



Lake Simcoe Region
conservation authority

2015

annual
report



COMMUNITY
PASSION
VISION
INSPIRATION
LEGACY



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MESSAGE FROM OUR CAO



During the course of our 64 years of environmental protection, the world, and our little piece of it, has changed dramatically. Global advancements in technology, increasing ecological intelligence and our rising watershed population have reinforced our role as local catalysts for change – change that will lead to more sustainable and resilient watershed communities.

The traditional approach to accommodating growth through urban development and the ever-increasing evidence that our human behaviours have major impacts on our environment are some key drivers behind the issues we face today. Add climate change to that list and you quickly realize that we've got some significant challenges ahead of us.

Among the accomplishments of 2015, one stands apart from the rest – the completion of our 2016 – 2020 Strategic Plan 'Vision to Action, Action to Results'. After external consultation with many of our partners, we've landed on a powerful vision for our watershed and a multitude of priority actions over the next five years. Our vision of a thriving environment that inspires and sustains us for generations to come isn't a departure from our 64-year commitment, it's simply a renewal of that commitment. It reinforces our goal to create a sustainable and healthy watershed.

While the challenges we face can sometimes be volatile and outside of our control, what remains steadfast and true is the dedication of the people that work for us. This unique and tenacious group are the ones that conceive of and implement the solutions. They educate and influence to inspire change, and they roll up their sleeves and get down to the business of leaving this watershed healthier than when we found it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mike Walters".

Mike Walters,

Chief Administrative Officer

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



The Lake Simcoe watershed is a wonderful and vibrant place to live, with a diverse landscape and a stunning lake in its midst. Nearly half a million citizens call our watershed home, and still more enjoy its economic, recreation and leisure offerings.

For over six decades LSRCA has been devoted to protecting the ecological features in this watershed and increasing awareness of the critical role we all have in sustaining it. It's an organization that I have been pleased to be part of for several years now, and this past year as Chair of the Board of Directors.

On the following pages you will read about some truly impressive accomplishments. These highlights point to the work we're particularly proud of and the work we know is bringing us closer to our goal. We have every intention of making this watershed healthier than when we inherited it, and we're making progress.

Supporting the work of our remarkable staff, who bring exceptional insight, creativity and enthusiasm to their jobs, are our many partners. This includes private citizens, community groups, associations, businesses, industry, municipal, provincial and federal government organizations, First Nations, non-government organizations and other conservation authorities. Every relationship we have is critical – no matter how big or small. Without this support, we wouldn't be able to boast such incredible accomplishments.

If you've picked up this annual report, you may be one of our partners. That makes you an essential part of the success we're sharing. When we accept thanks for the work we're doing across the watershed, please remember, that thanks is also to you.

Aurora Mayor Geoffrey Dawe,

Chair, Board of Directors

THE POWER OF OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Return on Investment

Using a little more than

\$490,000

we were able to accomplish more than

\$4.3 million

in environmental restoration work. That's a leveraging rate of 1:9 and it means that funds invested in LSRCA are well spent.

Community Contributions

156 landowners participated in environmental restoration projects, investing more than

\$2.7 million

of their own money.

2,700 volunteers

contributed around

6,750 hours

of their own time in our community activities and restoration work.

A Focus on Priorities

Of the restoration work we completed,

90 percent

of it was focused on projects that are identified as high priority in our subwatershed plans.

Environmental Improvements

Our contribution to phosphorus reductions through our stewardship projects for the year were 183 kg.

29 ha

of natural heritage cover was restored.

5,400 metres

of streambank/shoreline was restored, which contributes directly to improving aquatic habitat.

LSRCA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

We had the opportunity to feature two of our projects as part of the A.D. Latonnell Conservation Symposium. The symposium is an annual 3-day event that provides a forum for practitioners, policy makers, non-government organizations, academics and businesses to network and discuss the challenges and opportunities in Ontario's conservation field.

The first session explored the challenges we face regarding salt use on roads and parking lots in an urban area and the steps we're taking to address the issue. The session included site visits to a salt operations centre and a multi-use property managed by a local school board.

The second session took participants on a tour of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area in the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, a project that featured our education, community, stewardship and restoration activities. In 2015 we completed a major creek restoration, bypassing a dam constructed in the early 1970s and reconnecting the creek to over 8 km of its upstream reach. The session included a site visit and overview of the project, including its beneficial outcomes and how cost-saving methods were integrated into the project.



HIGHLIGHTS

2016–2020 Strategic Plan, Vision to Action, Action to Results

A key accomplishment for 2015 is the completion of our 2016–2020 Strategic Plan. After extensive consultation, we've landed on a powerful new Vision and Mission for our watershed – not a departure from our previous Vision and Mission – more of a renewal of our commitment. The Plan outlines a number of priority actions we will accomplish over the next five years – actions that will help us create a sustainable and healthy watershed.

Learning from Lovers

Lovers Creek that is. Our research in Lovers Creek is providing us with new and interesting insights.

We know a river needs a variety of flows to support its health. High flows, for instance in spring, trigger fish spawning. Some flooding along the banks brings nutrients to the soil along the water's edge and supports healthy vegetation. Low flows generally concern us more because they have the potential to be too low to support fish or for dilution of pollutants.

But our recent research into flow levels in Lovers Creek is telling us a different story. We've learned that the more pressing concern in Lovers Creek is actually related to high water flows – what we call high pulse flows. Such flows generally occur with heavy rains and result in water flowing at greater speeds and volumes, increasing erosion and stream bank instability.

In other words, in Lovers Creek, high water flows is the more pressing issue. This is valuable information because it informs our protection efforts, which need to focus on reducing the volume and frequency of these high pulse flows, through measures like low impact development.

Protecting our Drinking Water Sources

Source Water Protection Planning is an important step in ensuring public health and safety. The local Source Protection Plan was approved in January, with an effective date of July 1. Municipalities are now implementing the policies in the plan and undertaking new practices to ensure drinking water sources are protected when reviewing Planning applications.

We have been and continue to work closely with our municipalities through a number of working groups to ensure collaboration, communication and the sharing of resources through the initial implementation stages.

Winter Salt: An Emerging Issue

Research at LSRCA over the past few years has documented a disturbing trend towards increasing levels of chloride (salt) in Lake Simcoe and its tributaries. The trend is attributed to use of salt on roads and parking lots in winter. During the 2014/15 winter season, we measured 625 tonnes of salt coming from just one large commercial parking lot.

We know through our relationships that municipal and provincial roads staff are well aware of the environmental implications of salt use, and their struggle to maintain a balance between protecting the environment, protecting public safety, and meeting the expectations of their residents. Because there is strength in numbers, we've established a Salt Working Group made up of our own staff, municipalities, the Ministry of Transportation, and academic researchers. Together we are exploring ways that development and operational practices can be improved to meet public safety goals while protecting the environment.

We've also mapped the areas in the watershed that are more vulnerable to the impact of salt. The maps are based on our monitoring data and some predictive modeling, with the support of Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the University of Guelph. Using these maps, we are working with our municipal partners to refine their existing salt management plans.

Research for a Sustainable Urban Forest

LSRCA undertook a study of the urban forest of the Town of Newmarket, in partnership with funding support from York Region and the Town of Newmarket, and with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Spatial Analysis Lab at the University of Vermont. This is the fifth study to be undertaken in York Region, the first to be led by LSRCA, and contributes to the creation of baseline information about the urban forest in York Region.

The fieldwork is now complete; the results will inform and guide the creation of an Urban Forest Management Plan. Such a plan is important to help York Region and its municipalities fulfill their multiple social, environment and economic objectives through sustainable urban forest management.

Groundwater Mapping

Groundwater serves as a primary drinking water source in our watershed and plays an important ecological role as well. Groundwater supplies are replenished through “recharge areas” that are porous and allow water to infiltrate into the soil. We have now completed the mapping of all the significant groundwater recharge areas (areas that allow a high volume of water to penetrate into the ground) as well as the ecologically significant groundwater recharge areas (areas that supply water to a sensitive feature such as a wetland) in this watershed. This data plays a crucial role in informing planning and development.

Forest Emergency Action Plan

In partnership with Region of Durham, the Township of Uxbridge and local first responders, we developed an Emergency Action Plan for Durham Forest.

Durham Forest is a large (596 hectare) recreational space, used by a variety of outdoor enthusiasts for biking, hiking, cross country skiing and even horseback riding. The Emergency Action Plan ensures greater assistance and direction in the event of emergencies such as lost hikers, injured mountain bikers or severe weather. Amenities added as part of the new Action Plan include gate locks that are accessible by Uxbridge Fire, waypoint signage on posts at critical intersections and updated trailhead mapping.

A photograph showing a person from the waist down, wearing a blue jacket and tan pants, using a shovel to plant a small tree in a grassy field. The person is wearing black gloves and is focused on the task. The background is a blurred green field.

23,820

number of
trees and
shrubs planted

EXPERTS IN OUR FIELD

Brian Ginn, Ph.D., CLM, Limnologist:

Ginn, B.K., Rajaratnam, T., Cumming, B.F., Smol, J.P. Establishing realistic management objectives for urban lakes using paleolimnological techniques: an example from Halifax Region (Nova Scotia, Canada). *Lake and Reservoir Management* 31: 92-108.

This paper has been nominated for the James LaBounty Best Paper Award by North American Lake Management Society.

Shelly Cuddy, P.Geo.:

Mason Marchildon, Peter John Thompson, Shelly Cuddy, E.J. Wexler, Katie Howson & J.D.C. Kassenaar (2015): A methodology for identifying ecologically significant groundwater recharge areas, *Canadian Water Resources Journal*, September 12, 2015.

Eavan O'Connor:

R.D. Evans, N.M. Grochowina, N. Basu, E.M. O'Connor, B.E. Hickie, K. Rouvinen-Watt, H.E. Evans, H.M. Chan. 2015. Uptake of selenium and mercury by captive mink: Results of a controlled feeding experiment. *Chemosphere*. 144, 1582-1588.

Bill Thompson:

Bill Thompson. March 2015. Recreational Trails Reduce the Density of Ground-Dwelling Birds in Protected Areas. *Environmental Management* 55: 1181-1190.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS/ DESIGNATIONS

Shelly Cuddy, Hydrogeologist,

has been elected as Councillor-at-Large for the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario (APGO) for the 2015/16 year. APGO regulates the practice of geoscience in Ontario and reports to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

Phil Davies, Manager of Forestry and Stewardship,

received his Registered Professional Forester designation from the Ontario Professional Foresters Association.

Kate Lillie, Land Management Technician,

received Environmental Professional Certification from ECO Canada in two areas of specialization: Natural Resource Management and Communication and Public Awareness.

5.4

km of
streambank
planted

LAKE SIMCOE SCIENCE

Three Lake Simcoe Science Newsletters were published in 2015, as follows: Volume 8 – Winter Salt; Volume 9 – Groundwater Recharge; and Volume 10 – Benthic Macroinvertebrates. These were also featured in the magazine, Lake Simcoe Living.



WILDLIFE WORK

Emerald Ash Borer

We created an Emerald Ash Borer Plan to deal with the impact of this infestation on our various conservation properties. Approximately 1,600 ash trees were identified along trails and adjacent to buildings that are expected to become hazards in the coming years. We will be working to remove them, allowing for natural regeneration to occur in forested properties and replacing trees in strategic areas, such as around pavilions, buildings and other recreational infrastructure.

Safe Passage for Turtles

Two of the three species of turtles in our watershed are at risk. The main issue they face is being crushed by cars as they cross the roads during spring nesting and fall nest emergence. In recognition of this, LSRCA launched a Wildlife Safe Passage Pilot Project to help increase turtle survival around roads.

We've identified the most dangerous road crossing locations in the watershed for turtles and, with funding from the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation and the MacLean Foundation, we have begun monitoring the number of turtles killed on nine stretches of roads. Over the course of three months in 2015, we observed 39 turtles killed at these sites.

In spring 2016, we will install fencing at five pilot sites to encourage turtles to travel under roads via culverts, rather than over the road itself. We will then compare the data we collect on turtle mortality with the data collected in 2015 to determine the effectiveness of the fencing. These sites will also serve as demonstration wildlife passage sites for our municipal partners.

Marsh Monitoring

We monitor breeding amphibians because they are sensitive to air and water pollution and their presence or absence are indicators of habitat health. Our amphibian monitoring program doubled in 2015, with breeding surveys done in seven municipalities throughout the watershed.

The information collected supports our internal planning and regulations program review, subwatershed plans, conservation area management plans and others.

This year, the information we collected on the Western Chorus Frog (a threatened species) contributed towards Environment Canada's Recovery Strategy Report for the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence – Canadian Shield population, which was published on December 1.

Scanlon BioBlitz

LSRCA held its first ever BioBlitz at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area on June 20. The day-long event saw dozens of volunteers from Friends of Scanlon Creek, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ontario Streams, The Toronto Zoo, Ontario Nature as well as many other volunteer citizen scientists and nature lovers.

During the course of the day, which started before dawn and ended after sunset, the BioBlitz group recorded over 600 different species of plant and animal. One of our most interesting discoveries was in identifying the endangered northern long-eared bat, which we now know makes up part of the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area biodiversity.

The event was such an enormous success and is planned again for June 2016.



3,300

number of students
engaged in Education
at Scanlon Creek
Education Centre

Quaggas Outcompeting Zebras

The invasive zebra mussel is no longer an issue in Lake Simcoe. Unfortunately, that's because it's been outcompeted by another invasive species... the quagga mussel. In 2009, our sampling program showed a population of 75 per cent zebra mussels and 25 per cent quagga mussels. Preliminary results of our 2015 sampling show a population of 22 percent zebra mussels and 78 percent quagga mussels.

The quagga mussel expansion is likely due to the deep-water form of quagga mussels that are well adapted to living on muddy substrates (like the bottom of the lake) that otherwise clog the feeding mechanism of zebra mussels.

Our research has the possibility for real world application for municipal water managers, who expend great effort and resources to combat zebra mussel infestation of their municipal water intakes.

New Invasive Species

The presence of a new invasive plant species (Starry Stonewort) is now confirmed in Lake Simcoe and has expanded into Lake Couchiching and Severn Sound. The Starry Stonewort was first detected in 2009. This invasive can outcompete another invasive, the Eurasian Watermilfoil, and is also linked to a decline in shallow water fish habitat because it forms such dense mats.



RAINSCAPING: DEVELOPMENT BY DESIGN

A Growing Watershed

Growth creates enormous pressure on our ability to sustain a healthy and thriving environment. We believe that by working with our community partners we are able to come to solutions that allow us all to achieve our goals. Nowhere is this more important and relevant than in our collaborations with municipalities and industry around development.

Inserting Ourselves Early On

Design charrettes are meetings that promote collaboration amongst LSRCA, municipal staff, developers and their consultants during the design stage of their projects. The goal is to promote integration of low impact development into new development projects while at the design stage.

By having these upfront brainstorming discussions, design charrettes save time, money and energy by all parties involved throughout the planning, design, and approval process. The result is a smoother process, more efficient application processing and greater consistency in response to applications and improved stormwater management. We led 15 design charrettes in 2015.

Working Through the Process

Getting developers and other agencies to agree on incorporating low impact design principles into development is only the first step in a very long and complex process. Because the principles around low impact development are relatively new, willing agencies face the challenge of implementation.

LSRCA created a Stormwater Management Working Group to help with developing draft model by-laws and low impact development guidelines. To support uptake, as part of the Working Group, a wide range of technical professionals representing the building industry, consultants, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, academia and municipalities have all been involved throughout the process.

The drafts were released in April as reference materials to support design requirement updates to appropriate municipal by-laws (i.e. site alteration) or stormwater management guidelines, as each municipality best sees fit.



8

number of flood warnings issued



A rain garden in full bloom

Technical Support for Design and Implementation

We take our role in the process even further. Staff from various departments also provide on-going technical support. From performing modelling set-up reviews and visiting sites, to reviewing opportunities and constraints for retrofit opportunities, along with sharing implementation successes and lessons learned, we support projects through to their end.

Low Impact Development Example: Mary Street, Bradford West Gwillimbury

Working with many partners, including the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation, Environment Canada, Aqua Tech Solutions, and Edgeweir Consulting, we improved the parking lot at Mary Street to better convey, filter and treat stormwater. We accomplished this by installing two features: permeable pavement and a bioswale. These features allow more water to infiltrate into the ground, thereby improving water recharge and keeping excess untreated water from entering our storm sewers.

Low Impact Development Example: Aurora

A number of partners including the Town of Aurora, RBC, Environment Canada, York Region, Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation and Mattamy Homes have come together to fund a project that brings low impact development techniques to a parking lot in downtown Aurora. The goal is to reduce run-off, a major source of pollution to the lake.

What is a Bioswale?

A long, channeled depression or trench that receives rainwater run-off (as from a parking lot) and has vegetation (such as grasses, flowering herbs, and shrubs) and organic matter (such as mulch) to slow water infiltration and filter out pollutants.



EVERY LITTLE BIT COUNTS

SWITCH – Our Own Internal Sustainability Committee

Staff launched an internal sustainability committee (SWITCH – Sustainable Workplace Initiatives: Thinking, Choices, Habits) at the beginning of the year with five green initiatives implemented:

1

Paper towel dispenser upgrade, resulting in a 27% monthly reduction at a savings of \$55.

2

Print reduction competition, resulting in an overall print reduction of 41% from January to April.

3

Added an electric vehicle and two charging stations to its fleet. The extra charging station is available for members of the public to use.

4

Energy efficient lighting implemented at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.

5

Highly coveted monthly SWITCH Award – celebrating staff sustainability ideas in action.

Smart Commute

The greatest carbon footprint for a business generally comes from employee commuting. LSRCA therefore strongly supports smart commuting options for employees, with carpool parking spaces and amenities such as a bike rack, shower facilities and commuter lockers.

We also have enthusiastic staff members who take further initiative by volunteering their own time and skills to hold a bike repair workshop, help others find a “bike-buddy,” and personalized route planning advice.

Our smart commute program continues to thrive. LSRCA achieved Smart Commute Gold Status for the fourth year in a row. This year, Gold Status was awarded to 65 workplaces in the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area out of a total of 330 member employers.

We were also awarded an Honourable Mention (one of two organizations out of 330) for Best Employer of the Year.



LSRCA staff and supporters on Bike to Work Day



Staff support Bike to Work Day with free bike repair workshop

BUSINESS AS USUAL

Regulations Investigations and Convictions

Our behind the scenes work in investigating and issuing notices and summonses for environmental violations continues. In 2015, we investigated a total of 263 complaints, issuing 128 violation notices and 32 summonses. A total of 13 convictions were obtained.

Watershed Development Guidelines

Our revised Watershed Development Guidelines came into effective on June 1, after a comprehensive public and legal review. The revisions were made to ensure consistency with recent legislation such as the Lake Simcoe Protection Act and Plan and Ontario Regulation 179/06 and involved significant public consultation.

Flood Monitoring and Control

We've added a new tool to our flood monitoring toolbox with the implementation of new flood monitoring software for the Tannery Creek in Aurora. Tannery Creek was chosen as a pilot project because it is an urban area that is more at risk of flooding. The tool enhances our regular monitoring program with an automated component, running 24 hours a day 7 days a week and in real time.

Ramara Creeks Subwatershed & Implementation Plans

Subwatershed plans are a written assessment of the subwatershed's condition, impacts and current management. They make recommendations to help guide future protection and restoration efforts. In 2015, we completed our subwatershed and implementation plans for the Ramara Creeks subwatershed. The subwatershed plan contains 85 recommendations including research, education, policy development and on the ground projects. The implementation plan sets out details for the delivery of recommendations over the next five years. Both documents can be found online at our website.

13

number of
regulations
convictions



REACHING OUT

Georgina Island

Efforts to build a lasting relationship with Georgina Island First Nation are seeing continued success. They are an important partner with a unique perspective about our relationship with the natural world that we can learn from. A number of partnerships are underway.

Our Outreach Education staff continued offering our Aquatic Plant Program with grade 3 - 5 students from Waabgon Gamig First Nation School on Georgina Island. The program also includes grade 4 and 5 students from Morning Glory Public School. In addition to the learning about aquatic plants that takes place, the project serves to facilitate a relationship between the students on Georgina Island who will soon be attending Morning Glory.

We've engaged Georgina Island First Nation in developing its first subwatershed plan. This plan follows up on a study the First Nation undertook that used Traditional Ecological Knowledge to examine the impacts of climate change on the island and its community. Building on this earlier work will allow us to incorporate cultural components with the ecological and hydrological aspects of watershed health that we commonly consider.

A New Partner: Toronto Zoo

Seven of the eight species of turtles in Ontario are threatened, endangered or of special concern. This year we supported the Toronto Zoo and its well established and highly successful Adopt-a-Pond program by hosting events where we created a nesting site for turtles and also habitat for salamanders at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. Wildlife habitat is essential to healthy functioning ecosystems that contribute to enhancing our own health.

Run for the Trails

Our second annual Run for the Trails event, organized by the Friends of Scanlon Creek, attracted 98 runners with the goal of raising money for Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.

Bringing Education into the Environment

Outdoor learning is essential for nurturing the next generation and for encouraging them to care for the environment. One of our goals is to provide for those opportunities. Last year we had more than 3,300 school-aged students participate in our Outdoor & Environmental Education programs at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.

Bringing the Environment into Education

We also go into schools with our outreach program, delivering programming to more than 3,400 students in the classroom.



That's not a mound of dirt behind these volunteers – it's a turtle nesting site

Run for the Trails





Celebrating Environmental Guardians

Our 34th annual conservation awards ceremony took place in October, where we recognized 20 individuals, businesses and groups for their voluntary efforts at restoring the watershed and inspiring others to do the same.

Our annual conservation awards celebrate the efforts of local heroes of all ages who do extraordinary things for the environment.

Expanding our Reach

We can't get to every classroom and we can't have every student come to our Education Centre at Scanlon, so we look to increase our impact through other strategies. Our education staff provide training to teachers in a number of ways – so they can be a part of our effort to integrate the environment into learning.

We participated in Simcoe County District School Board's 'Mittens in the Snow' conference, aimed at teaching Kindergarten teachers about teaching in the outdoors.

We also piloted our first teacher professional development session in the Fall, an offshoot of a successful teacher training session we delivered in 2014.

The benefits of our teacher training make it worthwhile for a number of reasons:

1

We give teachers the confidence and resources they need to deliver meaningful outdoor educational experiences to their kids.

2

By teaching the teachers, we expand our own reach.

3

Outdoor learning is essential to nurturing the next generation to care for the environment.

“You can’t expect kids to care for the natural world if they don’t know anything about it or have never had positive experiences in it.”

– DANA ELDON, ONTARIO-CERTIFIED TEACHER, LSRCA

IN THE COMMUNITY

Up the Maskinonge WITH a Paddle

Our annual Maskinonge River paddle was a huge success with more than 50 participants taking to canoes, kayaks and even dragon boats (courtesy of Georgina Dragon Boat Club) to learn more about the efforts of the Maskinonge River Recovery Project. And we know that positive changes are happening. For the first time since we started our sampling program in the Maskinonge, we found the species 'mottled sculpin'. This is a good sign as the presence of mottled sculpin indicates the water is cooling, and has the potential to support a brook trout population.

Halloween Planting Events

This year we hosted three separate tree planting events on Halloween, focusing on children and their families. Besides tree planting, we incorporated family friendly activities such as face painting, pumpkin decorating and prizes for costumes. Over 150 volunteers planted 925 new trees and shrubs at our three locations in Barrie, Bradford and Keswick.



Members
of the
Georgina
Dragon Boat Club
support our efforts
to protect the
Maskinonge,
Keswick's
urban
river.

3,400

number of students
reached through
our programming in
watershed schools

Grow Forests, Grow Value Forest Tour

The best way to inspire interest in nature and the environment is to get people out into the forests to experience it first-hand. It's these positive outdoor experiences that build connections that support all our other efforts. Our Grow Forests, Grow Value Forest Tour, held in October, gave members of the public the opportunity for hands-on learning about tree ecology, how to prepare land for planting and maintenance of newly planted trees.

Farm Tour

This year we held our first-ever working farm tour for the public. A group of interested community members joined us for a day-long tour of several working farms: a small beef cattle operation, a market garden, a horse farm, and a greenhouse. Starting and ending at King Cole Ducks near Aurora, the group learned about the clean water initiatives we're engaged in with our farming community, funding available for on-farm projects and saw first-hand, the production of some delicious local food.



Other Outreach Activities of Note

Our outreach into the community continues through a number of other activities:

York Region's week-long Children's Water Festival and Envirothon

Durham, York and Simcoe Science Fairs

Conservation Kids Camp at Sheppard's Bush in Aurora

Host to a variety of community programs like our Maple Syrup, Kicksledding and March Break Day Camp at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area

Attendance at select fairs and festivals throughout the watershed

We sponsored three youth to attend the Ontario Nature Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership held in the Fall at Geneva Park

Checking out the creatures that call the Maskinonge River home

Some of the decorated pumpkins at our Cedarvale Lodge Halloween planting event in Keswick

This windbreak (row of trees) can protect crops, create microclimates and enhance biodiversity

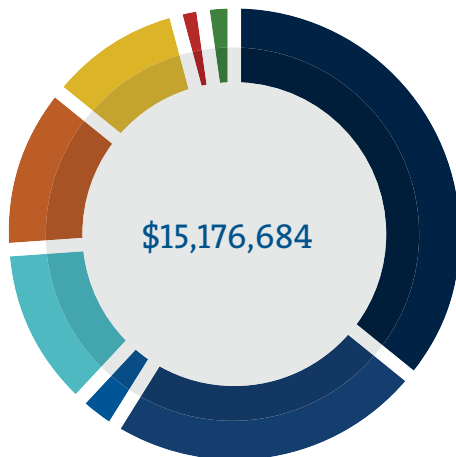
Learning about the value of forests



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

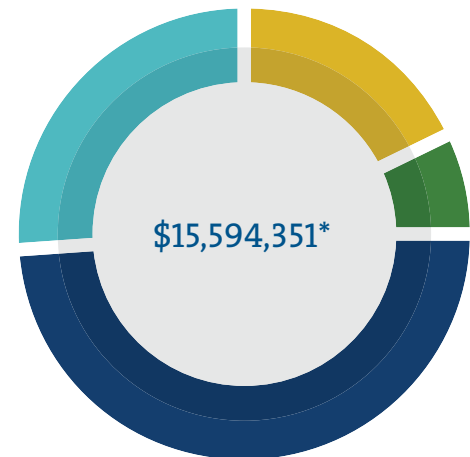
This financial information is condensed from the April 24, 2015 Board of Directors' Approved 2015 Budget Summary. The complete auditor's report for the year ended December 31, 2015 is anticipated to be available in May 2016, copies of which will be available upon request.

2015 Revenues



- ▶ **38%**
Municipal Capital Levy & Other
- ▶ **23%**
Municipal General Levy
- ▶ **3%**
Municipal Special Operating Levy
- ▶ **12%**
Provincial Transfer Payments & Grants
- ▶ **12%**
Revenue Generated by Authority
- ▶ **10%**
Federal Grants
- ▶ **1%**
Donation-Forgivable Loan
- ▶ **1%**
Other Revenue

2015 Expenditures



- ▶ **49%**
Protection & Restoration
- ▶ **26%**
Science & Research
- ▶ **18%**
Leadership & Support
- ▶ **7%**
Education & Engagement

* Total 2015 Expenditures \$16,565,864 net of: Internal Fee for Service (\$971,513), Asset Purchases \$300,000 and Amortization (\$300,000).

Projected Deficit Consisting of:

Principle on forgivable loan	\$204,847
Recapture asset purchases	\$300,000
Net transfers from reserves	(\$622,517)
Amortization	(\$300,000)
Projected Deficit:	(\$417,667)**

** Projected deficit will be offset by surpluses from prior years.



LAKE SIMCOE REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

LSRCA is a local watershed management organization incorporated under the Conservation Authorities Act (1946).

Since 1951, we have been dedicated to protecting, restoring and managing the Lake Simcoe watershed.

Over our 64 years of service, our jurisdiction has grown to include the entire Lake Simcoe watershed with the exception of the City of Orillia and the Upper Talbot River subwatershed, in the City of Kawartha Lakes.

LSRCA is governed by an 18-member Board of Directors, appointed by nine member municipalities.

2015 Board of Directors

CHAIR

York Region
TOWN OF AURORA
Mayor Geoffrey Dawe

VICE-CHAIR

Durham Region
TOWNSHIP OF SCUGOG
Regional Councillor Bobbie Drew

City of Barrie
Councillor Peter Silveira

Township of Ramara
Deputy Mayor John O'Donnell

City of Barrie
CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE
Mr. Jay Dolan

York Region (at Large)
Georgina Regional Councillor &
Deputy Mayor Danny Wheeler

City of Kawartha Lakes
Councillor Stephen Strangway

York Region
TOWN OF EAST GWILLIMBURY
Mayor Virginia Hackson

Durham Region
TOWNSHIP OF BROCK
CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE
Ms. Debbie Bath

York Region
TOWN OF GEORGINA
Mayor Margaret Quirk

Durham Region
TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE
Councillor Pat Molloy

York Region
TOWNSHIP OF KING
Councillor Avia Eek

Town of Bradford West
Gwillimbury
Councillor Peter Ferragine

York Region
TOWN OF NEWMARKET
Councillor Dave Kerwin

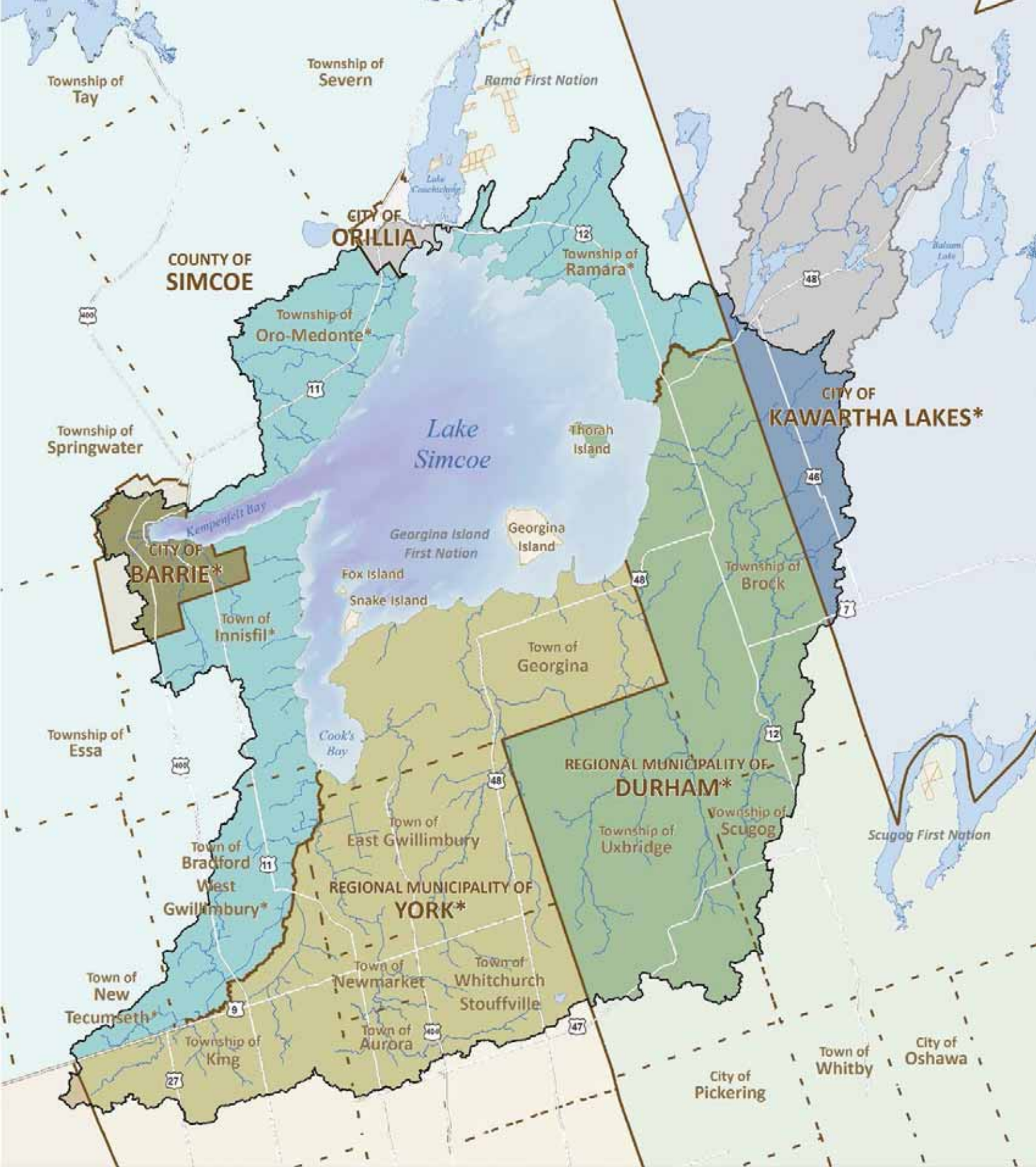
Town of Innisfil
Councillor Richard Simpson

York Region
TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-
STOUFFVILLE
Councillor Ken Ferdinands

Town of New Tecumseth
Councillor Shira Harrison-
McIntyre

Township of
Oro-Medonte
Councillor Scott Macpherson





Legend

-  Lake Simcoe Watershed
-  LSRCA Jurisdiction
-  Watercourse
-  Major Road
-  Upper / Single Tier Municipality
-  Lower Tier Municipality
-  * Member Municipality, LSRCA

0 5 10 20 30 Kilometres

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 LSRCA GIS Services DRAFT created January 2016
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Lake Simcoe Region
conservation authority



Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) is the leading environmental protection agency in the Lake Simcoe watershed. For over 60 years, we've been collaborating with community, government and other partners to protect and restore the environmental health and quality of Lake Simcoe and its watershed.

www.LSRCA.on.ca

e info@LSRCA.on.ca

t 905-895-1281 tf 1-800-465-0437

120 Bayview Parkway
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 3W3

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**Lake Simcoe
Conservation
Foundation**

Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation (LSCF) is the leading environmental charity in our watershed, raising funds from private individuals and organizations for the critical environmental programs and projects of Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. Contact them directly for information about how you can support their important fundraising activities.

lakesimcoefoundation.ca

e foundation@LSRCA.on.ca

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120 Bayview Parkway
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 3W3

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