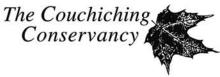


Enduring Growth Annual Report 2008



## President's Message

It has been another exciting and rewarding year for The Couchiching Conservancy!

Several new properties were added to our lands held in trust. We conducted extensive land stewardship projects and field work on the Carden Alvar and along the Trent-Severn Waterway. We held public education events including Mother Earth Day and, with our partners, the second hugely successful Carden Nature Festival in June.



April Weppler (left), OLTA Chair, presents the Community Engagement Award to (from left to right): Ron Reid, Gayle Carlyle, Kyra Howes, Isabelle Thiess, and Jane Ball.

Of particular note this year was the special recognition from the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA), the provincial organization for all land trusts in Ontario. The Conservancy received OLTA's very first Award for Outstanding Community Engagement. The award recognizes our strong history of partnerships with other community organizations and local media, the involvement of corporate members, and our network of active volunteers. Among all the Conservancy's accomplishments over the past 15 years, this award is especially gratifying.

As 2009 begins, we are putting the finishing touches on a new strategic plan for the next five years. The members, volunteers and friends of the Conservancy have been involved with this process and while our goals remain constant, you'll see a slight shift of emphasis in our vision.

Among other things, by 2013 you can expect that:

- 10,000 acres of ecologically sensitive land will be protected;
- we will be pioneering innovative approaches to land protection;
- we'll have even more partnership projects with other land trusts, environmental organizations and local universities and colleges;
- we will continue our reputation as an effective, well-managed, ethical and financially sound organization with a capable, dedicated staff and volunteers;
- an endowment fund, adequate to cover our core budget and stewardship needs, will be in place to provide the Conservancy the long-term security it needs.

In addition, you'll notice a greater emphasis on using web-based tools to keep our members updated and to provide links to special events.

It's an ambitious agenda that can only be achieved with your continued support and involvement. We have come far in fifteen years. We have far to go. All the signs are pointing to our continued success. Thank you for your support!

Jane Ball, President ∞

### The Couchiching Conservancy Board 2008



Jane Ball, President835-2674
Isabelle Thiess, Vice-President259-5547
Rob Cutler, Treasurer robert.cutler@td.com
David Kennedy, Secretary835-5131
Peggy Foley325-2287
Lou Probst 438-1324

Jane Sloley	689-1252
Bob Sullivan	325-8775
Ingrid Vandermarel	739-7596
Ron Reid, Executive Director	326-1620
Kyra Howes, Stewardship Coordinat	tor326-1620
Gayle Carlyle, Outreach Coordinator	r326-1620

The Couchiching Conservancy is a non-profit organization, incorporated in 1993, and registered as Canadian charity No. 13972 5030 RR 0001.

# Highlights of 2008

#### Preserving natural lands

Our region is rich in natural diversity, but also threatened by the endless wave of development that threatens natural habitats. During 2008, The Couchiching Conservancy protected over 600 acres of high-priority habitats through four projects:

- Completion of a project to add 106 acres to the Alexander Hope-Smith Nature Reserve near Washago, with the help of the Ontario Heritage Trust, Township of Severn, and individual donors. This project involved a partial donation by Stan Hope-Smith and the purchase of its remaining value. As a result, we now protect both sides of the Boyd Creek wetland for over a kilometer.
- Completion of a conservation easement on Scout Valley, a 228 acre forest owned by the City of Orillia, including a City contribution towards long-term stewardship costs for the easement.
- Negotiation of a conservation easement on 100 acres of working forest on the Oro Moraine owned by Mack Williams, with signing of the final easement to take place early in 2009.
- Acceptance of a 200-acre wetland property west of Kirkfield known as Prospect Marsh, donated by Judy Probst in memory of her parents, Ralph and Min McCleary.

### Highlights of 2008

- Another 600 acres of special natural lands protected
- 7902 acres (almost 8000!) now protected by Couchiching Conservancy
- Carden Nature Festival doubles in size and popularity
- Over 400 members and 150 volunteers are the wind under our wings
- New partnerships and strategies for the Carden Alvar
- Our reserve funds grow significantly to sustain the future
- A provincial award for Outstanding Community Engagement

#### Stewarding lands for nature

Caring for conservation lands is very much a partnership process. Besides managing our own 14 properties and 5 conservation easements, we look after another 9 properties through partnership agreements with NCC, Ontario Parks, and Ontario Heritage Trust. Most of these properties have a volunteer management team in place, in some cases involving other local groups such as the Carden Field Naturalists and the Twin Lakes Conservation Club.

Stewardship of the Carden Alvar has been in major focus in 2008, through partnerships with Wildlife Preservation Canada, the federal Habitat Stewardship Program, the provincial Species at Risk Stewardship Fund, and the Lake Simcoe Cleanup Fund. We were able to undertake major stewardship projects to allow continued grazing of grasslands to benefit Loggerhead Shrikes, but keep cattle out of wetlands and sensitive alvar habitats. In cooperation with private landowners, we have also begun as series of grassland stewardship projects on a cost-shared basis.

Management plans were completed this year for the Elliott Woods, Jennett Woods, and The Church Woods reserves, along with initial inventory work for several other properties.

#### Reaching out to the community

Community support is the key to our success. Just as a strong, vigorous trunk holds a tree in place so it can thrive and grow, our supporters provide a solid base for our growth. Our Outreach programs this year included:

- The second successful Carden Nature Festival, which provided 60 field trips and workshops to 350 participants, and hosted Ontario Nature's annual general meeting.
- The fourth annual Mother Earth Day at Grant's Woods, with over 400 visitors taking in a wide range of activities.

- Media partnerships with Orillia Packet & Times and Orillia Today which provided regular exposure of Conservancy activities to a wide audience.
- In conjunction with The Land Between program, landowner contact with property owners along the Black and Head River corridor in Ramara Township.
- Coordination of a major project on species at risk along the Trent-Severn Waterway, including
  two shoreline restoration projects with support from Katimavik and local property owners,
  funding for dozens of presentations by Kids for Turtles and Sciensational Sssnakes, a Chimney
  Swift project in downtown Orillia with the Orillia Naturalists Club, and collection of inventory
  data on reptiles at risk along the Severn River corridor.
- Volunteer surveys of rare species and development of a regional guidebook (due out in early 2009) through the Species on the Edge project.
- Development of an Integrated Carden Conservation Strategy resulting from a series of workshops with the aggregate industry, local landowners, ranchers, and other interest groups, and the involvement of Wildlife Preservation Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

#### Managing a strong and sustainable organization

The rapid growth and increasing complexity of Conservancy operations requires strong oversight of our financial and organizational health:



- With the assistance of Nathalie Rockhill, the Conservancy has developed a new 5-year Strategic Plan, which sets out ambitious goals for the future.
- A full financial audit for our fiscal year (which ends October 31) has been prepared by J.R. Booth C.A. and is available on request.
- Our overall revenues in 2008 were \$563,134, down considerably from the previous year because of the nature of our property acquisitions in 2008. Our operating costs (which exclude acquisition and capital) increased modestly to \$469,427. At year-end, our operating revenues generated a net excess of \$6545.
- By Board policy, some funds are held for special purposes. The Acquisition Fund stayed nearly unchanged in 2008 at \$64,858. The Property Protection Fund, which is intended to provide ongoing income to help maintain our properties, increased by \$35,000 to \$153,709. The Presidents Reserve, held as a buffer for future operating expenses, was also increased to \$87,773.

### Setting the stage for a time of transition

Over the past seven years, the scope of Conservancy activities has expanded greatly. We now manage nearly 8000 acres for conservation; we currently have 5 full-time staff and a budget that includes major project grants from such organizations as Ontario Heritage Trust, Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program, and the Ontario Species at Risk Stewardship Fund. Our financial health is excellent, with consistently growing stewardship and reserve funds, and a strong base of committed donors and partners.

While the uncertain times in early 2009 pose challenges for all charitable organizations, the Conservancy is confident that we can continue to grow in the coming year. One aspect of that growth will be the transition to a new Executive Director.

At the end of June, Ron Reid will be stepping down from that role, but continuing to work on Carden projects over the next two years on a half-time contracted basis. This arrangement is made possible by a generous grant from the Metcalf Foundation.

The Conservancy Board has created a Transition Committee, and will be advertising the Executive Director position widely. The new person in that role will inherit a healthy organization with strong community and volunteer support, several good projects underway, a wonderful Board and staff, and a good financial position. We know that all Conservancy supporters and partners will want to extend a warm welcome to the new E.D.

# Looking ahead to 2009

Besides managing this transition, the Conservancy Board has identified priorities for 2009, including:



- Completing the final steps to register a conservation easement on the Mack Williams property on the Oro Moraine.
- Furthering conservation strategies in the bedrock areas of northern Severn Township and the Black/Head River corridor through property donations and outreach activities.
- Implementing key recommendations from the Integrated Carden Conservation Strategy, in conjunction with NCC and Wildlife Preservation Canada, to broaden and enlist new partners in conservation work on the Carden Alvar.
- Completing at least one new property acquisition in Carden, as well as finalizing management plans for three existing properties.
- Enhancing our website, and moving to an electronic newsletter where possible to reduce our paper use and mailing costs.
- Distributing a new guide to alvar plants by Margo Holt, as well as the Species on the Edge guidebook compiled by Kristen Field.
- Expanding the Carden Nature Festival, and creating a new special event in the fall to replace Mother Earth Day. •

## 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 2006 from:

- The George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation
- The Heritage Canada Foundation
- Ontario Heritage Trust
- · Salamander Foundation
- Ontario Tourism Event Marketing Program
- North Simcoe Private Land Stewardship Network as allocated under the Simcoe County Tree Planting Program
- · Bristol-Myers Squibb
- · Shell Environmental Fund
- · Meridian Credit Union

- Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
- · Ontario Job Connects
- · Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- · Community Wellness Fund Casino Rama
- Ontario Land Trust Assistance Program
- Trent-Severn Waterway, Parks Canada
- Habitat Stewardship Program, Environment Canada
- · Nature Conservancy of Canada
- · Wildlife Preservation Canada
- City of Orillia

Other organizations are an important source of support for Conservancy operations and projects. During 2008, we received contributions and volunteer support from:

- · Sciensational Ssnakes
- Kids for Turtles
- · Orillia Naturalists Club
- · Carden Field Naturalists
- Orillia District Agricultural Society
- · Orillia Canada Day Committee
- Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
- · Orillia Lions Club
- Rotary Club of Orillia Lake Country
- · Lions Rotary Funfest
- Friends of Wye Marsh
- · Kawartha Naturalists Club
- Durham Region Field Naturalists
- Twin Lakes Conservation Club
- · Township of Oro-Medonte
- · Township of Severn
- Sir Sanford Fleming College students
- Dufferin Aggregates
- West Humber Naturalists Club
- Bell Canada Employee Volunteer Program
- · City of Kawartha Lakes
- Orillia District Agricultural Society

- · Orillia District Chamber of Commerce
- Wildlife Preservation Canada
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Canadian Cattlemen's Association
- · Ontario Nature
- · Ontario Land Trust Alliance
- Toronto Ornithological Club
- Ontario Stone Sand & Gravel Association
- · Ontario Field Ornithologists
- The Orillia Museum of Art and History
- Bruce Stanton Constituency Office
- Garfield Dunlop Constituency Office
- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
- Mara Shores Estates Property Owners' Association
- Severn Sound Environmental Association
- Victoria Lands & Waters Stewardship Council
- R.W. Tomlinson Aggregates
- The Miller Group
- Katimavik

**Corporate Support:** Many companies across the region have provided services, products, sponsorships or other assistance to the Conservancy during the past year. We thank them all. We would like to particularly thank our Corporate Members who were major supporters in 2008:

Casino Rama The Bird House Nature Co. The Davey Tree Expert Co.

RBC Dominion Securities Zwicker Evans Lewis LLP Dalt's Honda
Unison Engine Components Hacker Gignac Rice LLP Orillia Today
Mid Ontario Disposal Gartner Lee Ltd. Meridian Credit Union

Pelee Island Winery J.R. Booth Chartered Accountant Think Communications
Coldwater Road Animal Clinic Donald D. Scott Custom Builder Inc. Wildflower Farm

Mawdsley's Mobile Crane Rental Ltd.

The Packet & Times

Mr. Elizabeth Antochin

Orillia Power Corporation

Crawford, McKenzie, McLean,
Anderson & Duncan LLP

#### Other valuable corporate support was received from:

Century 21 Sparkling Waters Realty Dr. Ravi Aggarwal The Marketing Group of Canada Ltd.

Donald H. Worling, Q.C. Inn The Woods B&B Washago TIM-BR Mart

Ego's Nurseries Ltd. Mr. Dave Beckett Artech Promotional Wear

Garfield Dunlop, MPP
Orillia Mazda
BDO Dunwoody LLP
Mariposa Market
Scott's Garden Centre
Champlain Manor
Mundell Funeral Home Limited
Ontario Waterway Cruises Inc.
Orillia Lions Club Inc.
Dr. Steven J. Cruise
BDO Dunwoody LLP
Champlain Manor
Downtown Computers
Ellis Hearing Aid Service
Kathy Hunt Communications

Rotary Club of Orillia—Lake Country First Student Canada Ontario Marine Operators Assoc. Speedy Signs & Truck Lettering Hehn Trickey Professional Corp. Roy E. Pearn Enterprises Ltd.

The Water Market Ms. Julia A. Bailey Snuggles Pooch & Kitty Holiday Camp
Army Navy & Air Force Veterans Office Links Sunshine Carpets & Flooring

Bayview Wildwood Resort Orillia District Chamber of Commerce

### The following individuals and groups contributed \$100 or more to the Conservancy and its projects during 2007. The support from all of our donors is greatly appreciated.

Abbott, Edwin & Vivien Carlyle, Gayle & John Challis Fenwick, Jean Hobbs, Shelley Kluger, Ron Adams, Brian Carson, Peter Hodgins, Stephen Laird, Keith Fonseca, Joanna & David Adams, Christine Cayley, Julie Ford, Derek Holdsworth, Bill Larsen, Ellen Agnew, Elizabeth Charlebois, Q.C., J. Paul Furniss, Herb Holt, Margo Laver, Frances Charters, Anderson Leadbeater, Lloyd Agnew, Sarah Gartner Lee Ltd Homer, David Agnew, Sandy Christie, Douglas & Barbara Gavine, Kim Howard, Robert J. Leadbeater, Murray Clarke, Richard M. Leask, Robert J. Alley, Daphne Gilbreath, Stephanie Hunt, Kathy Ashbourne, Audrey Cook, Carol Phillips & Ian Gillan, Elizabeth Hunter, John Lowry, Si & Wendy Bailey, Mayumi & Blair Cook, Frank Gingrich, John A. Hunter, Mary Magee, Margaret J. Ball, Gordon & Jane Cooney, Colleen Glazer, Stanley & Brenda **Huntsville Hospital Medical** Malcolm, Ruth Ball, Roger & Barbara Cowen, Rhonda Gordon, Michael Staff Maltby, Cam & Mary Crowther, Richard F. Manticore Books Ballantyne, Robert K. Graham, Brian Ilyniak, Morris Bam, Homi & Linda Cruise, Steven Graham, James & Sheila Ironside, Nancy Martin, Beulah M. Barr, Margaret Cullis, Lois Grand, Janet Irwin, Luke & Lorna McComb, Wendy McCulloch, Dr. John & Elizabeth Beck, Gregor Cutler, Robert & Judith Grant, William M. Jamieson, Lynn

Bird & Hale Ltd Daley, Doug & Linda Gray, Tim Jeffries, Sheryn McCutcheon, John
Booth, Jack Darker, Bill & Helenmaria Griffiths, Samuel Thomas Jenkins, Theresa McGuire, Karen

Brenner, Konrad Dearden, Elinor Grinius, Klevas Jenkins, John & Sharon McKechnie, Kristi
Bromley, Bill & Yvonne Dilawri, Rajesh Guthrie, H.D. Johnson, Harvie & Shirley McKechnie, Sue
Brooks, Elaine Douglas, Mark & Christine Hadlington, Sid & Dorothy Johnson, Karen McSorley, Lois & Wayne

Brown, Peter Drew, Gwendolyn R. Hamilton, Howard Jones, Richard Meeder, Rob
Brown, Marilyn Dunsmore, Rosemary & John Hand, Paul & Vicki Junck, Kenneth Michalski, Kathleen A.
Bryans, Fred Dyment, Leslie Harris, Nancy Kaszanits, Wilf Mick, W. Omer & Mary

Bryans, Fred Dyment, Leslie Harris, Nancy Kaszanits, Wilf Mick, W. Omer & Mary
Burt, Joyce Elliott, Heather Hepditch, Sharon Kelch, Margaret Millyard, Kai
Byer, William (Reid) Emminghaus, Margarete Hewetson, Russ Kennedy, David & Margaret Minden, Karen
Callaban Kathy Ftheridge Joan Hill Susan Kiff Ray & Janet Mitchell-Wilson Judy

Callahan, KathyEtheridge, JoanHill, SusanKiff, Ray & JanetMitchell-Wilson, JudyCampbell, SandraFallis , CatherineHillson, TimKinghorn, JohnMoles, & Jane Brasher, Doug

Monteith, Margaret
Mugford, Don
Nesbitt, David A.
Oakes, Patricia & Edward
Oberfrank, Meredith
O'Grady, Jean
Orillia, PediatricTeaching Assoc.
Page, Jeanne & George
Parker, Kelly
Paul, Peter & Donna
Pearn, Roy
Pengelly, Elizabeth
Pitts & Kathleen Milligan, John
Powell, Valerie & Jamie
Price, Douglas

Price, Stephen
Probst, Lou & Judy
Reed, Paul
Richard, Dr. Terri E.
Richardson, Gwen &
McKim, Colin
Ritchey, Elizabeth
Robertson , Barbara
Robillard, Suzanne &
Peter Lamprey
Robinson, Hilary
Rockhill, Nathalie
Rolland, Mark & Cecile
Rosebush, Joan & John
Rowell, David

Ruddock, Michael
Russell, Paul A.
Russell, Lynn
Sarjeant, Jean & Dave
Secord, Karen
Selby, Anne
Sheppard, Margo
Sloley, Jane
Smith, Richard & Beverley
Smith, Dennis
Sprager, Fred
Snelling, Stan & Carol
Speedie, Kathryn
Stephen, Murray & Marcia

St. Lawrence Cement

St. Theresa's High School
Stinnissen, Arnold
Stripp, Dorothy
Strongman, Chuck & Susan
Sullivan, Robert & Wendy
Swan, James
Tangney, Michael
Thiess, Gary & Isabelle
Thomson, Adam & Shirley
Thomson, Ken & Corinne
Timpf, Doug
Turnbull, Carolyn & Neil
Valk, Matthew & Jane
Vance, Harold
Vandermarel, Ingrid

Vurma, Sarah
Walton-Ball, Mary
Watt, Ruth & Jim
Watt, Valerie
Weber, Paul
Wilkins, David & Mary
Williams, J.R. (Mack)
Williams, Dan
Withers, C. Barry
Wolfson, Dorothy
Woodford, Pat & Jim
Woods, Diane
Woods & Fred Beck, Susan
Worling, Donald
Yeo, Jean

**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.

For the past several years, **Mary E. Mick** has served with skill and dedication as our volunteer coordinator. Mary can be reached at 325-3618; she welcomes enquiries by anyone who would like to get involved. Among our most active volunteers are our Board members, who dedicate many hours to overseeing Conservancy affairs as well as often being involved in projects. Our thanks to our 2008 volunteers (and our apologies if we missed anyone):

Agnew, Sandy Allison, Bill Antochin, Liz Armstrong, Greg Atwood, Harold Babineau, Rose Ball, Gord & Jane Ballantyne, Robert Barr, Debbie, Josh & Nick Blair, Gord & Bernice Blogg, Winston Bromley, Patricia Brown, Jerry & Lorraine Boehnert, Roy & Betty Bosley, Glenda Bowden, Lydia Bowles, Bob, Adam & Elliott Bowman, Ken

Bowles, Bob, Adairi & Elii Bowman, Ken Bray, Bob & Nancy Bregg, Sjaak & Justin Brenner, Konrad Brumby, Don & Sue Buchanan, Terry & Anne Budge, Ann Bunn, Walter Bushell, Sandra Byer, Reid Callahan, Kathy Carlyle, Gayle Cayley, Julie Challis, John Charles, Sandra Christie, Douglas & Barb Coyle, Frank Crooks, Tim Cutler, Robert Darker, Bill & Helenmaria Darker, Dave & Amy Dasko, Josephine Diabaisi, Paul Douglas, Mark Duncan, Ted Dyment, Leslie Engeland, Linda Ellingwood, Chris Fell, Garry Fielding, Carol Fleming, Kyle Foley, Peggy Forman, Ed

Gamroth, Mary Sue & Avery Gauldie, Heather Gavine, Kim Gill, Peter & Pat Gillette, Lisa Glazer, Stan & Brenda Gordon, Michael Gordon, Pauline Graham, Jim Grand, Janet Grandine, Joan Gray, Neil & Cameron Gray, Peter

Gray, Peter
Hadlington, Dorothy & Sid
Hall, Harry & Marian
Hancock, Ron & Sharon
Hand, Vicki
Haskins, Joanne
Hatch, Mark
Hathaway, Jeff

Hawke, David & Juliana Hess, Julian & Sandra Hodgson, Tony & Marg Holt, Margo Homer, David Hooykaas, Amanda Hope-Smith, Rodger Hungate, John Hunt, Katrina Ilyniak, Morris Ironside, Nancy Jaski, Greg Jenkins, John & Sharon Junck, Ken Kennedy, David & Margaret Kennedy, Judy Kennedy, Page & David Kerr, Jacqui Kinghorn, John

Kirby, Mary Lou Kirtley, Larry Lancaster, Marty Larson, Ellen Lauer, Rhonda Leadbeater, Dale MacDonald, Keith Macdonald, Jim MacNaughton, Anne Marie Madden, John & Misses Massig, Joanne McCreath, Paul McFadden, Steve McIntyre, Edward McKechnie, Kristi McSorley, Wayne

McTavish, Susan

Mick, Omer & Mary

Mitchell-Wilson, Tom & Judy Moore, Melanie Mould, Brian Munro, Judy Nixon, Catherine & Richard Oben, Miriam Oliver, Wrenn Page, George Paterson, Cathie Pautsch, Pat Pearce, Jenny Pengelly, Betty Peyton, Barry Pitts, John Pomeroy, Margaret Pomeroy, Meghan Powell, Jamie Probst, Lou & Judy Quinn, Lou Reid, Jack Reid, Ron Rinaldi, Richard Robillard, Suzanne Rockhill, Nathalie Rogers, Mary Rolland, Mark Rosebush, Joan & John Ross, Anne & Jamie Rowell, David Russell, Paul Scott, Don Shook, Mary-Diane

Silk, Mary

Sinclair, Carol

Sloley, Jane

Sinclair, Muriel & Alex

Miller, Steph & Paul Robinson

Smith, Richard & Beverley Stanton, Jim & Marylou Stephen, Murray Stephenson, Shannon Stinson, David Storry, Noella Sullivan, Judy Sullivan, Robert & Wendy Sullivan, Michael & Jacki Swan, Jim Symmes, Ric Talbot, Allison & Bill Thiess, Gary & Isabelle Thomson, Adam & Shirley Thomson, Dave & Shauna Thomson, Bart & Ian Thomson, Ken & Corinne Tomlinson, Cindy & Neil Tryon, Ken & Pat Turnbull, Neil & Carolyn VanderMarel, Ingrid Wand, Kim Watt, Val White, Cindy & Randy Whitman, Bill & Christie Wiancko, Leanore Wilkins, Dave & Mary Wilson, Melanie Wilson, Paula Winters, Jacqueline Woodford, Jim & Pat Wood, Bill Younger, John

Smith, Dennis

Cleland, Murray

Connor, Kathy

Cooney, Colleen

Cox, Will