2014

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

ANNUAL REPORT

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Toronto and Region Conservation
for The Living City®

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Message from the CEO

The theme of our Annual Report for 2014 is "Community Connections." Whether found in Dr. A.H. Richardson's early book, "Conservation by the People" or TRCA's recent "The Living City Report Card", there has been a constant call to listen to community needs and respond through community action. Forging connections with the people living in the areas we serve has been at the forefront of the work of conservation authorities for decades – work that we are passionate about and committed to continue.

The GTA is one of the most diverse communities on Earth, rich in culture, language and religion. People from all over the world come to this wonderful place to create better lives for their families. In this Annual Report we ask you to think of diverse communities in other ways as well. TRCA seeks to listen to and act on behalf of everyone we serve. We believe that a sustainable city region must have the sensitivity and capacity to protect, support and regenerate all kinds of communities.

In this report you will see that TRCA has programs and projects that engage with cultural communities, neighborhood communities, business communities and academic communities, but also forest communities, fish communities, bird communities and many others.

We have a broad and unique way of defining the communities we serve. We try to speak for those that have no voice, but that contribute immeasurable richness to the city region we call home. At the same time we listen to those that have strong and sometimes conflicting voices and seek to find a balance that allows an ever growing population to thrive.

TRCA contributes by providing opportunities to discover and enjoy the unique natural wonders of our amazing geography. There is a deep sense of pride within TRCA for the work that we do every day in every type of community we serve. Whether it's businesses, schools, user groups, homeowners or government ministries, we are committed to enhancing communities on every level – from the streams you wade in, to the rivers you fish in, to the woodland areas you hike through and the land that we develop for future generations.

It all begins with a conversation. So take a moment and think; 'what communities are you passionate about?' and 'how might TRCA assist you in achieving your vision?'

We're here to listen. Let's talk.

Brian Denney
Chief Executive Officer

Message from the Chair

It's been said that without compassion, there can be no community. When it comes to the important work of Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), I don't believe there is a more fitting comment.

For more than two decades, it has been my sincere honour to serve TRCA. In that time, I've learned so much about the purpose behind this vital organization and the passion of the people who work for it. As Chair of the Authority for eight years, I've been fortunate to see first-hand the painstaking research and implementation that goes into every single TRCA initiative. I've seen the pride of those who are making a difference in the communities they serve and in those who call the nine watersheds in our jurisdiction their home.

More than anything, I've been moved by the commitment to improving and enhancing the bonds of communities shared by everyone at TRCA. No matter the differences of language, culture or race, we are devoted to bringing about positive change and growth in every community we are a part of through the vast array of projects and programs we offer. No matter if it's an educational seminar for homeowners, in-class programs for school children or helping businesses adopt eco-friendly practices, TRCA is there for its communities. How truly remarkable!

To everything there is a season, and my time as Chair of the Authority is now past. I cherish my 23 years spent with this incredible organization and look to the future with optimism, knowing the passionate people will continue to effect positive change in all the communities they serve.

Thank you.

Gerri Lynn O'Connor,
Chair

Preserving the natural resources of the Greater Toronto Area is more than just a mandated responsibility of the TRCA. It's what drives us to do more and to do better for the nine watersheds within our jurisdiction. Conservation, protection and restoration underpin everything that we do and provide the focus for our comprehensive watershed and waterfront plans, our pioneering studies and reports, and our ground-breaking research on the impacts of ever-changing weather.

WATERSHED STUDIES AND STRATEGIES

180
cyclists of all ages visited cultural and natural heritage sites along Etobicoke Creek during the first annual Bike the Creek event organized by the Brampton Bicycle Advisory Committee, the City of Brampton and TRCA, with support from the Town of Caledon, Peel Region and Cyclepath Brampton.

23 bags
of invasive garlic mustard were removed by some of the more than 3,000 attendees at the 16th annual Mill Pond Splash Eco Festival in Richmond Hill on June 1, 2014. Participants also planted native trees and wildflowers, built "toad abodes," enjoyed nature hikes and water walks and renewed their connection to the environment.

150+
people were engaged during the public launch of the Scarborough Waterfront Project Environmental Assessment. This project will create a system of greenspaces along the Lake Ontario shoreline which respect and protect the significant natural and cultural features of the Bluffs, enhance the terrestrial and aquatic habitat, and provide a safe and enjoyable waterfront experience.

69.3 secs
was all the time it took the team from Mount Sinai Hospital to win the second annual Heart Lake Dragon Boat Festival. A total of 11 teams competed, raising $12,000 to support environmental regeneration projects in the watershed of the Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks.

2,300
fish were captured, identified and released back into Duffins Creek in a joint project with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and Trout Unlimited Canada to bring back Atlantic salmon and protect other native fish species.

305
canoes and other boats registered for the 21st annual Manulife Paddle the Don event, floating downriver from Ernest Thompson Seton Park to the mouth at the Keating Channel – experiencing nature in the heart of the city – while raising $105,000 for projects in the watershed.

80+
dendrophiliacs (or "tree-lovers") gathered, in the North York Central Library for the launch of the Discover the Don Speaker Series to hear an expert panel discuss the value of Toronto trees, some of the threats to the city's tree canopy and efforts to restore it.

19
events at Rouge Days 2014 attracted 652 visitors for a series of guided walks, birding hikes, Eco Explorations and Geo Tours. Participants also paddled the Rouge, joined Hazel for tea and tales at the Rouge Valley Mennonite Church, and helped create new habitat at the mouth of the Rouge.

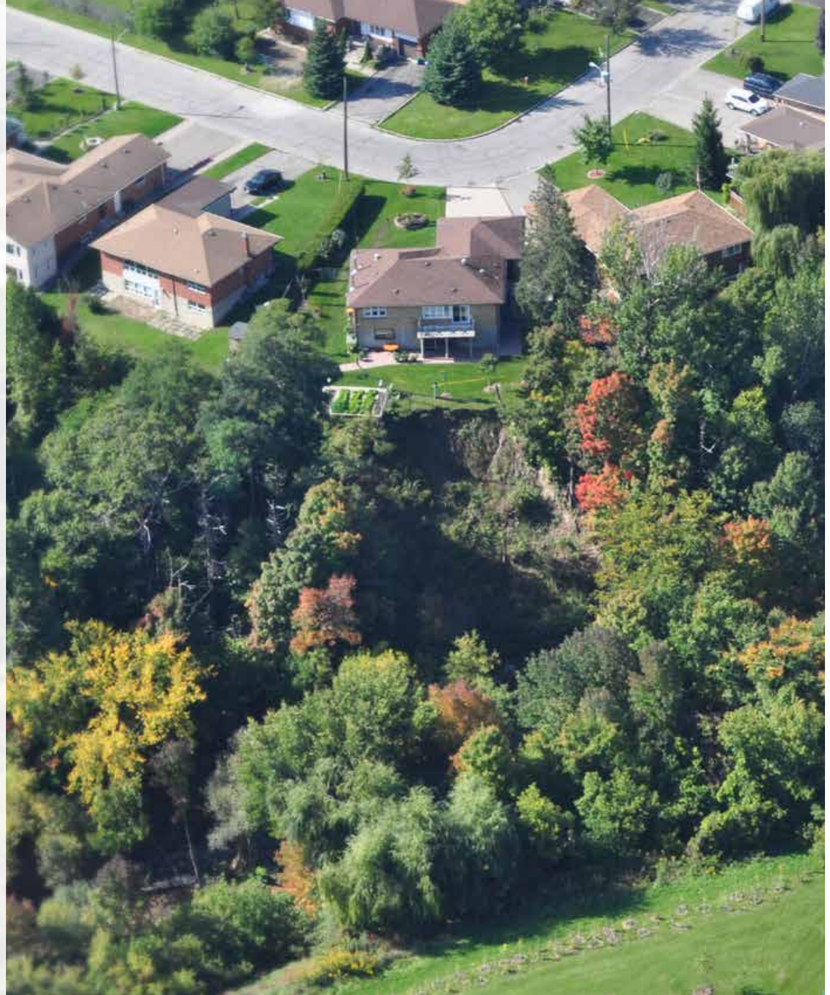
5,000+
individuals followed our new Discover the Don blog at www.discoverthedon.ca/ to access more than 100 news and event postings, share their photos, view "Throwback" pics from the past and connect with fellow Don River enthusiasts.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT:

Adapting to new weather realities requires teamwork

Dangerous flooding, extreme heat waves, and severe winter storms – an in-depth understanding of our changing climate will be critical to safeguarding the ecosystem and built infrastructure in our communities. That's why TRCA created the Extreme Team, an in-house cross-divisional working group, to address the biggest climate and extreme weather related challenges we face. We also contributed to, and in many cases led, climate change risk and vulnerability assessments with our municipal partners in Peel, York, Durham and Toronto. TRCA continued to serve as the secretariat for the Ontario Climate Consortium (OCC), a collaborative of researchers dedicated to advancing applied climate science across the province. With the support of our academic, municipal, private and public partners, we:

- completed a five-year strategic plan for OCC based on three program areas – climate information, climate impacts and adaptation, and knowledge mobilization;
- coordinated funding for five new collaborative research projects on topics ranging from agricultural production to hydrologic impact assessments; and
- hosted over 200 researchers and practitioners at our annual climate change symposium.



Hurricane Hazel, the storm that ravaged the GTA 60 years ago, forever changed the way we look at protecting the city and its residents from potentially destructive floods. Since then, our water risk management programs have expanded to include groundwater and source water protection, erosion monitoring and control, and stormwater management. Paired with the sciences of hydrogeology, hydrology and hydraulics, and engineering we are better positioned than ever before to protect our residents, their property and the region's environmental resources.

WATER RISK MANAGEMENT

$4.7 million

of funding from City of Toronto and Region of Peel was allocated to erosion control projects, including detailed geotechnical investigations at 132 properties in Toronto and 15 in Mississauga, stabilization works at 18 properties and on-going monitoring of more than 200 private properties.

17

watershed conditions statements, 2 flood watches and 2 flood warnings, together with special river ice forecast and spring melt messages, were issued in 2014 to provide our municipal partners with timely information about flood risks so that they could take the appropriate precautions and keep the public safe.

10 years

of dedicated work went into the preparation of our Source Water Protection Plan, which identifies threats to local drinking water supplies and effective strategies to reduce or eliminate these risks. The Plan was submitted for approval to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change in December 2014.

12,155

users from 40 countries logged on to TRCA's real-time gauging website, www.trcagauging.com, at some time during 2014 to access current and trending information about water levels in rivers and reservoirs across the GTA, as well as forecasted rainfall and weather conditions.

756

followers received updates, forecasts, warnings and advice during severe rainfall events and flood related emergencies through @TRCA_Flood, TRCA's Flood Management Twitter account. In return, our flood duty officers receive invaluable information about flood conditions.

$500,000

in funding from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources supported three flood infrastructure projects: upgrading the emergency gates at the G. Ross Lord Reservoir, installing a new bridge railing at the Claireville Dam and removing sediment from the Black Creek Channel.

5

private properties along the Scarborough Bluffs, where ongoing erosion is putting the homes at risk, were included in the design process for stabilization works.

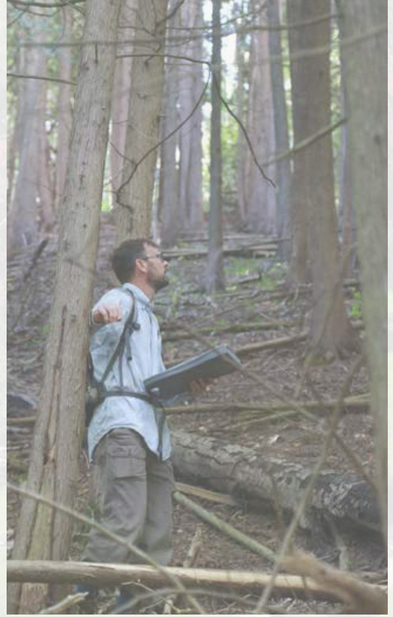
60 years

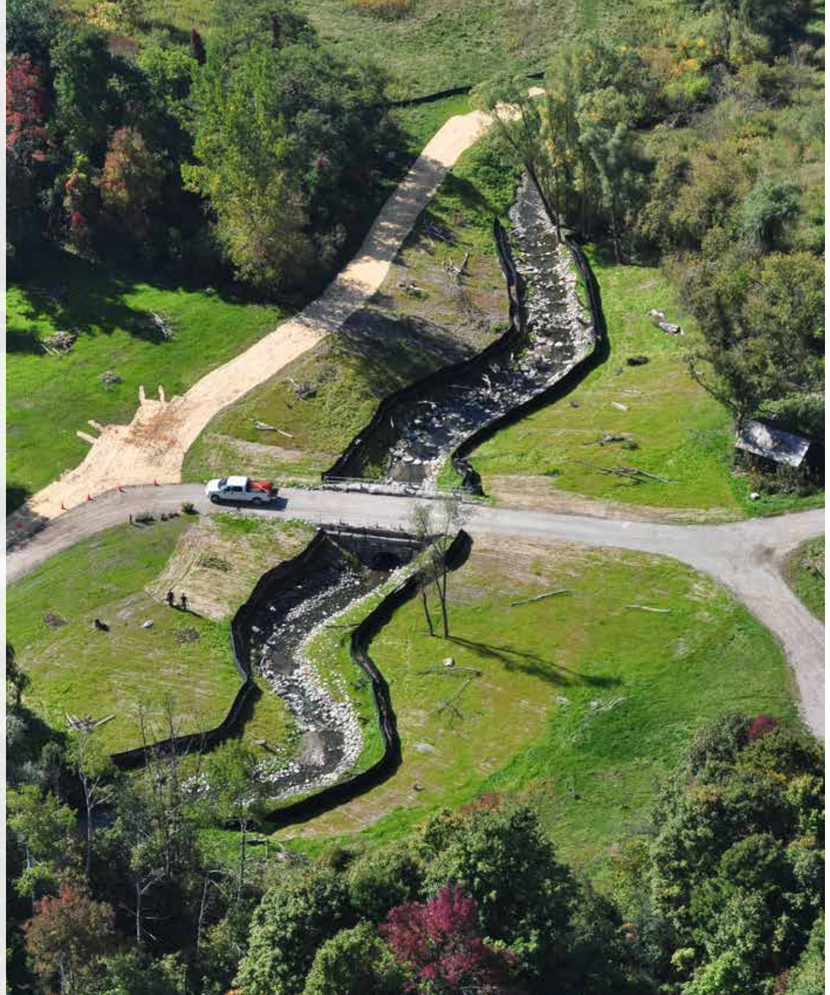
have passed since Hurricane Hazel smashed through the GTA on October 15, 1954. The occasion was marked with walking tours of the lower Humber River, extensive media coverage and a social media campaign.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT:

Erosion control a top priority in wake of damaging storms

A devastating storm on July 8, 2013, dumped up to 126 millimetres of rain on some areas of the GTA. Subsequent erosion and flooding damaged some 500 private properties and caused losses of more than $850 million. While erosion control has always been part of TRCA's mandate, that storm refocused attention on the increasing risk such severe weather events pose to the vulnerable homes and businesses that border our watercourses, especially in older established neighbourhoods, as well as the bridges and other urban infrastructure that cross them. Since that day in 2013, we have been collaborating with our key municipal and regional partners – including Toronto Water and the city's Parks, Forestry & Recreation department – on a number of important erosion control projects, including the East Humber River erosion mitigation project and Whitburn project. The TRCA Restoration Services team has also been working with landowners to remove structures from the tops of unstable slopes, re-route downspouts to reduce erosion, and carefully document potential risks to private structures and public safety.





From the brilliant scarlet tanager to the tiny redside dace darting in a cold water stream, every living creature is precious. That's why TRCA is dedicated to protecting the rich biodiversity of our region. We are restoring valleys, streams, shorelines and wetlands. We are removing invasive plant species, creating habitat for wildlife communities, and re-connecting natural areas. Through all this work, TRCA is preserving the valuable biodiversity in its nine watersheds, creating a healthier environment for both the people and the wildlife that call the GTA home.

REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY

145
volunteers supported our monitoring activities, including 11 students from Seneca College's environmental sampling and monitoring program, who helped TRCA technical staff collect data on surface water quality, benthic invertebrates, fish communities and stream conditions.

1,508
different sampling sites and special project areas were monitored regularly to provide important environmental data on the health of ecosystems across our jurisdiction, to assess the success of restoration and protection projects, and to show where future efforts should be targeted.

15
in-stream dams, weirs and other barriers were removed to allow fish and other aquatic organisms to travel freely along an additional 21 km of our watercourses. For example, restoration of 140 metres of Marigold Creek allowed endangered redside dace to access vital upstream habitats.

200 km
of waterfront, river mouths and estuaries along the shores of Lake Ontario are the subject of our Urban Recreational Fisheries Plan, a strategic framework for encouraging people to fish GTA waters and for protecting and restoring fish habitat.

4
conductivity monitors were installed on the Seaton Lands in 2014 to provide us continuous readings on water purity and help us track the impacts of road salt, septic tank and landfill leachate, and agricultural runoff on streams running through this developing area.

275
state-of-the-art monitoring instruments – including temperature loggers, digital telemetry units for assessing groundwater quantity, stream flow gauges and climate monitoring stations – allowed TRCA to track environmental conditions year-round.

105,266
individual biodiversity data records were collected in 2014 to support our long-term policy and planning activities, including data on aquatic and terrestrial species, flora and vegetation surveys and West Nile virus larvae records.

53
hectares of wetland, riparian and terrestrial habitat were restored in 2014. Restoring habitats connects wildlife populations with each other and also helps connect people with nature to foster citizen stewardship.

$6 million
was invested in habitat restoration and wildlife and habitat management projects in 2014 to improve our local and regional biodiversity.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT:
Improving wildlife safety

As urban areas grow, human and wildlife habitats are going to inevitably intersect. That means we have a responsibility and opportunity to step in to protect the most vulnerable wildlife. This is the basis of work taking place along Heart Lake Road in Brampton. Every year, during peak migratory and hatching seasons, this busy roadway which bisects a provincially significant wetland complex in the Etobicoke Creek watershed, threatens the lives of painted turtles, leopard frogs and other wildlife that cross the road to mate, feed or lay eggs.

TRCA partnered with the City of Brampton, the Ontario Road Ecology Group at the Toronto Zoo, and concerned local citizens to undertake the Heart Lake Road Ecology Monitoring Project to determine which species are being impacted and how we might reduce the toll. In 2014 "citizen scientists" continued to routinely patrol the shoulders and ditches lining a 2.5 km stretch of Heart Lake Road, searching for signs of "wildlife-vehicle collisions". TRCA then worked closely with project partners to design solutions – including the installation of signs, oversized culverts that run beneath the road at crossing hotspots, and directional fencing to guide wildlife. The work will continue in 2015 with project partners and volunteers implementing solutions and evaluating their effectiveness. For example, the City of Brampton committed to short-term road closures during peak migration periods across Heart Lake Road. The results emphasize the importance of community engagement and partnerships in addressing environmental problems.

TRCA has a long and successful history of working with non-governmental organizations, non-profits, land trusts, municipal governments and other community partners to develop and implement management strategies for our land assets. In 2014, alone, we had the opportunity to collaborate with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the Greenbelt Foundation, the Humber Valley Heritage Trail Association, the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, to name just a few.

LAND SECUREMENT AND MANAGEMENT

191
individual archaeological assessments were conducted in 2014, resulting in the addition of 20 new sites to the archaeological record and the collection of almost 20,000 artefacts, reinforcing our cultural heritage and building a tangible connection to the past.

20
new caliper trees (a tree with a stem wider than 2 inches) will be planted at Heart Lake thanks to funding from Trees for Life. They are part of a larger plan to plant up to 200 trees at various TRCA conservation areas that lost mature shade and canopy trees in the ice storm of December 2013.

20.21 hectares
of ecologically sensitive land, located in the Town of Caledon, was donated by Lorna Ann Milne in 2014. Securement will ensure the long term protection of the site, which is rich in rare flora and fauna species and forms part of a provincially significant wetland and the Innis-Gibson Lake Kettles.

3,485
hazardous trees that posed a safety hazard to visitors on our public trails were removed in accordance with the TRCA's operational procedures. In addition, 1.5 km of unauthorized trails were closed, the sites remediated and new groundcover, trees and shrubs planted.

55 hectares
of land were leased to our farming partners at the McVean New Farmers project, the Albion Hills Community Farm, the Black Creek Community Farm and The Living City Farm to support the growing of healthy local food within the GTA.

172.4 km
of trailways were maintained, overgrown vegetation pruned and mowed and minor damage repaired. This included work within the Granger Greenway, the Bolton Resource Management Tract, the East Duffins Headwaters and the Greenwood Conservation Lands.

84,800 kg
of locally-grown fresh food was produced in 2014 at TRCA's new-urban farms, while 21 new farmers had an opportunity to hone their agricultural skills and over 4,000 people were engaged in learning and other events.

3
highly invasive plant species – dog strangling vine, garlic mustard and multi-flora rose – were inventoried on a number of properties in the East Duffins Headwaters lands to map their spread along trails and their impact on native species of concern.

470 metres
of new boardwalk were installed to allow the public to access and enjoy wet areas, while minimizing disturbance to the natural vegetation, protecting local habitat and allowing the free movement of water on the site.

61
hectares of environmentally significant land were acquired,primarily through development conveyance requirements, raising our total holdings of natural heritage lands to 18,024 hectares.

IMPACT SNAPSHOTS:

Community support makes biking trail a reality

In 2014, TRCA and the Durham Mountain Biking Association (DMBA) completed a partnership agreement to create 12 kilometres of new cycling-focused trails on our Dagmar North property in the Township of Uxbridge. Fulfilling a priority recommendation in the East Duffins Headwaters Management Plan Update, the plan would re-establish a number of formerly well-used trails for mountain bikers that have been largely abandoned and overgrown since 2006.To make the project a reality, the Association will provide the expert services of a host of volunteers trained in sustainable trail building techniques as well as a significant financial contribution. The creation of the cycling trails is expected to reduce user conflicts along other multi-use trail routes, while improving connectivity with nearby headwaters properties. Moving forward, TRCA also hopes to establish a trail maintenance agreement with the DMBA.

Oak Ridges Trail will form key part of part of north-south network

In 2014, TRCA completed the Phase 2 construction of 1,700 metres of a new multi-use recreational spine trail through the Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve in Richmond Hill. Once finished, five kilometres of pedestrian and cycling trail infrastructure, located on scenic TRCA lands, will provide connections to inter-regional, regional, commuter and local trail networks. Eventually, it will form part of a network stretching from Lake Simcoe to Lake Ontario. The project was made possible through the outstanding support of our municipal and regional partners, with the Town of Richmond Hill contributing $360,000 and the Regional Municipality of York another $167,000 toward construction of this project.

A series of exciting new partnerships with entrepreneurs, non-profits and local municipalities are attracting many first time visitors to our conservation lands and facilities. It might be a night of stirring theatre at Black Creek Pioneer Village, or an exhilarating obstacle course racing event at Albion Hills, or a handle bar-clenching lap around the hilly BMX course at Bruce's Mill. We've co-hosted a series of fun, stimulating events in 2014 that will continue to bring our communities together.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

300 metres

of BMX dirt bike racing track – which meets international standards – was constructed at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, in partnership with the Town of Witchurch-Stouffville. Scheduled to open in 2015, the course incorporates 9 obstacles and a "rhythm section," perfect for anyone seeking speed and fun!

72 hours

is all it took to completely book the fall season of the popular Field to Fork one-day education program, developed in partnership with Everdale. Students harvested produce at the Black Creek Community Farm before travelling to BCPV to cook a tasty meal in a historic kitchen.

100s

of dolls – and their "families" -- attended the first Maplelea Meet-Up, sponsored by BCPV and Avonlea Traditions. Close to 1,000 visitors enjoyed a traditional tea party, learned Victorian dancing, played popular games of the 1800s and shopped in the Maplelea pop-up shop.

2

plays were produced at Black Creek Pioneer Village (BCPV) by the Humber River Shakespeare Company during the 2014 season, with top-notch productions of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" and Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," both attracting new audiences to the Village.

4,000+

birders flocked to Tommy Thompson Park for a series of feather-focused activities during the Spring Bird Festival and the Winter Waterfowl Festival, as well as during school field trips, weekend birding hikes and special events at the TTP Bird Research Station.

1 in 10

Canadians are descended from the 118,000 British "Home Children" shipped to Canada from 1869 to 1948. Some of their stories were told in a compelling exhibit, "Breaking the Silence," presented by the British Home Children Advocacy and Research Association at BCPV.

1/7/14

more than 8,000 party-goers celebrated Canada's birthday as TRCA hosted the 18th annual Caledon Canada Day at Albion Hills, in partnership with the Town of Caledon, government agencies, local service clubs, businesses, community groups and vendors.

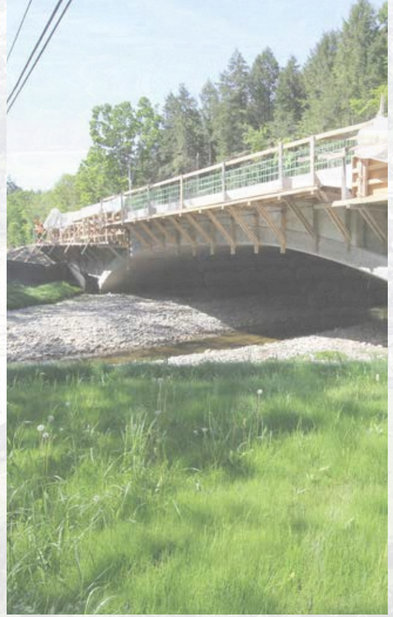
200+

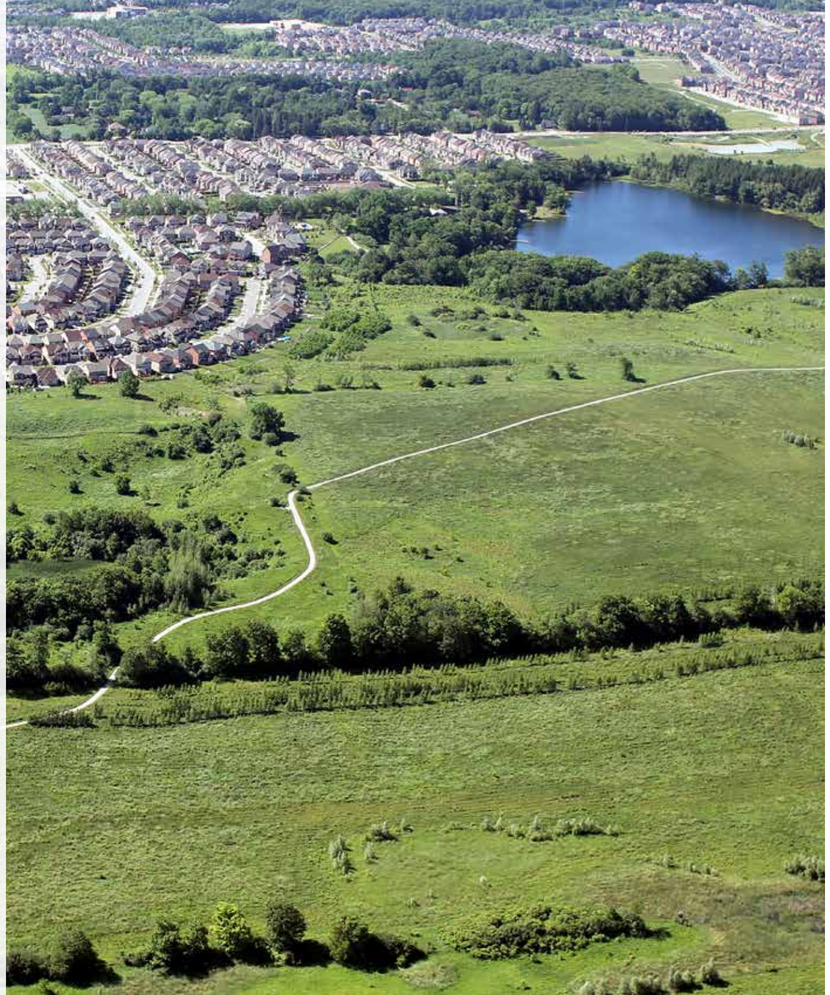
beautiful handmade quilts were on display at the 2nd annual Quilts at the Creek at BCPV, held in partnership with the York Heritage Quilters Guild. Visitors could learn how quilts are made, enjoy a quilter's marketplace and even get a quilt appraised.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT:

Putting the adventure back into racing

Over the summer of 2014, some 17,000 racers visited Albion Hills Conservation Area, many for the first time, to take part in a number of adventure races. These included the 5k Run or Dye – where runners are doused in colourful, environmentally friendly powders every kilometre – as well as Chico Racing's 24 Hours of Summer Solstice mountain bike race and the gruelling 6k Mud Hero military-style obstacle course race. Three-year contracts signed in November 2014 for just two of these three events that will generate $500,000 in revenue for TRCA. On September 6, more than 400 runners took part in a 5 Peaks Trail Running Series race, a popular phenomenon that's spread across the country, held for the first time at Kortright Centre. Geared for all ages and skill levels, the muddy, cross-country event included both entry-level and intermediate courses, plus a range of popular kids' events. Kortright has already been selected to host the Grand Finale of Ontario's 5 Peaks six-race series in 2015, which will include a half-marathon.





Planning and Development Services staff help grow green developments across the GTA, forging a stronger connection between ecological and human communities. Through environmental assessment, planning and permit review processes, we collaborate to improve development and infrastructure proposals that preserve natural features, enhance environmental buffers and create opportunities to experience the natural world. Whether it's a greenfield project, revitalization of a derelict site, or the remediation of failing, damaged, or undersized infrastructure, there are always ways to re-connect people with nature and contribute to the vibrancy of the city.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

88
environmental assessments – impact studies for major roads, transit corridors, pipelines, parks and trail projects – were reviewed by our staff. Our team's review of this infrastructure is instrumental in connecting people to places, while ensuring that ecological connections are maintained.

52
Ontario Municipal Board hearings and an additional six Official Plan appeals required the special expertise of TRCA, which mediated and negotiated for conservation-related interests, such as more greenspace and protection of flood vulnerable areas.

40+
trail projects were reviewed throughout our jurisdiction to encourage pedestrian movement, connect communities and foster nature-based experiences in the urban realm.

2,000+
planning and permit applications were reviewed, out of which over 1,000 were new permit applications.

1,045
inquiries from solicitors and realtors serving clients with development aspirations on TRCA regulated properties were answered by our policy team in 2014. Our responses provide prospective purchasers and developers with critical insights on how TRCA interests affect their property.

4,843
permit sites were inspected by TRCA Enforcement Officers. The enforcement arm of Planning and Development plays an important role in natural system management, ensuring that on-the-ground works comply with approvals issued under TRCA's regulation.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT:
Building community connections

One of the most important jobs done in 2014 by the TRCA Planning and Development team was preparing the guiding principles established in *The Living City Policies for Planning and Development in the Watersheds of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.*

This comprehensive, leading-edge document puts even greater emphasis on The Living City vision of connecting environmental health with human health and safety. It outlines the goals, objectives and policies of planning and development, as well as the planning, environmental and regulatory responsibilities to which TRCA adheres to.

Here are just some examples of how The Living City Policies for Planning and Development were implemented in 2014:

- TRCA collaborated with the cities of Toronto and Vaughan in renaturalizing portions of the heavily urbanized Highland, Mimico, and Black creeks as part of urban revitalization projects.
- We reviewed proposals for a large-span bridge across the Humber River – part of the Bolton Arterial Road – to ensure its design not only addressed ecological connections at the river crossing, but also included new trail construction and fish habitats.
- TRCA assisted partner municipalities, and the Cities of Woodbridge and Brampton, to gain approval from provincial ministries for the Special Policy Areas. These complex planning policy projects help ensure that communities retain a "sense of place." TRCA works with stakeholders to balance urban revitalization and design with the cultural heritage of older communities in the flood plain, while managing risks to public safety.

Through its wide array of educational and outreach programs, TRCA is spreading the word about environmental and wildlife preservation. From preschoolers up to high school students, adults and seniors, TRCA offers valuable, hands-on educational sessions either in the field or on-site in their own classrooms. In 2014, students learned about biodiversity, sustainable communities and, healthy rivers and streams. For adults, we offered professional training in renewable energy and emerging green technology.

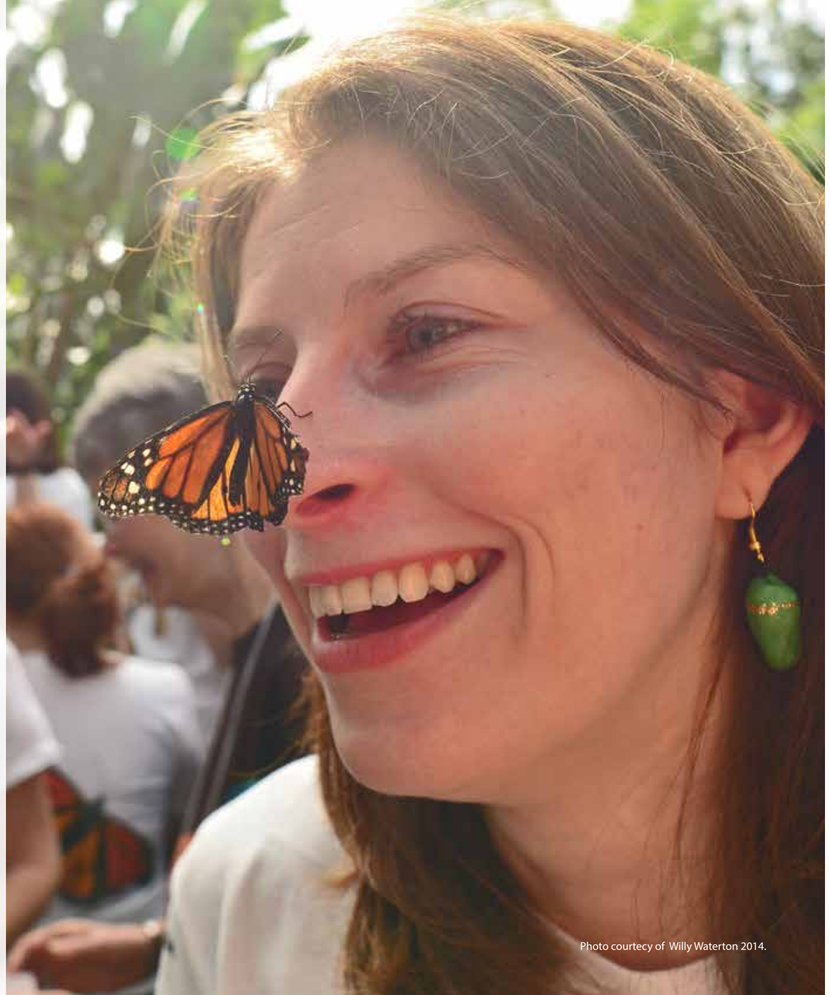


Photo courtesy of Willy Waterton 2014.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Nearly 50,000
students, from pre-school to adult learners, took a trip to the past during one of the many education programs offered at Black Creek Pioneer Village in 2014. Interactive programs cover a wide range of curriculum requirements, including the Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education and Science and Technology.

20
children with a variety of with sensory and physical challenges took part our new Nature Therapy Program, developed in partnership with York Region's Early Intervention Services Department. The multi-week program allows children to interact with nature in an outdoor setting as part of their therapy.

400+
students in grades 4 and 6 explored the diverse habitats and communities that make up Tommy Thompson Park in City Life, Wildlife, a 2 1/2-hour program supported by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. Other classes took advantage of our Winged Migration and Aquatic Plants programs.

50
monarch butterflies were collected, reared and released by the TRCA's education team in preparation for the Monarch Teacher Network of Canada's Teaching & Learning with Monarch Butterflies workshops during the summer. Over 120 educators and butterfly enthusiasts attended the five province-wide workshops.

400
conservation authority and government staff, product manufacturers and consultants attended the 3rd Annual TRIECA Conference,. Co-hosted by TRCA and the International Erosion Control Association, the conference covered recent developments in stormwater management and erosion and sediment control.

5,800
volunteer hours were earned collectively by 174 high school students through our Conservation Youth Corps program. The students earned volunteer hours by removing invasive plants, building a boardwalk, creating a new trail and mulching, weeding and painting at 20 stewardship sites in York and Peel regions.

3,100
enthusiastic students from some of the province's most vulnerable communities participated in TRCA's Integrated Learning Programs, which combine in-school classroom learning with an overnight trip to one of Ontario's leading outdoor education centres, thanks to the support of our generous sponsors.

8,329
public visitors and 10,525 pre-booked groups enjoyed the Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival at either the Kortright Centre or Bruce's Mill and learned about past and present maple syrup production methods, while sampling some sweet Canadian treats.

28,400
elementary and high school students took part in one of our three curriculum-linked, mobile, environmental education programs: Watershed on Wheels, the Aquatic Plants Program, or the Yellow Fish Road™ program.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT:

Advancing new technological tools one STEP at a time

Many innovative technologies are launched into the market place every year, promising to improve our lives while paying tangible environmental dividends. However, a lack of reputable information on product performance and cost effectiveness can hamper commercial success. For 10 years, the multi-agency Sustainable Technologies Evaluation Program (STEP), led by TRCA, has been monitoring and evaluating clean water, air and energy technologies to help bridge that gap.

In 2014, we completed eight assessments of stormwater management, green infrastructure and renewable energy technologies, and conducted on-going field evaluations of seven additional green technologies. We also led the stormwater management consortium of the Canadian Environmental Technology Verification Program, developed a Best Practices Guideline for the inspection and maintenance of low impact development practices, and hosted some 22 professional outreach and training events attended by over 1,500 participants. Whether it's controlling sediments from construction sites, restoring healthy urban soils or field testing energy efficient alternatives, we will continue to work with our municipal, provincial and private sector partners to evaluate and showcase some of the exciting environmental solutions available today.

Our stewardship programs get people outdoors and engaged in their communities while initiating and facilitating progress on sustainability in the Toronto region. We offer a variety of hands-on options to mobilize and empower residents, including community litter clean up events, movie nights, native tree / shrub / wildflower planting events, interpretive nature walks and a series of homeowner workshops with a focus on low impact development and landscaping for water conservation.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

51
new Canadians enrolled in TRCA's Professional Access into Employment (PAIE) program in 2014, which will assist them in obtaining professional employment in the fields of environmental engineering, geoscience, planning and ecology. To date, 19 have found jobs and 12 have been matched with mentors.

55
hospital facilities in Ontario and Alberta, representing 25 million square feet of space, have enrolled in our Greening Health Care initiative. Those hospitals that achieved savings were able to reduce energy use by over 145,000 eMWh, reduced costs by $2.4 million and cut their greenhouse gas emissions by over 8,000 tonnes.

12
municipalities are now enrolled in the Mayors' Megawatt Challenge, with Peel Region, Guelph and Markham joining in 2014, adding another 75 buildings with a combined square footage of nearly 700,000. Members achieved energy savings of over 2,500 eMWh, representing a reduction of 639 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

200 m^2
of underutilized pavement at the Russet Homes Housing Co-operative was torn up by 25 hardworking volunteers and transformed into a community garden and green common space as part of SNAP Burnhamthorpe's Depave Paradise Project to reduce runoff and increase local food production.

52
energy conservation projects were implemented by members of Partners in Project Green collectively generating $1.5 million in annual savings, cutting energy use by 18,793 eMWh – 21% more than the original target – and equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions of 640 light duty vehicles.

359
homeowners adopted at least one retrofit initiative through one of our Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plans (SNAP). These included 144 homes in the Black Creek SNAP, 77 homes in the Lake Wilcox SNAP and 138 homes in the County Court SNAP.

15
technical workshops and over 60 hours of in-class training were offered through PAIE in 2014. Our technical skills workshops are application-oriented and aimed at helping internationally-trained candidates develop their business, interpersonal and communication skills.

77
homes in the Lake Wilcox SNAP adopted eco-landscaping plans to cut runoff and increase the amount of rainfall absorbed in their yards and gardens. An additional 51 trees were planted in neighbourhoods and water consumption was reduced by 97,020 litres.

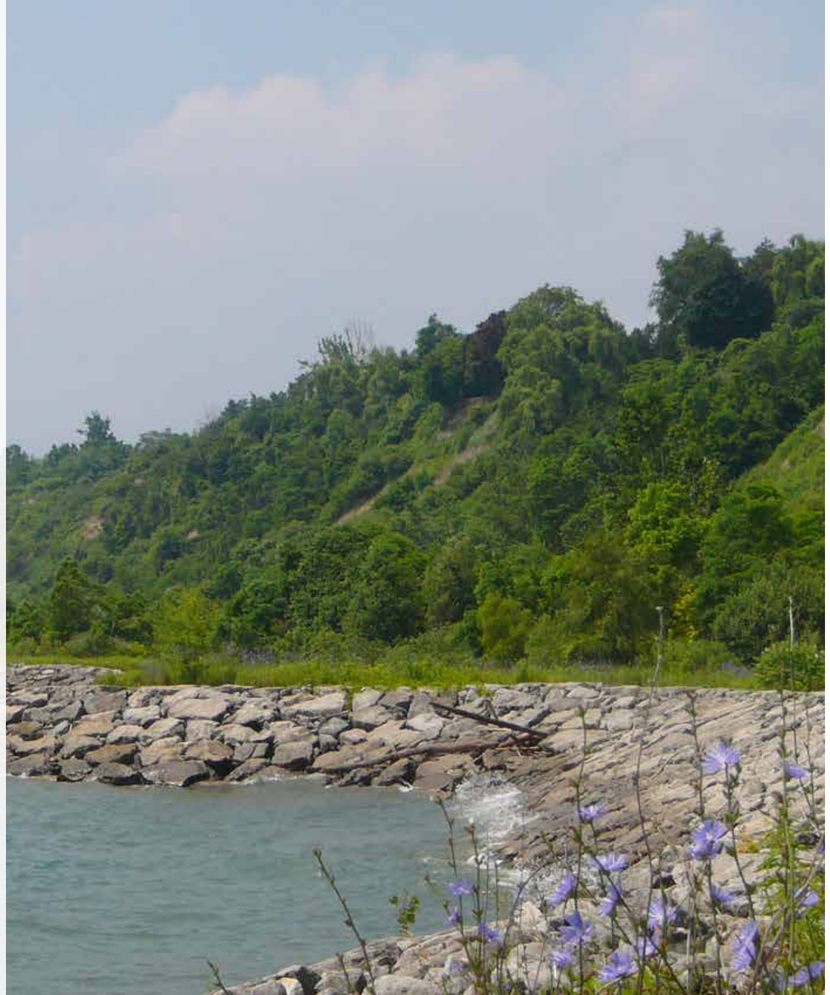
$370,000
was raised from the by the Ontario Power Authority, Enbridge Gas and Union Gas to assess the ability of TRCA's Performance-Based Conservation Pilot Program to achieve deep energy savings in the commercial and institutional sectors compared to a business-as-usual approach.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT:

Re-creating sustainable communities that are beautiful, happy and healthy

Since 2009, TRCA and its many, many partners have been developing and implementing pilot Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plans (SNAP) in five established neighbourhoods across the GTA. Our strategy has been to attract the interest of local residents and then earn their support for practical, hands-on environmental initiatives. The goal is to plant the seeds for real urban change, growing momentum from the neighbourhood up. As an example, SNAP deployed 217 rain barrels through its Harvest the Rain project in the Black Creek neighbourhood, capturing and diverting more than 360,000 litres of rainwater to irrigate lawns and gardens. If the idea spreads to 125,000 similar homes across the city, we could reduce the stormwater runoff from residential properties – and all the pollutants that stormwater carries – by 30 per cent. In addition to incentives, rebates and some innovative financing tools, SNAP has formed working partnerships with dozens of local businesses and service companies to showcase their products as part of our sustainable solutions. SNAP's five-year review also lists more than 80 major donors, property managers, utilities, municipalities, community organizations and other partners who have supported our community champions.

The Living City is our vision of tomorrow and the guiding force behind TRCA programs and policies today. Working together with our partners, the protection and restoration of natural systems and the advancement of community sustainability remain central to our cause. TRCA Corporate Services ensures that the organization as a whole, through its service areas, has the financial, administrative and technical resources needed to meet the goals of our Strategic Plan.



CORPORATE SERVICES

Up to $30,000

will be generated annually for the next 20 years, thanks to a 46.15 kilowatt solar photovoltaic (PV) system newly installed on the roof of TRCA's Restoration Services Centre. As of December 19, the PV panels were feeding power back into the local grid – and earning us revenue – under the province's Feed-In Tariff program.

8,027

happy guests attended green weddings at the Kortright Centre, where they could enjoy completely local and organic menus, as well as fair trade coffee and teas, all served in an environmentally friendly, 100% Bullfrog powered facility. All proceeds went toward environmental education programs.

8

existing Flood Line maps were revised with new data from our engineering model data and 24 new engineered Flood Line maps were acquired. In addition, more than 3,800 Ecological Land Classification polygons were digitized to support the identification, description, mapping and monitoring of ecosystems across TRCA's jurisdiction.

83%

increase over 2013 in e-commerce revenue, bringing the total revenue in 2014 to almost $750,000.

17 million +

visitors pass through Harbourfront each year, where many enjoyed NO FLAT CITY, Toronto's Incomparable Terrain, our outdoor exhibit that displays the work of local photographers and explores hidden ravines and valleys across the GTA. The exhibit is a joint project with Menkes Developments Ltd.

900+

individual Geomatics Support Requests, ranging from simple map production to complex spatial analyses, supporting staff reports, research projects and TRCA programs, were completed.

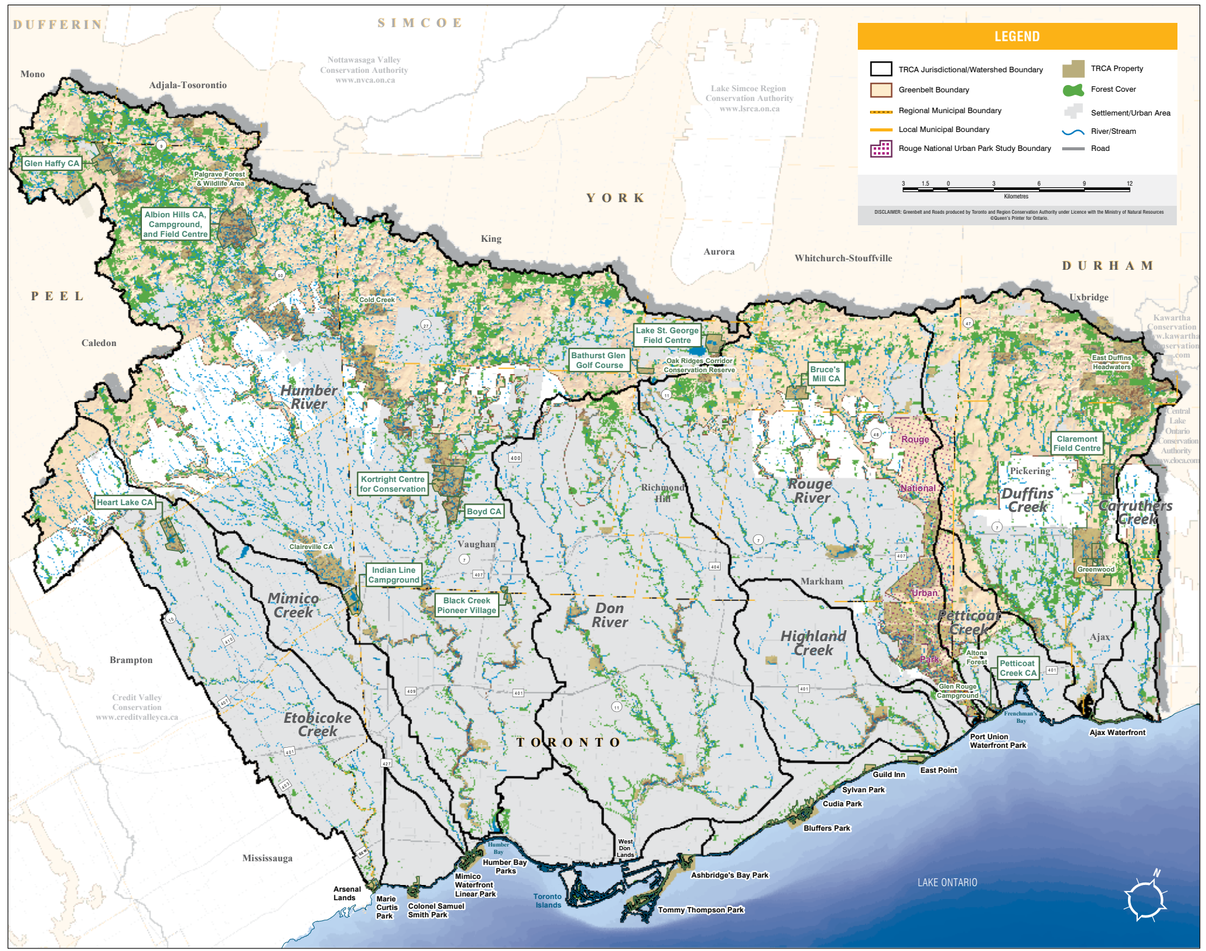
1,560

individual IT support requests were completed by the Information Technology department and over 165 new personal computers and laptops were deployed among TRCA staff.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT:

Corporate Sustainability Team continues to post good results

Our carbon emissions per employee have continued to decline to 3.1 metric tonnes (MT) in 2014, even though our total corporate emissions have remained consistently around 2,000 MT since 2011. Although our consumption of natural gas, electricity and fuels were up in 2014 – owing to colder than average weather and a n increase in our vehicle fleet – over 10% of our natural gas purchases were green gas from landfills and we purchased over 1,000,000 kWh of renewable electricity, both from Bullfrog Power. The Corporate Sustainability Team has been working hard to develop the Corporate Solid Waste Strategy/Plan and the Corporate Energy Management Plan. For instance, staff at our Downsview Office diverted a total of 14,835 kg of materials away from landfill (a 95% diversion rate) as part of TRCA's office cleanup. We expect that the plans will identify significant opportunities to improve energy efficiency and increase solid waste diversion in 2015 and beyond.



Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Member Municipalities and Members 2014

TOWN OF MONO & TOWNSHIP OF ADJALA-TOSORONTIO
G. Mason

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK
D. Barrow
M. Di Biase*
J. Heath
L. Pabst
D. Schulte

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM
C. Jordan *
D. Ryan
G. L. O'Connor (Chair)*

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL
B. Callahan
C. Fonseca
J. Sprovieri
J. Tovey *
R. Whitehead *

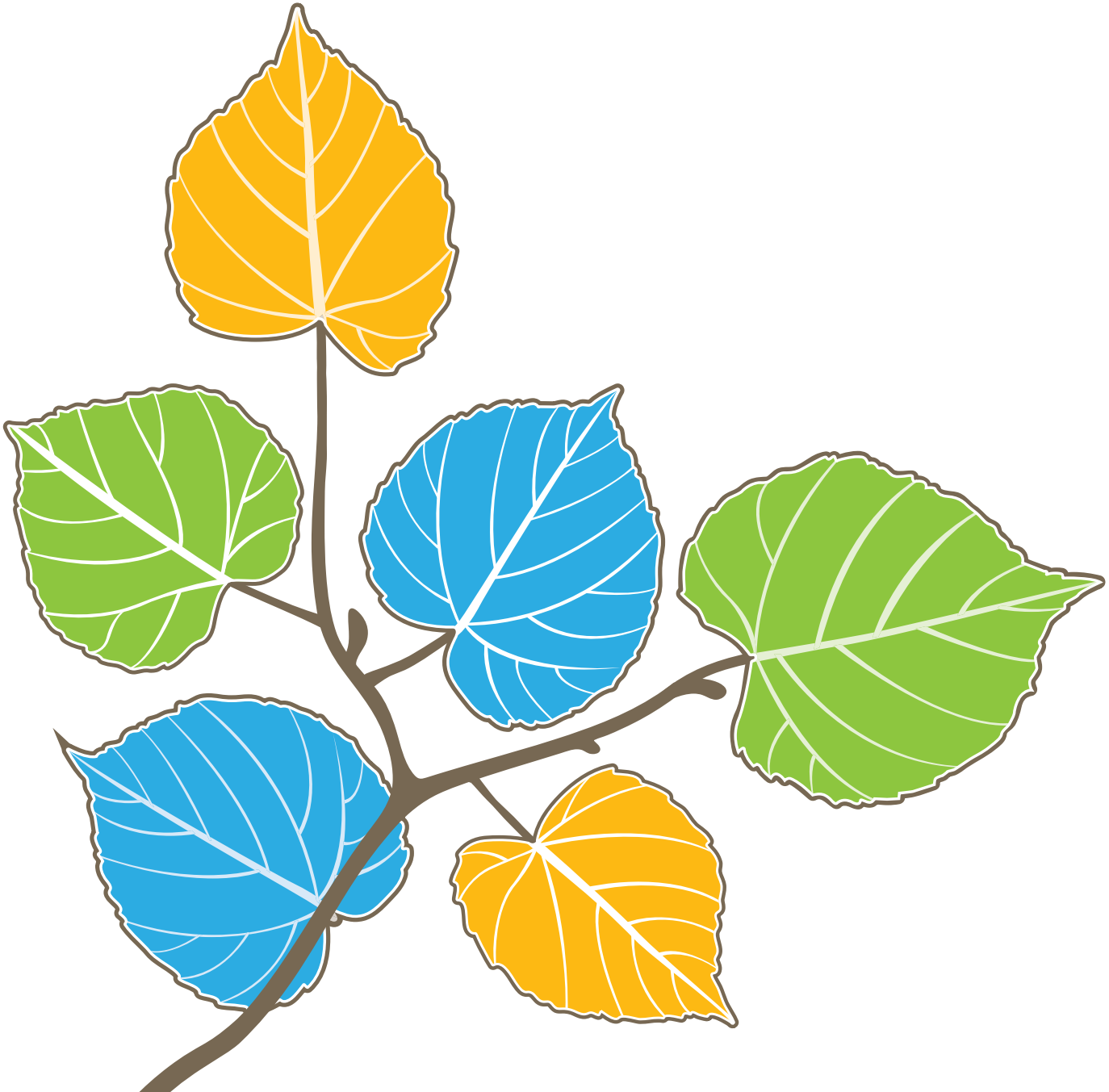
CITY OF TORONTO
P. Ainslie
M. Augimeri *
B. Cachola *
R. Cho
R. Chopowick*
V. Crisanti*
G. De Baeremaeker *
M. Khan
G. Lindsay Luby*
M. Mattos *
P. Milczyn
J. Parker
A. Perruzza *
C. Thorburn

*Executive Committee Members
(partial or full year)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/SECRETARY TREASURER
B. Denney

DIRECTOR, WATERSHED MANAGEMENT	DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	DIRECTOR, RESTORATION SERVICES	DIRECTOR, PARKS AND CULTURE	DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS	CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
A. Freeman	C. Woodland	N. Saccone	D. Edwards	C. MacEwen	R. Sgambelluri



Toronto and Region
Conservation
for The Living City®