

*The Couchiching
Conservancy* 



Annual Report | 2015

President's Message

Another successful year! Our capacity to protect vulnerable environments and engage an increasing audience in conservation continues to grow. This is due to our strong culture and our talented people.

Our Culture: The culture of the Conservancy was set firmly in place by the founding members based on their shared motivation to protect the environment through a respectful and cooperative approach to land acquisition, stewardship and outreach. This culture is evident daily in our work and our relationships.

Our People: Each and every one of our supporters and volunteers is important. Monthly donors are growing and major donors and sponsors continue to be enthusiastic. Our incredibly hard working volunteers bring passion and skills to diverse activities. We simply could not accomplish what we do without these people who are endlessly generous with their time, talent and resources. We are so very grateful.

Our immensely skilled staff work under the able leadership of Executive Director, Mark Bisset. With a heavy workload and limited resources, they set impressive targets and achieve significant results.

Our busy Past Presidents' Council, in developing the Heartwood Fund, is ensuring a healthy financial future. The Fund is strong but still has room to grow!

Our effective Board of Directors dedicates its time and skills to supporting the organization through its meetings and committee work.

Thank you to all who make the Couchiching Conservancy so strong. It is both a privilege and great fun to be part of it!



Margaret Pomeroy

Margaret Pomeroy
President

Executive Director's Message

It was both a year of change and a year of continuity.

Change arrived with heavy equipment at Grant's Woods where a renovation project is transforming our headquarters into a carbon-neutral, fully-accessible centre with room for growth. Thanks to a capital grant from Trillium, a legacy from William Grant, remarkable volunteers and the generosity of the construction community, we will soon be working in a solar and geothermal-powered building that will serve our purposes for years to come. The renovations were done on the strength of the old work, which served us so well for more than a decade. But timbers riddled with carpenter ant tunnels said the timing was good.

Change came in Carden as well, saying goodbye to the Carden Nature Festival and hello to an expanded Passport to Nature. Driven by the hard work of the festival committee, the event helped put Carden on the map, but the number of participants no longer justified the effort. It was an emotional goodbye for those who poured so much passion into this nearly perfect boutique festival.

Yet even while the walls were shaking at Grant's Woods and the windows were rattling in our calendar of events, our work continued smoothly. Another 500 crucial acres were brought under protection; dozens of species, many of them at risk, benefited from our protection; we blazed trails in habitat offsetting and partnerships with landowners; citizen science and research illuminated our efforts; our natural treasures had their champion.

Change and continuity, it seems, can be fine partners.



Mark Bisset

Mark Bisset
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Jack Booth, *Treasurer*

Kailin Gratrix, *Secretary*

David A. Homer, *Past President*

Directors: Robert Sullivan, Doug Christie,

Gord Michener, Liz McClelland, Pamela Fulford

Staff

David Hawke, *Stewardship Program Manager*

Dorthea Hangaard, *Project Manager*

Tanya Clark, *Development Coordinator*

Gay Guthrie, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Contractors: Ron Reid, Ginny Moore & Kathy Connor

Students & Interns: Cameron Curran, Aiesha Aggarwal



Protecting nature for current and future generations since 1993



QUICK STATS

NATURE RESERVES

44

Protected thanks to donors & partners

HABITAT RESTORATION

400+

Acres of degraded grassland restored

PROTECTING HABITAT FOR

38 unique species

at some level of risk



VOLUNTEER HOURS

2,400+

Contributed this year



Land Donor Profile: Sue Deadman



Before purchasing the 100-acre property near Coldwater, Sue Deadman frequently saw the landscape from an uncommon perspective – 4,200 ft above the ground.

Sue has always been a nature lover and jumped into skydiving after a co-worker was boasting about it. She got connected with the Coldwater Parachute School, which at the time was one concession away from her soon-to-be home. When Sue decided to purchase a home in the Orillia area, she was on the hunt for land. Preferring to live in the quiet countryside, not close to neighbours and in a small home, she found the perfect location. How fitting it is that she fell in love with the landscape from the sky before seeing it by foot.

Sue purchased the property in 1998, and it has been in her care ever since. While she was visiting a friend, she noticed a plaque from The Couchiching Conservancy. Her friend had completed a land donation in 2006 – Jennett Woods. At the time Sue didn't know that protecting her land was possible. After a phone call to the Conservancy office, the ball got rolling in 2013. Sue wants the property to be protected beyond her lifetime and wants to make sure human pressure doesn't destroy the natural habitat she so values.

Now, the property has a registered conservation easement on it. Located within the Land Between ecozone, it's a 'hotspot' for biodiversity and is between two provincially significant wetlands.

Land Donor Profile: Philip Ling & Linda Frenette-Ling



On a cold morning not long before Christmas, Mark and Ron joined the family and neighbours of Philip Ling and Linda Frenette-Ling to drink a toast of maple syrup beside their pond. The occasion was the signing of a conservation easement agreement that protects in perpetuity their 400 acres of forest, wetland and alvar grassland southwest of Kirkfield.

Philip and Linda love their Carden Plain property, its wildlife and wild flowers. They love to bring their children's friends with them to visit, to introduce city kids to the joys of experiencing nature. With the easement in place, they can be sure that future generations of kids will also be able to learn from nature first-hand.

Connecting the Community to Conservation

CARDEN CHALLENGE

\$16,000

RAISED BY 12 TEAMS

143 species
counted

BEST SIGHTINGS:

Peregrine Falcon
Red-necked Grebes
A flock of Whimbrels



SUPPORTED BY

257 CARING
PEOPLE

Funds support efforts
on the Carden Alvar

PASSPORT TO NATURE

\$15,000

raised by community
partners & supporters

TOGETHER WE RAN SEVEN EVENTS WITH HELP FROM



40+

LEADERS &
MARSHALS

CARDEN ALVAR NATURE FESTIVAL

100+ people
registered

Plus Fun Fest attendees

FOR 30+ ENGAGING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

We've had a great year of engaging and fun events at the properties that are protected thanks to supporters. When we were planning for this year, there were a number of goals in mind: to get people out to the properties, increase awareness of conservation work, create new partnerships and raise funds. From the summary numbers to the left, you can see that we have been successful on all fronts.



A cold morning of the Carden Challenge, but soon the sun warmed us and the birds came out to sing.

Carden Challenge participants faced cold weather this year. For those who tented at Ron & Janet's cabin, temperatures dipped below 0. Because of the weather, bird species counts were down a bit from last year but we still had some great sightings. All funds raised from the Challenge support stewardship efforts on the Carden Alvar, an Important Bird Area. The Conservancy and its partners have a goal to acquire over 12,000 acres of land in the Carden area and with support from generous people, we will get there!



Learning about the flowers that grow in Grant's Woods with leaders Mary Mick & Kyra Howes.

The Carden Alvar Nature Festival has run for nine years, thanks to a tremendous volunteer effort. This year, the committee made the tough decision that this will be the last. Going forward, the best aspects of the Festival will be integrated into the Passport to Nature which was introduced this year. Our sincere thanks to all of the committee members, leaders and volunteers for making the Festival a success.

The Passport to Nature is a series of events which take place all year-long across the seasons and this was a perfect way to invite our supporters into the outdoors. It also helped us to grow our group of nature lovers. All of these events are supported by local businesses that care for the environment. Because of their support, these events are free for the public to attend and enjoy. Special thanks to the people on this planning committee for all of their efforts and the event leaders who share their expertise.



Getting a hands on experience with the wild outdoors at the Roehl Wetland Nature Reserve.

In the online world, we continue to connect our supporters to the work we are doing. This year we reached out to over 13,000 people. Our website is our most important way to communicate to the world and keep everyone up to date.

Working non-stop to protect nature



Habitat Improvement

The Conservancy has engaged in four projects that will see grassland habitat enhanced for threatened species such as bobolink, eastern meadowlark and barn swallow. Portions of Bluebird Ranch and Turnbull Ranch have received funding, with approval by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, to create better grassland habitat.

Volunteers donated hundreds of hours worth thousands of dollars towards this goal by removing clumps of shrubs and small islands of cedar trees from grassy areas. The result is a very open field that invites these birds to check it out for nesting purposes. And there has already been signs of success, as the 2015 nesting season saw increases in the number of singing males and pairs within the enhanced areas.

Species At Risk (SAR)

As the list of disappearing species grows, the importance of our protected landscape also grows. From lush woodlands to granite rock to limestone alvar, our holdings are home to many beleaguered critters and plants. We're protecting habitat that supports 38 species that are at some level of risk (endangered, threatened or special concern). Birds, plants, a lizard, several turtles and snakes, a frog, a mammal and an insect have been found and noted. By diligently acquiring, monitoring and, if necessary, managing the diverse holdings, these rare species have a better chance to survive, thus keeping the local ecosystems functioning as they should.

Research, Monitoring & Innovative Approaches for Carden Bird Species

Twelve feisty male bobolinks from Carden carried something extra to their wintering grounds in Argentina this fall – tiny electronic backpacks that will tell us exactly where they were every three weeks. This project is part of Alice Pintaric's graduate work, co-sponsored by the Conservancy and Trent University, with financial support from Earth Rangers, the McLean Foundation, and the Species at Risk Research Fund for Ontario. Alice also tracked nesting success of bobolinks in pastures and hayfields, finding an amazing 33 nests tucked away in dense grasses. She will return in 2016 to add more knowledge about our local birds.

Pictured: Aiesha & Dorthea sampling for benthic invertebrates; Patrick Fogarty Secondary School students helped us in a number of ways this year; Julia Wolst hiding at Grant Wetland; Marbled Olympia on the Carden Plain; volunteers contributed hundreds of hours to improve habitat for birds; Brown Thrasher at Cameron Ranch.



"Our testing site is really lively. While doing our turbidity testing, we watched a Northern Water Snake swim under a rock & it resurfaced with a small fish in its mouth! We watched it finish its meal while we continued our testing."

*Meagan Couglin
Water Quality Team Member*



Copeland
Forest
Friends
launched



Water Quality Team

In 2015 we launched a new project to monitor the water quality of streams flowing through or adjacent to Conservancy-managed properties. Our goal is to learn about the water quality, fish, and invertebrates of the properties we manage by establishing a long-term monitoring program. Fifteen volunteers signed on to become citizen scientists monitoring seven sites along Perch and McGee Creek, and the Talbot River.

Our new CC Water Team is testing for temperature, clarity, oxygen levels, Ph, alkalinity, and nutrients such as nitrates and phosphates. Once a year they also conduct "Benthic Kick-Tests" to study the micro invertebrates at their sites which also provide important indicators of water quality. Between June and November, these volunteers logged an impressive 628 hours conducting twice-monthly tests at their sites.

This project is a partnership with Ontario Streams & Lakehead University, with support from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. It would not be possible without the financial support of the Intact Foundation, RBC Bluewater, and the Helen-McCrea Peacock Foundation. *The Water Quality Team is the recipient of the Ontario Streams 2015 Partnership Award.*

Living with Invasive Species

While monitoring and, where possible, contributing to the evolving thinking around invasive species, we continue to work hard to strategically control aggressive alien plant species. Dog-strangling vine remains one of the greatest threats to the alvars and grasslands of Carden and we work closely with the Nature Conservancy of Canada to hold the line, thanks in part to funding from a private donor. Garlic mustard threatens some properties on the eastern side of our region. Thanks to regular monitoring by volunteer teams, these invaders are being discovered before they become the dominant ground cover. For several years, teams have been pulling garlic mustard from Church Woods, Elliott Woods, Alexander Hope Smith Reserve and the Helen Butler Reserve, trying to thwart new flowers and reduce the existing seed bank. And it's working! In 2015 density was way down at these sites, and spread is arrested.

Pictured: Banding Bobolinks in Carden; Jamie & Anne Ross picking purple loosestrife at East Coulson Swamp; the various user groups of the Copeland Forest Friends Association.

Volunteers

Volunteering with the Conservancy can lead to many things and we asked one volunteer, Aiesha Aggarwal, to tell her story:



"I've volunteered in a number of ways – on the Carden Water Testing Team, at community events, with the office renovations and more. When I started out, I immediately knew that this was a community I wanted to be a part of. Visiting the Carden Alvar and various properties in the Orillia area opened my eyes to the beauty of my home town. For the first time I felt a true pride in where I grew up. Now, I'm working as an intern and these experiences have transformed me from a lost biology student into a young field naturalist. No matter where my future takes me, I know that I will continue to stay tuned into nature and volunteer my time to my local land trust."

Our thanks to all of the volunteers!

Abert, Rudy • Adams, Brian • Adams, Heather & Alec • Adkinson, Angela • Aggarwal, Aiesha • Agnew, Sandy & Lynne Melnyk • Alger, Bria • Appleyard, Yvonne • Armstrong, Greg • Armstrong, Peter • Atwood, Harold • Aykler, Petra & Bob • Babbage, Lori • Babineau, Rose • Baker, Alan • Balika, Debbie • Ball, Gord & Jane • Bam, Homi & Linda • Barbour, Anne • Barrett, Craig • Baxter, Michal • Beamish, Judith • Belfontaine, Tim & Tam • Bell, Tassia & John • Bender, Ian • Benjafield, Sue • Beresford, David • Berndt, Joan & Richard • Bertie, Bryan • Bick, John • Bigelow, Cameron • Billing, Sean • Binsted, Kevin • Bisset, Mark & Sandi • Blair, Bernice & Gordon • Blair, Fred • Blayney, Susan • Boddington, Cathy • Boddy, William • Boehnert, Roy • Bolton, Judi • Bone, Dan • Booth, Jack • Booth, Kevin • Bouchard, Sylvia • Bowden, Lydia • Bowles, Bob • Bowman, Ken • Brain, Katie • Braun, Alison • Bray, Bob & Nancy • Breckenridge, Cathie • Brennan, Jean • Brenner, Konrad • Brewer, Greg • Brown, Jerry & Lorraine • Brown, Katie • Brown, Peter T. • Brown, Roy • Budge, Don • Burgan, Leah • Burnie, Joelle • Busby, Dan • Button, Ian • Byer, Reid • Callahan, Kathy • Calvert-Dale, Louise • Campana, Marco • Campbell, Dave & Barb • Carling, Brenda • Carlyle, Gayle & John Challis • Carnahan, Tye • Carpenter, Nicole • Carroll, Erin • Cartwright, Cathy • Catteau, Jeff • Chan, Susan • Chard, Janice • Chernushevich, Julia • Chilton, Kate • Christie, Doug & Barb • Christie, Michael • Church, Gerry • Churchill, Makayla • Claridge, Terry • Clark, Jennie • Clark, Marilyn & Peter Hayward • Clark, Tanya • Clarke, Kathy • Clarke, Susan • Clarke, Trevor • Cleland, Murray & Rosalind • Cockburn, John • Cohen, Ellen • Cohen, Louise • Colby, Cynthia • Cole, Dane • Cole, Jeff • Cole, Kristi • Connor, Kathy • Conod, Darryl • Cook, Ian & Carol Phillips • Coughlin, Meghan • Coughlin, Trudy • Coulombe, Max Claude • Craig, Neil • Critchley, Kate • Crooks, Timothy • Curran, Cameron • Currie, Natalie • Damsma, Paul • Darker, Amy • Darker, Bill & Helenmaria • Davidson, Judith • Debiasi, Paul • Deimling, Peter & Carol • DeMarco, Jerry • Devine, Eran • Dewar, Andrew • Dixon, Dave & Janet • Domingo, Angelo • Douglas, Mark • Drozda, Sheree & Lori • Duffus, Janet • Duggan, Sean • Duncan, Bruce • Duncan, Ted • Dunn, Ron • Dymont, Leslie • Edwards, Judy • Ellingwood, Chris • Engeland, Paul & Linda • Evans, Chris • Evans, Josh • Ewing, Heather • Fecht, Joe & Eileen Ford • Fell, Gary • Fendley, Shawn • Ferguson, Kristyn • Ferguson, Mike • Fischer, Taylor • Fleming, Rae • Foley, Peggy • Ford, Derek • Foster, Brooke • Francis, Simon • French, Jon • Frost, Doug • Fulford, Pamela • Furman, Henry • Furniss, Herb • Fyfe, Nancy • Gale, Ruth Anne • Gamroth, Mary Sue & Ed Konda • Gaudie, Heather • Gilbreath, Jeff • Gilchrist, Danny • Gill, Peter & Pat • Gillette, Lisa & Gary • Gillette, Michael • Glazer, Stanley & Brenda • Goossen, Anne • Gordon, Bernice & Blair • Gottlieb, Patricia • Grainger, Deborah • Grand, Janet & Ron Reid • Grandine, Joan • Gratrix, Kailin • Gray, Neil, Cameron & Anne • Greatrix, Ted • Guthrie, Gay • Hadlington, Sid • Hagedorn, Todd • Hall, Harry & Marian • Hall, Susan • Hamilton, Janice • Hancock, Ron & Sharon • Hangaard, Dorthea • Hatch, Mark & Kim • Hawke, David & Juliana • Hawke, John & Gwen • Hawkman, Harry • Hay, Gillian • Hebert, Paulette • Hems, Lisa • Herr, Sarah • Hess, Sandra & Julian • Hewitt, Luke • Hill, Bill & Alma • Hodgson, Marg & Anthony • Holden, Clare • Homer, David & Bonnie • Hoogendorn, Igor • Hope-Smith, Rodger • Hosie, Sandy • Howes, Kyra • Howes, Warren • Hughes, Ian • Hummel, Monte • Hunt, Katrina • Huskinson, Rebecca • Ironside, Nancy • Jackson, Eliza

320+ WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS

Plus many, many event volunteers and leaders

IN THE FIELD



CONTRIBUTING TO THE LONG-TERM health of our lands

18 PROPERTY TEAMS,

with 75 members who went on 45+ property walks



224+ HOURS

on the Bluebird Ranch habitat improvement project

Water Quality Monitoring

620+ HOURS

Contributed by: **14** VOLUNTEERS At **7** TEST SITES



7 Water Quality Indicators Tested

IN THE COMMUNITY

35 Ambassadors

attended **8** events

in the community to talk about the importance of conservation



Jackson, Louise • Jardine, Ernie • Jenkins, Jeremy • Jenkins, John & Sharon • Jones, Michael & Barbara • Junck, Kenneth • Karson, Alyson • Keddy, Ken • Kelly, Kevin • Kelly, Lee • Kennedy, David & Margaret • Kenny, Maureen & Jim MacDonald • Kielar, Ania • Kirby, Mary Lou • Kirby, Sean • Kluger, Ronald & Ronna • Kohl, Adrienne • Lancaster, Marty • Larsen, Ellie • Lauer, Tim & Rhonda • Laver, Paul and Frances • Leadbeater, Dale • Leclerc, Cas • Lee, Ashley • Lee, Cat • Leigh, Brianna • Levez, Lisa • Lewis, Jane • Linton, Etta • Longlade, Tess • Lord, Dave • Lowry, Si & Wendy • Lynch, Richard • Macdonald, Jim & Cathy • MacNaughton, Ann Marie • MacPhee, Andrew • Mainguy, Sarah • Makey-Heindle, Andrew • Malloy, Helen & Brian • Malloy, Vanessa • Marshall, Bob • Mason, Betty • Mason, Tom • Massig, Cathy • Massig, Joanne & Greg • Matthews, Chris • McClelland, Elizabeth • McCreath, Paul • McDermott, Jenna • McGovarin, Adam • McIntosh, Sue • McIsaac, Carol • McKay, Ron • McKechnie, Kristi • McKee, Dennis • Mckelvey, Jim • McKenzie, Sarah • McKinley, Nancy • McNabb, Dave • McNaughton, Ann Marie • McNeill, Colleen • McSorley, Lois & Wayne • McTavish, Susan • McWhinnie, Bob • Mia, T • Michener, Gordon • Mick, Mary & Omer • Micks, Laura • Millar, Rob • Miller, Bob • Miller, Jeff • Milligan, Claire • Mills, Alex • Mills, Ron • Milsom, Dave • Moore, Ginny • Moore, Melanie • Moreau, Roland • Morrison, Shelly • Morrison-Hennessy, Amy • Moy-Shuster, Stefanie • Munro, Judy • Murphy, Marshall • Myles, David • Nangle, Richard • Neville, Lisa • Nicoll, Fergus • Nixon, Catherine & Richard • Noland, Ruth • Norman, Carol • Norman, Michael • Norton, Gary • Nourse, Jenny • Oben, Miriam • Omerod, Bob • Orr, Vic • Owen-Keith, Miriam • Owens, Luke • Owens, Aaron • Paczay, Jacqueline • Palmer, Brian • Parker, Kathy • Parliament, Maggie • Hathaway, Jeff • Peverill, Mark & Lisa • Peyton, Barry • Pintaric, Alice • Pitts, John • Poisson, Geri • Pomeroy, Margaret • Popp, Karen • Poropat, Ed • Poulton, Michael • Powell, Jamie & Valerie • Presement, Harvey • Probst, Lou & Judy • Ravenshaw, Jane • Reed, Eleanor • Reichart, Michelle • Reid, Barbara • Rekret, Philip • Relf, Barry & Barbara • Reszler, Gloria • Rivers, Sharon • Robillard, Suzanne • Robinson, Peter • Rockhill, Nathalie & Elizabeth Pengelly • Rondel, Emily • Rose, Linda • Rosebush, Joan & John • Ross, Jamie & Anne • Rowell, David • Rumball, Sheri • Russell, M. Lynne • Ryckman, Barbara & Warren • Schultz, Karl • Scott, Bethany • Scott, Don • Selby, Les • Severtchenko, Elena • Shaw, Nigel • Sinclair, Alex & Muriel • Sinclair, Carol • Sloley, Jane & Jim Langman • Smale, Alan • Smith, Hope • Smith, Ken & Judy • Smith, Patricia & Barry



Pictured: Gary Thiess, John Jenkins, John Hawke and Ken Thomson received the Ontario Service Award for their long-term volunteer commitment to the Conservancy; snapping turtle at Kris Starr Sanctuary; Turnbull Ranch.

Smith, Richard & Beverley • Smith, Sean • Stanford, Tim & Laura • Staples, Ceryne • Stephen, Murray & Marcia • Stephenson, Shannon • Stevenson, Mark • Stewart, Geoff • Stewart, Jason & Barbara • Stinnesen, Tricia • Stinnissen, Arni & Diane • Stinson, David • Storry, Noella • Stoutt, Daniel • Stransky, Carlie • Sullivan, Bob & Wendy • Sullivan, Gerard • Sullivan, Jacqueline • Swan, Jim • Taylor, Madyson • Theiss, Gary & Isabelle • Thomas, Scott • Thomson, Adam • Thomson, Bill • Thomson, Ken • Thomson, Matt • Thornely, Glen • Tobey, Matthew • Totten, Beverley • Trayling, Bill • Truyens, Ann • Tryon, Brett, Ken & Pat • Tuck, Alan • Tuck, Melanie • Turnbull, Neil & Carolyn • Turner, Jan • Urszulan, Anya • VanDerJagt, Mike • VanderMarel, Ingrid • Vandermeulen, Josh • VanRyswyck, Laura • Vascou, Ana-Maria • Walker, Lukas • Walker, Madeline • Walton, Karl & Sandra • Ward, Andrea • Ward, Ann • Wargel, Karin • Watt, Valerie • Wells, Meghan • Westerby, Lynne • White, Chad • White, Randy & Cindy • Whitman, Christie & Bill • Whittam, Terry & Marion • Wianko, Leonore • Wigham, Peter • Wilkins, Dave & Mark • Williams, Paul • Willis, Courtney • Wilson, Bruce • Wilson, Emily • Wilson, Lasha • Wilson, Melanie • Wilson, Tom & Judy • Winter, Jacqueline • Wolfe, Dianna • Wolst, Julia, Emily, Simon, Hannah, Solomon & Elise • Wood, Richard • Woodford, Pat • Wright, Bob • Wright, John • Young, Peter • Zardo, Jenna • Zimmerman, Rene

Property Teams

Many of the properties which we manage have teams of volunteers who visit their site at least once a season, checking for a range of things from new species to add to existing bird or plant lists, to looking for invasives. The role of these teams has shifted a bit over the last two decades, as prior to having staff it was up to the local volunteers to ensure the safe-keeping of each property. Nowadays it's a matter of 'hand-in-glove' between office and field, and the 'eyes and ears' of property teams ensures the land remains protected and documented.

Growing for the Future

We sent our oil furnace off to be recycled in 2015. From the dust and wood chips a beautiful facility is emerging, on-budget and on-schedule to re-open in the spring of 2016. Thanks to a capital grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, a major bequest from the original property donor, William Grant, and the tireless work of volunteers and supportive contractors, we have been able to do the project without the need for a capital campaign. When completed, the conservation centre will be heated and cooled with geothermal technology and generate enough solar energy to cover our needs while feeding reserve power onto the grid. The centre will be fully accessible and set up to better accommodate community groups and youth programming. All of this was built on the strength of the original renovation work that has served us so well for so long.



Volunteers Bruce, Hank & Kevin take out the old windows to make room for the new ones.



More progress inside and outside the office.



Things were taking shape in September.

Working Towards our Long-Term Sustainability

This work demands more than a short-term commitment. Our responsibility to future generations includes ensuring the sustainability of our efforts.

The Past President's Council is working towards the goal of raising \$10 million in pledges by 2025. With their work and dedication, we are spreading the word about the Fund. To date we have 24 pledges and contributions to the Fund, accounting for an estimated \$1.8 million from people who are committed to protecting the environment and know they can trust The Conservancy.

The following people have made important pledges and contributions to the Fund:

Sandy Agnew, Gord & Jane Ball, Doug & Barbara Christie, Timothy Crooks, Ron & Sharon Hancock, David & Bonnie Homer, Wendy & Si Lowry, Ginny Moore, Ron Reid & Janet Grand, Nathalie Rockhill & Elizabeth Pengelly, Jamie & Anne Ross, Lynn Russell, Robert & Wendy Sullivan, Michael & Norma Tangney, Isabelle & Gary Thies, Ken & Corinne Thomson and Mary Walton-Ball. There are also seven anonymous contributors.

For more information on leaving a legacy, call Tanya Clark at 705.326.1620 for a confidential discussion.

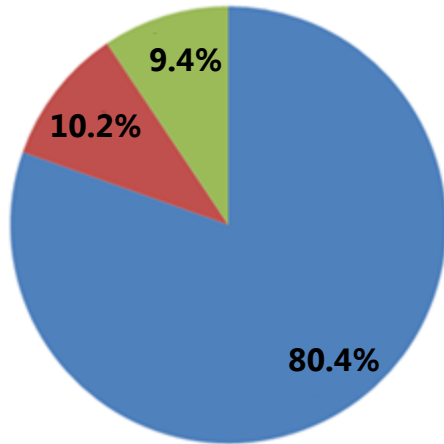


"By accepting responsibility for these lands, we have made a solemn promise to give them the best care possible to protect their diversity and integrity. What a better way to make a difference to future generations than to provide them with well-loved natural spaces."

Janet Grand and Ron Reid, Heartwood Supporters

Financial Information

How We Spent Our Resources



- Acquisition, Stewardship, Programs (\$598,119 or 80.4 %)
- Management & Administration (\$75,812 or 10.2%)
- Fundraising, Communications (\$69,934 or 9.4 %)

Based on 2014 data



Monarch Butterfly and pupa.

The Couchiching Conservancy remains in a very strong position at the end of our 2014-15 fiscal year. We recorded a small operating deficit at year-end of \$529. As budgeted, we drew down some of the funds donated by William Grant to cover the cost of the re-development project at Grant's Woods and we will continue to draw down those reserves until the project is complete in 2016. We also made an adjustment to the valuation of the building, recording a loss on disposal of assets of \$41,759 to account for demolition and to arrive at a reasonable valuation for the renovated building. The year saw a \$72,064 increase in the Heartwood Fund and an additional \$9,350 was added to the Acquisition Reserve. Overall our net assets increased from \$3,911,794 to \$4,265,972 in 2015, primarily due to a donation of property appraised at \$249,900.

A full independent financial audit for our fiscal year, ending Oct. 31, 2015, has been prepared by Hehn Trickey Professional Corporation Chartered Accountants and is available to the public at www.couchichingconserv.ca.

Our Sincere Thanks: Projects, Grants & Foundations

Special Projects

Brereton Field Naturalists
 Carden Field Naturalists
 Holcim Canada Inc.
 Kawartha Field Naturalists Club
 Lafarge Canada
 Lakehead University
 Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
 Nature Conservancy of Canada

Ontario Field Ornithologists
 Ontario Heritage Trust
 Ontario Parks
 Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
 Ontario Streams
 Orillia Naturalists Club
 R. W. Tomlinson Aggregates
 The Miller Group

Toronto Ornithological Club
 Township of Oro-Medonte
 Trent University
 Twin Lakes Conservation Club
 United Way of Greater Toronto
 Walker Industries
 Wildlife Preservation Canada

Grants and Foundations

Bird Studies Canada
 Canada Summer Jobs
 Community Foundation of Orillia and Area
 Earth Rangers
 Environment Canada
 Government of Canada
 Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation at Toronto
 Foundation

Kawartha Field Naturalists
 McLean Foundation
 Mountain Equipment Co-op
 Ontario Land Trust Alliance
 Orillia Lions Club
 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Species At Risk Program
 Ontario Trillium Foundation
 RBC Foundation

Summer Job Service, Georgian College
 The Gosling Foundation
 The Schad Foundation
 The Somos El Barco Fund of Tides Canada

Our Sincere Thanks: Corporate Partners

The following businesses supported us with donations and in-kind services or products, through the Passport to Nature or the office renovation. All of their contributions made a difference to the work that we do and to the events that we ran. They know that a healthy environment is **vital** to a healthy community.

Oak

Scott Inc. Design & Build, K. McKechnie Architectural Design, Rogers TV, Russell, Christie, LLP Barristers & Solicitors, Stewart Construction, The Water Market, J.R. Booth Professional Corp., Yanch Heating and Air Conditioning, Orillia Packet & Times

Maple

Orillia Glass and Mirror, Sunshine Carpet and Flooring, Crawford McLean Anderson & Duncan LLP, Dan The Wood Man, Allan Drywall, DSG Building Diagnostics, Hehn Trickey Professional Corp., Home Hardware Orillia, Raney's Building Supply, Scott Camick Electric, Security and Electronics Solutions, Walker Industries, Ontario Waterway Cruises Inc., Washago Lumber Co., Dufferin Aggregates, The Davey Tree Expert Co. of Canada

Elm

Accessibility Professionals, Beacon Environmental, Century 21, Champlain Readymix, Holcim Canada (Dufferin Aggregates Carden), Houser's Paint and Wallpaper, Kathryn Manners, Orillia District Chamber of Commerce, Orillia Power Distribution Corporation, Orillia Trim & Door, The Bird House Nature Co., Thor Motors, Vincent Kyle Construction, Steve McIsaac Carpentry, Downtown Computers

Pine

Hillson Medicine Professional, Lakehead University, Meridian Credit Union, Northern Business Equipment, Pelee Island Winery, Remax, Skelton Brumwell & Associates

Cedar

Mawdsley's Mobile Crane Rental Ltd., Mariposa Folk Festival, WindSpirit Wisdom & Wonders, Art's Clothing, Cabela's, Davenport Suburu, Georgian Bay Printers, Kawartha Dairy, McLean & Dickey, Sunshine FM, Synergy Healthcare Group

Willow

Marlene Bulas, The Villager, BDO Canada LLP, Birchmere Retirement Residence, C.T. Strongman Surveying Ltd., Casino Rama, Dr. Michelle Gordon Medicine Professional Corp, HGR Graham Partners LLP, Madison County Food & Beverage Co., Office Links, Ontario's Lake Country, Roy E. Pearn Enterprises Limited, Bruce Stanton MP, Leon's Orillia, Back to Function, Saturday Afternoons, Dr. Anthony Reid, Marcel's Restaurant



Thanks to Fowlers Construction for the wonderful lunch during the Carden Challenge.



The staff and volunteers of The Couchiching Conservancy.



We had great community support for the first Passport to Nature series.



Bruce Duncan, Don Scott and Kristi McKechnie have made the office renovation possible.

The People Who Make Our Work Possible: Our Supporters

Your passion for wild places and your financial support makes our work possible. Protecting thousands and thousands of acres of land happens because of the people, businesses and foundations listed on these pages.

Those listed below donated over \$200 to our organization in 2015. Additional donors have requested anonymity.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year – together, we are making a difference.



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VanderMarel, Ingrid
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MacFeeters
Woodford, Pat
Worling, Donald



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We appreciate everyone who has made the commitment to protect nature – on this page and the next are the people who have supported us under the \$200 level. An additional 97 people contributed under \$30 this year.

Abray, Jane
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Brown, Marilyn

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Dennis, Marilyn
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Gillette, Lisa & Gary Peters

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Hammond, Ken & Alva
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Harte, Celia
Harvey, William
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Hawke, John & Gwen
Hebert, Paulette
Helleiner, Frederick
Hepinstall, Glenys
Hewetson, Win
Hill, Bill & Alma
Hird, Joyce
Hobbs, Shelley
Hodgkiss, Sarah
Hohse, Deanna
Holden, W Lynn
Holdsworth, William
Homer, Norma
Hope-Smith, Stan
Howes, Kyra
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Irvin, Rick
Irwin, Anne
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Minderhoud, Anthionie
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Money, Tom
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Mouttet, Seb
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Steele, Brian
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Stinnissen, Arnold & Dianne
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Thompson, Steve
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Trombly, Joe & Betty
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Wand, Kimberly
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Watt, Valerie
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Williams, Shelly
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