

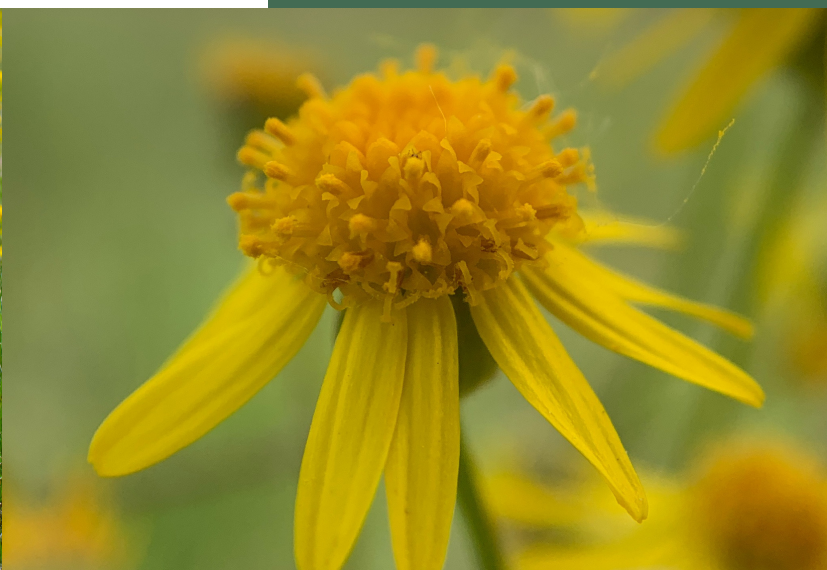
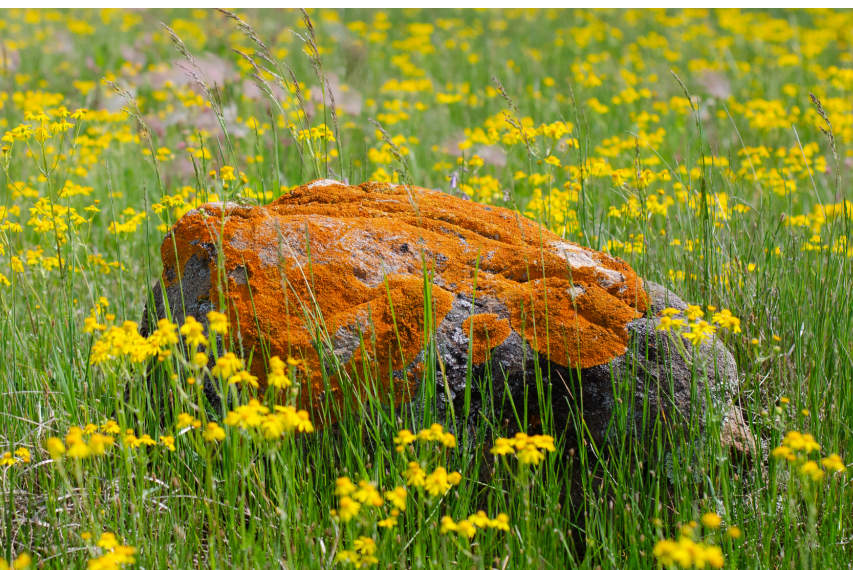


*The Couchiching
Conservancy*



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Re-connecting nature



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Mission: Protecting nature for future generations.

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

Goals:

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

Message from the Executive Director

Last February it looked like the sun was breaking through the clouds of a two-year pandemic.

It felt like we were coming to the other shore. We had just recorded one of our most successful years ever in the face of record adversity, and our people had carried us through many dark months. Birds were on the verge of singing.

It seemed safe to start a leadership transition, so I decided it was time to step down and make way for new energy and new ideas.

"Safe" is a relative term.

The ensuing months were the toughest of the pandemic years. Stock markets spiralled down, tearing gaping holes in our budget. Interest rates clicked up. Labour shortages worsened. Public environmental policy at both the provincial and municipal levels did back-flips. Protest placards bloomed; comment deadlines blossomed. Covid finally caught us at the office. Waves of other sickness kneecapped us. Even as we opened up again, things slowed.

But healthy organizations are not defined by the things they do in sunny weather. They live or die by the degree to which they prepare for storms. And we were prepared.

The leadership transition has been remarkably smooth. A strong team of passionate, talented individuals make this organization sing, and it is a testament to their strength that the Board was able to select my successor from within.

Dorthea Hangaard, who has injected so much innovation into the organization, and who understands intimately what makes it successful, has been given the privilege of leadership.

And it is a privilege.

For me, it has been a life-changing experience to lead The Conservancy. I'm leaving with profound gratitude for the people, the knowledge, the philosophies and the high ideals I have been exposed to over almost 14 years.

So we charge into our 30th year as a land trust with fresh, new leadership, innovative programming and a promising agenda of habitat protection.

I can't wait to see what's next.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Bisset".

Mark Bisset
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Neil Gray
Jamie Ross
Lisa Neville
Kathy Hunt
Jane Bonsteel
Janet Machan
Dale Leadbeater
Bob Sullivan
Jack Booth

Staff

Dorthea Hangaard
Tanya Clark
Courtney Baker
Toby Rowland
Aiesha Aggarwal
Samantha Vessios
Brandon Guoth
Alysha Henry

Contractors & Interns

Ron Reid
Ginny Moore
Terry-Lynn Hazlett
Kathy Connor
Madeleine Fournier

Councils

Past Presidents
Advisory
Development

Highlights



PROTECTED PLACES

Over 14,000-acres of beautiful wilderness protected & cared for thanks to supporters.



RESERVE OPENINGS

Unveiling two nature reserves, totalling 177-acres of protected wilderness.



48 LEGACY GIFTS

The Heartwood Fund surpasses \$3 million in pledges & contributions.



VOLUNTEERS

300+ people contribute 5,940 hours to our projects & programs.

Pictured: Carden wildflowers in full bloom during the Carden Bird Blitz. Morris Ilyniak retrieves a trail camera that mysteriously disappeared from Mclsaac Wetland Nature Reserve - it turns out a Black Bear was curious, and knocked the camera down. The camera was then frozen into the ground, and Morris and Toby Rowland stumbled on it. They were able to get the footage off! Over at Scout Valley, a City of Orillia property that is one of our conservation easements, Bleeker was one of the surprise guests of the Passport to Nature Musical Mystery Tour. Aiesha Aggarwal takes a selfie with M Nowick, Cassy & Ryan Lamoureux, Toby Rowland and Dorthea Hangaard during the Carden Bird Blitz. Meagan Edwards and Thomas Kaethler water monitoring at Taylor Nature Reserve.



SUPPORTERS

We are honoured by the support of 1,600 people, businesses & foundations!



ENGAGEMENT

Connected to 61,000+ people through Passport to Nature program, online & Grant's Greeters.



COMMUNITY SCIENCE

Nine programs on 32 reserves & managed sites with 183 volunteers.



SPECIES-AT-RISK

Protecting habitat for 35 species-at-risk.

Pictured: Coyote-Wolf at one of the easements. Moose on the Alvar, taken during the Carden Challenge (taken by Josiah Vandenberg). BluMoose riders raised over \$16,000 in memory of Danya Leemhuis (taken by Chris Monette). Toby and reptile monitors Sadie Fischer and Victoria Atencio at Starr Sanctuary, with Ann and Neil Gray who were monitoring for Wildlife on Roads. Chicory on the Alvar.

Transitions



The only thing constant is change. In 2022 our organization continued to evolve with staff transitions and additions, and new internal systems.

We welcomed two new talented staff to the stewardship team this year. Brandon Guoth signed on to be our new full-time Reserve Steward, and Alysha Henry has extended her stay as a summer field technician to become a Stewardship Assistant.

The most notable change, of course, is our change in leadership. After 14 years as Executive Director, it was the right time for Mark Bisset to step back. He isn't going far, though: Mark will continue to work with us as a part-time Acquisition Specialist.

The Conservancy can't thank Mark enough. He has been a strong leader through the many ups and downs we faced together, has mentored staff to push beyond our perceived limits to accomplish big goals, and inspired our supporters and community to do more for nature.

Mark's passion for his work, combined with his skill and expertise as a leader, negotiator and communicator, has resulted in so many positive outcomes – for the Conservancy and for the protection of nature in our region. He leaves us with a solid infrastructure in place to ensure our long-term resilience, a large base of supporters, and a portfolio of

protected land which now stands at an impressive 14,000 acres.

We have all been extremely fortunate to have benefitted from Mark's leadership and are happy to hear that Mark is looking forward to remaining involved with the Conservancy.

Although change can be challenging, it keeps the organization strong and moving forward.

For our incoming Executive Director we looked within, and the Board of Directors selected long-time staff member Dorteia Hangaard to bring new energy and ideas to the position. After 11 years with the Conservancy, she knows what it takes to champion one of the leading land trusts in Ontario.

"We are extremely grateful for the extraordinary leadership Mark has provided, which has resulted in unprecedented growth of the organization and local conservation efforts. With the support of an outstanding team of staff members, volunteers and partners, Mark's tenure as executive director has been highlighted by many accomplishments."

Neil Gray, President of Board

Pictured: Our staff & some contractors! Courtney Baker - Office & Acquisition Coordinator, Aiesha Aggarwal - Conservation Analyst, Terry-Lynn Hazlett - Bookkeeper, Alysha Henry - Stewardship Assistant, Mark Bisset - outgoing Executive Director and new Acquisitions Specialist, Madeleine Fournier - Interim Engagement Organizer, Dorteia Hangaard - Conserved Lands Manager and incoming Executive Director, Tanya Clark - Fundraising & Engagement Manager and Toby Rowland - Conservation Biologist. Missing from the photo are Reserve Steward Brandon Guoth, Engagement Organizer Samantha Vessios, Carden Coordinator Ron Reid and Carden Grassland Bird Monitor Ginny Moore.

Corridors of Connected Wilderness



Thanks to supporters, we are re-connecting nature through the Corridors Campaign. Since the launch of the campaign, we have secured seven new properties, totalling 1,929-acres.

The Conservancy is in constant conversation with landowners who are interested in protecting nature and taking the next step. There are currently 22 properties we are in discussion with landowners about. Some may move forward, and some may not, but we are here to do the work. We have approximately \$470,000 left to raise of our \$1.4 million goal to complete this campaign and further build this corridor.

Our thanks to those of you who have donated or pledged to the Campaign. Your generosity is allowing us to focus on protecting the blue, the green, and all the species in between.

Corridors of protected wilderness matter. These are the bridges allowing species to move.



Unveilings!

Two nature reserve unveilings took place, celebrating the generosity of the Marley family in memory of Leida and Roman, and the Nicholson family. These reserves are both in the Black River Wildlands region and help build a stronger network of protected areas. Learn more on our website or watch the unveilings on our YouTube channel.

Pictured: The Marley family, Conservancy staff and Board members gathered together on a sunny August day with delicious Estonian food and good company to celebrate this gift for nature. Gary Nicholson and family, with Conservancy staff and members of the Board at the unveiling. Gary shared that this gift is dedicated in memory of those who built the community and for generations to come to enjoy nature.

Nature Reserves & Easements

Protected by:

The Couchiching Conservancy

Open to public with trails

Open to public without trails

Not open to public

* Indicates nature reserves with Couchiching Conservancy Community Science teams in 2022

Conservation Easement

Private land owners protecting land with help from the Couchiching Conservancy

Open to Public with trails

Not open to public

Ontario Parks

Open to public with trails

Not open to public

Nature Conservancy of Canada

Open to public with trails




Open to public without trails

Not open to public

Ontario Heritage Trust

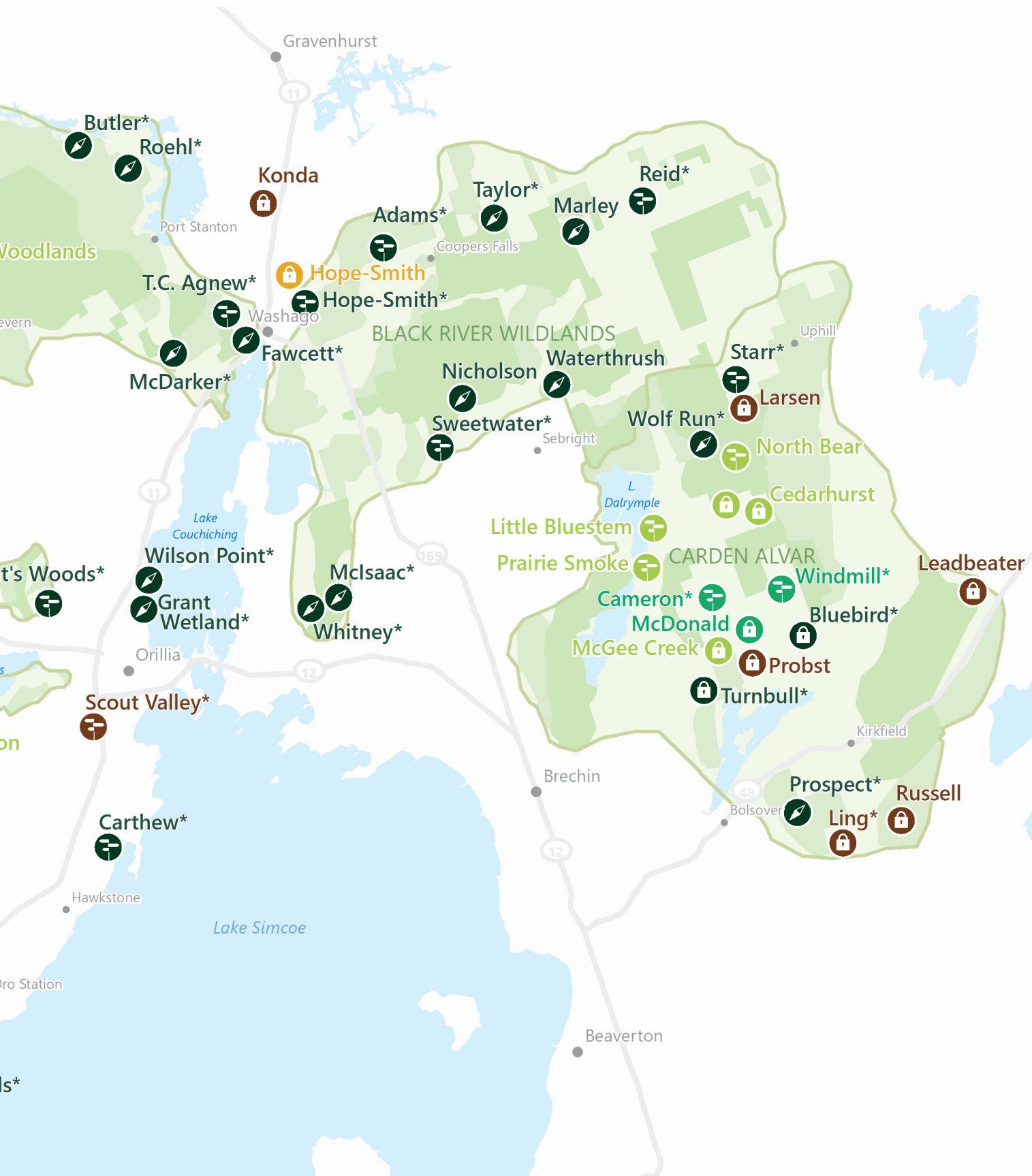
Not open to public

Acquisition Strategy:

-  Conservation Corridor
-  Priority 1 Zone
-  Priority 2 Zone



Created by the Couchiching Conservancy, February 2023. Projected coordinates and conservation corridors conceptualized by Ron Reid and the Couchiching Conservancy. This is an artistic rendering and is not meant for navigation or legal purposes.



Coordinate system NAD 1983, Projection: Transverse Mercator. Data sources: Road and lake data modified from Land Information Ontario (2022); Priority Reserves data from Keweenaw Conservation and digitized by Kawartha Conservation (2020). Nature Reserve symbols designed by Finn Canadensis, HonkHonk Graphic Arts, and digitized by Kawartha Conservation (2020). Contact for details.

On the Land



Community Science

A lot happens at the nature reserves in a year, and thanks to Community Science volunteers we have the data to prove it! Here's one example:

The Ron Reid Nature reserve came under the Couchiching Conservancy's protection in 2017. The 729-acre property is part of the Land Between, where the rich soils of southern Ontario meet the exposed granite bedrock of central Ontario. This mixed habitat supports a wide range of wildlife including species-at-risk like Eastern Whip-poor-will and Canada Warbler.

In the springtime, the forests and wetland come alive with the calls of frogs. Ron Reid and Janet Grand make three visits to listen for frogs and report on the species and numbers heard. Frogs are vulnerable to changes in the environment and are a good indicator of ecosystem health. Salamanders are a similarly sensitive species. Monitors Larry Hrivnak and Tricia Currie check under hidden boards for salamanders three times in the spring.

During the summer months, bat, reptile, and monarch monitors are out braving the blackflies and ticks to learn more about the species. Bat monitors visit three

times during the months of June and July. To cover more ground, we have three teams (Ron Reid and Janet Grand, Bill and Vicki Sherwood, Mel and Al Tuck) who monitor different parts of the property. The teams use an iPad with a special device called an EchoMeter that identifies bats flying overhead by their echolocation patterns.

On damp autumn days, salamander monitors return to make three more monitoring visits.

Throughout the year, the land stewards (Mel and Al) and maintenance crews assemble to perform various jobs. The big project was the creation of the Rosebush Landing Canoe & Kayak Launch. The launch is named after Joan & John Rosebush who were major contributors in the fundraising campaign to purchase this nature reserve, and are long-time supporters of the Conservancy. This project took many hands, with John Walinck constructing the ladder and platform, Brandon Guoth coordinating the project, and a crew of volunteers (pictured on page 10) helping out.

Conservation is a group effort. We are so thankful for all of the wonderful volunteers, funders, and supporters who help make this work possible.



183

Community Science, Stewardship
& Maintenance Volunteers

2,231

Hours in
the field

32

Nature Reserves
& Easements Visited

322

Property
Visits Made

1,031

Species-At-Risk observations submitted to
the Natural Heritage Information Centre

428

Volunteer training
hours

Pictured: A bird's eye view on the Ron Reid Nature Reserve (photo by Cassie Pellerin on page 9). Recently, a beaver dam created a flooded area that has increased suitable turtle habitat. Paddle Party on the Black River, as a part of the Passport to Nature program used the Rosebush Landing as an entry point. We were thankful for our leader Philip Careless from Ontario Parks. Joan Rosebush and daughter Cathy Bernatavicius at the new sign. Volunteers Roland Rehborn, Jamie Ross, Tim Stott, Nature Conservancy of Canada summer staff Adam Pfeifer and Amanda Henderson, volunteer Alan Smale, staff Alysha Henry and volunteer John Walinck. Janet Grant and Ron Reid monitoring for frogs.





Carden Bird Blitz

Alvar is a globally-rare habitat type that is important for many of Ontario's declining populations of grassland bird species, who have to contend with land use changes and pressures throughout their entire range.

The Carden Bird Blitz is one of the few long-term plot-based grassland bird studies in the province, and the data collected helps inform stewardship management decisions in Carden, and the region beyond.

The Blitz takes place annually and consists of 32 stations within Carden Alvar Provincial Park and Bluebird Ranch Nature Reserve. Each station is surveyed by a team of 3 - 5 expert birders, who come from as far away as Kingston and Hamilton to participate.

Since the Bird Blitz began in 2005, 157 unique species have been observed, and over 8,000 lines of data have been recorded. This raw data is made available to researchers, and the species at risk observations are submitted to the Natural Heritage Information Centre.

Since 1970, grassland bird species have declined by 60% in Canada.

Grassland Birds

Our Grassland Bird Surveys were set up with the goal of helping the breeding success of birds on private agricultural land. By surveying the region, and incentivizing farmers to adjust their agricultural practices in favour of grassland birds, we hope to have a tangible impact for nesting birds.

Battling Ash Borer

The introduction of swift and destructive invasives like the Emerald Ash Borer pose great challenges to many of our reserves, and this year in particular to Church Woods Nature Reserve. Over 75 trees were marked for removal. When felling dead ash trees that pose a hazard to surrounding neighbours, we ensure damage to already-disturbed forest edge areas is minimized so that invasive plants have less opportunity to spread. Our forests are changing.

In the Community



We got back into the swing of in person events this year, with our 8th annual Passport to Nature, Carden Challenge and a number of third-party activities. Our sincere thanks to the volunteers and supporters who made it all possible! Connecting with the community, broadening our reach and sharing the importance of protecting nature is critical to our collective efforts.

Challenge Team Feature

"We have always enjoyed walking on Conservancy nature reserves. We love enjoying wildlife in natural spots and it is important to us that these places stay wild as the boys grow (Jacob 7, Gavin 4, Benjamin 1). Jacob is a white tail with the Orillia Beaver Colony and for his North Star Award he decided to do something that will help birds as they contribute beauty and colour to our community. Our Carden Challenge team consisted of our family, Matt, Katie, and the three boys (pictured above).

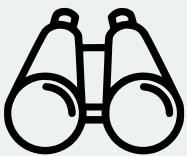
Jacob's favourite sighting was the Goldfinch and Gavin's favourite was a frog at a creek in the cow field beside us and the Great Blue Heron. When we were ready to come inside for lunch, we happened to look up and see a Heron flying over the house. Benjamin can't share his favourite sighting yet, but he loved sitting outside on the porch and pointing out birds."

- Katie Campbell



\$24,000+

Raised through the Passport to Nature program thanks to 37 businesses, participants & 13 volunteers.



\$34,000+

Raised by 66 Carden Challenge participants who counted 247 species in 24 hours. Wow!



\$35,000+

Contributed through third-party events.

Pictured: Participants of the Passport to Nature Yoga and Reflection event at Sweetwater Farm Nature Reserve with Cat O'Connor. Members of team Campbell Jays took part in the 18th annual Carden Challenge to raise money to help protect the Carden Alvar.

The Wildlands Road Trip

Volunteer Cassie Pellerin took part in the Passport to Nature DIY activity, Experience the Wildlands Road Trip. She documented her trip and shared it in the Orillia & Lake Country Tourism blog.

"The trail weaved us in and out of lush, mixed deciduous forest, sunny open grasslands, and alongside gently moving waterways, like the Stickleback Stream. Hitting this trail in the late spring, we were quickly reminded of the importance of taking the time to look closely at what may be blooming beside our own feet. We were flaunted by a striking array of colour, from Wild Columbines to Jack-in-the-pulpit flowers, and even some bright red wild strawberries that caught our eye." (referring to Sweetwater Farm Nature Reserve).

The bird's eye view photos throughout the report were taken by Cassie. Thanks for volunteering with us and exploring the Wildlands!

Third-party Fundraisers

It was a banner year for community fundraisers to benefit the work we do! First a fundraiser at the Dragonfly Room Salon Spa, and the annual Refillery District Earth Day fundraiser. Then we were the recipients of the spring gift of the Ripple of Kindness Orillia Chapter members.

The annual BluMoose Alvar Ride, organized by Adrian Leemhuis and Lorraine Morris in memory of their late son Danya, continues to draw a crowd and grow each year. This event raised over \$16,000 for alvar conservation efforts.

We closed out the year with music. The Orillia Vocal Ensemble Choir chose us as their beneficiary. With over 100 attendees, we enjoyed a beautiful evening of music and raised \$7,000!

Nature thanks you all!



Pictured: Participants of the Passport to Nature Printmaking event with artist Gillian Lowry show off their creations at Grant's Woods Nature Reserve. Gillian created a special design for us - thanks! Cassie Pellerin took part in the Experience the Wildlands downloadable activity through the Passport to Nature. Mark Bisset and Blair Bailey prepare for the Orillia Vocal Ensemble Benefit Concert.

Volunteers



Together, we do more for nature thanks to hundreds of volunteers who contribute time, passion and expertise to various projects and programs. Thank you!

Aiesha Aggarwal & Brolin
Divine
Sandy Agnew & Lynn
Melnyk
Kimberly Ariss
Victoria Atencio
Eileen Atkinson
Courtney Baker
Jon Baker
Stevie, Stella & Gilda Baker
Gordon & Jane Ball
Jon Ball
Scott Ballon
Homi Bam
Aileen Barclay
Brittany Barnes & family
Craig Barrett & Cheryl
Taylor
Doug Bedford
Ian Bender
Sue Benjafield
Ted Bigelow
Nancy Bishop
Mark Bisset
Stewart Blackwell
Jane Bonsteel
Jack Booth
Lydia Bowden
Jane Brasher
Holly Brown
Samantha Buchanan
Green
Melissa & Reid Bulgutch
Kevin Burnett & Kate
Crawford
Kathy Callahan
Katie & Jacob Campbell
Philip Careless
Nicole Carpenter

Anita Caven & Matthew
Wilson
John Challis
Nancy Chong
Douglas Christie
Marilyn Clark & Peter
Hayward
Tanya Clark
Jeff Cole
Kathy & John Connor
Ian Cook
Doug Cooper
Copeland Forest Friends
Lorelei Cornish
Meagan Coughlin
Mo Coughlin
Trudy Coughlin
David Cowl
Courtney-Anne Craft
Susan Crowe
Cameron Curran
Tricia Currie & Larry
Hrivnak
Peter & Louise Dale
Sue Deadman
Brittany Deck
Andrew Don
David Doorly
Michael Drescher
Meghan Edwards &
Thomas Kaethler
Lynnette Eisen
Susan Eves
Heather Ewing
John Ewing
Thalia Felbert
Matthew Fells
Morah Fenning
Kristyn Ferguson

Cynthia Ferris
Mark Field
Sadie Fischer
Nathan Fligg
Karen Fox
Mike Francis
Evelyn Frantzke & Robert
Williamson
Pamela Fulford
Mary Sue Gamroth & Ed
Konda
Bhoomi Gandhi
Heather Gauldie
David Giannunzio
Kelly Gibson
Mandy Gibson
Judy Gilchrist
Derek Gillette
Lois Gillette
Ali Giroux
Sarah Graham
Kyra Grams
Janet Grand & Ron Reid
Neil & Ann Gray
Steve Greidanus
Alexander Grout
Brandon Guoth
Charleyne Hall
Bunny Hamilton
Philip Hamilton
Ron & Sharon Hancock
Dorthea Hangaard
Hannah Hatton
Ruth Henderson
Alysha Henry
Shaun & Cole Hensher
June Hill
Sarah Hodgkiss
Glen Hodgson

Paul & Valerie Holt
David A. & Bonnie Homer
Brittany Hope
Mitchell Horn
Kyra Howes
Jean Humphries
Kathy Hunt
Katrina & Emma Hunt
Bo, Jennica, Juna & Sye
Hwang
Morris Ilyniak
Jean Iron
Mourad Jabra
Patrick Jackson
Phillip Jackson
Patrick Kennedy & Beth
Jefferson
Jeramie Jenkins & family
Richard Johnston
Lynda Johnstone
April Kerr
Gem Kyne
Jamie Laidlaw
Cassy & Ryan Lamoureux
Pete Lamprey
Ellen Larsen
Tim Lauer
Lillian Lawlor-MacDonald
Dale Leadbeater
Astrid & Gabrielle Leicht
Philip Ling & Linda
Frenette-Ling
Gillian Lowry
Wendy Lowry
Josh Lynch
Janet Machan
Carmen Madiil
Helen & Brian Malloy
Jane & Jeff Marshall

Christine Mason
Cathy Massig
Sophie & Stan Mathewson
Phyllis May
John Mayo
Shawn McClinchey
Mary & Omer Mick
John Miller
Amina Mohamed
Gail & Perry Molenaar
Rhiannon Monague
Ginny Moore
Shirley Moorman
Melissa Morrison
Chase Moser
Mary Ellen Mulligan
Barb Murkar
Sarah Nadler
Lisa & Jim Neville
Catherine Nixon
Ruth Noland-Flores
Mike Norton
M Nowick
Cat O'Connor
Jaimee Ogilvie
Orillia Fish and Game
Conservation Club
Rob Palin
Sarah Papple
Allison Parliament
Karishma Pathak
Kathryn Peiman
Cassie Pellerin
Alexandra Petersen
Joni Pethick
Monique Phillips
Victoria Phillips

Jhaira Pilayre
Margaret Pomeroy
Jamie & Valerie Powell
Leslie & Brynn Pressnail
Gary Pritchard
Lou & Judy Probst
Nicole Ranville
Emily Reddick
Pam Reekie
Roland Rehorn & Joan
Vincent
Peter Reid
Suzanne Robillard
Jim Robinson
Karen Robinson
Peter Robinson & Noella
Storry
Nathalie Rockhill
Barbara Rosebrugh
Jamie & Anne Ross
Toby Rowland & Becky
Plant
Lynn Russell
Barbara & Warren
Ryckman
Karl Schulz
Julie Scott
Bill & Vicki Sherwood
Debbie Silverthorne
Rick Simpson
Jane & Duff Sloley
Alan Smale
Jane Smith
Laurie Stanford
Robert Stavinga
Mark Stevenson
Chris & James Stewart

"I volunteer for the Conservancy because as a land trust, I know that my support will help to protect natural habitat and preserve ecologically important lands in perpetuity. Volunteering also allows me to share my passion for wild places and wild species with others and to learn more about these special places."



Susan Crowe is on the Passport to Nature Committee, a monarch monitor at Sweetwater Farm Nature Reserve and is a monthly supporter and member.

James K. Stewart
Glenn & Joanne Stronks
Tim Stott
Bob Sullivan
Bill Swinimer
Grant & Vicki Tebrugge
Dagmar Teubner
Bev Theakston
Gary & Isabelle Thiess
Allan Thompson
Sol Thompson
Adam & Shirley Thomson
Ken Thomson
Mark Tinney
Gloria Tozek
Kim Trudeau
Don Trumble
Allan & Melanie Tuck
Dirk Vanderlaan

Charon & Doug Varty
Samantha Vessios
John Walinck
Dave Walker
Andrea Ward
David Warren
Jesse Waugh
RBC Wealth Management
Peter Wigham
Dave & Mary Wilkins
Johnathan Wilkinson
Camryn Williams
Ivor Williams
Bruce & Jean Wilson
Jean Wilson
Tom Wilson
John F. Wright
Kaye Zoller



Pictured pages 15 - 16: Jane Smith helps as a Grant's Greeter to welcome trail users at Grant's Woods Nature Reserve. This is a vital volunteer job as we see increased use of our trails to ensure visitors understand how to leave no trace and stay safe. Staff of RBC, members of Sustainable Orillia, Orillia council member Tim Lauer and Conservancy staff and volunteers did a clean up at Wilson Point Wetland Nature Reserve. Nicole Carpenter and Sam Buchanan Green monitor for salamanders at Taylor Nature Reserve. Cathy Massig and Mel Tuck are Land Stewards at Alexander Hope Smith Nature Reserve.

Supporters

Generous support from the community makes so much possible. Our thanks to the following supporters for their outstanding support.

Heartwood Fund, our legacy giving program:

Joy & John Ackert
Sandy Agnew & Lynne Melnyk
Gordon & Jane Ball
Homi & Linda Bam
Jane Bonsteel
Cameron & Linda Bigelow
Mark & Sandi Bisset
Philip Careless
Douglas & Barbara Christie
Timothy & Rosaleen Crooks
Heather Gauldie
John & Marg Hallman
Ron & Sharon Hancock
David A. & Bonnie Homer
Shirley Johnson
Mary Lou Kirby

Maureen Kenny & Jim McDonald
Paul & Frances Laver
Robert & Beverley Leask
Wendy & Si Lowry
Cathy Massig
Sandy McCrindle
Cheryl McLean
Ginny Moore
Lisa Neville
Bob & Allison Ormerod
Jamie & Valerie Powell
Ron Reid & Janet Grand
Nathalie Rockhill & Elizabeth Pengelly
Joan & John Rosebush
Jamie & Anne Ross
Lynn Russell
Marcia Stephen
Bob & Wendy Sullivan

Michael & Norma Tangney
Isabelle & Gary Thiess
Adam & Shirley Thomson
Ken & Corinne Thomson
Mary Walton-Ball
Nine anonymous pledges and contributions.

\$1,000+, a part of our Leaders's Circle:

Accessibility Professionals Inc.
Brian R. Adams
Sandy Agnew & Lynne Melnyk
Doug & Vicki Anderson
Gordon & Jane Ball
Craig Barrett
Bee By The Sea
Mark & Sandi Bisset
Jane Bonsteel
J.R Booth Professional Corp.
Anna Bourgeois
Brereton Field Naturalists
Philip Careless
Douglas & Barbara Christie
Dalton Cleary
Con Air
The Crank & Sprocket Bicycle Co.
Peter & Louise Dale
Erin Ellison
Chris Evans
Heather Ewing
Richard Fischer
Forests Ontario
The Forks in the Trail Private Foundation
Gift Funds Canada
John A. Gingrich
Laurie Coyette
Carol Gray
Neil & Ann Gray
Ron & Sharon Hancock
Home Hardware Building Centre, Orillia

Jennifer Howey
Hune Wealth Management of RBC Dominion Securities
Nancy Ironside
Richard Jones
Patrick Kennedy & Beth Jefferson
Maureen Kenny
Ronald & Ronna Kluger
Ellen Larsen
Paul & Frances Laver
Dale Leadbeater
Robert & Beverley Leask
Si & Wendy Lowry
Donna Millar
Joan Morgan
Don Mugford
Marilyn Murphy
Lisa & Jim Neville
Northwest & Ethical Investments L.P
Ontario Field Ornithologists
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Orillia Area Community Development Corp.
Gary Pritchard
Judy & Lou Probst
Raymond James Ltd. - Jackie Ramler
Ryan Rehborn
Ian Reid
Nathalie Rockhill
Mark & Cecile Rolland
Joan Rosebush
Jamie & Anne Ross
Don Scott & Kristi McKechnie of Scottinc Design + Build
Alan R. Smale
Sojourn Outdoors
James & Barbara Stewart
Bob & Wendy Sullivan
The Community Foundation of Orillia The Dale Family Endowment



"The Conservancy's mission to preserve ecologically sensitive land for future generations is the major reason for our support for our grass roots land trust. We think that the goal of preseving land in its natural state for the long term is a gift

that benefits everyone. The opportunity to be part of the Heartwood Fund and support this unique local organization is both gratifying and rewarding for us. Hopefully our support will help enhance a legacy that will be very viable long into the future. We have always had a quiet passion for the land and the environment in our area. Our involvement and our contribution is a measure of that passion."

Bob and Wendy Sullivan are long-time supporters with notable gifts towards the Heartwood Fund & Corridors Campaign. Bob is also on the Board of Directors.

Gary & Isabelle Thiess
Adam & Shirley Thomson
Ingrid VanderMarel
Doug & Charon Varty
Michael Williams
Youssef-Warren Foundation

\$150 - \$999:

Christine Adams
Sol Advisorsavvy
Ravi & Karen Aggarwal
Brian J. Armstrong
Harold & Lenore Atwood
Cameron Aziz
Blair Bailey
Bayview Wildwood Resort
Candy & Steve Baker
Matt Bannan
Amir Barsoum
Cheryl Behan
Patricia Belchamber
Anne Bell
Joan Berndt
Sharon Bider
Kevin & Mary Binsted
Nancy Bishop
Susan Blayney
Jack & Jennifer Booth
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Konrad & Jutta Brenner
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Peter T. Brown
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Melissa Bulgutch & Simon Francis
Leah Burgan
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Gaudaur Natural Foods Inc.
Georgian Bay Printers
David Giannunzio
Lisa Gillette & Gary Peters
Arthur Gladstone
Barbara Glass
Herman Gonzalez
John & Lisa Good
Michael Gordon
Dave Gorman

" We are very fortunate and pleased to have been able to support the work of the Conservancy this past year. We donated out of respect and gratitude for the lives of our parents, who raised us with a keen appreciation of nature in our everyday lives. And it is

with hope, confidence and optimism that we look to the Conservancy to continue with the acquisition and protection of wilderness areas. The "to-do" list changes as opportunities arise, along with unforeseen challenges. Thank you to the Conservancy staff, board and volunteers. We look forward to what comes next. Well done, everyone! "

- Doug & Vicki Anderson



Pictured on pages 17-18: Members of the Leader's Circle gathered at the Cedarhurst Alvar Nature Reserve to marvel at one of the places that their gift helps protect with staff Mark Bisset, Courtney Baker and Tanya Clark. Stella, Rhett and Sophie get a closer look at a Midland Painted Turtle during the Carden Challenge.



Janet Grand & Ron Reid
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 Harry & Marian Hall
 Krista Halpin
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 David Holmes
 Peter Holt
 David A. & Bonnie Homer
 Daniel Horchik
 Horseshoe Valley Dental
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 Jean Humphries
 Judith Humphries
 Kathy Hunt
 Morris Ilyniak
 Jean Iron
 Jack and Maddy's
 Richard & Wendy Johnston
 Michael & Barbara Jones
 Philip Jones
 Ian Kady
 Thomas Kaethler
 James Kamstra
 Kawartha Dairy
 Gail Keatley
 David Kennedy

Karen Kennedy
 Elizabeth Kernaghan
 Mary Lou Kirby
 Kate Kitchen
 Michelle Kocsis
 Cynthia Koller & John
 Spencer
 Ann-Marie Kungl & Joe
 Baker
 Judith & Tom Kurtz
 Rafael Labrador
 Lake Country Animal Hospital
 Lake Country Physiotherapy
 Fred & Lois Larsen
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 Craig Laurence
 Irena & Ralph Lawrenson
 Murray Leadbeater
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 Adele LeMaire
 Gunda Lewis
 Jonathan Lister
 Mary & Dave Lord
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 Andrew Maceachern
 Janet & Gary Machan
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 Ann Marie Macnaughton
 Helen Maksimchuk
 Mary Maltby
 Trevor Mann
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 Marci Csumrik & Associates
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 Stan & Sophie Mathewson
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 Phyllis May
 John & Cynthia McAllister
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 Nature Conservancy of Canada
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 Stephen Wise
 Pat Woodford
 Blair Zaritsky
 Bruce Zinger
 Kaye Zoller

An additional 770 people
 donated under \$150. **Every
 single gift matters.**

**Gifts were made in memory
 of the following people:**

Carmen Bisson
 Lois BurrIDGE
 Mrs. Chung
 Rosaleen Crooks
 Timothy Crooks
 Richard Crowther

Gwen Drew
 Gord Forester
 Ilse Forster
 Ardell Gillespie
 Margaret Green
 Peder Hangaard
 Mable Hill
 Dorothy Hunt Parsons
 Carol Johnson
 Rita Lalumiere
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 Noel Southwick
 Bill Starr
 Kris Starr
 Anita Von Graffen
 Spencer Waite
 Helen Wellenhofer
 Christie Whitman
 Paul Willis
 Agatha Wroncka

**We are grateful to work
 with the following partners:**

4 Directions Conservation
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 Carden Field Naturalists
 City of Orillia
 City of Kawartha Lakes
 Community Foundation of
 Orillia and Area
 Copeland Forest Friends
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Ganawenim Meshkiki
 (Eastern Georgian Initiative)
 Georgian Bay Bay Land Trust
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 Simcoe County Greenbelt
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 The Canadian Freshwater
 Alliance
 The Gosling Foundation
 The Government of Canada's
 Natural Heritage
 Conservation Program
 The Land Between
 The Somos El Barco Fund of
 Makeway
 The Sustainability Network
 The Youssef-Warren
 Foundation
 Toronto Ornithological Club
 Township of Severn
 United Way of Greater
 Toronto
 Water Rangers
 Wildlands League
 Wildlife Preservation Canada



*Pictured on pages 19-20: Barred Owl. Holly Brown and
 Brandon Guoth test out a new section of boardwalk at
 Adams Nature Reserve. Staff members Tanya Clark,
 Samantha Vessios and Aiesha Aggarwal explore the
 wildlands of the Nicholson Nature Reserve. Blue spotted
 salamander.*

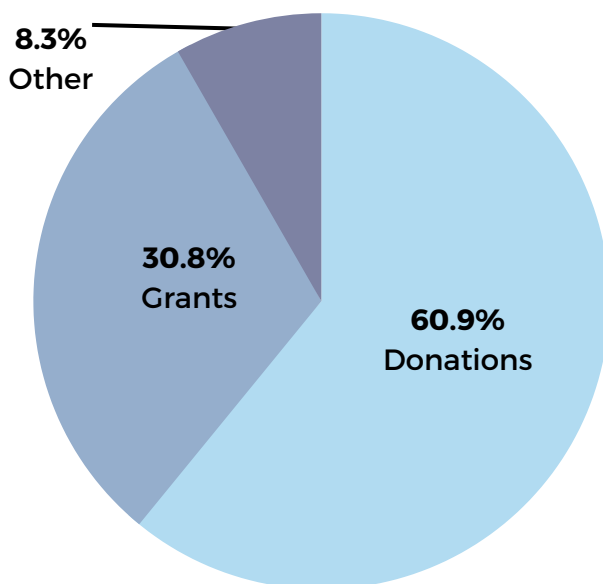
Financial Report

Financial market turbulence had a deep impact on investment revenue for The Couchiching Conservancy in 2022. The same forces influenced donations, which were down year over year. The combination left us with an operating deficit by year-end. However, substantial surpluses from the previous two years, wisely added to reserves, offset the impact of these external forces. Among other things, those surpluses allowed us to maintain our reserve and endowment fund, even in the face of market losses. Despite these setbacks, the

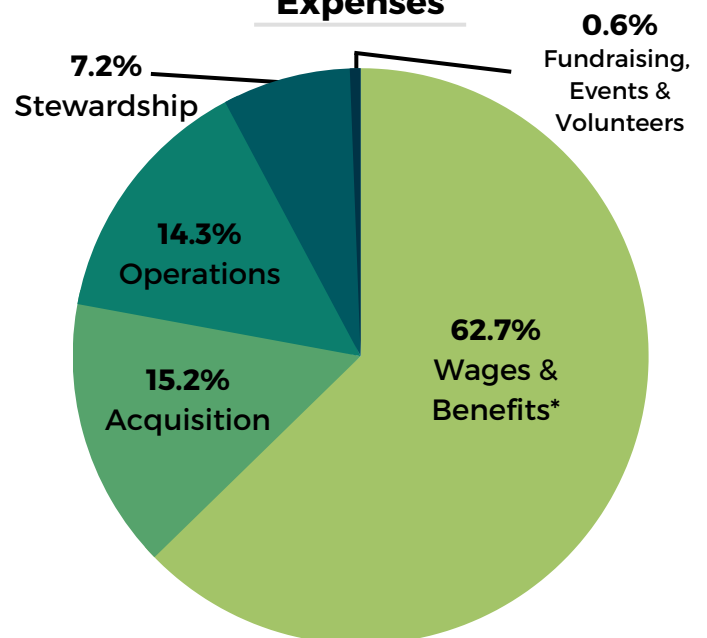
Conservancy continued to build its Corridors Campaign reserve, and stands ready to respond to acquisition opportunities as they arise. As a result, The Couchiching Conservancy remains in a strong financial position to weather future short-term disruptions, with the flexibility to adapt quickly to changing circumstances.

Accountability and transparency are important. We work hard to ensure your gifts are used wisely and are making an impact.

Revenue



Expenses



Revenue	2022	2021
Donations	\$549,832	\$672,435
Grants	278,126	291,862
Investment Income	(73,394)	208,148
Other	75,271	64,141
Total Revenue	\$829,835	\$1,236,586

Expenses	2022	2021
Property Acquisitions	\$132,123	\$282,203
Wages and Benefits*	545,488	469,968
Property Stewardship	62,584	59,733
Operations	123,996	101,555
Fundraising, Events & Volunteers	5,647	4,482
Total Expenses	\$869,838	\$917,941

A full independent financial audit for our fiscal year, ending October 31, 2022, has been prepared by Hehn Trickey Professional Corporation and is available at couchichingconserv.ca

*Wages and benefits, broken out separately in this graph for transparency, make up a large percentage of the annual expenses of all programming. The figure also includes the total value of volunteer labour over the course of the year.

What's Ahead



Change is bearing down on us, there's no denying it: we are in a race to protect significant lands in the region before they are gone. But with 30 years of success behind us, we're ready for the challenge.

Here are five things we're looking forward to in 2023:

1. The Corridors Campaign is our current strategy for acquisition, and is very close to crossing the finish line on the goals we set four years ago. The next big step is the Morton property in Carden: 400-acres of first-rate alvar near the corner of Wylie and Alvar road. In 2023, you can also expect to see the first glimmers of the next acquisition campaign, and we can't wait to share it with you.

2. Every act of permanently protecting a new landscape comes with a responsibility to steward that land. The key to our land stewardship strategy remains our landmark community science, land steward, and maintenance programs. Plans include an expanded maintenance team, growth and establishment of the wildlife on roads program, and new invasive species control teams.

3. Volunteers in our grassland bird monitoring program have been turning in impressive results on the location of at-risk Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark in a region-wide survey. Their work has inspired our next Landowner Stewardship project, which will reach out to farmers with incentives to delay haying their fields until birds have fledged the nest.

4. Look for the release of our popular Passport to Nature program in the spring, with 15 opportunities to get outside and enjoy nature with others.

5. We continue to build bridges with the Indigenous people of this region. We learn, find common ground, adapt, and make friends. Step by step, we are building healthy relationships.

The only true constant is change. It's how you plan and respond to it that counts.

Pictured: Incoming Executive Director, Dorthea Hangaard is looking ahead at the Adams Nature Reserve. Song Sparrow at Grant's Woods Nature Reserve.



Contact Us

Mailing address: Box 704, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7

Office address: 1485 Division Road West, Orillia, ON L3V 0X6

Phone: 705-326-1620 | **Website:** couchichingconserv.ca

Charitable registration number: 13972 5030 RR0001



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Photography by staff, contactors, supporters and volunteers.

Pictured on front cover: Alvar pavement. Spring Peeper. Elegant Sunburst lichen and Balsam Ragwort at Cameron Ranch Nature Reserve - a part of Carden Alvar Provincial Park, Ontario Parks.

Pictured on back cover: Lady Bug. Garter Snake at Starr Sanctuary. American Toad. Reptile Monitoring volunteers Sadie Fischer and Victoria Atencio at the Starr Sanctuary (the snake they found is the same one pictured on this page!).

