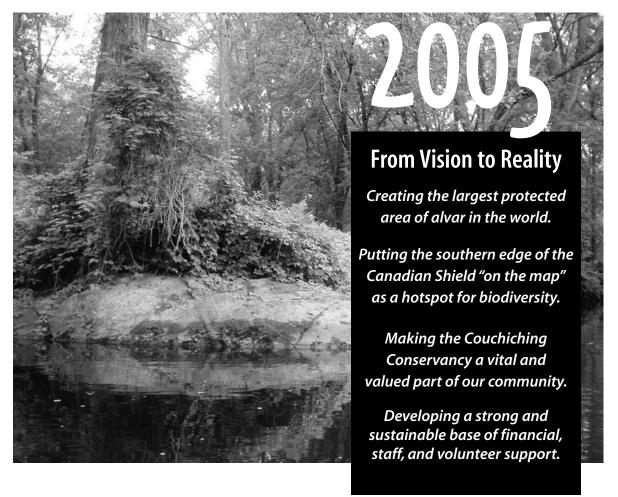
ANNUAL REPORT



A decade ago, visionary goals such as these would have seemed impossible. But in 2005, the Couchiching Conservancy made major progress towards all of those goals, and more.

Through the generosity of our donors and volunteers, the energy created by innovative partnerships, and the creativity of our staff and Board, we are transforming the vision of protecting nature in this region into reality.

Everything we do is focused on the protection of ecologically sensitive lands, directly or indirectly. Land protection is our top priority, and sound management is our bottom line.

We are a non-profit organization, incorporated in 1993, and registered as Canadian charity No. 13972 5030 RR 0001.



2005 Highlights of 2005

Securing priority lands for conservation

The Carden Alvar, a mosaic of globally-rare vegetation communities and significant habitats for grassland and shrubland birds, is clearly a high conservation priority. In recent years, we worked in cooperation with Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Ontario Parks, and other conservation groups to purchase Cameron Ranch. This year, we contributed another \$125,000 from local donations to help secure the 1600-acre Windmill Ranch, which will transfer ownership in late January.



We also negotiated the part-purchase, part-donation of another significant property, Prairie Smoke Alvar, from Ms. Karen Popp. This 700-acre parcel, which is scheduled to close in February, contains good-quality alvar habitats as well as limestone forests and wetlands, and abuts the corner of Cameron Ranch.

All of this activity raised the question of long-term targets for the Carden Alvar, so we worked in conjunction with NCC staff and others to develop a 10-year conservation blueprint for this site. By 2015, at least 12,000 acres will be secured, with the Couchiching Conservancy taking on the primary role for stewardship of these lands. This will create the largest area of protected alvar in the world. With current projects and conservation easements, we are already half-way to this target.

Elsewhere in our region, we welcomed the donation of an 86-acre parcel on the Head River near Sebright from Mrs. Gladys Leslie. This property, which will be known as Waterthrush Woods, consists mostly of mature Silver Maple swampland accessible only by canoe.

A tipping point for The Land Between

Naturalists have long suspected that the band of shallow granite and limestone rocklands along the edge of the Canadian Shield were exceptionally diverse. After several years of urging by volunteer Peter Alley, we formed a collaborative project with the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy, and in

May 2005 hired Ben Porchuk as coordinator for The Land Between project.

Ben has developed a series of partnership projects with universities, provincial and federal agencies, and other nonprofits. These projects are confirming and clarifying the special ecological and cultural values in this corridor, and identifying gaps and opportunities for further protection. We are currently seeking funding to continue The Land Between project for two more years.

Reaching out to the community

With the help of Rosalie Pratt, 2005 was an exceptional year for community outreach. Our first Earth Day celebration, though cold and wet, was well-received by the 350 participants. A fall event featuring Bob McDonald from *Quirks and Quarks*, a series of workshops, and a Members bus tour provided other opportunities for learning.

A partnership with Sciensational Sssnakes enticed hundreds of people at fairs, festivals, and malls to learn first-hand about reptiles and our conservation programs. Our Carden Plain

2005

natural heritage conference was also very successful, leading to follow-up discussions with local landowners and with the aggregate industry.

Printed materials were another important avenue of outreach in 2005, with new publications including a Grant's Woods brochure, Carden Plain Nature Guide, and a Conservancy poster. Major media partnerships with Orillia *Packet & Times, Midland Free Press*, and *JackFM* radio

also helped promote community involvement.

This year also saw increasing public use of Grant's Woods, including a collaborative educational program delivered by Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. As part of that project, our tireless volunteers build a new washroom building with composting toilets, and several new footbridges to complete the Grant's Woods trails.



Building a sustainable organization

Donors to the Conservancy want to know that we will be here for the long term, and we have taken a number of steps towards that goal in 2005. Members are the core of our support, and we achieved a modest growth in individual members this year, with a 78% renewal rate. A major new initiative was our corporate member program, with over 40 local businesses signing on and attending a recognition event in October.

In the past, the Conservancy has benefitted from one major bequest, and we are encouraging this important avenue of support through a planned giving

program. A new colour brochure is now available, and we plan to develop fact sheets on various options shortly.

We also approved new guidelines during 2005 for the management of our funds for acquisition and stewardship, including the creation of the Presidents' Fund to provide a reserve for future operating expenses.

Public recognition also helps us build support. This year, we were honoured to be recognized in NCC's national newsletter The Ark as a model community partner. We were also selected to host a visit by federal Environment Minister Stephane Dion to celebrate the first 10 years of the Ecogifts program.

Looking ahead to 2006

At its annual planning meeting, the Conservancy Board identified priorities for 2006, including:

- Complete the Prairie Smoke Alvar acquisition and initiate other Carden projects.
- Sign a conservation easement on a property near Waverley, and possibly several other projects in Oro-Medonte.
- Explore several major securement projects in the southern Shield area in Severn and Ramara townships.
- Develop increased stewardship capacity for Carden Alvar and elsewhere.
- Strengthen the Protect an Acre program and new member recruitment.
- Secure funding for second phase of The Land Between project.
- Host a Mother Earth Day event and the Carden Challenge.
- Publish an updated guide to Conservancy properties. •

2005 An Overview of 2005 Finances

Our overall revenues were considerably higher this year than in 2004, largely because of fundraising for the purchase of Windmill Ranch. Revenue from general donations and memberships increased significantly in 2005, as part of a long-term strategy to decrease our

Allocation of Funds (in \$000's) 23 - Stewardship President's Reserve - 39 60 - Operating expens Staff costs - 56 16 - Value of retained lands 100 - Windmill Ranch transfer etween project - 48 2005 Revenues (in \$000's) Project grants - 72 48 - Operating grants 16 - Donated lands value Carden Alvar donations - 113 39 - Memberships donations 27 - Miscellaneous

reliance on foundation grants. As well, several major Foundation grants were received during 2005 to support The Land Between project. The portion of these grants which apply to our 2006 operations are not included as part of 2005 revenues. Approximately \$28,000 in these deferred revenues are on hand for next year.

Overall, our operating expenditures were approximately \$333,000 for the year, including the value of retained lands and a major financial commitment to the purchase of Windmill Ranch (an additional \$25,000 was transferred for that project early in our 2006 fiscal year). As shown in the summary of Allocation of Funds, we were able to allocate approximately \$39,000 to the President's Reserve, as a buffer for future operating expenses.



By Board policy, some funds are held as investments for special purposes. At our 2005 year-end (October 31), the Acquisition Fund contained \$64,042. The Property Stewardship Fund, which is intended to help maintain properties in perpetuity, stood at \$67,709, including a special \$10,000 fund allocated to conservation easement enforcement. Another \$10,000 has been set aside for future major maintenance costs on Grant House. Investments and cash accounts for general operations and projects totalled approximately \$69,000, and our

total equity as an organization has surpassed the \$1 million mark.

A more detailed breakdown of 2005 revenues and expenditures is available on request in financial statements prepared by our accountant Jack Booth. ❖

2005 Our Thanks to Our Supporters

Without the support of our community, and of many individuals and agencies, the Conservancy would have little success. We particularly want to gratefully acknowledge the support of the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, which receives annually \$100 million in government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative. We also received grants during 2005 from:



- The George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- Salamander Foundation
- EJLB Foundation
- · Shell Environmental Fund
- North Simcoe Private Land Stewardship Network
- Victoria Lands and Waters Stewardship Council
- The Sustainability Network
- · Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
- · Ontario Job Connects
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- · Community Foundation of Orillia and Area
- Community Wellness Fund Casino Rama
- Ontario Land Trust Assistance Program

Other organizations are an important source of support for Conservancy operations and projects. During 2005, we received contributions and volunteer support from:

- · Ontario Land Trust Assistance Program
- · Carden Field Naturalists
- · Peterborough Field Naturalists
- · Orillia Lions Club
- · Friends of Wye Marsh
- · Twin Lakes Conservation Club
- Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society
- Marchmont Elementary School
- Warminster Elementary School
- Sir Sanford Fleming College students
- McMaster University students
- North Simcoe Stewardship Rangers
- · West Humber Naturalists Club
- The Outing Club of East York
- · St Marks Women's Guild
- Bell Canada Employee Volunteer Program

- · Nature Canada
- · City of Orillia
- · City of Kawartha Lakes
- Orillia District Agricultural Society
- North Simcoe Catholic Family Life Centre
- Orillia District Chamber of Commerce
- · Waste Management Advisory Council
- Youth Resources & Drop-in Centre
- Wildlife Preservation Trust Canada
- Army Navy & Air Force Veterans
- Bolsover Pines Senior Club
- · Nature Conservancy of Canada
- · Ontario Nature
- · Ladies of the Lake
- Mycological Society of Toronto •

The Couchiching Conservancy Board 2005



nature@couchconservancy.ca www.couchconservancy.ca Charitable Reg. No. 139725030RR0001

2005

The following individuals and groups

contributed \$100 or more to the Conservancy and its projects during 2005, not including Windmill Ranch and Prairie Smoke Alvar donations which are listed separately.

The support from all of our donors is greatly appreciated.



Roger and Barbara Ball Gord and Jane Ball Homi and Linda Bam Dave Beckett Bill and Jaqueline Belt Konrad Brenner Glen and Kitty Burnett Reid Byer Doug and Barb Christie Richard M. Clarke Ian Cook and Carol Phillips **Dorothy and Harold Cummins Rob and Judy Cutler** Bill and Helenmaria Darker Dave and Amy Darker Paul Devillers Gwendolyn R. Drew Garfield Dunlop Carol Edgar Barbara Fallis and Jeff Miller Derek Ford Jim and Sheila Graham Janet Grand & Ron Reid William M. Grant Tom Griffiths Barbara-Joan Hamilton Robert and Linda Hansen Nancy L. Harris David and Juliana Hawke Russ Hewetson Bill Holdsworth Robert J. Howard Mary Hunter Nancy Ironside Theresa Jenkins Tom Jenkins John and Sharon Jenkins Harvie and Shirley Johnson Kenneth Junck Dave and Ann Kennett Cam and Mary Maltby **Buell Manning** Beulah M. Martin Jane McCulloch and John Hunter John and Betty McCulloch Sue McKechnie Lois McSorlev Omer and Mary Mick **Brian Murrant** David A. Nesbitt John Oelrichs Peter and Donna Paul Rosalie and Roger Pratt Lou and Judy Probst Teresa and John Reesor Susan and Robert Reid

Stanley Roberts

Loretta Robinson

Rocke and Barbara Robertson

Nathalie Rockhill Mark and Cecile Rolland Joan and John Rosebush Jean and Dave Sarjeant Mike and Kimberley Schuenemann Anne Selby **Dennis and Prue Smith** Patricia Smith John Strathearn Wendy and Robert Sullivan Gary and Isabelle Theiss Ken and Corinne Thomson Matthew and Jane Valk Sharon and Hugh Walker Valerie Watt Paul and Slawomira Weber Rita Whiston Leanore Wiancko C. Barry Withers Susan Woods and Fred Beck Plus an additional 13 generous donors who wished to remain anonymous.

Corporate Support

Many companies around the Orillia area have provided services, products, sponsorships or other assistance to the Conservancy during the past year, or have participated in our Corporate Membership program. We particularly want to recognize major support from:

Orillia Packet & Times
Midland Free Press
CICX FM
Casino Rama
Orillia Power Distribution Corp.
Bird House Nature Company
Scott Inc. Custom Builder
The Tree Man
Mawdsley Mobile Crane Rental Ltd
Sanderson Monument Co. Ltd
G.H. Stewart Construction Inc

Other valuable corporate support was received from:

ADM Milling Co.

Dr. Ravi Aggarwal
Ansell's Boat Tops & Upholstery
Armstrong Pumping Service
Artech Promotional Wear
Audia Hearing Aid Centre Inc.
Auto Parts Wrecker - Perkinsfield
Bayview Wildwood Resort
Beare's Photography
Best Western Couchiching Inn

Birchmere Retirement Residence Boston Pizza **Break-Away Business Systems** Bright Horizons Montessori School Carden Gr@phics The Carpet Warehouse Central Marine Champlain Manor Retirement Residence Coldwater Road Animal Clinic Color Your World **Complete Rent-Alls** Continental Underground Conn. Service Crawford McKenzie McLean & Wilford The Crow's Nest Dr. Steven Cruise Rob Cutler: TD Waterhouse Davenport Subaru of Orillia **Doral Marine Resort** Tom Downer Ltd **Downtown Computers** Deardon and Stanton Ltd **EcoMedic Ecosystem Restoration Services** Dr. Wm. Edwards Chiropractic **Elcan Optical Technologies** The Elegant Gourmet Ellis Hearing Aid Service Kevin Ellis - ReMax Georgian Bay Farr's Roofing Chrisandra Firth: Zwicker Evans & Lewis Food Basics Orillia Francoz-Morton Steel Service Centre **Galaxy Theatre Guardian Arcade Pharmacy** Renee Good: Royal LePage Hacker, Gignac & Rice Hardwood Hills Hillcrest Village Care Centre Fred Hook Ltd **Kathy Hunt Communications** Huronia Canvas & Specialty Co. Ltd Huronia Dental Centre Inn the Woods B&B Jonathan's Contracting Kirkfield Restaurant **Kubota Metal Corporation** Laidlaw Transit Ltd Lake Dalrymple Resort Mad Science The Marketing Group of Canada Ltd Manticore Books Kristi McKechnie Architectural Design Midland Toyota Inc. Mid-Ontario Disposal Mundell Funeral Home Ltd National Bank of Canada

Nebs Business Products Ltd

NorSim Equipment Ltd

Nelson Aggregates - Uhthoff Quarry

North Simcoe Hospital Alliance

2005

Nor-Weld Ltd Office Links

Old Tin House, Kirkfield Ontario Waterway Cruises Inc. Orillia Pre-Cast Concrete Ltd Orillia Square Mall Orillia Trim & Door Ltd

Ontario Marine Operators Association

Ottavio's Hair Design Dr. P.E. Pallopson Pelee Island Winery The Pepsi Bottling Company

Penetang Pets +

Raney Building Supplies Inc.

The Real Canadian Superstore

Dr. Anthony Reid

Russell Christie Miller Koughan Winnitoy

Scanlon & Associates Appraisers
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Speedy Signs & Truck Lettering Greg St. Amant - ReMax Midland H.S. St. Amant & Sons Inc. Mark St. Denis Tents

Dan Stoutt - ReMax Orillia Ltd

C.T. Strongman Surveying Ltd

Sunrise Toyota Tiffins Creative Centre

Tinney's Septic Service & Construction

Triple "L" Sod Farms
The UPS Store

Jeff Waring Landscape Architect

Washago Tim-Br Mart Waubaushene Heritage House Sir William Mackenzie Inn The Wild Bird Trading Company

Wildflower Farm

K. Winter Sanitation Inc. ~

Carden Alvar Projects



The success of the campaign to purchase and protect Windmill Ranch and Prairie Smoke Alvar is based on the broad range of support received from across Ontario. Organizations and businesses that donated to this project are included in the lists at right.

We particularly want to thank **John and Rosemary Dunsmore**, **John and Joan Rosebush**, and **Graham and Mary Hallward** for their generous support for Carden Alvar projects during 2005. The following individuals provided major contributions during this year:

Heather and Alec Adams Christine Adams

Peter and Daphne Alley Jerrold Asling Harold Atwood Jane and Gordon Ball Robert K. Ballantyne

Gregor Beck
John and Janice Bick
Fred Bodsworth

Peter Broer Danielle Bush Kathleen Callahan

John R. Carley Margaret Carney lan Cook

Frank Cook Lewis T. Crowell Robert Cutler

Dave and Amy Darker Elinor Dearden Charles Dunham

John and Rosemary Dunsmore

Chris Ellingwood
Joan Fairhead
Wayne Farrell
John P. Farrell
Derek Ford
George Francis
Cyril Fry
Herb Furniss
John A. Gingrich
Joseph Glaister

Joseph Glaister Barbara Glass Duncan Goodwin Janet Grand William M. Grant

Graham and Mary Hallward

Frances Hanckel Nancy Hannah Dr. and Mrs. Higgins Margo Holt Herbert Irwin Morris Ilyniak

Greg Jaski and Joanne Massig Sharon and John Jenkins Harvie and Shirley Johnson David and Margaret Kennedy

Eleanor N. Kerr Margaret Killing Marion Kits Ellen Larsen Murray Leadbeater

Lloyd and Josephine Leadbeater

Betty Learmouth
Robert J. Leask
John and Gail Little
William Logan
Wendy and Si Lowry
Ruth M. Malcolm
Cam and Mary Maltby
Wendy McComb
Doreen McDowell
J. McEachern
Steve McFadden
Craig McLachlan

Craig and Linda McLeod Alan McNair and Barbara Marshall Judith Mewett

Judith Mewett Jean O'Grady Robert Page

 $W.R.\,and\,\,E.J.\,Pengelly$

Linda Pim Alice Pitt Margaret Pomeroy Ben Porchuk

Judy Probst
Lou Probst
Florence Reilly
Hilary Robinson
Nathalie Rockhill
John and Joan Rosebush

Mary Jean Smith Alice Stamper

Murray and Marcia Stephen

Don Scott and Kristi McKechnie

Robert B. Stewart Leda Story

Ric and Sandy Symmes Adam and Shirley Thomson F. Beverley Troupe Neil and Carolyn Turnbull Matthew and Jane Valk Mary Walton-Ball Eleanor Wellman Bill Westcott

Marion and Terry Whittam Leanore Wiancko Mack Williams C. Barry Withers

Susan Woods and Fred Beck

Dr. W. Zufelt 👁

Bev Westman

2005 Our Volunteers are Priceless

This year has shown once again the talent and dedication of our volunteers who form the core of our organization. Volunteers participate on property management teams, build trails and facilities at Grant's Woods, staff special events, help with fundraising, sit on committees, and do a hundred other useful things.

At each annual meeting, we present silver pins to recognize special volunteer dedication and special friends of the Conservancy. This year, pins are being presented to: **Rob Cutler**, **Neil and Carolyn Turnbull**, **Gwen Drew**, **Margo Holt**, and **Paul Devillers** in recognition of his frequent support for the Conservancy during his term of office. Gold pins are also presented to Conservancy volunteers with 10 years of service. This year, we are pleased to award gold pins to **Bill Darker** and **Dave & Amy Darker**.

For the past several years, Gwen Drew has served with skill and dedication as our volunteer coordinator. In 2006, she is passing over this responsibility to Mary Mick, who can be reached at 325-3618; she welcomes enquiries by anyone who would like to get involved. **Our thanks to our 2005 volunteers (and our apologies if we missed anyone):**

Ackert, Brennan
Agnew, Sandy
Allison, Gail & Doug
Armstrong, Greg
Atwood, Harold
Babineau, Rose
Ball, Gord & Jane
Ballard, Elena
Beaton, Anita
Betts, Charles
Blair, Gord & Bernice
Bodsworth, Fred
Boehnert, Roy & Betty

Bosley, Glenda Bowden, Lydia Bowles, Bob, Adam & Elliott Bowman, Ken Bray, Bob & Nancy

Brady, Matt
Brenner, Konrad
Brophy, Tim
Brown, Patsy
Brumby, Don & Sue
Buchanan, Terry & Anne

Budge, Ann Byer, Reid Callahan, Kathy Card, Mary Jane Castle, Bradley & Danielle

Castle, Bradley & Daniell Cayley, Julie Charters, Susan Chow-Fraser, Patricia Christie, Douglas Clayton, Glenda Connor, Kathy Cook, Ian Cook, Will

Cooper, Ron Copeland, Rob Cutler, Robert

Cooney, Colleen

Cooper, Alan

Darker, Bill & Helenmaria Darker, Dave & Amy Dertinger, Earl & Sue Drew, Gwendolyn & Paula Duncan, Ted Dyment, Leslie Engeland, Linda Ellingwood, Chris Evans, Don Firth, Chrisandra Fleming, Kyle Forman, Ed Frost, Rodney

Gamroth, Mary Sue & Avery

Gauldie, Heather Gavine, Kim Gill, Peter & Pat Good, Renee Goodwin, Duncan Gordon, Michael Gordon, Pauline Govendo, Leon Grand, Janet Grandine, Joan

Hadlington, Dorothy & Sid Hall, Harry & Marian Hancock, Ron & Sharon Haskins, Joanne Hatch, Mark Hathaway, Jeff Hawke, David & Juliana Hodgson, Tony & Marg Hojberg, Jake Holt, Margo Hooykaas, Amanda

Hope-Smith, Rodger Hungate, John Hunt, Katrina Hutchings, Wendy Ilyniak, Morris Ingram, Nancy Ironside, Nancy Irwin, Luke Jaski, Greg

Jenkins, John & Sharon

Kelk, Al Kennedy, David Kennedy, Judy Kerr, Jacqui Kim, Howard & Byung Kirby, Mary Lou Koch, Kayla Larson, Ellen Lauer, Rhonda & Tim Leadbeater, Dale Lougher, Beryl Louzeiro, Simao & Kim MacDonald, Keith

Macdonald, Jim MacNaughton, Ann Marie Madden, John & Misses

Madden, John & Mi Martin, Jim Massig, Joanne McCreath, Paul McDowell, Linda McKechnie, Kristi Mick, Omer & Mary

Mills, Alex Michener, Gord Mohammed, Simone Mould, Brian

Miller, Jeff

Mueller, Will Murmsoo, Jessica Ness, Clive Ness, Ken & Estelle Noble, Jacquelyn Parrott, Marian Patterson, Cathie Pearce, Jenny Pengelly, Betty Pitts, John Pomeroy, Margaret Porchuk, Ben

Pratt, Roger Probst, Lou & Judy Reid, Ron Richard, Mike & Terry

Roberts, Stanley Rockhill, Nathalie Rolland, Mark Rosebush. Joan & John

Ross, Don Rowe, Nickolas Rowell, David Russell, Paul Sadowski, Greg

Schuenemann, Mike & Kim

Scott, Don

Scott, Michael & Allison

Seager, Brad Silk, Marv

Sinclair, Alex & Muriel

Sloley, Jane Smales, Alan Smith, Ken & Judy Smith, Dennis

St. Antoine, Michelle, Kaileen &

Julie

Stanton, Jim & Marylou Stephen, Murray Stevenson, Shannon Stinson, David Stoutt, Dan Sullivan, Judy

Sullivan, Robert & Wendy

Symmes, Ric
Taylor, Vern & Andrew
Thiess, Gary & Isabelle
Thomson, Adam & Shirley
Thomson, Dave & Shauna
Thomson, Bart & Ian
Thomson, Ken & Corinne
Thomson, Steve

Tomlinson, Steve Tomlinson, Cindy & Neil Tressider, Faye Tryon, Ken & Pat VanderMarel, Ingrid Waggoner, Daniel & Pat Walsh, David

Walsh, David Wand, Kim Watt, Val Weber, Paul

Wells, Greta, Steven &

Cassandra

Whitman, Bill & Christie Whittam, Terry & Marion Wilkins, Dave & Mary

Wilson, Ivan

Woodford, Jim & Pat 🔏