

09

ANNUAL REPORT



**Lake Simcoe
Region
Conservation
Authority**

Message from the Chair and CAO



Celebrating Excellence

Winning the Thiess International Riverprize in September 2009 was a momentous occasion. Considered the Nobel Prize of integrated watershed management, the Thiess demonstrates to the world the excellence of our watershed management work. We're extremely proud of that.

Of course, the work we do and the results we have achieved were made possible in large part because of the strong relationships we have with our many partners. It is in working together that we can bring about greatness. And the Thiess demonstrates this. So to all our partners - federal, municipal, business, community, and of course our strong relationship with the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation - we congratulate you as well. The Thiess is your award too.

So what is in store for us next? We demonstrated to the world that we can make a difference. And we were recognized and rewarded for making that difference. But we still have a long journey ahead of us. We will not be finished until we have restored all of the damage done by 200 years of neglect and abuse. We will not be finished until the campaign of protection and restoration becomes an integral part of the lifestyle choices each one of us makes every day.

We welcome you to join us as we continue on this journey.

Gayle Wood
Chief Administrative
Officer

Virginia Hackson
Chair & Councillor
York Region
(East Gwillimbury)

Board Members

York Region (East Gwillimbury)
Councillor Virginia Hackson (Chair)

Durham Region (Scugog)
Councillor Bobbie Drew (Vice-Chair)

Township of Oro-Medonte
Councillor Sandy Agnew*

City of Kawartha Lakes
Councillor Glenn Campbell

York Region (Whitchurch-Stouffville)
Councillor Ken Ferdinands

Durham Region (Brock)
Regional Councillor John Grant

York Region (Georgina)
Mayor Robert Grossi

Durham Region (Uxbridge)
Regional Councillor Howie Herrema

Town of New Tecumseth
Councillor Barbara Huson

York Region (Aurora)
Councillor Evelina MacEachern

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
Councillor John McCallum

City of Barrie
Councillor Alex Nuttall

City of Barrie
Mr. Eric Bull (Citizen Representative)

Township of Ramara
Councillor John O'Donnell

York Region (King)
Councillor Jack Rupke

York Region (Newmarket)
Regional Councillor John Taylor

Town of Innisfil
Deputy Mayor Gord Wauchope

York Region (at Large)
Mayor James Young

City of Orillia (Ex-Officio)
Mayor Ron Stevens

* Councillor Terry Allison joined the Authority in November 2009, representing the Township of Oro-Medonte.

Science & Research

Integrated Watershed Management Plan

Completed in late 2008 and released in 2009, the Lake Simcoe Basin Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) is the “roadmap” for our ongoing protection and restoration efforts. The IWMP identifies stressors and challenges facing the Lake Simcoe basin but also includes recommendations to convert these into opportunities. Examples include low impact development, restoration and enhancement.



Best Management Practices: Phase II

Driven by the success of the first phase of the Lake Simcoe Best Management Practices Inventory in 2008, we completed our second phase with the funding support of Environment Canada’s Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund. More than 60 percent of all streams and rivers in the Lake Simcoe basin have now been inventoried, identifying over 1,000 opportunities for remedial action. Continued work to address these opportunities by our stewardship team will result in an ongoing reduction of nutrients into Lake Simcoe and thus continue to improve its overall environmental health.

Low Impact Development (LID)

Reducing the impact of urban development involves the use of site controls and smaller-scale best management practices. With funding from Environment Canada through the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund, we studied the type and opportunity for implementation of LID projects in our watershed. Working with Ryerson University and in cooperation with Environment Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and our watershed municipalities, Phase I was completed. A summary report, action plans for moving forward, and stakeholder workshop were the outcomes.

Report on Phosphorus Loading to Lake Simcoe

In response to public demand, and in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, we developed a new standard on the reporting of phosphorus loads to Lake Simcoe. The completion of the “Report on Phosphorus Loads to Lake Simcoe, 2004-2007” was released in the spring of 2009 in a new graphic format. This report will be updated every two years.





Science & Research

Engineered Wetlands

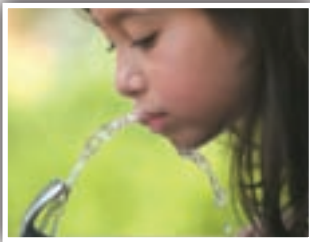
Engineered wetlands offer innovative and promising “green” solutions for the very real challenges we face in trying to accommodate continued development. Engineered wetlands are not created to resemble natural wetlands but are designed to produce many of the environmental benefits that natural wetlands provide.

Working in cooperation with Stantec Consulting, the University of Waterloo, Fleming College, and our municipal partners, we completed Phase I of the project involving the creation of a small scale treatment unit at the Centre for Alternative Wastewater Treatment (CAWT) at Fleming College. Human waste was treated and monitored to assess the technology’s effectiveness. Initial results are very promising and we have begun the second phase of the study, which involves the creation of a large scale version of the wetland. Testing will continue until the summer of 2010.

Working in partnership with the Town of Aurora and Stantec Consulting, we completed a design for an engineered wetland to treat stormwater runoff from a 58 hectare subdivision in the Town of Aurora. The wetland will treat water even during the winter months and is designed to control water quantity. It is anticipated that this innovative technology will be constructed in 2010 to reduce pollutants from stormwater.



Drinking Water Source Protection



The Terms of Reference were approved for all three Source Protection Authorities in the summer of 2009, triggering the deadline for the Assessment Report. Technical work completed includes Tier 1 water budgets across the region and Tier 2 water budgets for the East Holland, West Holland, and Maskinonge subwatersheds. Initial assessment of significant recharge areas as well as the development of runoff / recharge models for the entire region are complete. Intake protection zones have been completed for all 15 municipal intakes in the region and wellhead protection areas have been assessed for all new wells in the region. Assessment of highly vulnerable aquifers has been completed across the region and groundwater models have been developed or refined for approximately 75 percent of the region.

Education and outreach efforts through the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program have focused on landowners living in the vulnerable areas as well as municipal stakeholders. In March, 8,000 letters were sent to all landowners living within vulnerable areas. Following this mailing, summer staff made 2,500 door-to-door follow up visits. More than 125 drinking water protection projects were completed through the program.

Four municipal workshops were hosted throughout the region, with more than 60 municipal staff attending each event. These workshops ensure ongoing strong collaboration with municipalities.

Outreach to the public included more than two dozen presentations to community groups, municipal councils and the private sector, media releases highlighting the results of our water budget studies and advertisements in newspapers advising residents of new maps available to support early actions.

Natural Hazard Mapping Management

Mapping Updates

Maintenance and updating of our natural hazard and regulation line limit maps are an essential service we provide. This mapping is based on the text contained in Ontario Regulation 179/06 and is used to review development applications and issue permits for construction. A major update to the regulation limit mapping was completed in April.

Emergency Management Services Mapping

To help improve Emergency Management Services (EMS) for our municipalities, we developed and implemented a GIS based database that identifies roads, buildings and other structures potentially affected by flooding. Already in place for York Region, the EMS was implemented in our portion of Durham Region in 2009. The mapping was used in Durham Region's emergency planning exercise "Operation Weather Woes" on October 29.

Science & Research

Natural Hazard Mapping Management

Natural Heritage Land Use Mapping & the Natural Heritage System

Our Ecological Land Classification (ELC) mapping identifies all land use and ecological communities in the watershed down to the Community Series level (e.g. 'deciduous forest'). Ongoing refinement to the next level (the Ecosite Series e.g. 'Sugar Maple deciduous forest') requires far more detailed assessment and evaluation and continues to occur across the Lake Simcoe basin.

This mapping is crucial to many of our programs, including our review and permit process for development and construction proposals, Drinking Water Source Protection, species at risk, land securement strategies and support of municipal Official Plans.

Subwatershed Planning

Subwatershed plans provide a detailed assessment of current conditions and the factors affecting them. Recommendations include policy proposals for the municipality to consider in its planning decisions and stewardship programs to help protect and restore the subwatershed.

Durham and York and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP)

The ORMCP requires plans for all subwatersheds on the Oak Ridges Moraine. This year, we completed all four within York Region - the West Holland River, the East Holland River, the Maskinonge River and the Black River.

We have developed initial draft plans for the Pefferlaw, Uxbridge and Beaver Rivers in Durham Region.

Increased Precision in our Measurements

A newly purchased "acoustic doppler current profiler" (ADCP) system is allowing us, for the first time, to take real flow measurements at the Atherley Narrows, the outlet of Lake Simcoe. This enables us to more accurately calculate our lake's water budget, and in turn, provide more precise phosphorus load calculations. ADCP replaces our previous method which relied on modeling techniques and calculations to predict flow at the Narrows.



Phoslock at Scanlon Pond

The Phoslock trial at Scanlon Pond was completed in May with the application of a capping dose. In addition to treating the water in the pond, a capping dose covers the bottom, preventing the release of phosphorus from the sediment back into the water. Routine water samplings were taken through the fall and a report of the results will be released in early 2010.

Surface and Ground Water Quality and Quantity

Ground and surface water measurements continued at 48 sites in 2009 (22 surface water quality sites, 12 permanent surface water quantity sites and 14 ground water quality/quantity sites). We use this information to track year-to-year variations and long-term trends in water quality and quantity.

We have completed pre-construction monitoring (to establish a baseline) at two stormwater ponds (George Richardson Park in Newmarket and Bryne Drive in Barrie) to gather data on the efficiency of the current ponds in removing phosphorus and suspended solids.

The installation of three additional three-season rain gauges (Holland Landing, Cannington, Durham Forest) will help establish groundwater recharge rates. Results support drought and flood responses as well as contribute to long term monitoring of precipitation trends.

The installation of three temporary flow gauges will help us refine nutrient loading calculations where land use changes are planned. The gauges will help us understand the impact of these changes on the hydrology of the streams.



Science & Research

Aquatics

Detailed field investigations looked at the state of the aquatic communities in Hawkestone, Innisfil and Scanlon Creeks. The information will help direct future planning and focus our restorative efforts.

Annual watershed fisheries and benthic invertebrate monitoring continues. It allows us to see year-to-year variations and long-term trends.

Invasive Species



Over 800 sample sites provided the first detailed look at the spread of the invasive zebra and quagga mussels and the remaining native bivalve (mussel and clam) populations in Lake Simcoe. This will answer the questions of where these species are found, what role they play in the benthic (bottom-dwelling animal species) community, and if quagga mussels are replacing zebra mussels, as in other areas of the Laurentian Great Lakes. Results are expected in spring 2010.

Sediment Phosphorus and Plant Uptake

The amounts of phosphorus and other nutrients buried in lake sediments were studied and mapped across Lake Simcoe and the Holland River. Under conditions of low oxygen, this phosphorus can be released back into the water, a source not accounted for in current phosphorus-loading models. The 2008 plant study determined that the sediments of upper Cook's Bay have the lowest nutrient concentrations in Lake Simcoe and the highest biomass of aquatic plants. We are now investigating whether the phosphorus is taken up by plants, how this uptake varies between species, and if phosphorus is released back into the water with plant decomposition.

Nearshore Monitoring

Nearshore monitoring of Lake Simcoe is ongoing and has produced the first aquatic plant distribution map of its kind, with a detailed focus on nearshore nutrient issues and ongoing health monitoring and assessment.

Academic Partnerships

Building on our collaboration with Ontario's Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Natural Resources, we have expanded our work with researchers from various academic institutions:

- Trent University, Peterborough
- University of Western Ontario, London
- Queen's University, Kingston
- York University, Toronto
- University of Rhode Island, United States

Protection & Restoration

Conservation Lands

We have drafted a conservation area classification system, with associated maintenance standards and schedule. On-going monitoring of conservation areas continues to identify encroachment issues and maintenance concerns.

Improvements at Scanlon Creek

Significant upgrades and repairs have taken place at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, including road maintenance, signage, a look-out platform and bench, pavilion roof repairs, gate house repairs, trail upgrades and improved trail markers.

Conservation Area Management Plans



Management Planning

Management plans were completed and approved by our Board of Directors and municipal councils for Scanlon Creek and Sheppard's Bush. A management plan process is now underway for Beaver River wetlands. A trail management plan process is also underway for Durham Region Forest. These reports detail the costs associated with managing these properties on a per hectare basis and provide our partners with a better understanding of our maintenance, development and management expenses.

Baseline document reports were completed for a number of our properties located within the Beaver River Conservation Area in Durham Region and the Arnold C. Matthews Nature Reserve in Roches Point (Georgina). These reports outline existing conditions of the property at the time of acquisition, which in turn provides a record of baseline conditions for future monitoring.

In close collaboration with our Foundation, we successfully obtained Ontario Trillium Foundation funding for Scanlon Creek. \$328,000 has been granted over five years for many capital improvements like a Discovery Play Garden and trail upgrades, community programs and engagement as well as the development and implementation of a self-sustaining fundraising strategy.

Land Securement

We now own and/or manage 2,000 hectares (5,000 acres) of conservation lands across the Lake Simcoe watershed. Highlights of our increased holdings include the purchase of another 110 hectares of property (through three separate transactions) along the Beaver River. The cost for this was just over \$400,000, with funding support from Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Regional Municipality of Durham and a bequest from Katharine Symons.

During the summer, we commemorated the securement of conservation easements covering over 81 hectares of undisturbed, environmentally sensitive forest within the Arnold C. Matthews Nature Reserve, in Roches Point. This was made possible through the generous donations of the children of Arnold C. Matthews as well as the children of Alan Gibbons and with support of the Regional Municipality of York.

Protection & Restoration

Water Control

We completed a Flood Inundation Study at the Fairy Lake dam, which identified the area affected by potential flooding in the event of a dam failure. A Phase II Dam Safety Assessment also began at the Fairy Lake dam. Dredging was also completed at Fairy Lake, creating more storage capacity, fish habitat and wetlands to filter the water.

Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition (CAMC)

We are a member of the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition which advances the science and understanding of the moraine and works with governments and communities to protect it.

In June 2009, the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan came into effect. Seven of the 18 tributaries draining into Lake Simcoe have their headwaters on the Oak Ridges Moraine. The programs called for in the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan are complementary to the work that we have been doing on the ORM and will provide additional protection for these tributaries, and for the environmental health of the Moraine.

Environmental Planning and Ontario Regulation 179/06

Permitting

Under Ontario Regulation 179/06, our “Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation”, staff processed 795 permit applications in 2009.

Shoreline Contractors Workshop

On April 1, we hosted a workshop for local marine contractors and consultants to outline the regulatory/provincial and federal policies and application requirements involved with shoreline development along Lake Simcoe and to enhance our service and relationship with this audience. The event was well attended by more than 60 members of the local marine contracting and consulting community, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Plan Review

Staff reviewed and provided advisory comments to member municipalities on 309 applications made under the Planning Act.

In addition, planning staff commented on 139 legal and real estate inquiries, issued 141 site clearances and commented on 23 applications circulated under the Environmental Assessment Act.

We have assigned one of our planning staff to operate out of the Ramara Township office one day per month to help their staff and area residents. Similar agreements have been established with the Township of Oro-Medonte and the Township of Uxbridge. We are also working with the City of Barrie to streamline the review of site plan applications under the Planning Act.



Enforcement

During 2009, we investigated 267 complaints, issued 41 violation notices and eight summonses. We obtained two favourable court decisions. The first was against a landowner who did extensive works within a Provincially Significant Wetland which resulted in a court order and a \$10,000 fine. The other related to illegal works within 30 metres of a local wetland. We were also successful in obtaining an interim injunction against a major peat extraction operation in a Provincially Significant Wetland.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Network

Mandated by the Province of Ontario to lead the flood forecasting and warning process in the Lake Simcoe watershed, we issued 28 flood bulletins to watershed municipalities, school boards, media, police and neighbouring conservation authorities.

We were involved with significant flood events in the spring of 2009, including the Beaverton Harbour ice jam, higher than normal Lake Simcoe water levels (with resulting dyke breaches in Keswick in April) and a significant snow melt and rainfall event in February.



Emergency Services Assistance

Staff organized a mock flood emergency exercise in October and participated in a Durham Region emergency exercise. Staff also participated in an actual emergency operations meeting organized by Simcoe County in March in response to the higher than normal Lake Simcoe water levels which extended throughout the winter and spring of 2009.



Protection & Restoration

Forestry Service

During the year, we planted over 53,000 native trees and shrubs, increasing forest cover, enhancing streambank buffers, and improving wildlife habitat. We worked with over 50 landowners across the watershed to complete a variety of reforestation and naturalization projects.

Our outreach to the public continued with 15 community planting events, encouraging community action and providing environmental education to volunteers. We coordinated and implemented two sustainable trail construction projects at Durham Forest in partnership with local mountain bike associations and other stakeholder groups, improving the quality of this forest recreation resource, while protecting natural features. We coordinated three Durham Regional Forest stakeholder meetings to discuss forest management issues such as trail design, signage development, and regional partnerships.



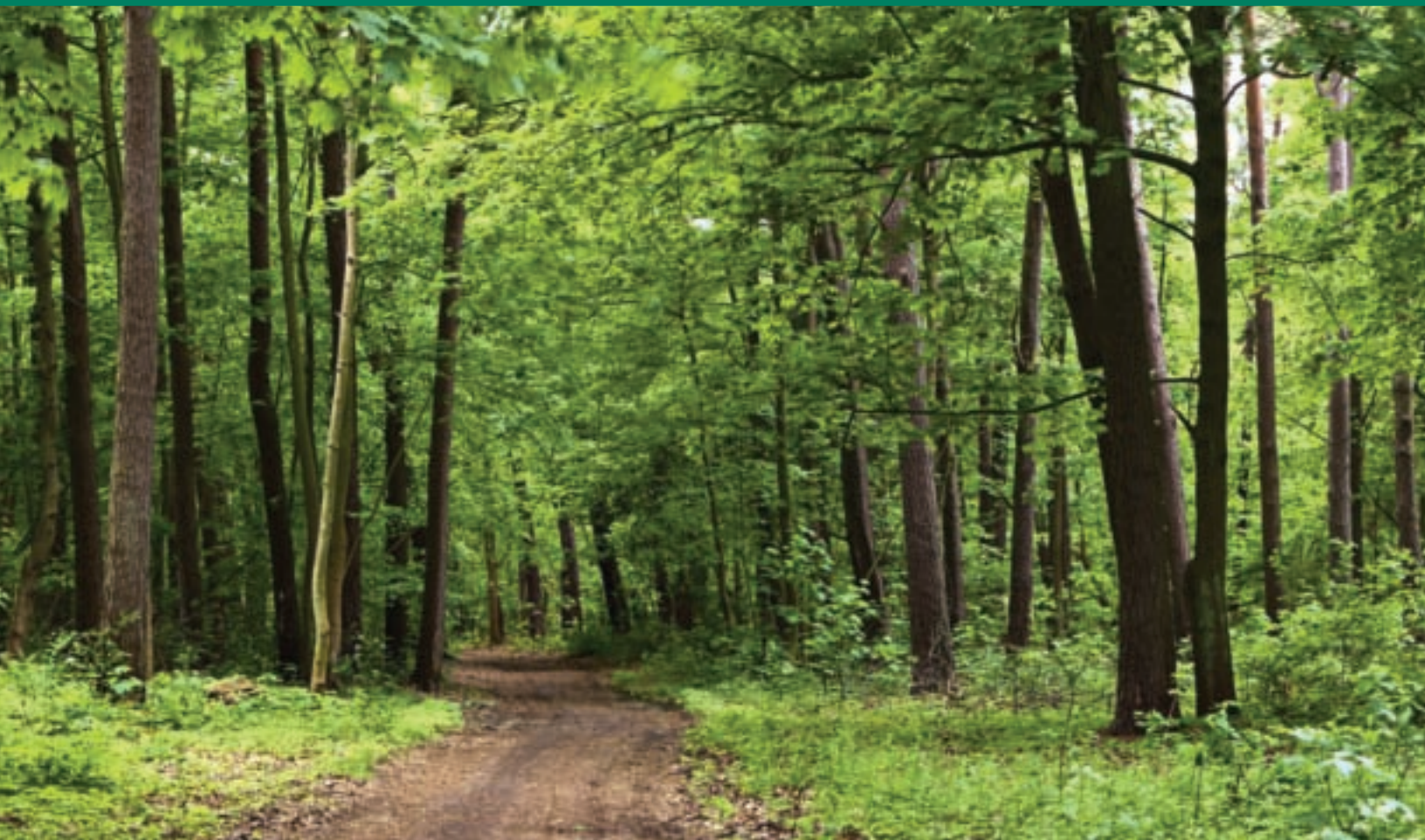
Landowner Environmental Assistance Program



We coordinated and approved over \$3.25M in total project work, by collaborating with various funders including private landowners, the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation, Environment Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (through the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program), and other foundations and agencies. Through LEAP, more than 275 projects were completed in 2009.

We implemented 15 projects in partnership with Environment Canada, through the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund (LSCUF). These projects included streambank restoration, urban stormwater management retrofits, tree and shrub planting, community outreach, septic system upgrades, and others that contribute to decreased phosphorus loading to the lake.

Over \$663,000 of LSCUF funding was secured by Stewardship staff to support \$1.2M of total project costs in Rounds 3 and 4, and a further \$3.7M has been requested for Round 5, to support 13 projects with \$7.7M in total project value over two years, starting April 1, 2010.



Protection & Restoration

Maskinonge River Recovery Project

Projects implemented in 2009 included a series of public workshops, community events, in-stream habitat creation, creek clean-up, and the “Up the Maskinonge With a Paddle” water-based interpretive tour.



Lake Simcoe Septic Funding Program

This program provided grants to landowners on properties within 300 metres of the lake who have old or failed private septic systems, with extra incentives to install state-of-the-art systems. As a result of this initiative, over 35 failing systems will be upgraded, providing water quality benefits directly to Lake Simcoe.

Scanlon Creek Stewardship Plan

This plan complements the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan. Priority actions were identified for implementation with the help of community and government stakeholders to improve the health of this subwatershed. Landowner outreach began in the fall, and a restoration project and demonstration site was completed with local community volunteers. Implementation of restoration projects will begin in 2010.

Holland Marsh

Demonstration sites and pilot planting projects were undertaken with private landowners and the Holland Marsh Drainage Commission, contributing to improvements in water quality in the marsh, and establishing demonstration sites for marsh growers. A new LEAP funding category was established on a pilot basis to support Integrated Pest Management activities in the Marsh.



Oak Ridges Moraine

We continue our work with the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation on the Caring for the Moraine Project. In addition to coordinating funding grants for restoration projects, we held four workshops in the Township of King.

Ramara Creeks

As a first step in developing a stewardship plan for the Ramara Creeks subwatershed, we hosted workshops to engage local residents. Funding through Environment Canada provided grants to landowners to develop and implement restoration projects including septic system upgrades or repairs, shoreline erosion control and naturalization, clean water diversion on farms, well decommissioning, and manure storage and management.

Stormwater Management in Barrie

A grant of \$500,000 through the Ontario Ministry of the Environment supported upgrades to the stormwater management facility located on Bryne Drive. The project will improve downstream water quality and reduce phosphorus loads by 40 kg per year, and will be completed in 2010.

East Holland River

Approximately 40 projects totaling more than \$500,000 in value have been completed for the East Holland River. The identification and development of new projects continues, and another 35 projects have been initiated and are planned for implementation in 2010.

George Richardson Stormwater Pond Improvements

The first phase of an important stormwater management pond retrofit project was undertaken at George Richardson Park in Newmarket. We developed a plan to retrofit the facility and take advantage of innovative new technology. This solution will reduce phosphorus inputs to the river by 23 kg per year. Phase I, the construction of the bypass channel, was undertaken in October 2009. Phase II, which involves retrofitting the pond and installing a red sand filter, will occur during the winter of 2009-2010. Phase III, the planting of native trees and shrubs, will take place in the spring of 2010 and will engage the community through a tree planting event.

Fairy Lake

A new wetland complex was designed at Fairy Lake to provide enhanced water quality and wildlife habitat benefits. This project included the creation of a series of permanently and seasonally wet ponds and fish spawning areas to provide enhanced phosphorus reduction, wildlife habitat, and wildlife viewing opportunities for park visitors.

Musselman's Lake Subwatershed Report

In partnership with the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and local residents, we completed the Musselman's Lake Subwatershed Assessment and Opportunities Report that identifies 71 recommendations to improve the environmental quality of the subwatershed. Through the Landowner Environmental Assistance Program (LEAP), seven stewardship projects were completed or are ongoing.



Education & Outreach

Staff produced an educational programs brochure. This was distributed to public and catholic schools in the Durham, Simcoe and York district school boards as well as many private schools in these areas.

Outdoor Education



The Education Centre's multi-day programs saw more than 3,040 students visit and the Nature Centre provided single-day programming to about 4,065 students. From late June through to early September the Scanlon Creek Hockey Camp hosted junior hockey players from Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia.

Our "Conservation Kids" eight-week summer camp at Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area in Aurora brought 173 children closer to nature.

The Education Centre hosted "Rekindle the Sparks", an annual gathering of outdoor/environmental educators who work at conservation authority programs throughout the province. The conference is organized by the Watershed Interpreters Network.

Community Engagement

Staff attended 10 community fairs and festivals in the watershed.

The Sunoco Earth Day Tree Planting event engaged over 400 local residents in planting 1,100 native trees and shrubs around the stormwater management pond at the Magna Recreation Centre in Newmarket.

"Watershed Heroes" were honoured during our annual Conservation Awards evening in October. More than 180 guests celebrated a number of local heroes who are doing their part to protect our watershed. The George R. Richardson Conservation Award of Honour, the most prestigious award, went to Paul Harpley for his lifelong dedication to improving the environmental health of the Lake Simcoe watershed.

Our staff were guests on "daytime", a daily lifestyle show on Rogers Television – York Region. Eighteen different segments aired throughout the 2008-2009 season.

Educational Outreach

In-class presentations were delivered to more than 3,800 kindergarten to grade eight students in 40 different schools. The presentations feature ecological issues in the watershed and challenge students to take responsibility for the environment.

Program Support

Office of the CAO



On September 22, 2009, we were honoured with the Thiess International Riverprize – the most highly regarded and valuable river management award in the world. Our success was the result of hard work, strong partnerships and dedication to watershed excellence.

We have created a basin-wide Integrated Watershed Management Plan to guide our collective effort forward and to continue the momentum toward a restored and protected watershed. This plan will dovetail with the province's new Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and the federal government's Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund.

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) co-chaired the provincial Lake Simcoe Stakeholder Advisory Committee which provided advice to the Province on the development of both the Lake Simcoe Protection Act and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.

We applaud the province for their leadership in developing the Lake Simcoe Protection Act, which received Royal Assent in December 2008 and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan which was approved in January 2009. We value our partnership with the Province of Ontario and look forward to continuing our work together to implement the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.

We also recognize the federal government investment of \$30M in funding under the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund. We will continue to be an active participant in this program by submitting projects for funding approval.

Human Resources

Recruitment continued to be a large focus for Human Resources throughout 2009. Newly created technical, communication and Foundation related positions, as well as a high volume of seasonal staff requirements kept the organization growing this past year. In addition to recruitment, Human Resources was able to implement internal process improvements to assist employees with attendance and performance management as well as continuing with policy development and training programs, particularly in the area of health and safety.



Program Support

Corporate Communications



Watershed Heroes Activity Book

With the generous support of the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation, we designed and created our first-ever “activity book” designed to engage school aged children and their families in educational activities. The Activity Book incorporates our watershed heroes, Becca, Ollie and Spike.

The Activity Book was launched with a colouring contest. Contest results will be announced in January 2010 with an event displaying all contributions and awarding prizes.

Watershed Excellence Showcase

We held three “Showcase on the Road” events during 2009, in Newmarket, Oro-Medonte and Uxbridge. All events provided municipal staff and politicians with updates on the work we do and kept the lines of communication with our partners open.

Finance

Asset Management

The Asset Tracking Database, developed in 2008, was populated with the full scope of all assets we own. As required under the Public Sector Accounting Board, our audited financial statements for the 2009 fiscal year will be the first time we have reported assets on our balance sheet.

GIS, IT Program Information Management

Database Enhancements

Technical staff developed a GIS-enabled tree planting database for the Forestry Department to map all trees planted in the last 10 years. Staff also developed a program that identifies vulnerable features in the floodplain for the Region of Durham to support emergency management preparedness. Enhancements to our regulation mapping database included updates to our watercourse, flood plain and wetland mapping which resulted in more accurate determination of our regulated areas. Thanks to a partnership with York Region, we now have current aerial photography that improves our view of the watershed and provides more current decision support.

Source Water Web Mapping

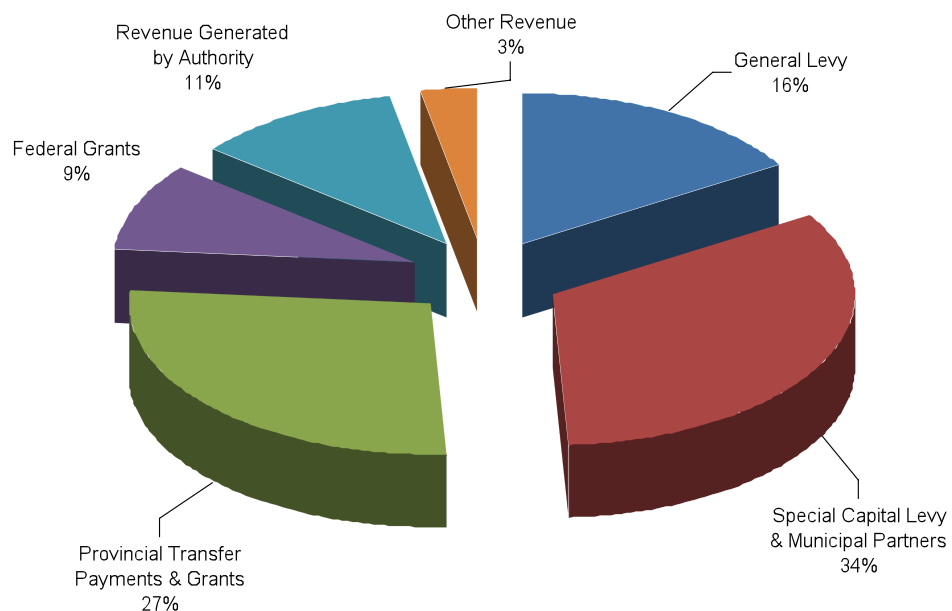
Staff developed an interactive web-based mapping website to support public enquiry into eligibility for funding for projects designed to protect drinking water in the region.

Regulation Web Mapping for Planners on the Road

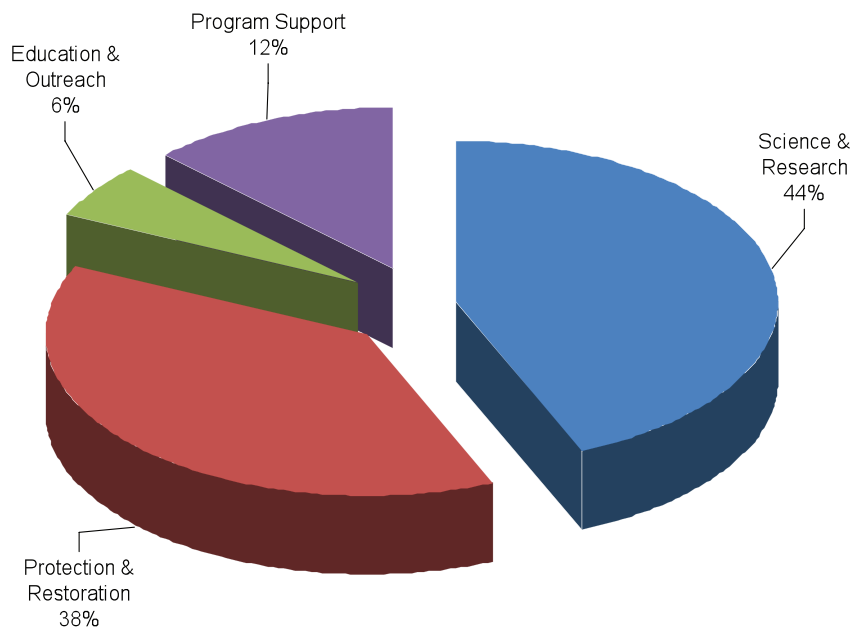
We have developed a regulation web mapping site with external access to give our planners full access to our regulations and mapping when they work off-site at municipal offices (satellite environmental planners).

Financial Summary

Revenue and Reserve Transfers: \$15,445,061



Expenditures: \$15,445,061



Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation



**Lake Simcoe
Conservation
Foundation**

This past year, the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation provided funding on many critical projects that were leveraged with other funding sources. Projects included Scanlon Creek Conservation Area capital improvements, the Watershed Heroes Activity Book, the Watershed Excellence Showcase DVD, education programs at Scanlon Creek and Sheppard's Bush and many East Holland River restoration

projects. We received grants from Ontario Trillium Foundation and RBC Blue Water Project in 2009 for remediation work around the Lake Simcoe watershed.

If you would like to get involved with the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation, make a donation or learn more about the work we do, please contact Debby Beatty, President, at foundation@lsrca.on.ca or via the Foundation office at 905-895-1281.

Partners

Municipal

Town of Aurora
City of Barrie
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
Township of Brock
Durham Region
Town of East Gwillimbury
Town of Georgina
Town of Innisfil
City of Kawartha Lakes
Township of King
Town of Newmarket
Town of New Tecumseth
City of Orillia
Township of Oro-Medonte
Township of Ramara
Township of Scugog
County of Simcoe
Township of Uxbridge
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
York Region

Provincial

Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministry of the Environment
Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing

Federal

Environment Canada
Fisheries & Oceans Canada

Member of



**Lake Simcoe
Region
Conservation
Authority**

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