

*The Couchiching
Conservancy*



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

protect | steward  engage | build

Contents

- 2 Message from President & Executive Director
- 3 Highlights
- 4 – 6 Preserve & Protect
- 7 – 8 Citizen Science & Conservation Action in the Neighbourhood
- 9 – 10 Volunteers: People Power
- 11 – 12 Map – Corridor of Protected Wilderness
- 13 Engaging the Community in Conservation
- 14 - 19 Supporters
- 20 Heartwood Fund
- 21 Financial Report
- 22 Partners and What's Ahead

Mission: Protecting nature for future generations

Vision: A prosperous healthy community, laced with clean lakes and beautiful natural spaces – a place we all feel blessed to call home.

Goals: Preserve, Protect, Restore and Improve, Encourage and Foster Environmental Awareness, Acquire, Maintain and Preserve Lands, Promote and Undertake Research

Declaration of Shared Principles:

1. Credible science demonstrates that society's behaviour and actions need to change to avoid ecological, economic and social ruin on a scale unprecedented over the span of human history.

2. We believe in the power and value of local action to solve global problems.

3. We hold that every individual has a responsibility to shift away from behaviour that treats nature as a resource to be consumed toward behaviour that treats as sacred the healthy natural systems upon which we depend for our existence.

4. We foster a respect for all living things and acknowledge the right they have to exist without utility for humankind.

5. We seek a reciprocal, respectful and protective relationship with the land that provides us health and wellbeing. We recognize that we are of nature, not external to it.

6. We recognize that The Couchiching Conservancy operates within the territory of the Indigenous Peoples of Treaty 18, Lake Simcoe - Nottawasaga and The Williams Treaties. Understanding our connection to community, the land and the meaning of our historical agreements through treaty is an ongoing process to which we are committed.

7. We recognize that we are all accountable to future generations for our choices and actions. This moment demands we invest in nature to support all life on earth.



Message from the President and Executive Director

Crises test us.

Still in the midst of the test of our generation, The Couchiching Conservancy is meeting all challenges with strength, stability and resilience. Since October 2019, we have created four new Nature Reserves in the Black River corridor and contributed substantially to the protection of the Cedarhurst Alvar, a 1,362-acre property in the heart of the Carden Alvar. We have adapted our programs to care for the properties and engage our communities. We are not just surviving, but thriving.

Why?

Our 2020 experience is directly connected to a thousand decisions made in the years leading up to this moment. It is connected to the dedication of our people – our donors and funders, our volunteers, our staff.

Donors stepped up in the spring when plans went over a cliff.

Staff stepped up, adapting at lightning pace, and sometimes adapting adaptations as the fluid situation changed.

Volunteers stepped up, keeping our property monitoring alive and responsive.

By bringing wild spaces under protection, caring for those spaces according to a high standard, and building a welcoming, passionate community of engaged people, we have slowly built a kind of fly-wheel. Once set in motion, it builds momentum. The momentum takes us forward.

Even in troubled times.

The result is a set of programs and approaches that mutually support each other. One example is our Citizen Science Program. It supplies unprecedented property information. It puts more eyes on reserves than at any other time in our history. Those stewardship results alone make it worthwhile. But the program also drives land protection by giving us the capacity to protect more, knowing we can care for it. It engages people mightily -- from long-time supporters to new folks. Seeing their results shape the organization, many become financial supporters and help carry us through rough spots.

Protect, steward, engage, build, repeat: the wheel stays in motion.



A purple ink signature of Jamie Ross.

Jamie Ross
President



A purple ink signature of Mark Bisset.

Mark Bisset
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Doug Christie, *Past President*

Jack Booth, *Treasurer*

Lisa Neville, *Secretary*

Directors: Wendy Lowry, Kathy Hunt,

Neil Gray, Jane Bonsteel,

David A. Homer

Councils

Past Presidents Council

Advisory Council

Staff

Dorthea Hangaard, *Conserved Lands Manager*

David Hawke, *Ecologist*

Tanya Clark, *Development Coordinator*

Courtney Baker, *Administrative Assistant*

Joelle Burnie, *Engagement Organizer*

Toby Rowland, *Citizen Science Field Technician*

Aiesha Aggarwal, *Conservation Researcher & Analyst*

Contractors: Kathy Connor, Ron Reid, Ginny Moore

2020 Highlights



NEW NATURE RESERVES:

205 acres

protected thanks to Supporters



CONSERVATION WORK POWERED BY:

1,170+

Caring Supporters & Volunteers



PARTNERING WITH:

150+

Non-profits, Businesses & Foundations to grow our impact



VOLUNTEER HOURS

5,300+

Contributed this year



ONLINE OUTREACH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

37,000+

People reached through various activities & outlets



NATURE RESERVES ADDED TO CANADA TARGET 1 - 17% PLEDGE

3432 acres

25 Conservancy owned Reserves

Now recognized towards goal to protect 17% of landscape because we meet national & international stewardship standards

Pictured: Board, Advisory Council and staff do a distanced walk of the Cedarhurst Alvar. The Tudhope family enjoys a Passport to Nature activity at Grant's Woods Nature Reserve. Steeple bush at Taylor Nature Reserve. Staff on one of the first Zoom meetings of the year. They had weekly Monday morning meetings to keep in touch throughout the year.

Preserve and Protect

“The values of the Couchiching Conservancy align with our values of land preservation of green space to protect this part of our legacy in perpetuity.”

Ron & Charlene Taylor



Whitney Wetland Nature Reserve

In late 2019, Norm and Irene Whitney generously donated a 30-acre (12 hectare) wetland in Ramara Township. The property is part of the provincially significant Mud Lake wetland complex and it is adjacent to an existing nature reserve, the Mclsaac Wetland.

By donating their property, the Whitney family has ensured that an increasing portion of this wetland system will be permanently protected. It provides habitat for at least four species at risk, including the endangered little brown bat.

The project was undertaken with financial support by the Government of Canada through the Natural Heritage Conservation Program, part of Canada's Nature Fund, along with the Consecon Foundation.

Many thanks to the Whitney family for their kind support.

“The conservation of the Whitney property, with support from the Canada Nature Fund's Natural Heritage Conservation Program and the Ecological Gifts Program, will protect nature in Ontario for generations to come. By working with partners like the Couchiching Conservancy and generous landowners like the Whitneys, we are making progress toward conserving a quarter of Canada's land by 2025.”

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson,
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Pictured: Whitney Wetland Nature Reserve.



Dr. Ron Taylor Nature Reserve

In 2020, Dr. Ron Taylor and Charlene Taylor worked with the Conservancy to protect a 175-acre (71 hectare) parcel. This project was undertaken with an 80% donation by the Taylors plus financial support from the Echo Foundation, McLean Foundation, Consecon Foundation, Ganawenim Meshkiki (Eastern Georgian Bay Initiative), Dr. Nancy Ironside and donors. It is within the Black River Wildlands Corridor, directly connecting to the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park.

The landscape is a mixture of open rockland with Red Oak, White Pine and Sumac, Beaver ponds, and swamp with Red Maple, Tamarack Trees and Spruce. This landscape is a prime area for Eastern Wood Pewee (special concern), Five-lined Skink (special concern), Eastern Whip-poor-will (threatened) and others. Connecting these protected landscapes is beneficial to large-range species as well, such as Moose, Black Bear and White-tailed Deer.

“It has served as our refuge from the bricks, mortar and pavement of modern life. It has been a place to explore and introduce the next generation to the beauty and quietness of nature. A trip to the property always cleansed the mind from chaos as we found nature always the best antidote for the stress of busy professional lives”, said Ron and Charlene. “Environmental protection became more central to our thinking and we wanted to consciously protect this property as green space and rescue it from future building development”. The Taylors made the donation of land through the Government of Canada's Ecological Gifts Program.



Landowner Stewardship Program (LSP)

This new program has staff working directly with private landowners to support them in their stewardship goals and protection of their properties. With the use of our Citizen Science Program, landowners gain the skills and knowledge to implement long-term stewardship projects on their land.

Each landowner's property is unique. Whether it's Ron and Sharon Hancock's 'Hermitage,' a beautiful property full of history, or Evelyn Frantzke and Robert Williamson's 50-acre oasis supporting an abundance of species - each has a story to tell and devoted landowners working hard to ensure nature is protected.

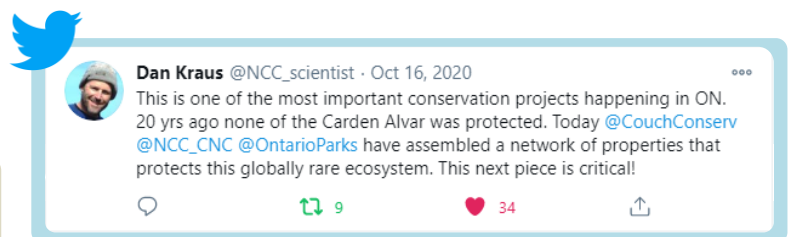
Four landowners are currently involved in the LSP. This program is supported by The Gosling Foundation and is a Community of Practice with Bruce Trail Conservancy and Nature Trust New Brunswick.

Cedarhurst Alvar

We hoped we would be able to protect the 1,362-acre Cedarhurst Alvar property. Located in the heart of the Carden Alvar, it was the site of a proposed large-scale shooting range. In the midst of the pandemic, our hopes became a reality when we heard from our partners, the Nature Conservancy of Canada - the developers wanted to sell. We have faced waves of change over the year, and again, we shifted gears to turn our attention to getting this property protected and saved from any development.

With \$1 million needed to secure the parcel, we hosted distanced tours and a virtual tour attended by almost 100 people, made phone calls, sent e-news blasts, media releases and social media posts.

Our thanks to the Board of Directors, Advisory Council and Development Committee for your efforts and support to protect the alvar and adapting along with us.



TRAILS & FOOTPATHS ON THE NATURE RESERVES



13.4 km

Of trails managed between 10 Nature Reserves

Visit our website for maps



New Nature Reserve, Coming Soon

Throughout 2020 the Conservancy worked with the Marley family to bring a 78-acre parcel of land on the Black River under permanent protection.

Despite pandemic uncertainty and difficulties, the Marleys persevered. In early January, Jaanus, Reet, Karin and Elin Marley transferred ownership of the property to the Conservancy after decades of family ownership.

The property fronts on the Black River and is adjacent to Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park in the south, making it a valuable piece in the effort to build the Black River Wildlands Corridor. It has habitat for multiple species at risk. Many thanks to the Marley family, Ganawenim Meshkiki (The Eastern Georgian Bay Initiative) and the McLean Foundation for their generous support.

A New Role for David Hawke

After nine years as The Couchiching Conservancy's resident Ecologist and Stewardship Manager, Dave Hawke is moving into a new role.

Dave's work-ethic is legendary and he has distinguished himself as one of the leading naturalists in central Ontario. As an outdoor educator and wetland specialist he has worked for various provincial ministries, the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre and major resorts. Chances are, if you live near a provincially significant wetland in this region, it was Dave Hawke who gathered the data to designate it as such.

A volunteer from the early days, Dave joined the Conservancy staff in 2012 and brought his experience to bear on its Nature Reserves. When invasive plant species became a major threat

to our local biodiversity, he crafted an effective approach to control these invaders, a methodology since adopted by other conservation organizations across Ontario.

Working tirelessly, Dave criss-crossed the region, caring for the lands under the Conservancy's protection as if they were his own. In doing so, he has built a body of knowledge that is invaluable. In 2018, he brought his passions for art and nature together to create the Legacy Landscapes art show which showcased Conservancy properties.

His skills as an event guide, public speaker, writer and photographer, have enlivened Conservancy communications for years, and in doing so has mentored many young scientists and naturalists.

Going forward, Dave will continue to play an important role in the ongoing stewardship of our properties. As a consultant he will focus on the Conservancy's growing list of conservation easements, and the field management of its habitat offsets.

The Couchiching Conservancy salutes David Hawke and thanks him for his dedication and his leadership.

Pictured: the Marley property. Insert: that's Dave!

Citizen Science



Despite many setbacks, it was a record-breaking year: volunteers monitored 31 Conservancy Nature Reserves and Easements, and made 192 team visits - an increase in both properties monitored and total team visits from 2019.

That means that through the bulk of the field season, there was an average of one team on a Conservancy Nature Reserve every day. Adams Nature Reserve holds the record this year of most monitored property with 20 visits for activities ranging from land stewardship to water monitoring, frogs, salamanders, and reptiles.

Between veteran volunteers, new volunteers waiting to start, and household members helping out, the amount of people involved in citizen science grew to 172 people this year, up from 135 last year.

Thanks to the Citizen Science Program, we have now submitted 1,441 species at risk observation records to the Natural Heritage Information Centre over the last three years. A total of 33 unique at-risk species have been reported in our region by this program between 2018 and 2020.

This all highlights the importance of the monitoring projects, the learning that volunteers have been willing to undertake to monitor effectively, and the dramatic impact having all of their eyes and ears on the ground looking for these species is having on our ability to protect land in the region.

Special mention goes to our Citizen Science Field Coordinator, Toby Rowland. He quickly adapted to our changing needs this year, turning to video production in order to deliver training and field support. This not only got us through 2020, but has made a significant contribution to the growth of the Citizen Science Program for years to come.

Chart: In 2020, volunteers recorded 109 Whip poor wills and 42 Common nighthawks in our third year of this region-wide survey.

Pictured: A friendly crayfish helps check the water temperature at Scout Valley, an easement with the City of Orillia. Eileen Atkinson hugs at tree at the Adams Nature Reserve. Adeline Trudeau is ready for monitoring at the Church Woods Nature Reserve with her family.



172 volunteers
1,236 hours



31 Properties monitored
in 2020

In comparison, 12 were monitored in 2016 before we had a program.

192 property visits

PROGRAMS:



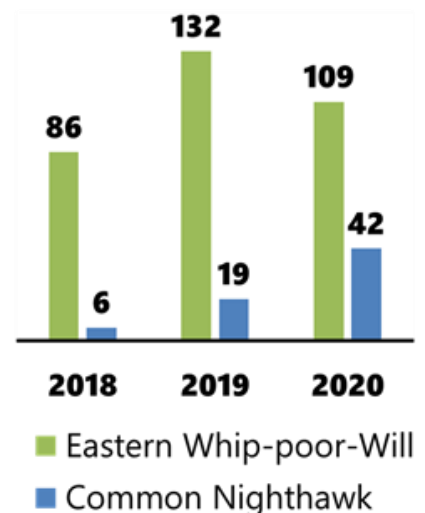
Bats
Frogs
Plants
Reptiles
Water Quality
Species at Risk

Invasive Species
Land Stewardship
Salamander & Vernal Pools
Whip-poor-wills & Nighthawks



327

Species at Risk observations submitted to the Natural Heritage Information Centre in 2020



Conservation Action in the Neighbourhood



We continued to shine a spotlight on Sundial Creek this year - a rare cold water stream flowing through Grant Wetland Nature Reserve in North Orillia. Home to a dwindling population of Brook Trout.

Together with community partners, we launched a neighbourhood education campaign to illustrate the challenges urban development creates for natural systems, and what residents can do to help reduce the stress on streams and wetlands.

Originally conceived as a door-to-door campaign and community workshop, the pandemic re-design used lawn signs, videos, a quiz, and a contest.

Thanks to the many neighbours who participated and have taken such a strong interest in the health of Sundial Creek, to the Schad Foundation for financial support, Conservancy Board member Jane Bonsteel, and the following community partners:

- Patrick Fogarty Secondary School
- Sustainable Orillia
- City of Orillia Councilors, staff, and the Mayor's office

Pictured: Sundial Creek flows through the Grant Wetland Nature Reserve. Chris Purcell displays a lawn sign at her home to raise awareness of Sundial Creek.

Storm Damage on the Trails!

On September 4th a tornado touched down in the Washago area. Dave Hawke assessed the Alexander Hope Smith Nature Reserve, clearing 12 smaller trees and rerouting the trail in two sections. Alan Smale and Mike Read headed up to the Ron Reid Nature Reserve and removed 20 trees on the Black River Road, and 10 large trees from across the Ragged Rapids walking trail.

Despite the annoyance of blocked trails, this was Nature's way of opening up forest canopy to allow for new growth on the forest floor.

What goes into stewarding 42 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 including clearing, installing new bridges & fixing the old ones
- Species at Risk projects
- Trespass & dumping investigations
- Developing new property plans
- Review of existing Property Management Plans
- Actively control invasive plants such as Garlic Mustard, Phragmites Reed, Dog-strangling Vine, Japanese Knotweed, Purple Loosestrife, European Frog-bit and more
- Coordinating volunteers
- Handling neighbour relations
- Site visits and monitoring
- Managing cattle grazing leases
- Managing existing structures

Volunteers: People Power

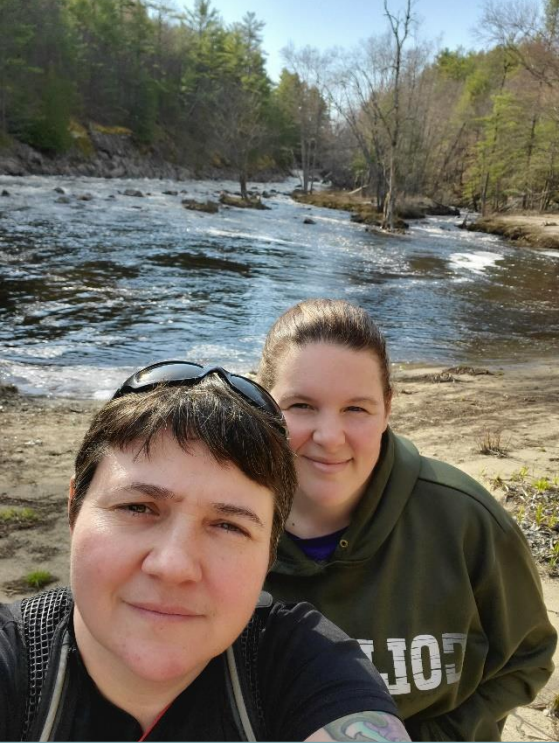


We are so grateful to the hundreds of people who give their time, knowledge and expertise to help power conservation efforts, monitor for species at risk and assist in a myriad of other activities.

Adams, Heather
 Aggarwal, Aiesha
 Agnew, Sandy
 Anderson, Bill
 Ariss, Kimberly & Mike
 Atkinson, Eileen
 Attfield, Peter
 Aykler, Petra
 Baker, Courtney
 Baker, Jon
 Baker, Robin
 Baker, Stevie, Stella & Gilda
 Ball, Gord & Jane
 Bam, Homi
 Barnes, Britney & Sophie
 Barrett, Craig & Cheryl Taylor
 Bender, Ian
 Beresford, Lori Ann
 Bernatavicius, Cathy
 Berndt, Joan
 Bingham, Lorraine
 Binsted, Kevin
 Birrell, Steve
 Bisset, Sandi & Mark
 Blackwell, Stewart
 Blayney, Susan
 Bonsteel, Jane
 Bonsteel, Norah
 Booth, Jack
 Bowden, Lydia
 Brasher, Jane
 Briere, Janet
 Brown, Holly
 Buchanan, Claire

Bulgutch, Melissa & Reid Bulgutch-
 Rosenblum
 Burnie, Arielle
 Burnie, Joelle, Olivia & Pam
 Cabugao, Glorilyn
 Callahan, Kathy
 Careless, Philip
 Carlyle, Gayle & John Challis
 Cass, Lindsay
 Chong, Nancy
 Christie, Doug
 Church, Gerald
 Cirino, Anthony
 Clark, Marilyn & Peter Hayward
 Clark, Tanya
 Cohen, Ellen
 Cohen, Louise & Steve Douloff
 Cole, Jeff & Kristi
 Cook, Ian & Carol Phillips
 Coughlin, Meagan
 Coughlin, Trudy
 Cowl, David & Dianne
 Cramer, Kaila
 Crooks, Rosaleen
 Curran, Cameron & Ali Gamble
 Currie, Tricia
 Deadman, Sue
 Dobransky, Cassandra
 Drescher, Michael
 Duckett, Courtney
 Dymont, Leslie
 Evans, Chris
 Ewing, Heather
 Ferguson, Kristyn

Ferris, Cynthia & Tim
 Fligg, Nathan
 Fox, Karen & Mike
 Francis, Simon & Bella
 Frantzke, Evelyn & Robert Williamson
 French, Jonathan
 Foran, Zoe
 Fulford, Pamela
 Gallant, Monica
 Gauldie, Heather
 Giannunzio, David
 Gilchrist, Judy
 Gill, Raj
 Grand, Janet & Ron Reid
 Gray, Neil & Ann
 Hall, Charleyne
 Hall, Harry & Marian
 Hancock, Ron & Sharon
 Hangaard, Dorthea
 Hathaway, Jeff
 Hawke, David & Juliana
 Henderson, Ruth
 Hiles, Darby
 Hodgkiss, Sarah
 Hodgson, Glen
 Holt, Valerie
 Homer, David A. & Bonnie
 Howes, Kyra
 Hrivnak, Larry
 Humphries, Jean
 Hunt, Kathy
 Hunt, Katrina & Hannah
 Ilyniak, Morris
 Iron, Jean



"As a teacher, engaging my students with The Couchiching Conservancy has inspired them to contribute to the betterment of their community."
 – Jeff Cole, volunteer, supporter & teacher at Patrick Fogarty Catholic Secondary School

Ironside, Nancy
 Jenkins, Jeramie
 Juneau, Mary
 Kallin, Fred
 Keaveney, Andrew
 Ketchum, Anna
 Kohl, Adrienne
 Larsen, Ellen
 Leadbeater, Dale
 Leskew, Susan
 Lord, Mary & Dave
 Lowles, Doug & Marilyn
 Lowry, Gillian
 Lowry, Wendy & Si
 Machan, Janet
 Machan, Sarah
 MacLachlan, Pam
 Malmstrom, Ada
 Mark, Marilyn
 Mason, Peter
 Massig, Cathy
 Massig, Joanne & Greg Jaski
 Mathewson, Sophie & Stan
 McCloy, Evelyn
 Mick, Mary & Omer
 Middaugh, Paul & Linda
 Milligan, Claire & Josh
 Mills, Alex
 Milne, Carolyn
 Molenaar, Gail & Perry
 Moore, Ginny
 Mulligan, Mary Ellen & Gregory
 Neville, Lisa & Jim

Nowick, M
 Oberfrank, Jacob
 Pearce, Jenny & Jeff Hathaway
 Peter, Justin
 Pierce, Shelly & Taylor
 Pomeroy, Margaret
 Powell, Jamie & Valerie
 Prince, Kay
 Ranville, Nicole
 Read, Mike
 Reekie, Pam
 Rehorn, Roland & Joan Vincent
 Robins, Tricia
 Rockhill, Nathalie
 Rosebrugh, Barbara
 Ross, Jamie & Anne
 Rowland, Toby & Becky Plant
 Ryckman, Barbara & Warren
 Sam, Mable
 Schulz, Karl
 Scott, Julie
 Sherwood, Bill & Vicki
 Sikora, Bill
 Sinclair, Alex & Muriel
 Sinclair, Carol
 Sloley, Jane
 Smale, Alan R.
 Smith, Jane
 Snider, Ruthanne
 Spraakman, Cherilyn
 Stanford, Tim & Laura
 Sternberg, Barbara
 Stevenson, Mark

Stewart, James K.
 Storry, Noella & Peter Robinson
 Stott, Tim & Melinda
 Sullivan, Bob
 Teubner, Dagmar
 Thiess, Gary & Isabelle
 Thompson, Courtney
 Thomson, Adam
 Thomson, Keith
 Thomson, Ken
 Trudeau, Kim, Mark, Graham, Adeline
 & Woodsley
 Trumble, Don
 Tuck, Alan & Melanie
 Varty, Doug & Charon
 Walinck, John
 Walker, Dave
 Wand, Kimberly
 Ward, Andrea
 Wigham, Peter
 Wilson, Bruce
 Wilson, Tom & Judy Mitchell-Wilson
 Woodford, Pat
 Wright, John F.
 Zoller, Kaye

Pictured: Nicole Ranville and Charleyne Hall at Reid Reserve, Al Tuck attempts a new strategy for downed tree removal at Reid Reserve, and Zoe Foran talks to trail users at Grant's Woods Nature Reserve.

Building Corridors of Connected Wilderness



Created by The Couchiching Conservancy, January 2021 with the financial support of The McLean Foundation and Environment and Climate Change Canada. Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983. Data Sources: Road and lake data from OpenStreetMap and Natural Resources Canada. Priority acquisition areas and conservation corridors conceptualized by Ron Reid and the Couchiching Conservancy and digitized by Kawartha Conservation (2020). This is not a plan of survey. Locations of some nature

Nature Reserves and Easements

Protected by:

The Couchiching Conservancy

-  Open to Public with Trails
-  Open to Public without Trails
-  Not Open to Public

* Indicates properties with Couchiching Conservancy citizen science teams in 2020


Conservation Easement

Private land owners protecting land with help from the Couchiching Conservancy

-  Open to Public with Trails
-  Not Open to Public

Ontario Parks

Properties shown form the Carden Alvar Provincial Park

-  Open to Public with Trails
-  Not Open to Public




Nature Conservancy of Canada

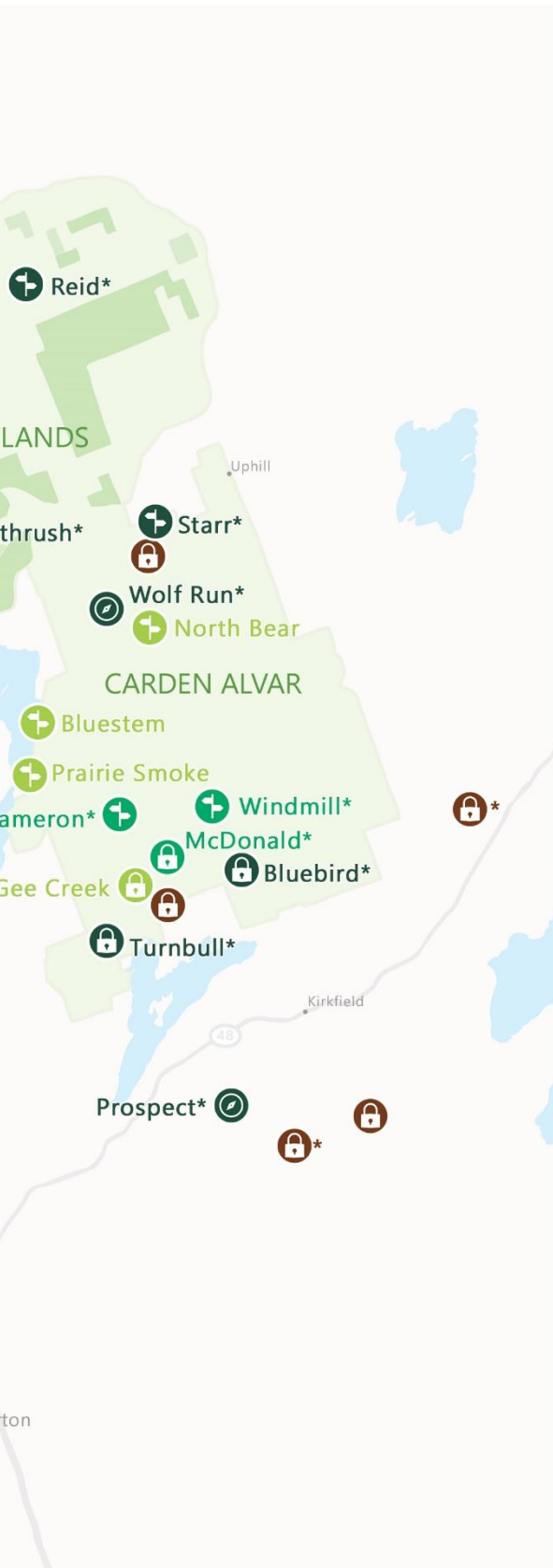
-  Open to Public with Trails
-  Open to Public without Trails
-  Not Open to Public

Ontario Heritage Trust

-  Not Open to Public

Acquisition Strategy:

-  Priority Area 1
-  Priority Area 2
-  Conservation Corridor



Map data modified from Land Information Ontario (2020); The Nature Conservancy of Canada. Reserve and easement symbols have been adjusted to prevent overlapping.

Our Acquisition Strategy is based on mapping Species at Risk occurrences, connection to existing protected areas (with land trusts, Conservation Authorities, parks, etc), waterways, forest cover and more. Consideration was also given for highest threats, protections in place, fragmentation and more. Creating corridors of protected wilderness is the goal.

Engaging the Community, Supporting Conservation



Pivot! A key word of 2020, and our events and activities did just that. After our highest attended Annual General Meeting with over 260 people in early March, everything changed. In person committee and staff meetings became Zoom calls, and for annual events like the Carden Challenge and Passport to Nature program, there was no sticking to the original plans. As everything moved online, volunteers and participants helped make these events a continued success.

One of the goals of these programs and others like Naturethon is to connect people with nature and inspire them to visit the Nature Reserves. With a small series of Passport webinars, we connected with over 800 people from all across the world. Volunteers also assisted in offering activities for kids and families. We are grateful for the sponsors and volunteers who make this program possible.

The Carden Challenge shifted to encourage people to explore their own neighbourhoods. We had a record year, with double the number of participants from across Ontario and almost double the funds raised. We pre-recorded videos, connected through online groups and sadly had to miss out on an in person dinner with the Ladies of Lake Dalrymple.

The BluMoose Alvar Ride also took place, organized by Adrian Leemhuis and Lorraine Morris in memory of their son Danya. Over \$9,000 was contributed by participants. Please save the date for the '21 ride on September 12th. Info at theblumoose.com.

Not being able to attend in person events really changed the year for Ambassadors. Without annual festivals and farmers' markets, we had to figure out new and safe ways to spread awareness of local land conservation within our community. The team rose to the challenge and instead engaged others by chatting to trail users at the Reserves, helping host webinars, and gearing up in masks and face shields when it was safe to attend public events.

Online content has been of monumental importance. In the midst of the pandemic, we launched our re-designed website. This had been in the works for a long time and our hope is that it makes it easier for people to find information. You can visit our website at www.couchichingconserv.ca. In addition, new videos were created and shared on our YouTube channel, with help on identifying species, DIYs and more. Sharing quizzes, photos and news through social media has kept us connected as well.

Adapting to online content also came with its challenges. The more time people spent online, the more they experienced 'Zoom fatigue' which sometimes made it difficult to gain interest in online events and activities. We have learned a lot and will take those lessons forward so we can do more for nature with your support.

While we lost the ability to hug and share a cup of coffee with our supporters, we certainly did not lose the strength of our community. If anything, we saw it grow online with new faces from Ontario and beyond showing up to help protect nature, which continues to be critical to the resilience of important landscapes. We miss everyone and look forward to seeing you in person again!

PASSPORT TO NATURE



\$19,000+ by 40 businesses & participants

22+ Volunteers made eight events possible

CARDEN CHALLENGE



\$38,000+ Raised in support of alvar conservation

90 Participants from across Ontario, almost double the usual number

Supporters



"Angela and I were both born and raised in the area and have enjoyed, throughout our lifetimes, the ability to walk out our front door and enjoy nature. We know that without organizations like The Couchiching Conservancy, this reality may become a thing of the past. Hopefully, our small part in helping will enable future generations to enjoy the beauty that surrounds us."

~ Keith Thomson, Northern Business Equipment Inc.

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, Erine Ellison Medicine Professional Corp., Sojourn Outdoors

Maple (Up to \$2,500): ScottInc Design + Build., Conair, Hehn Trickey Professional Corp., Pelee Island Winery, Kawartha Field Naturalists

Elm (Up to \$1,000): Northern & Ethical Investment L.P with John Madden, Edward Jones, Al Langman Construction, Sophies Landing Development Corp.

Pine (Up to \$500): Huronia Food Club, The Bird House Nature Co., BMO Nesbitt Burns, John Mayo, Brewery Bay Food Co., Century 21 - Lynda Hepinstall, Georgian Bay Printers, Northern Business Equipment, Ontario Waterway Cruises Inc., Orillia Power Distribution Corporation, Remax – Ian and Franci Ross, Rustica Pizza + Vino, Subaru of Orillia, The Water Market, Walker Industries, Michael Scott Landscaping, K McKechnie Architectural Design, Office Links, Carden Field Naturalists

Cedar (Up to \$350): The Villager Magazine, Dr. Michelle Gordon Medicine Professional Corp., Allin Veterinary Hospital, Bayview Wildwood Resort, Bruce Stanton MP, Dr. Louise Hill, Dufferin Aggregates, Ego's Nurseries Ltd., Horseshoe Valley Dental - Dr. Suzy Lee, Jack & Maddy's – a Kids' Store, Lake Country Physiotherapy, Lake Dalrymple Resort, Lakehead University, Marci Csumrik & Associates, Maximum Mobility, McLean & Dickey, Morton Metals, Orillia Floor Fashion, Pioneer Handcraft, Sunshine Carpet and Flooring, The Crank & Sprocket, Wagg's, Mariposa Market, Katch Consulting, Connelly Medicine Professional Corporation

Willow (\$150): Crawford McLean Anderson & Duncan LLP, Hillson Medicine Professional Corporation, Washago TimberMart, Cabela's Canada, Dufferin Aggregates / CRH Canada Group, Huronia Unitarian Fellowship, Joe Watt Trophy and Engraving, Lake Country Probus, Orillia Naturalists' Club, Alliance Hockey, Dr. Anthony Reid, Pickering Naturalists, Kirkfield & District Historical Society, Toronto Ornithological Club, Uptique Boutique

Volunteers and Club members made the Fall Wine Club order with Pelee Island Winery a great success!

Pictured, opposite page: Jane Bonsteel attends the Orillia Fairgrounds Farmer's Market as an Ambassador. Ali Gamble & Cameron Curran search for species during the Carden Challenge. **Pictured:** Bumblebee at Grant's Woods Nature Reserve. **Insert:** Keith & Angela Thomson.



We are enormously grateful to the people listed in the following pages who made everything 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 \$1000 to our organization in 2020. Additional donors have requested anonymity. **Thank you to everyone who has supported conservation this year – together, we are making a difference.**

Adams, Brian R.
 Agnew, Sandy & Lynne Melnyk
 Ball, Gord & Jane
 Barrett, Craig
 Bonsteel, Jane
 Booth, Jack
 Careless, Philip
 Charters, Anderson & Susan
 Christie, Douglas & Barbara
 Clarke, Richard M.
 Crooks, Rosaleen
 Crowther, Barbara & Ian Wigle
 Deadman, Sue
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 Laver, Paul and Frances
 Leask, Robert & Beverley

Ling, Philip & Linda Frenette-Ling
 Lowry, Wendy & Si
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 McDermott, Christopher
 Metsger, Deborah
 Mugford, Don
 Murphy, Marilyn
 Neville, Lisa & Jim
 Paul, Peter & Donna
 Pomeroy, Margaret
 Probst, Lou & Judy
 Read, Linda
 Reid, Ian
 Robinson, Paul
 Rockhill, Nathalie & Elizabeth Pengelly
 Rohmann, Werner & Christine
 Rolland, Mark & Cecile
 Rosebush, Joan & John
 Ross, Jamie & Anne
 Russell, Lynn
 Smale, Alan R.
 Stewart, James K. & Barbara
 Sullivan, Bob & Wendy
 Swinimer, Bill & Sue
 Thiess, Isabelle & Gary
 Thomson, Adam & Shirley
 VanderMarel, Ingrid
 Varty, Doug & Charon
 Wallace, Greg
 Warren, David
 Williams, Michael

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 Aykler, Petra & Bob
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 Bartley, Neil
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 Bernatavicius, Cathy
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 Bigelow, Cameron
 Binsted, Kevin & Mary
 Bisset, Mark & Sandi
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 Brown, Michael J.
 Brown, Peter T.
 Buchanan, Maureen & Don
 Bunn, Michael
 Bushell, Bryan & Sandra
 Careless, Anthony & Sue
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 Chapman, Fraser
 Charest, Mathieu
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 Clark, Tanya
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 Hoy, Sean
 Hrivnak, Larry & Tricia Currie
 Hughes, Jim
 Humphries, Jean
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 Johnson, Shirley
 Johnston, Richard & Wendy
 Jones, Jeff & Pat
 Jones, Philip
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 Milne, Carolyn
 Mitchell, Pamela & John
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 Mulligan, Mary Ellen
 Mustel, Karin

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 Ritchie, Bob
 Robillard, Suzanne
 Robin, M-A
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 Roche, Peter
 Sarjeant, Mary Jane & Ron
 McLean
 Sayle, Eric
 Scanlon, Wayne & Gloria
 Scheffer, Steve & Diane
 Cornett
 Scott, Julie
 Shemilt, John

Sherwood, Bill & Victoria
 Shortridge, Tim
 Showers, Paul
 Singh, Kiren
 Smith, Jane
 Smith, Dean
 Smith, Dennis & Prudence
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 Tangney, Michael & Norma
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 Thompson, Louise & James
 Thompson, William A.
 Tillmann, Bill & Gill
 Timpf, Adam & Taylor
 Tolland, Sheena
 Tomlinson, Maggie



Doug Varty

Co-Chair of Advisory
 Council, Supporter

"I am very proud of our natural areas and our vast wilderness. I believe it is our responsibility as Canadians to preserve these natural areas for many reasons including – protecting biodiversity, reducing the impacts of climate change and protecting them for future generations to enjoy.

My wife and I are relative newcomers to the area. We enjoy nature and outdoor activities, and we have quickly come to realize what an amazing area this is with its lakes, rivers and many natural spaces. However, the area is under development pressure and as such it is vitally important that we work together to continue to identify and protect threatened habitat in a strategic manner. The Couchiching Conservancy is a highly regarded land trust, has a great team (staff and volunteers) and very strong community support. We enthusiastically look forward to being part of a team building upon the incredible achievements of the Conservancy to date.

Tuck, Alan & Melanie
Turner, George
Watt, Ruth & Jim
Wilkins, David & Mary
Williams, Rosemary
Wilson, Tom & Judy

Woodford, Pat
Worling, Donald H.
Wright, Nicole
Zaritsky, Blair
Zinger, Bruce

Every gift matters.

We appreciate everyone who has made the commitment to protect nature – on the following pages are the people who have supported this work under the \$200 level. An additional 85 people contributed under \$30 this year.

Abernethy, Michael
Ackert, Joy, John & Brenan
Adams, Christine
Adams, Heather & Alec
Addison, Joan H
Aggarwal, Aiesha
Agnew, Sarah
Alexander, Ann Marie
Allen, Marlene
Allison, Myrna
Almack, Margaret
Anderson, William J.
Andrews, Allison
Archer, Judy
Arens, Harry & June
Ariss, Kimberly
Armstrong, Brian J.
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Attfield, Peter
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Backway, Kathy
Baker, Candy & Steve
Baker, Courtney
Balaam, Toni
Ball, Barbara
Ballantyne, Robert
Bam, Homi & Linda
Barbour, Anne & Brian
Bard, Edward & Barbara
Bardswich, Louise
Barlow, Janet
Barrett, Spencer & Suzanne
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Booth, Larry & Vicki
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Broger, Kay-Anne
Bromley, Bill & Yvonne
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Brown, Holly
Brown, Jerry & Lorraine
Browne, Robert
Bruce, Leslie
Bryans, Carol
Bryant, George
Bryer, Charles
Buchanan, Anne
Bulgutch, Melissa
Bunn, Walter & Andrea
Burgan, Leah
Burgess, Melinda
Burnie, Joelle
Burnie, Stu & Pam
Burns, Mark
Butler, Mark
Cairns, Muriel
Callahan, Kathy
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Campbell, Sue
Cancelli, Cheryl & Frank
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Carson, Alexa
Chapman, Bob
Chapman, David & Joanne
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Church, Gerald
Church, Joan
Clark, Matthew
Cleaveley, David
Cleland, Murray & Rosalind
Cohen, Louise
Cole, Jeff & Kristi
Collison, Carol

Connor, Kathy
Cook, Marie
Cornett, M. Jean
Cowl, David
Cox, Judith
Coxworth, Dane
Cramer, Kaila
Crawley, Paulette & Philip
Creasey, Wendy & Kim
Curran, Darlene
Cutler, Rob & Judy
Dahl, Matthew
Dale, Joseph
Dale, Teresa
Darker, Amy
Darling, Peter & Jane
Dashawetz, Renata
Davis, Eric
Davis, Kathryn
Deacon, Marina
Dean, Ann
Deimling, Peter & Carol
DeLoyde, Leo & Carolyn
Dengler, Nancy
Dertinger, Earl
Dingman, Tammara
Dolson, Ron & Terri
Donald, Grace
Double, Sarah
Douglas, Cathy
Douglas, Michael & Anna
Drury, Kim
Drury, Marg
Dubreuil, Maurice & Ellen
Eagles, Paul
Eardley, Kathy
Eichinger, Paul
Elend, Barb
Ellis, Susan M.
Engeland, Paul
Evans, Chris
Fallis, Jay
Fallis, Murray
Fawcett, Margot J
Fecht, Joe & Eileen Ford
Fell, Garry
Fells, Matthew
Fels-Smith, Catherine
Feltmate, Peggy

Fenning, Catherine
Fenwick, Dennis
Ferguson, Kristyn
Fletcher, Toby
Foord, Keith & Thelma
Forsythe, Lorrie
Fox, Jessica
Fox, Mike & Karen
Foy, Lisa
Fraas, Jill
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Graham, Sarah & Kelvin
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Gray, Carol
Green, Stacey
Greer, Nynka
Grey, Kathy
Griffin, James
Griffiths, Thomas
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Guy, Janet
Haist, Neil
Halbot, Deb
Halligan, Sylvia
Hamel, Dawn
Handley, Chris
Hansen, Robert & Linda
Hanwell, Jim
Hardy, Judy
Harris, Janine



Pictured: Monarch Butterfly at Grant's Woods Nature Reserve.

Harris, Ross
 Harvey, Morag
 Harvey, William
 Hatch, Mark & Kim
 Hayes, Gail & Peter
 Hepinstall, Glenys
 Hilgefard, Linda
 Hill, Wendy
 Hitchins, Tom & Jean Jackson
 Hodgkiss, David
 Hodgkiss, Sarah
 Hodgson, Anthony
 Hofstetter, Murray & Wendy
 Hohse, Deanna
 Holden, Clare
 Holmes, Doug
 Holmgren, Fred & Cathy
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 Hopkins, Elizabeth
 Hopkins, Patricia
 House, Janice A.
 Houston, William
 Howes, Rachael
 Hoy, Chris
 Huggan, Isabel
 Hughes Marsh, Lynne
 Hutchings, Al & Wendy
 Hutchinson, Neil
 Hyland, Craig
 Inoue, Yuki
 Jackson, Ester
 Jantunen, Taina
 Jefferies, Sheryn
 Jeffrey, Bonnie
 Johns, Douglas
 Johnson, David
 Johnson, Peggy
 Johnston, Mary
 Jones, Dorothy A
 Jones, Michael & Barbara
 Jorginson, Beth
 Joudrey, Jamie
 Kaethier, Thomas
 Kallin, Anne & Fred
 Kamstra, James
 Kaszanits, Wilfried & Wendy

Kelly, Doreen
 Kemp, Judy
 Kennedy, Daniel
 Kennedy, Dave
 Kennedy, David & Margaret
 Kennedy, Hanna
 Kennett, David & Ann
 Kerr, Bernice
 King, Robert & Joan
 Kitchen, Kate
 Klein, Wayne
 Kleniewski, Dana
 Kluger, Ronald & Ronna
 Knazan, Brent
 Knight, Sylvia
 Koenig, Bruce & Carol
 Koller, Cynthia & John
 Spencer
 Kozak, John, Stacey Kozak,
 Drew Hoffman, Kaydee
 Kozak, Chris Coleman
 Kozak, Stan
 Kraft, Donna
 Kremer, Allison & Brian
 Kungl, Ann-Marie & Joe Baker
 Kursin, Michael
 Labrador, Kate
 LaLonde, Todd & Marlene
 Lang, Jim
 Laperle, Susanne
 Larsen, Fred
 Lawrenson, Irena & Ralph
 Lawson, Sherry
 Leadbeater, Murray
 Ledlow, Patricia
 Leduc, Ron
 Lemer Crawley, Judith
 Levine, Gerald & Elizabeth
 Lewis, Doug & Kim
 Lewis, Gunda
 Lieberman, Susan
 Ling, Lisa
 Littlewood, John
 Lloyd, Isabelle & Derek
 Long, Bonnie
 Long, Clarwyn & Beverly
 Longford, Suzanne
 Lowles, Marilyn & Doug
 Lucas, Paul

Lumsden, Bruce A.
 Lund, Mary & Kenneth
 Lunnen, Brenda
 Lyons, Thomas
 MacCrimmon, Ann
 MacDonald, Erin
 Macdonald, John & Carolyne
 MacDonald, Ken & Susan
 MacKay, Petra
 MacKenzie, Duncan
 Mackenzie, Fay
 MacLachlan, Pam
 MacMillan, Trish
 MacNaughton, Ann Marie
 Mains, Roslynn
 Majury, William & Jacqueline
 Mallinson, Susan & David
 Maltby, Cam & Mary
 Maltby, Jody
 Mancey, Carolyn
 Manolakos, Joshua
 Mansell, William & Nancy
 Martin, Sharlene
 Martin, Wayne
 McAdams, James K. & Emily
 Morino
 McCarthy, Cindy
 McClelland, Elizabeth
 McClinchey, Shawn
 McCreath, Paul
 McCrindle, Sandra
 McDonald-Taylor, Kim
 Mcelroy, Mary Ann
 McEwen, Peter
 McGrath, Kelly
 McIntosh, Gavin & Nancy
 Mcintyre, Kevin
 McIntyre, William T. & Lynn
 Neilsen
 Mclsaac, Don
 McKechnie, Sue
 McMillan, Chris
 McMullen, Ken & Pat
 McNaughton, Jean
 Meldrum, Janet
 Micks, Roy
 Middaugh, Paul & Linda
 Middaugh, Robert & Judy
 Millar, Donna
 Miller, John
 Milligan, Claire & Josh
 Milne, Kathryn
 Minassian, Miranda
 Minett, Barb & Bob
 Ferguson
 Moorman, Shirley
 Morris, Roseanne
 Morrison, Brian
 Moser, Chase
 Mulcahy, Lucille
 Murch, Gillian
 Murrant, Brian & Jennifer
 Murray, Helen
 Nason, Howard
 Nielsen, Lynn

Noble, Malcolm
 Noble, Susan & Wayne
 Notmandeau, Mike
 Oben, Miriam
 O'Connor, Gerald
 Oelrichs, John
 Ogilvie, Stephen
 Old, Colin G
 Oliver, Katherine
 Paccagnella, Denis &
 Carolyn
 Pady, Lynn
 Pajor, Susan
 Pakalns, Aris
 Parrott, Marian
 Peacock, Linda
 Pepper, Dona
 Peter, Marlene
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 Petreman, Gwen & Daniel
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 Rountree, Rob
 Rowland, Toby & Becky Plant
 Ruddell, Peter & Dorothy
 Rusak, Aaron
 Russell Baird, Jill
 Ryckman, Barbara
 Sanders, Jan & Richard Sims
 Sandusky, Peter & Mary
 Sasaki, Ted
 Schandlen, Liz & Dave
 Schouten, Gerarda
 Schuster, Valerie Mary
 Schwoob, Roxanne
 Seidel, Monica
 Sellors, Ed & Cheryl
 Servos, David
 Seyffer, Ron
 Shaw, Jeff
 Sheppard, Mary



Pictured: Fossils at Cedarhurst Alvar.



Sinclair, Alex & Muriel
 Sinclair, Lynn & Norman
 Sirois, Bernard & Mary Hick
 Sloley, Jane & Jim Langman
 Smale, John
 Smelters Wier, Mara
 Smith, Andrea
 Smith, Debra & Brian
 Snider, Ruthanne
 Snowden, William J.
 Sockett, Catherine & Stephen
 Splichal, Fern
 Stamper, Steven
 Stanton, James
 Steed, Judy
 Steiner, Jessica C.
 Steinhart, Jim & Georgia
 Stephenson, Shannon
 Sternberg, Barbara
 Stevens, Anne
 Stevens, Robert
 Stevenson, Mark
 Stewart, Heather
 Stinnissen, Arnold & Dianne
 Stoddart, Brock
 Stronks, Glenn
 Symmes, Ric & Sandy
 Taylor, Ron & Charlene
 Taylor-Valk, Christine & David
 Valk
 Thiess, Mary
 Thomas, Katherine
 Thompson, Barb
 Thompson, Debra
 Thompson, Donna
 Thomson, Ken & Corinne
 Thorup, Isobel
 Torney, Barbara
 Town, Robert
 Toye, Lynn & John
 Tozek, Gloria

Tremblay, Phyllis
 Trimble, Bev
 Truyens, Ann
 Turcott, Garrett
 Turner, Laurie
 Valk, Matthew
 Van Halem, Murray
 Vanderlee, Laurie
 VanDusen, Alice
 Vennard, Michelle & Kevin
 Villneff, Hilary & Miles
 Vincent, Annette
 Visser, M
 Vorstermans, Charlotte
 Wahlberg, Jesper
 Waite, Susan & Bruce
 Wake, David & Winnifred
 Walinck, Jan & John
 Wallace, Brant
 Walton-Ball, Mary
 Watson, Deb
 Watt, Valerie
 Weber, Diane B
 Weber, Jeanne
 Weel, Arlene
 Weinberg, Steve & Natalie
 Currie
 Wells, Lynn
 White, Craig
 Whitman, Christie & Bill
 Williams, Regina
 Willsey, Nancy
 Wilson, Bruce
 Wilson, Dawn
 Wilson, Stephen
 Woloszczuk, Michael
 Wood, Louise
 Wright, John
 Wukasch, Richard & Doris
 Zoller, Kaye

Donations were made in memory of:

Atkinson, Barb
 Bellevance, Tony
 Bendell, Harry
 Brine, Richard
 Carrier, Martin
 Doman, Cheri
 Duff, Joseph
 Gladwell, Erin
 Hawke, John
 Visser, M
 Vorstermans, Charlotte
 Wahlberg, Jesper
 Waite, Susan & Bruce
 Wake, David & Winnifred
 Walinck, Jan & John
 Wallace, Brant
 Walton-Ball, Mary
 Watson, Deb
 Watt, Valerie
 Weber, Diane B
 Weber, Jeanne
 Weel, Arlene
 Weinberg, Steve & Natalie
 Currie
 Wells, Lynn
 White, Craig
 Whitman, Christie & Bill
 Williams, Regina
 Willsey, Nancy
 Wilson, Bruce
 Wilson, Dawn
 Wilson, Stephen
 Woloszczuk, Michael
 Wood, Louise
 Wright, John
 Wukasch, Richard & Doris
 Zoller, Kaye

Mulder, Sonya
 Pitts, John
 Pomeroy, John
 Rehborn, Angela
 Servos, Pamela
 Taylor, Gudrun
 Thomas, Inga
 Thompson, Elaine
 Werry, Jack
 Williams, J.R. Mack
 Woodford, Jim



Pictured: views of Taylor Nature Reserve and a Five-lined Skink in the Black River Wildlands.

The Heartwood Fund



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 \$2.5 million dollars has been pledged to date in bequests, life insurance, cash & other legacy gift options.

"We've been putting off re-doing our will for several years now, because, yuck. But with the pandemic, and the real possibility that one or both of us could go, we decided for our kids' sake we better deal with it. We've been thinking about the Heartwood Fund and how we might be able to contribute. So when we called our lawyer, we made sure that was part of the equation. Our support of the Conservancy is the main way we express our values when it comes to the environmental crisis. I guess putting it in our will makes it official."

~ Mark & Sandi Bisset

Our sincere thanks to the following people who have pledged or contributed to the Heartwood Fund:

Sandy Agnew & Lynne Melnyk, Gord & Jane Ball, Cameron & Linda Bigelow, Mark & Sandi Bisset, Philip Careless, Douglas & Barbara Christie, Timothy & Rosaleen Crooks, Heather Gauldie, John & Marg Hallman, Ron & Sharon Hancock, David A. & Bonnie Homer, Shirley Johnson, Maureen Kenny & Jim McDonald, Paul & Frances Laver, Robert & Beverley Leask, Wendy & Si Lowry, Cathy Massig, Ginny Moore, Lisa Neville, 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.

These days, most of us are thinking about keeping ourselves and our families virus-free, and about coping with the many restrictions on the lives that we are accustomed to living. The COVID-19 crisis offers both a reason and an opportunity to think also about the future – the future of our country and the planet, as well as our personal future and the eventual disposition of our personal assets.

Some friends of the Couchiching Conservancy are now deciding to include the Conservancy in their plans. As they revisit the terms of their wills, they're adding the CC's Heartwood Fund to their beneficiaries. By their decision, they're saying that now more than ever, the long-term protection of our precious, local, natural heritage is a high priority for them.

The Heartwood Fund was originally formed to ensure that the promises we make today – to protect thousands of acres of wilderness – would be fulfilled in the future. No matter the ups and downs in the economy, changes in government, or even a pandemic, we are committed to continue and pursue this mandate.

If you are revisiting or writing your will and want to include the Conservancy please let us know. Our Heartwood Fund exists to protect the organization and the Nature Reserves it protects forever, through good times and bad. Gifts in your will ensure the work you care about today will be sustained in the future.

These gifts don't have to take away from what you are leaving to your family. There are tax benefits to these gifts. Talk to your financial advisor.

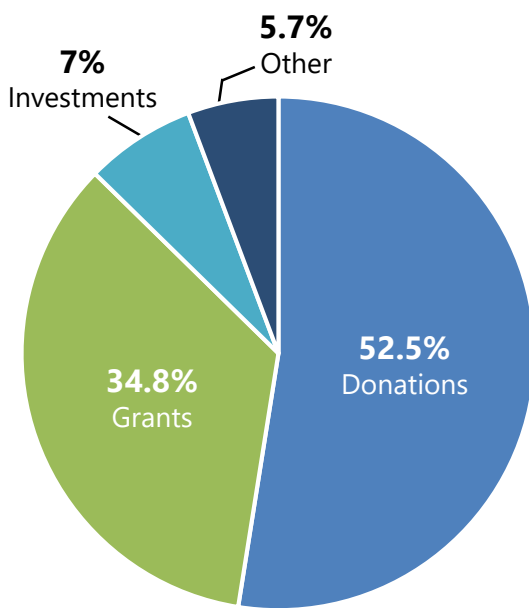
Pictured above: Fox kit in the Black River Wildlands.

Financial Report

2020 was a year unlike any other, but because of our donors, business supporters and funders, The Conservancy came through the storm and finished in a strong financial position.

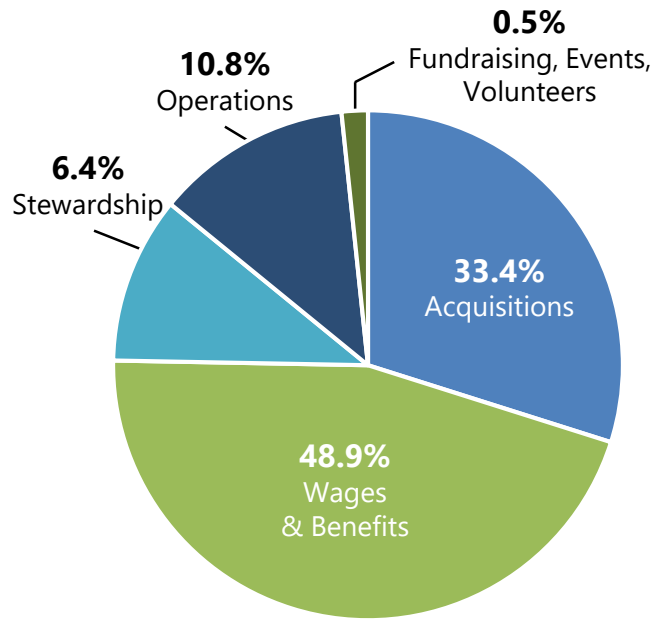
Accountability and transparency are important. We work hard with volunteers, the Board of Directors and staff to ensure your donations are used wisely and are making an impact.

Revenue:



	2020	2019
Donations	\$642,091	\$393,047
Grants	425,839	385,374
Investment Income	84,997	47,552
Other	69,871	51,021
Total Revenue	\$1,222,798	\$876,994

Expenses:



	2020	2019
Property Acquisitions	\$294,011	\$268,957
Wages and Benefits	430,540	408,818
Property Stewardship	56,573	95,392
Operations	94,813	111,975
Fundraising, Events & Volunteers	4,338	14,994
Total Expenses	\$880,275	\$900,136

A full independent financial audit for our fiscal year, ending October 31, 2020, has been prepared by Hehn Trickey Professional Corporation Chartered Professional Accountants and is available to the public at www.couchichingconserv.ca.

Our sincere thanks to the following organizations:

Blue Mountain Watershed Trust
Brereton Field Naturalists' Club
Bruce Trail Conservancy
Carden Field Naturalists
City of Orillia
Community Foundation of Orillia and Area
Consecon Foundation
Copeland Forest Friends
County of Simcoe
Ecology Ottawa
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy
Forests Ontario
Freshwater Future
Ganaraska Trail Association
Ganawenim Meshkiki (Eastern Georgian Bay Initiative)
Georgian Bay Land Trust
Huronian Land Conservancy
Island Nature Trust
Long Point Basin Land Trust
Bird Studies
McLean Foundation
Muskoka Conservancy
Nature Barrie
Nature Canada

Nature Conservancy of Canada
Nature Trust of New Brunswick
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Kawartha Land Trust
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Lakehead University
Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington
Kawartha Conservation
Kawartha Field Naturalists
Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Ontario Field Ornithologists
Ontario Heritage Trust
Ontario Land Trust Alliance
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry
Ontario Nature
Ontario Parks
Ontario Streams
Ontario Trillium Foundation.
an agency of the government of Ontario
Orillia Community Development Corporation

Orillia Fish & Game Conservation Club
Orillia Naturalists' Club
Parks Canada
Patrick Fogarty Secondary School
Pelee Buzz
Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory
Rama First Nation
rare Charitable Research Reserve
Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition
Scales Nature Park
Sewern Sound Environmental Association
Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition
Sustainability Network
Thames Talbot Land Trust
The Canadian Freshwater Alliance
The Echo Foundation
The Gosling Foundation
The Government of Canada's Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP)
The Land Between

The Land Conservancy of British Columbia
The Schad Foundation
The Somos El Barco Fund of Makeway
The Sustainability Network
The Youssef-Warren Foundation
Toronto Ornithological Club
Trent University
United Way of Greater Toronto
Water Rangers
Wellington Water watchers
Wildlands League
Wildlife Preservation Canada

What's ahead?

After the year we've been through, predicting the future seems about as sensible as building a personal financial plan using tarot cards.

Fortunately, the Conservancy has placed much emphasis on good strategic planning and conservation goals, and that will continue to give us a clear chart and a good compass to steer by without resorting to fortune tellers.

In 2019, armed with a new acquisition strategy and a strategic plan mandate to accelerate protection, we tried a different approach to fundraising for land acquisition. Focusing on an entire priority area rather than a single property, we launched the Black River Wildlands Corridor Campaign. We quickly saw results as our supporters embraced the concept. When the opportunity of protecting the Carden Cedarhurst Alvar property with our partners arose, we had to pivot quickly. That led to an evolution: our initiative, now called The Corridors Campaign embraces both Carden and the Black River Wildlands Corridor. It continues to attract donations and pledges, which, along with acquisition reserves, have positioned us to respond quickly as various acquisition projects come to fruition. We will continue to build on the campaign through 2021 with the end goal of protecting more land in our focus areas.

With the steady growth of the organization, it became increasingly apparent that our existing staff structure, which had served us so well for so long, was in need of renovation.

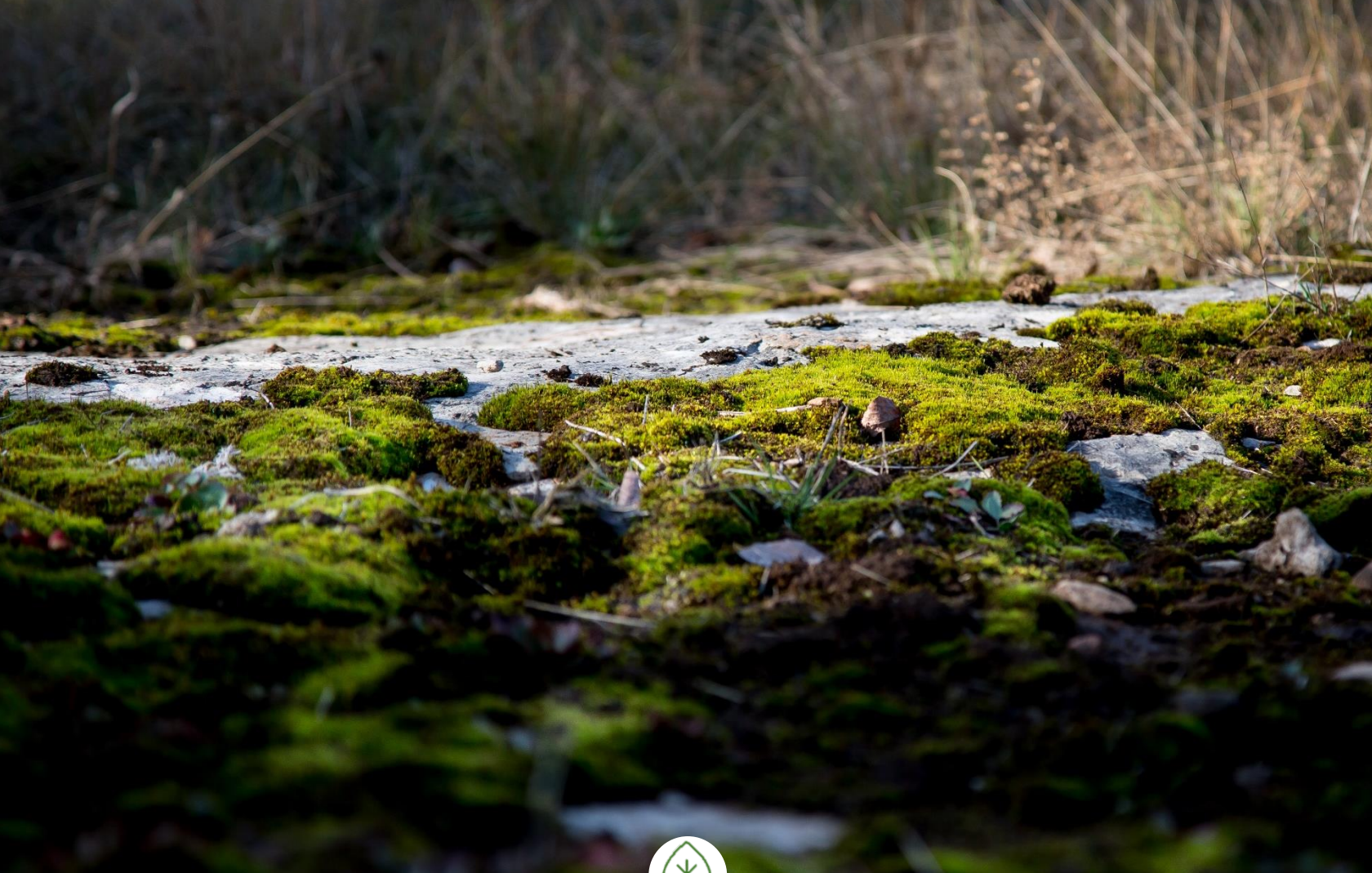
In late 2018, with an eye to long-term succession planning, we began a careful transition to a new structure, guided by a set of human resources goals laid out in the 2020-25 Strategic Plan. That restructuring will be completed in 2021, resulting in a significant increase in stewardship staff resources, with citizen science as a key emphasis. In her new senior role as Conserved Lands Manager, Dorthea Hangaard will lead that effort.

Building strong relationships with our existing supporters and volunteers at the same time we continue to engage new people and new partners will remain a major emphasis in 2021. Our people remain our foundation, making all else possible. That has never been more relevant than it is in this global pandemic.

Financially, structurally and strategically, we are well-positioned to weather whatever is in store.

And that?

Pass the tarot cards.



How You Can Help:

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