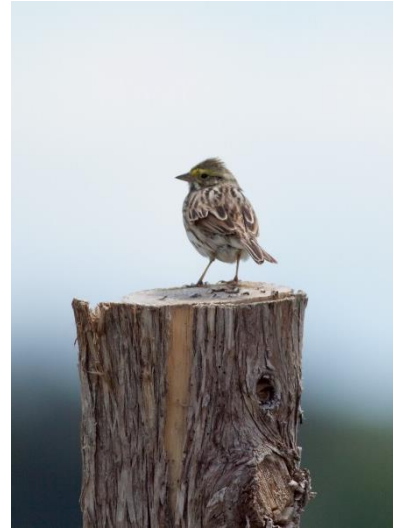


*The Couchiching
Conservancy*



Annual Report | 2016

A Message From Our President & Executive Director

Keep the lights on.
Keep the natural corridors intact.
Keep stewarding the land in our care according to our best understanding.
Keep beating the drum to awaken in people the notion that as our environment goes, so we go.

If we can do these things against mounting odds, then the beauty and health of the region we love need not slip away from us even though it is slated to be one of the most heavily developed areas in Canada over the next 25 years.

Because your energy, your commitment, your money, your belief in what we do are all that we have to meet the onslaught. You are among a mere handful of people who understand the full impact of lost ecosystems, lost species, polluted water and fouled air.

You and your ilk have built The Couchiching Conservancy from the ground up; attracted the people you need to continue the advance; found the resources to help protect more than 12,000 acres of precious wild lands.

The last 12 months have seen us add another 107 acres of stunning old growth forest and do the work required to protect hundreds more, complete a land trust centre that makes its own power and acts as an efficient hub of activity, contribute to the understanding of endangered grassland birds, mobilize a cohort of new citizen scientists and help private landowners better care for their holdings.

We live in the present, working for the future.
You are the link between the two.



Margaret Pomeroy
Margaret Pomeroy
President



Mark Bisset
Mark Bisset
Executive Director



Board of Directors

Doug Christie, *Vice President*
Jack Booth, *Treasurer*
Kailin Gratrix, *Secretary*
David A. Homer, *Past President*
Directors: Robert Sullivan, Pamela Fulford,
Wendy Lowry, Jamie Ross

Staff

David Hawke, *Stewardship Program Manager*
Dorthea Hangaard, *Project Manager*
Tanya Clark, *Development Coordinator*
Gay Guthrie, *Volunteer Coordinator*
Courtney Baker, *Administrative Assistant*
Contractors: Ron Reid, Ginny Moore & Kathy Connor
Summer Staff & Interns: Aiesha Aggarwal, Meagan Coughlin



Protecting nature for current and future generations since 1993



QUICK STATS

NATURE RESERVES

45

Protected thanks to donors & partners

PROTECTING HABITAT

205 species

At risk of disappearing forever in Ontario

CONNECTED TO:

20,000

People interested in & dedicated to conservation

VOLUNTEER HOURS

5,000+

Contributed this year



Land Acquisition

Thanks to on-going support from people like you, acquisition continues to be a key focus. With a goal to secure an additional 2,500 acres by 2019, your support helps to make that possible. Working with landowners, lawyers, and Eco-Gifts, you have helped us bring 107 acres under protection with another 140 acres close to fruition. Several other potential projects are in the works.

Land Donor Story: Heather & Alec Adams

In 1973 Heather and Alec Adams bought a piece of paradise on Coopers Falls Road. Just south of the Kashe Barrens, the 107-acre parcel was well-suited for the hiking, snow shoeing and skiing they loved. They were charmed by the Canadian Shield, the interconnected beaver ponds and the towering white pines.

"While living in Toronto, we felt we needed to experience more of the peace and beauty of nature," Heather and Alec wrote. "We chanced on the Coopers Falls Road property when we stopped to ask for directions to another property. It wasn't listed for sale but the elderly owner just happened to be thinking of moving. Since we retired to Orillia in 2006, and are now as old as the "elderly" previous owner, we no longer feel quite the same need to escape to the cottage – or to do the maintenance."

It turns out the couple had a good eye for conservation. In the years that followed their purchase, two major tracts in the area were officially preserved – to the north the Kashe Lake Barrens Conservation Reserve and to the east, the massive Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park.

For more than 40 years, Alec and Heather have cared for the land and kept it from harm, rejecting offers from loggers, maintaining paths through the woods, and enjoying the modest cabin year round. When it came time to think about passing along what had become for them a sacred trust, they turned to the Conservancy. In December a deal was concluded to transfer title, bringing the property under permanent protection.

*"We still love the Shield, the trees and the wildlife and want to see those wonderful white pines protected," the couple noted. "It is with confidence that we entrust our legacy to the Conservancy."
- Alec and Heather Adams*



Pictured: Nynka Greer, Alec & Heather Adams

Ensuring the Birds on the Carden Alvar Have a Future

The Carden Alvar is a birdy place, especially in the spring and early summer when the fields come alive with nesting birds. Unfortunately, many of these breeding species are designated as "at risk" and in need of help. One way we helped this year was the restoration of nearly 300 acres of bobolink grassland habitat by removing scattered trees and shrubs. A Trent University graduate student, Alice Pintaric, completed her second year of field studies by tracking the success of 54 bobolink nests in pastures and hayfields. She showed that grazing cattle are not a significant threat to nesting birds, and that populations appear to be closely linked to the abundance of insects. A related survey of 125 grassland bird point counts carried out by Ginny Moore documented that some species including bobolink and upland sandpiper have declined in numbers, while eastern meadowlark and grasshopper sparrow are more common than 15 years ago. If you love to visit the Carden Alvar, these studies will help ensure that birdsong will always be a part of your experience.



Connecting the Community to Conservation

CARDEN CHALLENGE

\$21,500

RAISED BY 11 TEAMS

145 species counted

BEST SIGHTINGS:

Redhead Duck
White-winged Scoter



SUPPORTED BY

272 CARING PEOPLE

Funds support efforts on the Carden Alvar



WALK WYLIE

\$1,600

RAISED BY 8 PARTICIPANTS

PASSPORT TO NATURE

\$18,750

contributed by 40 generous businesses

EIGHTEEN EVENTS WITH HELP FROM

30+



CARING VOLUNTEERS



Team Lagerhead took the Carden Cup with 133 bird species counted in 24 hours.



Passport to Nature participants learn about the unique species and landscape.

The Carden Challenge continues to be one of our best events, thanks to people like you who care for the alvar. That's not exactly a surprise though. Who wouldn't want to spend time exploring some of the land that our supporters help us to protect? Highlights this year included two bird species being added to the list and the delicious dinner prepared by the Ladies of Lake Dalrymple.

Thanks to environmentally minded businesses including Sojourn, Davenport Subaru & Kia, Dr. Kevin Vennard, Orillia Power, and Lynda Hepinstall of Century 21, the second year of the Passport to Nature was a great success. 18 events took place over eleven months across our region, topics including butterflies & dragonflies and feeder birds. The Passport to Nature model has been so successful, that other organizations are now using it to promote their own work and events. Our sincere thanks to the volunteers who made these events possible and to everyone who attended. It's fun to share our love of nature!



Giving 25 Great Lakes leaders from Canada and the US a tour of the Roehl Wetland Nature Reserve.



Ken MacDonald gets a close encounter with a Praying Mantis at North Bear Alvar.

Stronger Linkages: A new Advisory Council

The Conservancy made a potent addition to its roster in 2016 through the creation of an Advisory Council, led by co-chairs Jason Stewart and Bob Sullivan. The council is helping the organization strengthen ties with key institutions and extending our reach in the broad community. In the short time of its existence, council members have facilitated a \$10,000 foundation grant and generated a \$5,000 matching donation to promote monthly giving. Plans are underway to expand the council in 2017. Members of the council make an impressive roster: Garfield Dunlop, Jean Iron, Dr. Richard Johnston, Dr. Ellen Larsen, Dr. Brendon Larson and Bill Swinimer.

Working non-stop to protect nature



Habitat Improvement

Closely linked to our monitoring of species at risk is the need to ensure that quality habitat is available for their needs. By example, the provincial populations of grassland birds are in steep decline, and the Carden Plain is one of the last, few areas where such habitat still remains. By partnering with the private sector, under the guidance of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, The Conservancy receives funding to conduct habitat enhancements, such as re-seeding areas, removing intrusive shrubs, or encouraging cattle pasturing. Four properties are currently under such agreement.

Dealing with Invasive Species

Diligent monitoring of the properties has led to the early detection of a handful of notorious non-native invasive plant species. Dog-strangling vine, garlic mustard and common reed have tried to 'take over' some of the alvar, woodland and wetland habitats that we protect. By conducting a series of 'hits' as prescribed within Best Management Practices, volunteers, staff and partners have been holding the line against an unchecked spread of these invaders. For several years we have been conducting a staff-designed "6-step plan" for controlling these unwanted plants, and because of unfaltering support from dedicated volunteers, the landscape is responding. Other agencies in southern Ontario are now following our action plan.

Species At Risk (SAR)

Unfortunately, the provincial list of wildlife species that require special protection grows longer annually. Fortunately, many of those species at risk find refuge on the conservation lands which we manage. Loggerhead shrike, bobolink, eastern meadowlark, and barn swallow each have projects designed to assist them in their survival. Monitoring by volunteers and professionals for the presence of these and other SAR will provide good data to plan accordingly for habitat protection or enhancement.

**IN OUR REGION, THERE ARE 38 SPECIES
at some level of risk of disappearing forever**

**OF THOSE, 28 SPECIES HAVE BEEN FOUND
ON PROPERTIES YOU HELP US TO PROTECT**

7 ENDANGERED, 7 THREATENED, 14 SPECIAL CONCERN

Pictured: The Carthew Bay Property Team out with David Hawke to work on developing a trail; Ian Bender fixes a fence at an easement; Cathy Massig pulls garlic mustard at Alexander Hope Smith Nature Reserve; fencing project at Turnbull Ranch; Dave Hawke with staff from Ontario Heritage Trust; and a Ribbon Snake at Wolf Run Alvar.



"Today our cattle are watered by a solar pump taking water from our wetland – no more tramping of everything that grows as it once was. Since then, the plant growth has been phenomenal. There is tremendous water retention because of all the plant life and the water is clearer. Turtle activity has increased, especially the snapping turtles. Bird activity and species diversity have increased: we have nesting green herons, kingfisher, and more shorebirds moving through."

- Peter Sandusky, Carden Landowner



Private Stewardship

For over a decade now, we have been helping ranchers with fencing and water projects that ensure cattle stay on the land and keep grazing. Cattle grazing is an essential ingredient to provide suitable habitat for endangered grassland birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Thanks to our partners at the Provincial Species at Risk Stewardship Fund, and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority for making these projects possible.

"My great grandfather settled our cattle ranch in 1858. My father and grandfather drew wagon loads of stone into the river to give the cattle a safe drinking area. Since I inherited the property in 1984, I have been working to build a better way for the cattle to get water. Now it is finished and better than I planned, thanks to your support."

- Rick McNamee. Carden & Ramara Rancher

Water Quality Team

It is the second year of this program, and your interest and enthusiasm has doubled our efforts. Forty volunteers now monitor 19 sites, with an emphasis on Conservancy properties and our priority areas for acquisition.

Every stream has a story to tell and is close to somebody's heart. This year we made new discoveries about an urban cold water creek meandering through Grant Wetland: Fittons Creek supports Brook Trout and Trout-Perch, and is a fishing ground for humans and animals alike. The Water Team discovered a problem with siltation of the creek which could suffocate fish eggs, persistently high nitrate-nitrogen levels indicating pollution, and then undertook an investigation into the problem and presented its findings to the proper authority.

Another important story this year was the drought, which reduced some testing sites to puddles. The project data on this drought will contribute to the study of climate change in our region. This project would not be possible without the financial support of RBC Bluewater.

Pictured: Carden Rancher, Water Testing at Grant Wetland with RBC's David Fonseca; Mehreen Shahid from the Orillia Packet & Times and Water Quality Volunteer Adrienne Kohl; Visiting a potential Private Stewardship Project; Aiesha Aggarwal & Megan Coughlin testing water quality in Carden.

Volunteers

Contributing to the long-term health of our lands

350+ WONDERFUL
VOLUNTEERS

Plus many, many event
volunteers and leaders

22 new volunteers
joined this year

WATER QUALITY MONITORING



1,057+

**Hours contributed by:
42 volunteers and the
PFSS Gr 11 Chemistry Class
@ 19 TEST SITES**

AMBASSADORS

44 volunteers
attended **10** events
in the community
to talk about the
importance of
conservation



Our thanks to all of the volunteers!

Abert, Rudy • Adams, Brian R. • Adams, Heather & Alec • Adkinson, Angela • Aggarwal, Aiesha • Agnew, Sandy & Melnyk, Lynne • Alexander, John • Alger, Bria • Appleyard, Yvonne • Armstrong, Greg • Armstrong, Karen • Astles, Sarah • Atwood, Harold & Lenore • Aykler, Petra & Bob • Babbage, Lori • Babineau, Rose • Baker, Alan • Baker, Courtney • Baker, Stevie • Ball, Gord & Jane • Ball, Jonathan • Bam, Homi & Linda • Barbour, Anne & Brian • Barrett, Craig • Baxter, Michael • Bayles, Nora • Beamish, Judith • Beck, Gregor • Belfontaine, Tim & Tam • Bell, Tassia & John • Bender, Ian • Benjafield, Sue • Bennett, Craig • Beresford, David • Berg, Luke • Bernatavicius, Cathy • Berndt, Joan & Richard • Bertie, Bryan • Bick, John • Bigelow, Cameron • Binsted, Kevin • Bisset, Sandi & Mark • Bittner, Richard • Blackman, Peter • Blair, Bernice & Gordon • Blair, Fred • Blayney, Susan • Boddington, Cathy • Boddy, William • Boehnert, Roy • Bolton, Judi • Bone, Dan • Bonsteel, Jane • Booth, Jack • Bouchard, Sylvia • Bowler, Colin • Bowles, Bob • Bowman, Ken • Brain, Katie • Brasher, Jane & Doug • Braun, Alison • Bray, Bob & Nancy • Breckenridge, Cathie • Brennan, Jean • Brenner, Konrad & Jutta • Brown, Jerry & Lorraine • Brown, Katie • Brown, Peter T. • Brown, Roy • Bulgutch, Melissa • Burgan, Leah • Burnie, Joelle • Busby, Dan • Button, Ian • Byer, Reid • Callahan, Kathy • Calvert-Dale, Louise • Campbell, David & Barbara • Canadensis, Christopher • Carling, Brenda • Carlyle, Gayle & Challis, John • Carnahan, Tye • Carpenter, Nicole • Carroll, Erin • Cartwright, Cathy • Catteau, Jeff • Cerpnjak, Nicole • Chernushevich, Julia • Chilton, Kate • Christie, Doug & Barb • Christie, Michael • Church, Gerry • Claridge, Terry • Clark, Jennie • Clark, Tanya • Clark, Marilyn & Hayward, Peter • 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 & Phillips, Carol • Coughlin, Meagan • Coughlin, Trudy & Pat • Crooks, Timothy • Curran, Cameron • Currie, Natalie • Da, Kevin • Dale, Joe & Teresa • Damsma, Paul • Darker, Amy • Darker, Bill • Davidson, Judith • Deadman, Sue • Debiasi, Paul • Deimling, Peter & Carol • Dejong, April • Devine, Eran • Dewar, Andrew • Dickson, Laura • Dixon, Dave & Janet • Domingo, Angelo • Drozda, Sheree & Lori • Dubreeuil, Ellen & Maurice • Duffus, Janet • Duggan, Sean • Duncan, Bruce • Dunlop, Garfield • Dyment, Leslie • Edwards, Judy • Ellingwood, Chris • Engeland, Paul & Linda • Evans, Chris • Evans, Josh • Ewing, Heather • Fecht, Joe & Ford, Eileen • Fell Garry • Fendley, Shawn • Ferguson, Kristyn • Ferguson, Mike • Ferguson, Rebecca • Fischer, Taylor • Flechette, Olivia E. • Fleming, Rae • Foley, Peggy • Forbes, Don • Ford, Derek • Foster, Brooke • Francis, Bella • Francis, Simon • French, Jonathan • Frost, Doug • Fulford, Pamela • Furman, Henry • Furniss, Herb • Fyfe, Nancy • Gamroth, Mary Sue & Konda, Ed • Gaudie, Heather • Gilbreath, Jeff • Gilchrist, Dan • Giles, Danielle • Gillette, Lisa & Gary • Gillette, Michael • Gill, Peter • Glazer, Stanley & Brenda • Goossen, Anne • Gordon, Bernice & Blair • Grainger, Deborah • Grand, Janet & Reid, Ron • Grandine, Joan • Gratrix, Kailin • Gray, Neil, Cameron & Anne • Guthrie, Gay • Hangard, Dortha • Hadlington, Sid • Hagedorn, Todd • Hall, Harry & Marian • Hall, Susan • Hamilton, Janice • Hancock, Ron & Sharon • Handley, Lucas • Hatch, Mark & Kim • Hawke, David & Juliana • Hawke, John & Gwen • Hawkman, Harry • Hay, Gillian • Hebert, Paulette • Hecnar, Mark • Hems, Lisa • Herr, Sarah • Hess, Sandra & Julian • Hewitt, Luke • Hill, Bill & Alma • Hodgson, Marg & Anthony • Holden, Clare • Homer, David & Bonnie • Hope-Smith, Rodger •

A Volunteer's Thoughts: Tom Wilson



"When I think of volunteering with the Couchiching Conservancy the first thing I think of is the access to really smart people with a wealth of environmental knowledge. Of course there's also the feel-good emotion of helping to do something positive in the world of nature.

As we read more and more about our changing climate it's important and satisfying to volunteer in any number of environmental activities available.

Good for the land. Good for the soul."

Hosie, Sandy • Howes, Kyra • Hughes, Ian • Humphries, Jean • Hunt, Katrina • Huskinson, Rebecca • Ilyniak, Morris • Iron, Jean • Ironside, Nancy • Jackson, Mike & Louise • Jardine, Ernie • Jenkins, Jeremy • Jenkins, John & Sharon • Johnston, Richard • Jones, Jeff & Pat • Jones, Michael & Barbara • Junck, Kenneth • Kaellgren, Peter • Karson, Alyson • Keddy, Ken • Kelly, Kevin • Kelly, Lee • Kennedy, David & Margaret • Kenny, Maureen & MacDonald, Jim • Kerr, Jacqueline • Kielar, Ania • Kirby, Mary Lou • Kirby, Sean • Klimuk, Vanessa • Kluger, Ronald & Ronna • Kohl, Adrienne • Larsen, Ellen • Larson, Brendon • Lauer, Tim & Rhonda • Laver, Paul & Frances • Leadbeater, Dale • Leclerc, Cas • Lee, Ashley • Leigh, Brianna • Lewis, Jane • Lewis, Megan • Linton, Etta • Longlade, Etta • Lowry, Wendy & Si • Lynch, Richard • Lyons, Tom • MacDonald, Donald • Macdonald, Jim & Cathy • MacDonald, Ken • Maclachen, Pam • MacNaughton, Anne Marie • MacPhee, Andrew • Mainguy, Sarah • Makey-Heindl, Andrew • Malloy, Helen & Brian • Malloy, Vanessa • Manson, Kathleen • Mason, Betty • Mason, Bob • Mason, Tom • Massig, Cathy • Massig, Joanne & Greg Jaski • Matthews, Chris • McClelland, Elizabeth • McCreath, Paul • McDermott, Jenna • McGovarin, Adam • McIntosh, Sue • McKay, Ron • McKechnie, Kristi • McKee, Dennis • Mckelvey, Jim • McKenzie, Sarah • McKinley, Nancy • McNaughton, Ann Marie • McNeill, Colleen • McSorley, Lois & Wayne • McTavish, Susan • McWhinnie, Bob • Merced, Christopher • Michener, Gordon • Mick, Mary & Omer • Micks, Laura • Milligan, Claire • Miller, Jean • Miller, Jeff • Miller, Rob • Mitchell-Wilson, Judy & Wilson, Tom • Moore, Ginny • Moore, Lizzy • Moore, Melanie • Moreau, Roland • Morrison, Shelly • Morrison-Hennessy, Amy • Moy-Shuster, Stefanie • Munro, Judy • Murphy, Marshall • Myles, David • Nangle, Richard • Neville, Lisa & Jim • Nicholl, Fergus • Nixon, Catherine & Richard • Noland, Ruth • Norman, Carol • Norman, Michael • Norton, Gary • Nourse, Jenny • Oben, Miriam • Omerod, Bob • Orioux, Craig • Orr, Vic • Owen-Keith, Miriam • Owens, Aaron • Palmer, Brian • Parker, Kathy • Parker, Martin • Parliament, Maggie • Pazcay, Jacqueline • Pearce, Jenny & Hathaway, Jeff • Peverill, Lisa & Mark • Peyton, Barry • Pintaric, Alice • Pitts, John • Plati, Dina & Joe • Pomeroy, Grant • Pomeroy, Margaret • Popp, Karen • Poropat, Ed • Poulton, Michael • Powell, Valerie & Jamie • Presement, Harvey • Probst, Lou & Judy • Ravenshaw, Jane • Reed, Eleanor • Reichart, Michelle • Reid, Barbara • Reid, Mary • Relf, Barbara & Barry • Rivers, Sharon • Robert, Laura • Robillard, Suzanne • Robinson, Peter • Rockhill Nathalie & Pengelly, Elizabeth • Rondel, Emily • Rosebush, Joan & John • Ross, Jamie & Anne • Rowell, David • Rumball, Sheri • Russell, Lynn • Ryckman, Barbara & Warren • Schultz, Karl



Pictured: Bob Sullivan presents founders and long-time volunteers Gord and Jane Ball with a platinum pin. The water quality team receives special Volunteer hats as a small thanks for all of their hard work in the field.

Scott, Bethany • Scott, Don • Selbt, Les • Shaw, Nigel • Sherwood, Bill & Vicki • Shuster, George • Silk, Emily • Sinclair, Alex & Muriel • Sinclair, Carol • Sloley, Jane & Langman, Jim • Smale, Alan • Smith Patricia & Barry • Smith, Hope • Smith, Ken & Judy • Smith, Richard & Beverley • Spraakman, Cherilynn • Stanford, Tim & Laura • Stephen, Marcia • Stephens, Philly • Stevenson, Mark • Stewart, Geoff • Stewart, Jason & Barbara • Stinnessen, Tricia • Stinnessen, Arnold & Diane • Stinnessen, Martin • Stinson, David • Storry, Noella • Stoutt, Daniel • Strickland, Carol • Sullivan, Bob & Wendy • Sullivan, Jacqueline • Swan, Jim • Swinimer, Bill • Sykes, Joyce • Talbot, Candice • Taylor, Madyson • Thiess, Isabelle & Gary • Thomas, Scott • Thomson, Adam & Shirley • Thomson, Dave • Thomson, Ken & Corinne • Thornley, Glen • Thorup, Isobel • Tobey, Matthew • Tolland, Sheena • Totten, Beverley • Treash, Martin • Trumble, Don • Truysens, Ann • Tryon, Brett, Ken & Pat • Tuck, Melanie • Turner, Jan • Turner, Judith • Van Der Jagt, Mike • Van Oene, Dave • VanderMarel, Ingrid • Vandermeulen, Josh • VanRyswyk, Laura • Villeneuve, Tom • Walker, Lukas • Walker, Madeline • Wallace, Chelsea • Walton, Karl & Sandra • Walton-Ball, Mary • Ward, Andrea • Ward, Ann • Wargel, Karin • Watt, Valerie • Wells, Meaghan • Wescott, Jim • Westerby, Lynne • White, Chad • White, Randy & Cindy • Whitman, Bill & Christie • Whittam, Terry & Marion • Wianko, Leonore • Wigham, Peter • Wilkins, Dave • Williams, Paul • Wilson, Bruce • Wilson, Emily • Wilson, Lasha • Wilson, Melanie • Winter, Jacqueline • Wolfe, Dianna • Wolst, Emily • Wolst, Julia • Wood, Richard • Woodford, Pat • Wright, Bob • Wright, John • Young, Peter • Zardo, Jenna • Zimmerman, Rene

Contributing to the long-term health of our lands

PROPERTY TEAMS

69 volunteers

Went on 40 stewardship walks, contributing 426 hours

COMMITTEES

54 volunteers

Are a part of 10 committees, who contribute countless hours

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

9 volunteers

Contribute hundreds of hours in multiple activities

Growing for the Future



The Ontario Trillium Foundation, a bequest from William Grant, and the tremendous volunteer efforts of our Renovation Committee turned renovation plans into a reality. Thanks for their support and the many in-kind contributions of local businesses, the office renovation is now complete. Accessible to all, geothermal heating and cooling, solar power, and more space for staff and volunteers enable our office to function more effectively and efficiently.

If you would like to book our Community Room, use the gazebo for your group, or take engagement/wedding photos in the woods, please reach out to us.



The office renovation was made possible by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, a bequest from Bill Grant and many businesses.



ACCESSIBLE



CARBON NEUTRAL – GEOTHERMAL HEATING & COOLING, SOLAR POWER



EXPANDED COMMUNITY ROOM



ASBESTOS REMOVED



IMPROVED WORKSPACES FOR STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



NEW WATER SYSTEM

Creating a Green Legacy for Your Children, Grandchildren and Beyond

What are we passing on to our children and grandchildren when we are gone? What values are we instilling in them? What kind of climate will they inherit from us? Thanks to the 44 people who have pledged to the Heartwood Fund, the future includes the special places that we are able to protect.

The following people have made pledges and contributions:

Sandy Agnew, Gord & Jane Ball, Doug & Barbara Christie, Timothy Crooks, Ron & Sharon Hancock, David & Bonnie Homer, Maureen Kenny & Jim McDonald, 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 Thiess, Ken & Corinne Thomson and Mary Walton-Ball. There are also seven anonymous contributors.

For information on the Fund, call Tanya Clark at 705.326.1620 for a confidential discussion.

GOAL OF THE HEARTWOOD FUND:
leave a green legacy for future generations by supporting the core of The Couchiching Conservancy

WHAT IS NEEDED:
\$10 million dollars, endowed by 2025

PROGRESS:
an estimated \$1.9 million dollars has been contributed to date in bequests, life insurance, cash and other legacy gift options.

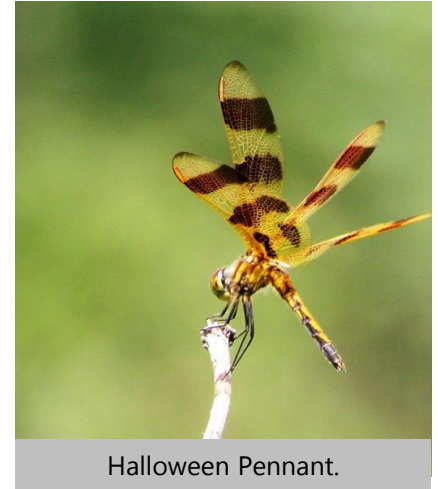
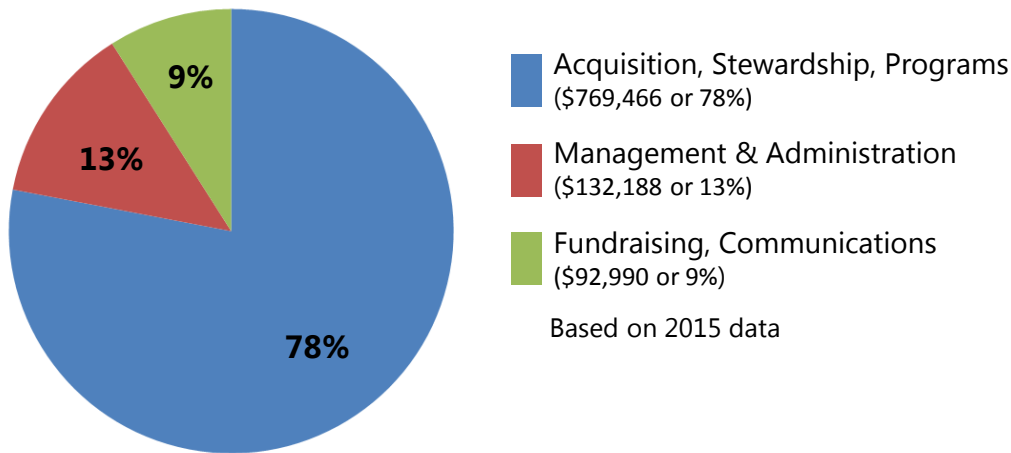
"I plan to leave my estate to an organization that really matters to me, an organization that works to conserve the land that I love. The Couchiching Conservancy has been a key contributor in protecting the Carden Alvar as well as educating people about this very special part of Ontario.

I know that I am contributing to a forever legacy."

Ginny Moore, Heartwood Supporter

Financial Information

How We Spent Our Resources



Halloween Pennant.

The Couchiching Conservancy extended its track record as a financially strong organization over the course of the 2015-16 fiscal year, finishing with an overall surplus. Despite disappointments with two major grants, we were able to absorb the impact thanks to strong financial support from the community. Our major fundraisers (Carden Challenge, Passport to Nature, Annual Appeal and Monthly Giving drive) gave us the stability we needed to weather such setbacks. We were able to complete the renovation of the Grant's Woods Land Trust Centre without conducting a capital campaign. Close to \$2 million in pledges and cash contributions have been made to the Heartwood Fund to date. Including the value of insurance policies, the Conservancy added \$89,082 to the fund during the fiscal year, increasing its current value to \$215,308. We were also able to add \$23,500 to our acquisition reserves through our habitat offsetting program.

A full independent financial audit for our fiscal year, ending October 31, 2016, has been prepared by Hehn Trickey Professional Corporation Chartered Professional Accountants and is available to the public at www.couchichingconserv.ca.

Our Sincere Thanks: Projects, Grants & Foundations

Special Projects	Grants and Foundations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brereton Field Naturalists' Club Carden Field Naturalists Kawartha Field Naturalists Lafarge Canada Lakehead University Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature Conservancy of Canada Ontario Field Ornithologists Ontario Heritage Trust Ontario Parks Ontario Streams Orillia Naturalists Club
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toronto Ornithological Club Township of Oro-Medonte Trent University United Way of Greater Toronto Walker Industries Wildlife Preservation Canada
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird Studies Canada Community Foundation of Orillia and Area Earth Rangers Environment Canada Government of Canada, Habitat Stewardship Program Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation at Toronto Foundation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshwater Future Harriet & Gordon Cummings Trust Intact Foundation Kawartha Field Naturalists McLean Foundation Mountain Equipment Co-op Ontario Land Trust Alliance Orillia Lions Club Ontario Ministry of Natural
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources Species At Risk Program Ontario Trillium Foundation, <i>an agency of the government of Ontario</i> RBC Foundation 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 work at the properties, the Passport to Nature, or the office renovation. All of their contributions made a difference to the work we do and to the events we ran. They know that a healthy environment is **vital** to a healthy community.

Oak: Up to \$5,000+

ScottInc Design + Build, Avanti Engineering & Design Inc., Russell, Christie, LLP Barristers & Solicitors, Orillia Packet & Times, Sojourn, The Water Market

Maple: Up to \$2,500

Hehn Trickey Professional Corp., K. McKechnie Architectural Design, Security and Electronics Solutions

Elm: Up to \$1,000

Accessibility Professionals, Century 21 - Lynda Hepinstall, Davey Tree, Dr. Kevin Vennard, Dufferin Aggregates, Orillia District Chamber of Commerce, Orillia Power Distribution Corporation, Raney's Building Supply, Stewart Construction, Township of Severn, Davenport Subaru, Davenport Kia, Orillia Precast Concrete

Pine: Up to \$500

HGR Graham Partners LLP, Investment Planning Counsel – Rhonda Cowen, Lakehead University, Meridian Credit Union, Nesbitt Burns, Northern Business Equipment, Ontario Waterway Cruises Inc., Remax - Ian and Franci Ross, Georgian Bay Printers, The Villager Magazine, Thor Motors, Walker Industries, Washago TimberMart, Sustainability Network

Cedar: Up to \$350

Mawdsley's Mobile Crane Rental Ltd., Arniworks Photography, Art's Clothing, Ben Cole, Bird House Nature Company, Bruce Stanton, Carden Field Naturalists, Hollis Wealth-Tom Jarvis, Home Hardware Orillia, Jack & Maddy's, Jobu Design, Kawartha Dairy, Lake Dalrymple Resort, Mariposa Landscaping, McLean & Dickey, Orillia Naturalists' Club, Pelee Island Winery, Sunshine Carpet and Flooring, The Friendly Fermentor, Velocity Ski & Bike, Bayview Wildwood Resort, Downtown Computers, Niblett Environmental Associates Inc., Andrew, Thompson & Associates Inc.

Willow: \$150

BDO Canada LLP, Birchmere Retirement Residence, Crawford McLean Anderson & Duncan LLP, Dr. Michelle Gordon Medicine Professional Corp, Ego's Nurseries Ltd., Hillson Medicine Professional Corporation, Mariposa Market, Office Links, Ontario's Lake Country, Roy E. Pearn Enterprises Limited, Speedy Signs, The Wild Bird Trading Co.

Special Thanks

This year, two groups ran events in support of our conservation efforts – Orillia Theatre, All for Nun – The 2nd coming and Don Evans & Alex the Folk Band, A Child's Christmas in Wales. Overall, \$875+ was raised.



Pandorus Sphinx Moth Caterpillar found at Grant Wetland.



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



The Board of Directors help to launch the 2nd Passport to Nature.



We hosted the October Orillia Chamber of Commerce Business After 5.

The People Who Make Our Work Possible: Our Supporters

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

Those listed below donated over \$200 to our organization in 2016. Additional donors have requested anonymity.

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



Cattle on Cameron Ranch.

Adams, Brian R.
Ball, Gord & Jane
Ballantyne, Robert
Barrett, Craig
Bisset, Sandi & Mark
Booth, Jack
Brenner, Konrad & Jutta
Brown, Peter T.
Callahan, Kathy
Charters, Anderson & Susan
Christie, Douglas & Barbara
Clark, Marilyn
Clarke, Richard M.
Crooks, Timothy
Crowther, Barbara
Cummings, Harriet and Gordon
Dale, Peter
Diana, Chris
Duncan, Bruce
Dunsmore, Rosemary & John
Dyment, Leslie
Elliott, Heather
Fletcher, Richard & Diane
Ford, Derek
Gingrich, John A.
Gordon, Michael
Grand, Janet & Ron Reid
Gray, Carol
Guthrie, H. Donald
Hadlington, Sid
Hall, Harry & Marian
Hanckel, Frances
Hancock, Ron & Sharon
Handley, Tim

Hawke, David & Juliana
Hird, Joyce
Homer, David & Bonnie
Iron, Jean
Ironsides, Nancy
Jenkins, John & Sharon
Johnson, Shirley
Johnston, Richard and Wendy
Jones, Michael and Barbara
Jones, Richard
Kenny, Maureen & Jim McDonald
Kielar, Ania
Kurtz, Judith & Tom
Labrador, Kate
Larsen, Ellen
Lassaline, Patrick & Kelly
Laver, Paul and Frances
Leask, Robert & Beverley
Longford, Suzanne
Lowry, Si & Wendy
Machan, Janet & Gary
McCulloch, Cheryl
McSorley, Lois and Wayne
Michener, Gordon & Sandra
Mick, Omer & Mary E.
Milligan, Claire
Mugford, Don
Mulcahy, Lucille (Sue)
Murphy, Marilyn
O'Grady, Jean
Ormerod, Robert & Allison
Pady, Lynn
Page, Jeanne & George
Paul, Peter & Donna

Pomeroy, Margaret
Powell, Valerie & Jamie
Price, Steven & Maria
Probst, Lou & Judy
Reid, Robert John
Richardson, Dianne
Robillard, Suzanne
Rockhill, Nathalie & Pengelly, Elizabeth
Rohmann, Werner & Christine
Rolland, Mark & Cecile
Rose, Mary
Rosebush, Joan & John
Ross, Jamie & Anne
Rudman, Michael
Sarjeant, Mary Jane
Shortridge, Tim
Smith, Dennis & Prudence
Stewart, James K. & Barbara
Stinnissen, Arnold & Dianne
Storry, Noella
Sullivan, Bob and Wendy
Sullivan, Catherine
Thiess, Isabelle & Gary
Thomson, Adam & Shirley
Thomson, Ken & Corinne
Timpf, Adam
Town, Robert
Valk, Matthew & Jane
VanderMarel, Ingrid
Walton-Ball, Mary
Williams, Michael & Sheila MacFeeters
Woodford, Pat
Worling, Donald H.



The People Who Make Our Work Possible: Our Supporters

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 147 people contributed under \$30 this year.

Ackert, Joy & John
Adams, Christine
Adams, Heather & Alec
Adolphus, Beverly
Agnew, Sandy & Lynne Melnyk
Alexander, Ann Marie
Anderson, Helen
Archer, Judy
Armstrong, Brian J.
Atkinson, Tom
Atwood, Harold & Lenore
Atwood, Margaret
Aykler, Petra & Bob
Baker, Richard H.
Ball, Barbara
Bam, Homi & Linda
Barbour, Anne & Brian
Bard, Edward & Barbara
Barrett, Spencer & Suzanne
Beck, Frederick
Beck, Gregor
Bender, Ian
Bennett, Eric
Berndt, Joan & Richard
Bick, John & Janice
Bigelow, Cameron
Binsted, Kevin & Mary
Birchard, Jim
Bird, Ross
Bisset, Dorothy
Bittner, Richard
Bone, Dan
Bonsteel, Jane
Bourgeois, Bob and Shirley
Bowden, Lydia
Brasher, Jane and Doug Moles
Braun, Tricia
Bromley, Bill and Yvonne
Browne, Bob & Qenfefer
Bruce, Leslie
Bryans, Carol
Bulgutch, Melissa
Bunn, Walter & Andrea
Burgan, Leah

Bushell, Bryan and Sandra
Campbell, David & Barb
Campbell, Sandra
Campbell, Sue & Sandy
Carbert, Deanna A.
Carson, Sue
Cayley, Julie
Christie, Michael
Church, Gerald (Gerry)
Clark, Tanya
Clarke, Kathy
Cleland, Murray and Rosalind
Clulow, Silvia
Connor, Kathy & Hartley Woodside
Copp, Janet
Corbett, Beatrice
Corbett, Connie
Cornish, Lorelei
Coughlin, Trudy
Creasey, Wendy & Kim
Crowther, Richard F.
Daley, Doug & Linda
Darker, Amy
Darker, Bill
Deadman, Sue
Dennis, Marilyn
Doner, Warren & Mary
Drew, Gwendolyn
Drury, Kim
Duchesne, Ron
Duchesneau, Marie
Duffy, Theresa
Duncan, Robert (Ted)
Ellis, Anne
Emery, Frances & Alan
Engeland, Paul & Linda
Evans, Chris
Evans, Don & Kelly
Featherstone, David
Fell, Garry
Ferguson, Michael
Finlayson, David
Fish, Mary Anne
Fishleigh, Carolyn & Wayne

Fissell, William
Fonseca, David
Forman, Ed
Fox, Neil
Francis, Bella
Francis, George
Francis, Simon
Franklin, Lesley
Fraser, Barbara
Freedman, Adele
Frost, Doug
Fulford, Pamela & John
Furniss, P. Herb
Fyfe, Andrew, Nancy, Adam and Emily
Gale, Noel J
Gallagher, Kathleen
Gareau, Rene & Antje
Gauldie, Heather
Gibney, Art
Gillette, Lisa and Gary Peters
Glass, Barbara
Goldby, Shirley
Grandine, Joan
Gratrix, Kailin
Gray, Neil, Cameron & Ann
Grossman, Sharon & Larry
Guthrie, Ann
Guthrie, Gay
Halbot, Deb
Hamilton, Fred
Hammond, Ken & Alva
Handley, Chris
Hangaard, Dorthea
Hansen, Robert & Linda
Harris, Hershel
Harris, John
Harrison, Joel
Harte, Celia
Harvey, William
Hassell, John
Hatch, Kaitlyn
Hawke, John & Gwen
Heenar, Violet

Monthly Giving Program: A convenient giving option

This year an anonymous member of our Advisory Council challenged us to add 25 new monthly givers. If we succeeded, they would donate \$5,000. Thanks to our kind supporters, we surpassed that goal!

Monthly Giving is a **HUGE** help to our conservation work. It has benefits for you and also for the Conservancy. If you would like to join as a monthly giver, visit our website or call Tanya at the office.



**IMPROVED
PLANNING FOR
THE YEAR**



**PEACE OF
MIND**



**SIMPLE
GIVING
OPTION**



**REDUCES
PAPERWORK
& REMINDERS**

Hendren, Mike
Hepinstall, Glenys
Hildebrand, Ray
Hobbs, Shelley
Hodgkiss, Sarah
Hodgson, Marg & Anthony
Holden, Clare
Homer, Norma
Hopkins, David
Hossack, Leslie
Hoy, Sean
Hoyle, Lyzz
Humphries, Jean
Hungate, John
Hutchings, Al & Wendy
Ilyniak, Morris
Isenberger, Bob
Jeffries, Sheryn
Jenkins, Corey
Johns, Douglas
Jones, Jeff
Jorginson, Beth
Kaye, Linda
Kelch, Margaret
Kelleher, David & Holly
Kennedy, David & Margaret
Kennedy, Judith & Robert Preston
Kennett, David & Ann
Kiff, Janet & Ray
Kirby, Mary Lou
Kluger, Ronald & Ronna
Knight, Sylvia
Kodis, Margery
Koller, Cynthia
Koller, Donna
Koza, Jackie
Kranias, Jim
Kremer, Allison
LaFramboise, Kim
LaPlante, Sandra
Lauer, Tim
Laurie, Emma
Laver, Scott & Hallman Tawnya
Leadbeater, Lloyd
Leduc, Ron
Leon, George
Leonard, Ann-Marie
Lewis, Doug & Kim
Lickley, Dr. H. Lavina
Ling, Philip & Linda Frenette-Ling
Lord, Mary & Dave
Lowles, Marilyn & Doug
Lund, Mary & Kenneth
Lunnen, Brenda
Lusty, Christopher
Lyons, Thomas
Macdonald, John W.
MacDougall, Bonnie
MacNaughton, Ann Marie

Malloy, Helen and Brian
Maltby, Cam & Mary
Massig, Joanne & Jaski, Greg
Mathewson, Stan & Sophie
McAdams, James K. & Emily Morino
McClelland, Elizabeth
McCreath, Paul
McFadden, Stephen
McGee, Susan
McKechnie, Sue
McLeod, Donald
Melendez, Janice
Menagh, Roy and Nancy
Merelaid, Sandra & Juri
Mills, Alex and Catherine
Monkman, Drew
Moore, Ginny
Morse, Melanie, James and Birch
Mosher, Sandra
Mulqueen, M.
Munro, Jennifer
Murnaghan, Rosa
Murray, Walter & Helen
Neil, Emma
Neville, Lisa & Jim
Nielsen, Karen
Oben, Miriam
Oelrichs, John
Parker, Melanie
Parkinson, Wendy
Patenaude, Rita
Peacock, Linda
Pengelly, Clare
Phillips, Lisa
Phipps, Margaret Victoria and Jack
Poisson, Gerald
Pomeroy, Grant
Pond, George E.
Popkie, Ellen
Poropat, Valerie
Reid, Kristin
Relf, Barbara Jane
Richardson, Gwen
Ridgway, Martin & Jan
Rinaldi, Rick
Rivers, Sharon
Robertson, Gordon
Robichaud, Dorothy M.
Rogers, Scott & Marianne
Rosati, Mark
Roy, Michael
Russell, Lynn
Russell, Paul
Ruta, Carla and Dominique, Ruta
Sandusky, Peter and Mary
Sasaki, Ted
Scribbins, Gordon

Seymour, Kelly
Shadbott, Lynda
Sheppard, Mary
Sherwood, Bill & Victoria
Sinclair, Alex & Muriel
Sinclair, Lynn
Sloley, Jane & Jim Langman
Smale, Alan R.
Smith, Richard & Beverley
Smith, Sylvia
Snowden, Bill
Sockett, Catherine & Stephen
Soper, Daniel
Spelt, Anetta
Spencer, Gwen
Spraakman, Cheryl & Gary
Sprager, Fred
Stanton, James
Starr, Molly and William
Steed, Judy
Steinhart, Jim & Georgia
Stephen, Marcia
Stephenson, Shannon
Stevenson, Joan
Sunderland, Kenneth
Swinimer, Susan and William
Symmes, Ric & Sandy
Taghoboni, Nima
Takacs, Frank, Kathryn Rippey & Karley White
Tangney, Michael & Norma
Taylor, Sandy
Thiess, Mary
Thompson, Louise & James
Thompson, Shirley
Thomson, Keith, Angela, Evan & Emma
Tigchelaar, Sandy
Torney, Barbra
Toye, Lynn & John
Tremblay, Phyllis
Trombly, Joe & Betty
Tuck, Melanie
Usher, Steve
VanderLugt, Harry and Susanne
Wallace, Brant
Wallis, Marian
Weber, Diane B
Whalen, Susan
Whitman, Christie & Bill
Wilkins, David & Mary
Wilkinson, Maureen
Williams, Dan
Williams, Shelley
Wolfson, Dorothy & William
Wood, Louise
Wright, John
Yerex, Catherine
Young, James B

How You Can Help:

- Join our Monthly Giving Program
- Donate online through Canada Helps
- Make a Gift of Securities
- Consider a Legacy Gift

Visit our website and click on Donate to learn more about the impact you can make with these giving options.



Mailing address:

Box 704, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7

Office address:

1485 Division Rd West, Orillia, ON L3V 6H2

705.326.1620

www.couchichingconserv.ca

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