing together diverse audiences, businesses, community groups and different levels of government to support our watershed communities.

- Kawartha Conservation staff attended and participated in a number of events and community-based shows ranging from agricultural to cottage and lifestyle, to talk about the importance of conservation, the environment, and how by working together we can impact positive change across our watershed and beyond. Shows included the East Central Farm Show and Country Living Show.
- Co-hosted a Real Estate Agent information session with the City of Kawartha Lakes to educate and inform on the source water protection program, as well as the planning and permitting processes.

- Hosted an information session across the Province with the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA), Ontario Petroleum Transporters and Technician Association (OPTTA), Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery (MPBSD), local Risk Management Officials, and Liquid Fuel Suppliers to share information and resources regarding private fuel outlets in vulnerable areas around municipal drinking water systems.

- Partnered with Wild Rock Outfitters to host snowshoeing and night hikes at Ken Reid Conservation Area and Windy Ridge Conservation Area.

- Partnered with the Kawartha Lakes Food Source on different initiatives to help support our watershed communities.

- 100 Kids Who Care (Kawartha Lakes) conducted a garbage clean-up event with us at Ken Reid Conservation Area.



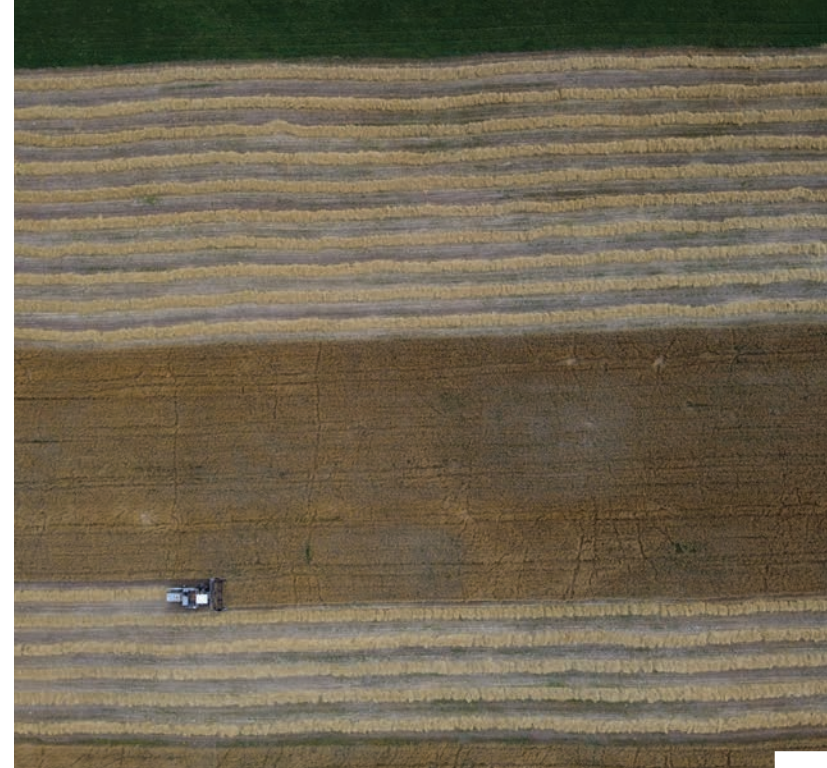


■ Fleming College students held an invasive species pull, garbage clean-up and assisted with interpretive signage at Ken Reid.

■ Partnered with the Fenelon Falls Brewing Co. for the third year to promote the Kawartha Summer Ale, a conservation-inspired beer with a portion of proceeds supporting Kawartha Conservation.

■ Partnered with Seven and Forty Six Shop in helping support the environment, people and communities across the Kawartha watershed.

■ Conducted education sessions to Grade 1 and 2 students from Leslie Frost Public School. Topics focused on Water Bugs and Forest Senses.



# Innovate and Enhance

As the Kawartha region's leader in natural asset management, Kawartha Conservation focuses on providing effective programming, opportunities and customer service to a diverse group of individuals, families, businesses and government partners.

In collaborating with local landowners, lake associations, developers, businesses, environmental organizations, educational institutions and beyond, it is clear that effective service can mean something different for everyone. Understanding this, we are driven to continue evolving, collaborating, enhancing, and innovating alongside our community members and partners, finding diverse and impactful environmental solutions that strengthens and promotes the healthy relationship between people and nature.

## Increase efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery

- Updated our information system to more efficiently and effectively deliver permits.
- A website module is in the testing phase, designed to provide active updates on permitting status for applicants
- Performed a high-level analysis of recently adopted and hybrid processes involved in Planning, and Development services to identify any efficiencies to be gained.
- Improved our ability to conduct site visits using tablets with access to proposed development plans to navigate better in the field..
- Installed a new all-weather precipitation gauge at the Trent Lakes municipal office commenced at the end of 2022. The installation will be completed in 2023, providing a better perspective on watershed precipitation totals and trends.
- Improved environmental information for planning purposes related to watercourses, permanent and intermittent streams, and ecologically significant groundwater recharge areas in the Durham portions of our watershed.

■ Hosted Agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) webinar in collaboration with the TRCA (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority), LSRCA (Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority), and OSCIA (Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association)

■ Participated on the East Central Farm Stewardship Collaborative and ALUS Peterborough Participant Advisory Committee, and the City of Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee and participated in a number of agricultural events.

■ Presented at the Environmental Farm Plan workshop and the Victoria Soil and Crop Improvement Association AGM.

■ 2022 Bell Let's Talk day – Forest Therapy walks to raise awareness and reduce the stigma attached to Mental Health issues. The Forest Therapy program was widely used this year and demonstrates the impact and importance of spending time in nature.





- Introduced online and mobile app for paid parking at Windy Ridge, Pigeon River and Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Areas for ease of use.
- We created an interactive, on-line display of monitoring information collected for the Lake Dalrymple Management Plan, to provide feedback to the community as information is collected.
- An internal interactive dashboard for Flood Inspections was developed to assist in our role in flood forecasting. This dashboard displays live on the ground information inputted by Flood Patrol crews to the Flood Coordinator situated back at the office.
- Generated an interactive report showing the Ontario Low Water Response Index for Kawartha Conservation watershed on our website as we work to make our information readily accessible. Users can select from different precipitation locations and dates ranging from 2004-2022 and display information.



## Share our stories to enhance community awareness

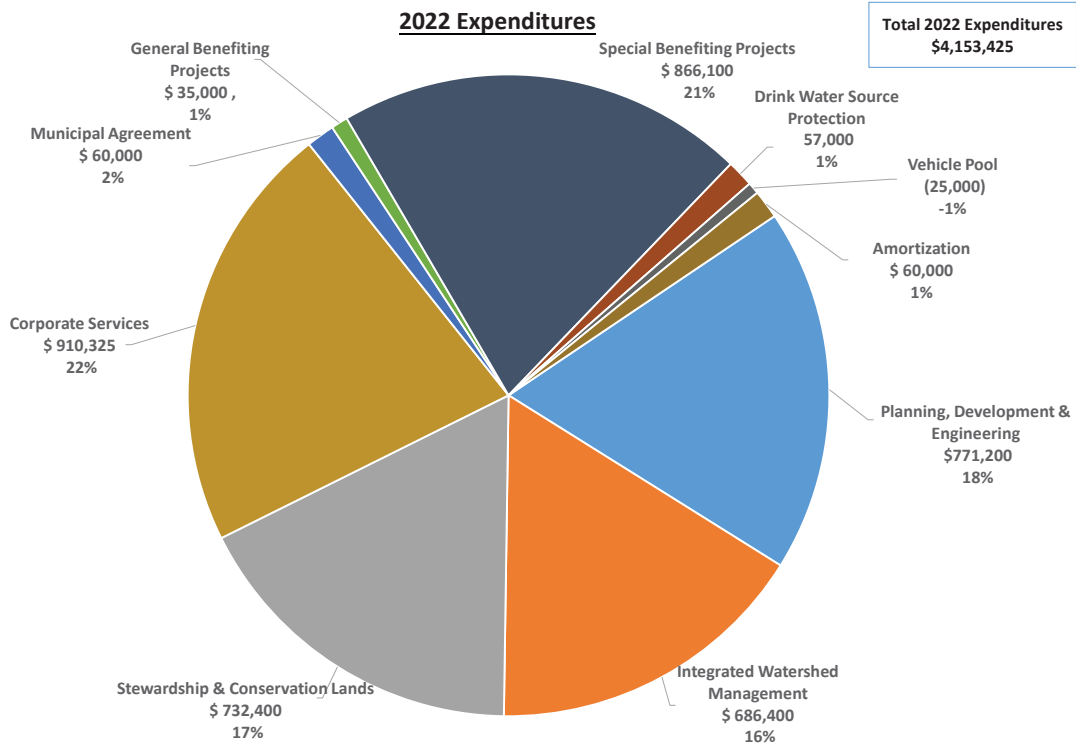
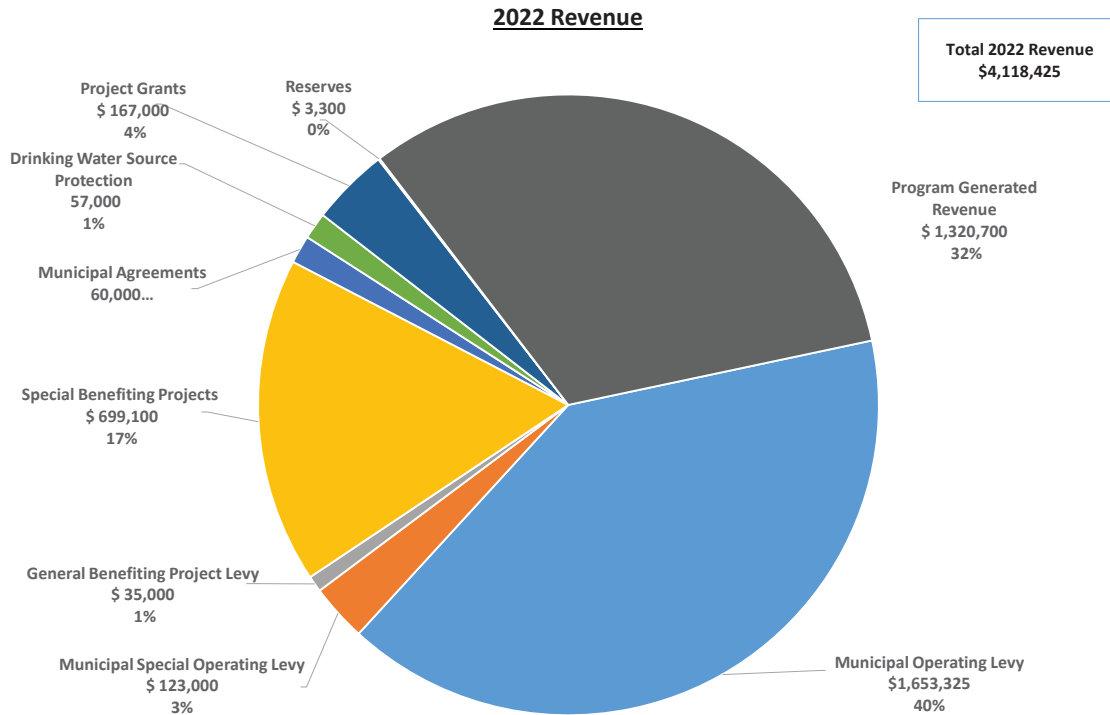
- 61 media releases were provided to our communities outlining how we are helping ensure environmental sustainability for the future, resulting in multiple radio, television and podcast interviews and subsequent stories.
- Staff attended the Kawartha Haliburton Children’s Water Festival with a booth “All About Wetlands”. Students from the Trillium Lakelands District School Board participated in an interactive activity demonstrating the value of wetlands on the landscape.
- We drafted three reports outlining key findings from active monitoring programs related to nearshore monitoring of our lakes and detailed monitoring of several streams.

- Kawartha Conservation was a guest speaker at the Canadian Club in Lindsay on the work of Conservation Authorities.
- Multiple engagements with Fleming College on forestry, forest therapy, Conservation Authority compliance programs and invasive species management.
- Collaborated with the Canadian Association for Mental Health (CAMHI) on future opportunities to combine Mood Walks and Forest Therapy to benefit the community.





# Finances



NOTE: This financial information is condensed from the Board of Directors' Approved 2022 Budget Summary. The complete auditor's report for the year ended December 31, 2022 is anticipated to be available in May 2023, copies of which will be available on our website.