The Couchiching Conservancy

Annual Report | 2018





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Science

Vision

A prosperous healthy community,

Laced with clean lakes

And beautiful natural spaces -

A place we all feel blessed to call home.

Mission

Protecting nature for current and future generations since 1993

Goals & Objectives

Preserve, Protect, Restore and Improve Encourage and Foster Environmental Awareness Acquire, Maintain and Preserve Lands Promote and Undertake Research It turns out you can get a lot done in 25 years.

Given the right people and a shared vision, you can take an idea and develop it into a living community that protects and cares for more than 13,000 acres in the Lake Couchiching region.

In November, we marked our 25th anniversary. The common sentiment expressed by those who were there at the beginning is a sense of wonder at what we've become.

Virtually all the unique habitats in our region are represented to some extent in our holdings. Through your dedication to an idea, alvars, shield barrens, wetlands, grasslands, upland forests and river complexes have all been granted the right to exist indefinitely.

That's impact.

But we don't stop at our property lines. Species are on the move. We facilitate that movement by being strategic, by mobilizing citizen scientists to help us understand changing patterns, by feeding information to provincial and national networks studying ways to sustain the teeming life still remaining at a time when our overconsumption of the Earth's resources is starting to adversely affect the future of the planet.



Doug Čhristie President



Mark Bisset Executive Director

Board of Directors

Margaret Pomeroy, *Past President* Jack Booth, *Treasurer* Lisa Neville, *Secretary Directors:* Robert Sullivan, Pamela Fulford, Wendy Lowry, Jamie Ross, David A. Homer

Staff

David Hawke, Stewardship Program Manager Dorthea Hangaard, Citizen Science Project Manager Tanya Clark, Development Coordinator Courtney Baker, Administrative Assistant Joelle Burnie, Engagement Organizer Contractors: Ron Reid, Ginny Moore, Kathy Connor, Meagan Coughlin

Those 25 years have not been without challenges. Coming off our most productive year ever, we slammed into the prospect of a gun range planned for the heart of the Carden Alvar.

But we are here to respond.

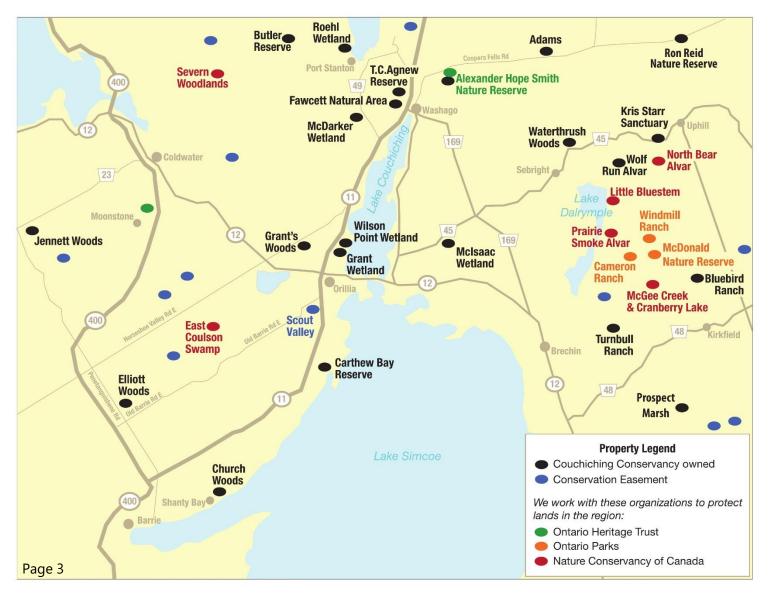
Twenty-five years is a flicker in geologic time, but it's possible we are living in the most pivotal era in the planet's history. In our own small way we're at the front, on the right side.

Is there another place you'd rather be?



The Couchiching Conservancy acknowledges that the land on which it operates is the traditional territory of Haudenosaunee, Anishnaabeg, Wendat and Metis Peoples. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties.

Our land base encompasses several habitats collectively called "eco-regions". There are three main divisions and many subdivisions of large categories. The greater the mix and number of these different vegetative communities, the greater the richness of biodiversity, and ecological value. Woodlands are forests of hardwoods, conifers or a mix of both; rocklands are the granite Canadian Shield and limestone alvars; wetlands include swamps, marshes, bogs and fens. Each of these may be further divided to quite specific habitat niches, eventually becoming a rare and essential home for species at risk, and for all species that interact within that eco-region.



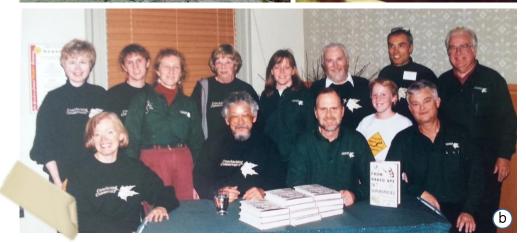
25 Years of Protecting Nature for Future Generations

25 years ago, a small group of people started something great. They saw a problem, and sprang into action. The beautiful wetlands, forests and alvars were being destroyed, and it felt like nothing could be done. That feeling, that need was the driving force for the founders. The idea was simple – to protect as much land as possible while we still could. Today, that simple idea still stands. Together we have accomplished impressive feats.

In honour of the anniversary of that simple idea, we present to you a look back at some of the key activities from the past 25 years.







Pictured on opposite page: Over 100 people attended the opening and dedication of the Ron Reid Nature Reserve in September

A conversation around a kitchen table started it all – The Couchiching Conservancy (CC) is founded!

1994

Planning, planning, planning. The Founders work through putting together the Natural Heritage Action Plan

1995

а

Bill & Dave Darker donate Roehl Wetland, 71 acres near Sparrow Lake

Charles Grant, Sandra Hamilton and Kerry Rusk donate two parcels of land in Orillia, now known as Grant Wetland & Wilson Point Wetland

Robert & Ruth Warling donate 600 acre, Severn Woodlands, to Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), to be managed by CC

1998

Basil McIsaac donates an 83-acre wetland property in Ramara, now named McIsaac Wetland

Assist in stewardship of McCuaig McDonald Nature Reserve, a 104acre NCC property

1999

Begin management of Severn Woodlands, an NCC property in Severn Township

David Suzuki joins CC as a guest speaker

50-acre McDarker Wetland protected with funds from Amy and Dave Darker

The Conservancy develops a website

Pens built in Carden for Castern Loggerhead Shrike

411-acre Turnbull Ranch Easement protected in Carden

1993





Like an image immortalized by Carmichael, Harris, Casson or their peers, the scenes presented in this exhibition visually capture and describe a moment in the timeline of the landscape. Decades into the future it is hoped a visitor to these properties will be able to reflect on these images and see that the only changes incurred are those brought on by natural succession. The artists chosen to create these images are diverse in their backgrounds, experiences, styles, and expressions. Their enthusiasm to be involved proved artistically strong and personally profound; read their statements that accompany each piece and you will discover how incredibly supportive they are towards land conservation.

As the title infers, these protected lands will be our collective legacy to future generations; these images being an insightful record of the ecological jewels they are to inherit.

Many of the artworks are available for purchase, with proceeds divided between the artist, Orillia Museum of Art & History, and Couchiching Conservancy. A catalogue of the show will be available at a later date.

The 'Legacy' Team consisted of: David and Juliana Hawke, Shannon Hawke, Mary Ann Tully and David Wilkins, Tanya Clark and Ninette Gyorody.

Pictured clockwise from top left: Adams Nature Reserve by Claudia McKnight, Ron Reid Nature Reserve by Dave Beckett, David and Juliana Hawke, co-curators of the Legacy Landscapes exhibit, Scout Valley by Wendy Bermingham.

Supporter Spotlight: Sheila MacFeeters

Sheila's heart belonged to the land.

Sheila MacFeeters' legacy is following her heart. She was a long time supporter of conservation efforts in the Couchiching area, and across Ontario. Her gifts, directed by her family to fulfil her wishes, continue to have a lasting impact on the wilderness in our region.

Her childhood was spent at a summer camp for girls in Algonquin Park, a family cottage on Go Home Bay, and she learned the importance for life long education and giving back from her parents. These formative lessons and experiences shaped Sheila. She started her career with Parks Canada and a short while later joined the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). Sheila always recognized the need for balance in the natural world. From working with Forestry to Fish and Wildlife to Crown Lands and Waters, Sheila managed Ontario's



natural resources and was proud of being the third woman in Ontario to be appointed a District Manager by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Sheila loved central and northern Ontario and in her later years worked at Queen's Park as Executive Assistant to the MNR Deputy Minister. She enjoyed learning, had a pure curiosity for nature and lived her life with compassion, care and courage.

In 2009, Sheila was told she had an incurable and inoperable brain cancer. She underwent several years of treatments and a clinical trial but the inevitable progression of the disease could not be prevented. In 2012, she and her husband Michael purchased a home in Orillia and moved there in 2014, where they had planned to retire, to enjoy the rest of Sheila's life. When she passed away in 2017, Michael and her family knew of her intentions to help further the land trust movement in any way possible. With a gift in her will, Sheila helped support our Citizen Science program and a portion of her gift is being held in our Acquisition Fund, to be used when an opportunity arises to protect more environmentally significant land.

At the end of 2018, there was an additional gift to foster a next generation of environmental leaders. A gift from Sheila's estate has enabled the Conservancy to hire Joelle Burnie, Engagement Organizer, on a full-time basis. This position was originally funded by The Gosling Foundation.

We are so honoured by Sheila's gifts and grateful to her family. With her help, we are furthering conservation efforts to help protect the wilderness that she loved so much. Thank you Sheila.

44-acre Konda Easement protected in District of Muskoka 65-acre Wilkins Easement protected in Oro-Medonte

The Carden Alvar is officially designated as an Important Bird Area

50-acre Tushingham property under CC management on behalf of Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT)

2001

Ross Butler donates 31 acres near Sparrow Lake

2002

John & Betty McCulloch donate the 22-acre Carthew Bay Nature Reserve near Lake Simcoe

2003

Ron Reid becomes the first staff member, as Executive Director

87-acre East Coulson Swamp (donated by Margaret Atwood to NCC is now managed by CC

> Cameron Ranch, a 2869-acre property in Carden, purchased by a coalition of conservation organizations

2004

52-acre forest donated by Bill Grant in memory of his brother Jack, called Grant's Woods. The house is converted into the Conservancy's office.

40-acre Agnew Easement protected in Oro Medonte

Gazebo at Grant's Woods built in partnership with Home Depot Orillia

2000





Acquisition

We celebrated the generous donation of a 134-acre conservation easement in Oro-Medonte in early January by Peter Dale and Louise Calvert-Dale to start 2018.

In March we announced the recently-acquired 730-acre Black River property would be named the Ron Reid Nature Reserve, recognizing Ron's lifetime conservation achievement. The reserve was officially dedicated at a wellattended ceremony in September.

The Conservancy continues to refine its acquisition strategy and pursue a short list of properties, including the 1,350acre Cedarhurst in the heart of the Carden Alvar. Slated for development as a shooting range, securing it is crucial to alvar conservation.

Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas

There are 600 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas in Canada, and the Carden Plain IBBA is an outstanding example both in size and importance. Covering 372 square kilometers, it has been ranked as having National Significance due to the breeding populations of Loggerhead Shrike, Henslow's Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Golden-winged Warbler and other grassland dependent birds. These sites are selected by international criteria and are administered in Canada by Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada.

We love seeing how you experience the Nature Reserves and the natural magic of the region. Thanks for tagging us on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook!





What goes into stewarding 37 properties?

The on-going care of local Nature Reserves is a big effort. Support from donors and volunteers like you helps make these activities possible:

- Volunteer training
- Trail maintenance Actively control invasive plants such as • Garlic Mustard, Phragmites Reed, Dogstrangling Vine, Japanese Knotweed, Purple Loosestrife, European Frog-bit and more
- Species at Risk projects
- Site trespass investigations

- Site dumping investigations
- Developing new property plans
- **Review of existing Property**
- **Management Plans**
- Coordinating volunteers
- Handling neighbour relations
- Site visits and monitoring
- Managing cattle grazing leases
- Manage existing structures

A Good Neighbour

Each Nature Reserve has specific boundaries, but of course, the bordering properties and neighbours are connected to our Nature Reserves! What happens on those properties can impact the Nature Reserves. With your support, we manage these relations and issues such as roadside dumping, commenting on development, keeping neighbours safe from hazard trees and more.

Pictured opposite page: fragrant white waterlily at Alexander Hope Smith. northern water snake at the Thomas C. Agnew Nature Reserve. Pictured above: American bullfrog at the Ron Reid Nature Reserve.



Waterthrush Woods, an 86-acre parcel, donated by Gladys Leslie who owned the land with her husband for over 50 years

First Annual Carden Challenge, a 24-hour event of birding and biodiversity to raise funds to protect the Carden Alvar

Bob MacDonald of Quirks & Quarks joins the Conservancy as a guest speaker

678-acre Prairie Smoke Alvar protected by NCC, making it the 500th property in Canada to be certified under the federal Ecological Gifts program. CC managed this property

2006

Private Stewardship Program started in Carden

17-acre Elliott Woods in Oro-Medonte donated by Don & Heather Elliott

Church Woods, a 25-acre forest in Shanty Bay, protected thanks to a \$600,000 fundraising effort by the community

> 1600-acre Windmill Ranch purchased & protected in partnership with CC, NCC, Ontario Parks & others

23-acre Jennett Woods donated by Rhonda Cowen in memory of her parents

2007

e

113-acre Alexander Hope Smith property near Washago donated by Mrs. Hope Smith

> Hewitson property protected, connected to Grant Wetland in Orillia

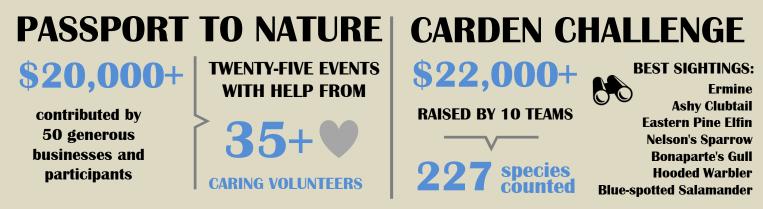
The first Carden Nature Festival offered 30 field trips and had over 200 participants

Interpretive trail created in Grant's Woods to spotlight Indigenous uses of medicinal plants



2005





Our fourth year of the Passport to Nature program was special, with 25 events in celebration of our anniversary. With free guided events and activities throughout the year, this program is one of the best ways to get out to the Nature Reserves our supporters help protect. This year, over 570 people participated in these events. A special thanks to all of our sponsors, including Sojourn Outdoors, Dr. Kevin Vennard, Lynda Hepinstall of Century 21, Al Langman Construction, Meridian Credit Union Orillia, Home Hardware Orillia, Brewery Bay and Rustica Pizza Vino. The Carden Challenge is simple. Teams of four explore the Carden Alvar in search of as many species as possible in 24 hours – and there are trophies too! We are so grateful to the people who take part, and everyone who donates and sponsors participants. There were many great additions to the Carden Checklist this year, and one special sighting was of a Bald Eagle flying overhead with a Ermine in its talons. You never know what you will see when you go out exploring!

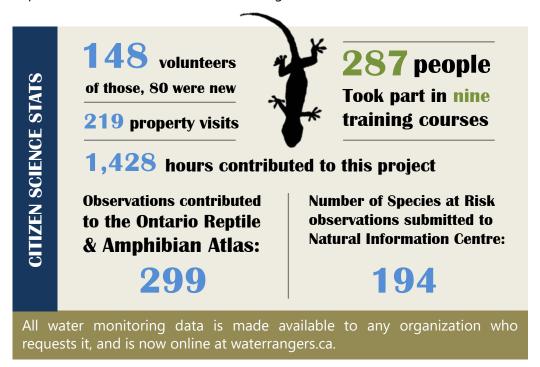


2018 marked a new era in property stewardship for the Conservancy: biological research led by volunteers.

Three factors inspired us: An ever-growing property portfolio that keeps the stewardship manager hopping, the successful citizen science Water Monitoring Program, and concern that climate change, habitat loss, and invasive species are making management of conservation lands very complicated.

Based on the premise that, 'we can't protect what we don't know about', we now have volunteer monitoring programs that deliver population data on reptiles and amphibians, birds, species-at-risk, and invasive species – all on Conservancy lands throughout our region.

We have 148 citizen science stories to tell this year: protecting turtle eggs from predation, discovering five-lined skinks for the first time, capturing critical footage of brook trout in a threatened stream, uncovering a hotbed of vernal pools brimming with salamanders, tracking pollutants in streams, and standing out under the full moon listening to whip-poor-wills. Every story makes us wiser, and helps ensure a future for all our fellow beings.



Pictured: In addition to the individual volunteers who have signed on as citizen scientists, we have partnerships with volunteers from the Orillia Fish & Game Conservation Club and Environmental Science students from Patrick Fogarty Secondary School. In April we all gathered at the Langman Sanctuary in Orillia for a training program on species at risk.

490-acre McGee Creek & 2009 Published and launched two field guidebooks: Species on the Edge by Kristen Field, and

Alvar Specialty Plants of Central Ontario by Margo Holt

Completion of a major project on Species at Risk along the Trent Severn Waterway, Waterway Wildlife Project

654-acre Little Bluestem protected in Carden by NCC, with fundraising assistance by CC

Volunteers create safer nesting sites for turtles at the Fawcett Natural Area near Washago

> The Conservancy joins the social media age, with a Facebook page

2010

299-acre Ironside Easement protected in Township of Severn

Janet Grand and Ron Reid's Big Year raised over \$34,000 to help fund the Wolf Run Alvar

> 303-acre Wolf Run Alvar protected in Carden

2008

Carden Conservation Strategy formed

A second section of Alexander Hope Smith is secured and owned by OHT, with management by CC

Scout Valley Conservation Easement established, making it the first agreement completed with a Municipality

Cranberry Wetland protected by NCC and management by CC

Volunteers: People Power



AERO

SURFE

We are so grateful to the hundreds of people who give their time, knowledge and expertise to help power conservation efforts, monitor for species at risk, help in the office, and assist in a myriad of other activities. This year, thousands of hours were volunteered!

Adams, Heather & Alec Aggarwal, Aiesha Agnew, Sandy & Melnyk, Lynne Ariss, Kimberly Arthur, Arthur Atkinson, Eileen Aykler, Petra & Bob Baker, Courtney & Bramhall, Mark Ball, Gord & Jane Ball. Jon Bender, Ian Bensette, Jeremy Beresford, Lori Ann Berndt, Joan & Richard Binsted, Kevin Bisset, Mark Bone, Dan & Blayney, Susan Bonsteel, Jane Booth, Jack Bowden, Lydia Bowles, Bob Brasher, Jane Brown, Holly Brown, Jerry & Lorraine Bulguth, Melissa & Reid

Burns, Jordyn Callahan, Kathy Canning, Robert Careless, Philip Carlyle, Gayle & Challis, John Christie, Douglas & Barbara Church, Gerald Cirino, Anthony Clark, Jennie Clark, Marilyn & Hayward, Peter Clark, Tanya Cole, Jeff & Kristi Cornish, Lorelei Coughlin, Meagan Coughlin, Trudy Crosby, Estella Curran, Cameron Curry, Shannon Dale, Peter & Louise Damery, Roland Deadman, Sue Dickson, Laura Duncan, Bruce Dunlop, Garfield Dyment, Leslie Elliott, Claire

Ewing, Heather Ferguson, Kristyn Ferris, Cynthia Ford, John Fox, Mike & Karen Francis, Bella & Simon Fulford, Pamela Furman, Hank Gamroth, Mary Sue & Konda, Ed Gauldie, Heather Gilchrist, Judy Gillette, Lisa & Peters, Gary Grand, Janet & Reid, Ron Hall, Harry & Marian Hancock, Ron & Sharon Handley, Lukas Hangaard, Dorthea Hawke, David & Juliana Hawke, Shannon Hewitt, Luke Hodgkiss, Sarah Hodgson, Glen Hodgson, Tony Holden, Clare Homer, David & Bonnie Hope, Brittany

Howes, Kyra Humphries, Jean Hunt, Katrina Ilyniak, Morris Iron, Jean Jenkins, Jeramie Jaski, Greg & Massig, Joanne Johnston, Krystie Johnston, Richard & Wendy Juneau, Mary Kallin, Fred Keaveney, Andrew Kelly, Carley Kerr, Jacqueline Ketchum, Anna Klimuk, Vanessa Kohl, Adrienne Kungl, Ann-Marie & Baker, Joe Larsen, Ellen Lauer, Tim Laver, Paul & Frances Leadbeater, Dale Lord, Dave Lowles, Marilyn & Doug Lowry, Wendy MacDonald, Andrew

Pictured above: Meagan Coughlin at Ragged Rapids – the north end of the Ron Reid Nature Reserve, volunteers Anthony Cirino, Alan Smale and John Walinck install gates at the Ron Reid Nature Reserve, polyphemus moth at Elliott Woods.



"I volunteer for the camaraderie and being able to work outdoors. My support of the Conservancy continues because of the huge impact it is making in the protection of habitat for species at risk in our area. Conservancy groups and Land Trusts are essential in preserving natural habitat and preventing population growth and property development from destroying our natural surroundings."

- Alan Smale (pictured in the white shirt above)

Machan, Janet Machan, Sarah MacLachlan, Pam Mask, Grant Mathewson, Stan & Sophie Meadows, Keith Meleg, Ethan Mick, Omer & Mary E. Middaugh, Paul Mills, Alex & Catherine Moore, Ginny Moy-Shuster, Stefanie Noble, Susan Pitts, John Poge, Joe Poge, Sue Pomeroy, Margaret & Duncan, Ted Powell, Valerie & Jamie Probst, Lou & Judy Read, Mike Reed, Eleanor Reekie, Pam Rekret, Philip Robson, Laura

Rockhill, Nathalie & Pengelly, Elizabeth Pityk, Ross & Smith, Jane Ross, Jamie & Anne Rusak, Aaron Rusak, Cindy Russell Baird, Jill Russell, M. Lynn Ryckman, Barbara & Warren Schulz, Karl Sherwood, Bill & Vicki Sinclair, Alex & Muriel Sinclair, Carol Sloley, Jane Smale, Alan Stefek, Marlene Stephenson, Shannon Stevenson, Mark Stewart, James K. & Barbara Stinnissen, Arni & Dianne Stinnissen, Tricia Storozinski, Eugene Storry, Noella & Robinson, Peter Sullivan, Bob & Wendy Swinimer, Susan & William

Symmes, Ric & Sandy Talbot, Candice Teubner, Dagmar Thiess, Isabelle & Gary Thompson, Courtney Thomson, Adam & Shirley Thomson, Ken & Corinne Tremblay, Phyllis Trumble, Don Tuck, Alan & Melanie Tuininga, Karlene Westerby, Lynne Van Oorschot, Darlene VanderMarel, Ingrid Varty, Doug & Charon Walinck, Jan & John Walker, Dave Wand, Kimberly Warboys, Meredith Ward, Andrea Wiancko, Leanore Wigham, Peter Wilkins, David & Mary Wilson, Bruce Wilson, Tom & Judy Woodford, Pat Wright, John F.

The Past Presidents of the Board create the Heartwood Fund for legacy gifts to support the long-term sustainability of CC conservation efforts

Involved in clean-up of Lake Simcoe. Help from several partners allowed us to undertake more than a dozen stewardship projects in Carden, such as fencing off wetlands & creating alternative water sources for cattle. These efforts earned us a Watershed Hero Award from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

> 87-acre Williams Easement protected in Oro Medonte, near Copeland Forest

2011

2010

206-acre Bluebird Ranch protected in Carden

Copeland Forest Stewardship Initiative begins

Nature in the Neighbourhood created to bring environmental education to kids

> 100-acre Probst easement protected in Carden thanks to Lou and Judy Probst

86-acre Thomas C. Agnew Nature Reserve protected thanks to Joan Berndt, Susan Campbell and supporters

Partnered with Parks Canada, Trent Severn Waterway to enhance habitat for turtles at the Washago Centennial Park. A new observation platform was also constructed with the assistance of volunteers

Pictured above: Ontario Field Botanists event led by Dale Leadbeater at the Ron Reid Nature Reserve.



THE GOAL: leave a green legacy for future generations by supporting the core work of the Conservancy

WHAT IS NEEDED: \$10 million dollars, endowed by 2025 PROGRESS: an estimated \$2.4 million dollars has been pledged to date in bequests, life insurance, cash and other legacy gift options.

The ecological future of our region is dependent on The Couchiching Conservancy being a viable organization for many generations to come. To be at the forefront of this protection effort we must be prepared to support our grass roots group of citizens, members and staff so that unique spaces can be recognized and preserved for those who follow us.

For information on the Fund, contact Bob Sullivan, chair of the Past Presidents Council at 705-325-8775 or sullyb@rogers.com, or Tanya Clark at 705-326-1620 or tanya@couchconservancy.ca for a confidential discussion.

IN OUR REGION, THERE ARE

41

species at some level of risk of disappearing forever



Of those,

species have been found on
Nature Reserves you help protect

7 ENDANGERED 8 THREATENED 12 SPECIAL CONCERN Our sincere thanks to the following people who have pledged or contributed to the Heartwood Fund:

Sandy Agnew, Gord & Jane Ball, Cameron & Linda Bigelow, Philip Careless, Douglas & Barbara Christie, Timothy Crooks, Heather Gauldie, Ron & Sharon Hancock, David & Bonnie Homer, Maureen Kenny & Jim McDonald, Paul & Frances Laver, Robert & Beverley Leask, Wendy & Si Lowry, Cathy Massig, Ginny Moore, Bob & Allison Ormerod, Jamie & Valerie Powell, Ron Reid & Janet Grand, Nathalie Rockhill & Elizabeth Pengelly, Joan & John Rosebush, Jamie & Anne Ross, Lynn Russell, Marcia Stephen, Bob & Wendy Sullivan, Michael & Norma Tangney, Isabelle & Gary Thiess, Adam & Shirley Thomson, Ken & Corinne Thomson, Mary Walton-Ball.

There are also seven anonymous pledges and contributions.

Pictured above: deer at Wolf Run Alvar Nature Reserve, Sue Deadman, Margaret Pomeroy and Mark Bisset at a Heartwood Fund spring event, and Fred Kallin, Susan Noble and Jane Bonsteel at Grant Wetland.



"Jane Bonsteel (right) began volunteering in 2017 and quickly emerged as a leader. Her experience with Source Water Protection at the Region of Peel has been put to good use on our Water Monitoring Team. Last year Jane joined the Sundial Creek Working Group, took on a special research project examining pollutants in Sundial Creek (Grant Wetland), and helped train new water volunteers."

- Dorthea Hangaard

Aiming for a Carbon Neutral Workspace

We have not used a drop of oil at the office since the spring of 2015. Between September, 2016 and December, 2018, we generated 15,244 kilowatt hours of electricity through our solar panels. We have saved \$3,500 in heating and cooling costs during the same time period.

Local Conservation Work Reaching New Heights

When people are engaged in conservation work, we all benefit. Although it is tricky to pin down an exact number of how many people we are connected to, we have taken a stab at tallying up the numbers. Between our website, donors, volunteers, events and more, we estimate we have reached well over 303,000 people this year. That's more people connected to loving the land and taking action to protect what is left.



100-acre Kris Starr Sanctuary donated by Bill and Molly Starr to honour their late son Kris

> 85-acre Russell Easement protected within Carden Alvar Natural Area Conservation Plan

Four full-time staff now employed by CC

2013

180-acre Prospect Marsh in Carden donated by Judy Probst in memory of Ralph & Min McCleary

Awarded the Conservation Group Award at the Ontario Endangered Species Act Conference

93-acre Robert and Emily Fawcett Natural Area is transferred to CC from NCC

218-acre Leadbeater Easement protected near Raven Lake in City of Kawartha Lakes

The Heartwood Fund reaches over \$1 million in pledges and contributions

2014

Carden Alvar Provincial Park established; CC continues to steward this high quality alvar

354-acre Larsen Easement protected, creating a direct connection between alvar conservation lands and QEII Wildlands Provincial Park

2015

g

The office of the Conservancy begins its renovation thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and a legacy gift from Bill Grant

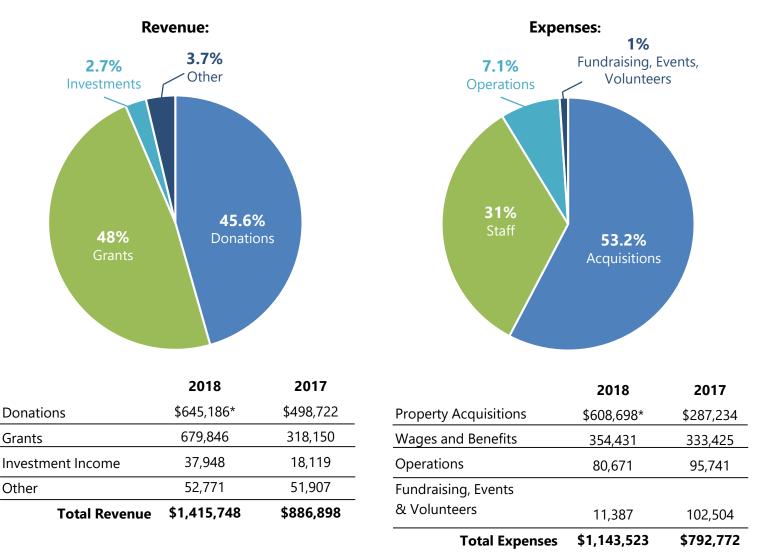
> 400-acre Ling Easement protected in the City of Kawartha Lakes

> > CC begins providing habitat offsets

2012

f

Together, we are a beacon of hope. In a time of overwhelmingly grave environment news, our supporters step up for nature. They step up by making generous and kind donations of cash, stock and bequests and by becoming members. Businesses and foundations have a critical role as well to help further the land trust movement. Accountability and transparency is important. We work hard with volunteers, the Board of Directors and staff to ensure your donations are used wisely and are making an impact.



*Includes a percentage of the Ron Reid Nature Reserve

A full independent financial audit for our fiscal year, ending October 31, 2018, has been prepared by Hehn Trickey Professional Corporation Chartered Professional Accountants and is available to the public at www.couchichingconserv.ca.

"I have enjoyed this beautiful planet. I want to leave the same beautiful planet for my grandchildren and great grandchildren."

Myrna Allison, Couchiching Conservancy Supporter for over 10 years

Connecting to the Business Community



The following businesses supported conservation by donating, providing in-kind services or products, helping at Nature Reserves and/or by supporting the Passport to Nature program. All of their contributions made a difference to the work we do and to the events we run. They know that a healthy environment is *vital* to a healthy community.

Oak (Up to \$5,000+): Russell, Christie, LLP Barristers & Solicitors, J.R. Booth Professional Corp., Accessibility Professionals, Sojourn Outdoors, SMS Design

Maple (Up to \$2,500): Al Langman Construction, Century 21 - Lynda Hepinstall, Dr. Kevin Vennard & Associates, Home Hardware Orillia, Lafarge Canada, Meridian Credit Union, Ontario Waterway Cruises Inc., ScottInc Design + Build

Elm (Up to \$1,000): James Dick Construction, Orillia Chamber of Commerce, A&W Services

Pine (Up to \$500): BMO Wealth Management - John Mayo, Brewery Bay Food Co., Dr. Michelle Gordon Medicine Professional Corp., Georgian Bay Printers, Investment Planning Counsel - Rhonda Cowen, Orillia Power Distribution Corp., Orillia Subaru, Remax - Ian and Franci Ross, Rustica Pizza + Vino, Sunshine Carpet and Flooring, Walker Industries, The Villager Magazine, Northern Business Equipment

Cedar (Up to \$350): Barn to be Wild, Ben Cole, Bruce Stanton MP, Dr. Louise Hill, Dufferin Aggregates, Ego's Nurseries Ltd., Harvey's Orillia, Jack & Maddy's, Jobu Design, K. McKechnie Architectural Design, Kawartha Dairy, Lake Dalrymple Resort, Lakehead University, McLean & Dickey Insurance, Michael Scott Landscaping, Miller Aggregates, Orillia Naturalists' Club, Orillia Volkswagen, Pelee Island Winery, Portage Store, Sebright Capital Advisors Ltd., The Bird House Nature Co., The Water Market, Up and Out Sporting Gear, Wagg's, Bayview Wildwood Resort

Willow (\$150): Birchmere Retirement Residence, Crawford McLean & Anderson LLP, HGR Graham Partners LLP, Office Links, Brechin Timbermart





program launched NCC begins management of 107-acre Adams Nature

Reserve donated by Alec and Heather Adams, featuring sections of beautiful Canadian Shield and beaver ponds

Advisory Council established to create connections, broaden resources, build profile, assist with fundraising

2017

2016

730-acre Ron Reid Nature Reserve protected with \$575,000 fundraising campaign

2018

134-acre Dale Easement (protected in Oro-Medonte, near **Copeland Forest**

25th anniversary! Here's to the next 25 years and beyond

2015

411-acre Turnbull Ranch title transferred to CC

100-acre Deadman Easement protected in Severn Township

Passport to Nature program launched, a guide to visit Conservancy Nature Reserves

Water Quality Monitoring

their local properties



The people listed in the following pages are the people to thank for everything that has been made possible this year. Many are regular supporters, with a long-standing commitment to the earth that we hold dear, and some are new supporters who have been inspired by the natural places in our region.

Those listed below donated over \$200 to our organization in 2018. Additional donors have requested anonymity. **Thank you to everyone who has supported conservation this year – together, we are making a difference.**

Adams, Brian R. Addison, Joan H Aggarwal, Ravi, Karen & Aiesha Agnew, Sandy & Melnyk, Lynne Atwood, Harold & Lenore Atwood, Margaret & Gibson, Graeme Ball, Gord & Jane Barrett, Craig Beck, Gregor Belchamber, Patricia Berndt, Joan & Richard Bigelow, Cameron Bisset, Sandi & Mark Bonsteel, Jane Booth, Jack Bramhall, Mark Brenner, Konrad & Jutta Brown, Peter T. Bushell, Bryan & Sandra

Callahan, Kathy Carbert, Deanna A. Catto, Margaret & John Christie, Douglas & Barbara Clark, Marilyn Clarke, Richard M. Coughlin, Trudy Crooks, Rosaleen Crowther, Barbara Curran, Cameron Dale, Peter & Louise Deadman, Sue Duncan, Bruce Duncan, Robert (Ted) Dunsmore, Rosemary & John Dyment, Leslie Fletcher, Richard & Diane Ford, Derek Frost, Doug

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HIKING TRAILS ON OUR NATURE RESERVES

13.4 km of trails managed between 10 Nature Reserves





Visit our website for trail maps



"I believe that an organization that does so much to protect natural areas should be supported by all of us. I donate the equivalent to the cost of a daily cup of coffee. Having this amount withdrawn automatically each month means one less thing that I have to remember to do."

Sue Deadman, Easement holder, Monthly Donor, Volunteer

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Pictured opposite page: Ragged Rapids at the boundary of the Ron Reid Nature Reserve. summer azure at the Ron Reid Nature Reserve.



Every dollar counts. We appreciate everyone who has made the commitment to protect nature - on the following pages are the people who have supported us under the \$200 level. An additional 122 people contributed under \$30 this year.

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Pictured above: Pamela Fulford, Ron Reid and Dianne Saxe (the former Environmental Commissioner of Ontario), Heather Kerslake, Beth Johnstone and Kathy Hunt at the opening of the Ron Reid Nature Reserve, mourning cloak at the Adams Nature Reserve.

Gauldie, Heather Gavin, Brandi Gill, Peter Gladstone, Arthur Glass, Barbara Graham, Jim Grandine, Joan Gray, Neil, Cameron & Ann Greer, Nynka Grimwood, Maureen Grossman, Sharon & Larry Guthrie, Gay Halbot, Deb Hallman, Tawnya Hammond, Ken & Alva Hangaard, Dorthea Hannah, Nancy & Rick Hansen, Robert & Linda Harris, John Harvey, William Hassell, John Hatch, Mark & Kim Hawke, John & Gwen Heath, Carla & Taylor, Chris Helleiner, Frederick & Lois Hepinstall, Glenys Hobbs, Shelley Hodgkiss, Sarah Hodgson, Marg & Anthony Hohse, Deanna Holden, Clare Homer, Norma Hoy, Sean Hrivnak, Larry & Currie, Tricia Hunt, Kathy Hurlbut, Andrea & Tom Hutchings, Al & Wendy Ilyniak, Morris Irwin, Anne Jamieson, Lynn Jantunen, Miha Jarman, Jennifer Jefferies, Sheryn Johnson, Emily Johnson, Peggy Johnson, Rebecca Johnstone, Lynda Jones, Michael & Barbara Jorginson, Beth Kallin, Anne & Fred Kaszanits, Wilfried & Wendy Keatley, Gail Kelleher, David & Holly Kennedy, David & Margaret Kennedy, Hanna Kennedy, Judith & Preston, Robert Kennett, David & Ann Kent, Heather Kerslake, Heather & Roger Kiff, Ray Kirby, Mary Lou Kluger, Ronald & Ronna

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Donations were made in memory of:

Cameron, Norman Crooks, Tim DeBelleby, Margaret French, Clayton MacFeeters, Sheila Michener, Gordon Pitts, John Smith, Ted Zarnke, Odin Frederick

Pictured above: Ponds at Prospect Marsh, the winners in the Competitive birding category of the Carden Challenge with 128 species – the Golden-winged Warriors (no hybrids), consisting of team members Andrew Keaveney, Tim Arthur, Jeremy Bensette, Dawn Calleja & Justin Kezsei

Our sincere thanks to our numerous partners in conservation.

Bird Studies Canada Brereton Field Naturalists' Club Canada Helps Carden Field Naturalists City of Orillia Community Foundation of Orillia and Area **Copeland Forest Friends Environment and Climate Change** Canada Freshwater Future Ganaraska Trail Association Georgian Bay Land Trust Huronia Land Conservancy Kawartha Conservation Kawartha Field Naturalists Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Lakehead University McLean Foundation Muskoka Conservancy Nature Canada Nature Conservancy of Canada Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust **Ontario Field Ornithologists**

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Looking ahead

Thoughtful planning, careful execution of those plans, and strategic acquisition will dominate 2019 as The Couchiching Conservancy remains tightly focused on protecting land, caring for the land we protect and building community support to make those first two priorities possible.

Board director Pam Fulford is leading a strategic planning process that will guide our organization from 2020 to 2025. Work has been underway since the spring of 2018 to prepare a process that will engage our members, volunteers and supporters in 2019 to help chart the Conservancy's course into the future.

Central to that future will be the continued expansion of our Citizen Science programs, with more volunteers and more areas of focus. Understanding the landscape has never been more important than it is right now, and our citizen scientists are providing the material we need to continue making good stewardship decisions and avoid capacity bottlenecks that would slow our acquisition program.

Armed with our new natural heritage acquisition strategy we will continue to bring important ecological properties under protection. Working with our partners, a high priority for 2019 will be to bring a 1,350-acre parcel in the heart of the Carden Alvar under protection, and failing that, defend it from development that would have a negative impact on the thousands of acres of surrounding conservation land.

At the same time we will continue to pursue a list of properties to preserve vanishing habitat in the Lake Couchiching region, building on the last 25 years of work to create natural sanctuaries and connecting corridors to the south, north, east and west.

We will not stop.

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Legacy Landscapes featured art Front cover: Roehl Wetland by Jan Wheeler, Carden Alvar by Peter Mills, Grant Wetland by Jane Wilson, Church Woods by Deb Grise

> Back cover: Grant's Woods by Catherine Cadieux, Roehl Wetland by Murray VanHalem, Scout Valley by Kathy Godfrey

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