
2025

*The Couchiching
Conservancy*



ANNUAL REPORT

*Protecting nature for
future generations*



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About

The Couchiching Conservancy is a charitable, non-profit land trust dedicated to protecting nature for future generations. We believe that protecting the natural land in our region is vitally important. Not only does it provide crucial habitat for plants and animals, it's also a valuable part of a healthy community. Since 1993, we have worked with landowners, donors, volunteers, staff and conservation partners to ensure the ecologically significant lands we permanently protect will be a source of well-being for generations to come.

Vision

We envision a mosaic of inter-connected wild spaces protected sufficiently to ensure the Couchiching-Severn region retains, nourishes and enhances its remaining natural riches through a changed relationship with the land in keeping with our shared principles. Our relationship with the land is built on respect, responsibility and reciprocity toward the earth.

Mission

Protecting nature for future generations.

Goals

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

Pictured: Blackburian Warbler at Cedar Grove Nature Reserve

Executive Director & President's Message



This past year was one of both remarkable progress and stark reminders of why our work matters.

Together we protected three new landscapes that will remain wild and cared for forever. Each new nature reserve represents habitat safeguarded, ecosystems strengthened, and a promise kept to future generations. These achievements were made possible by the landowners, donors, volunteers, and partners whose commitment makes conservation possible.

At the same time, this was the year the climate crisis unmistakably arrived at our doorstep.

An ice storm, flooding, extreme heat, prolonged drought, and persistent wildfire smoke altered the rhythm of our work in ways we had never experienced before. Poor air quality and hazardous conditions affected nearly one-third of our staff's planned field days. And for the first time, a wildfire came within 250 metres of one of our nature reserves – a sobering moment.

These experiences underscore something we have long known: protecting land is not only about preserving biodiversity and beauty; it is also about resilience. Healthy ecosystems store carbon, protect water quality, mitigate flooding, support wildlife, and create the ecological stability our community will depend on in an uncertain climate future.

In a year when the challenges felt especially immediate, the importance of our mission became clearer than ever.

Every landscape protected strengthens the network of natural spaces that sustain life, buffer climate impacts, and offer people a place to reconnect with the natural world. Every conservation success is an act of hope.

This year also marks a moment of transition for the organization as we search for a new Executive Director. For Dorthea, it has been a profound privilege to serve the Conservancy in a variety of roles over the past 15 years, including the past three as Executive Director. With a talented and dedicated team of staff, Board members, donors, and volunteers, the Conservancy is well positioned to continue its important work for decades to come.

As we look ahead, we do so with both urgency and optimism. The challenges facing our region are real and growing, but so too is the community of people committed to protecting it.

Thank you for being part of this work.

Dorthea Hangaard
Executive Director

Jane Bonsteel
President

Staff:

Aiesha Aggarwal
Courtney Baker
Tanya Clark
Meghan Duell
Megan Greenwood
Dorthea Hangaard
Alysha Henry
Toby Rowland
Jocelyn Trudell
Meg Whitton

Contractors & Interns:

Mark Bisset
Meagan Coughlin
Lily Edmunds
Terry-Lynn Hazlett
Izzy McEwen
Ethan Pressey

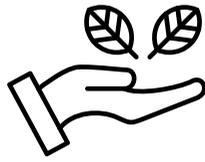
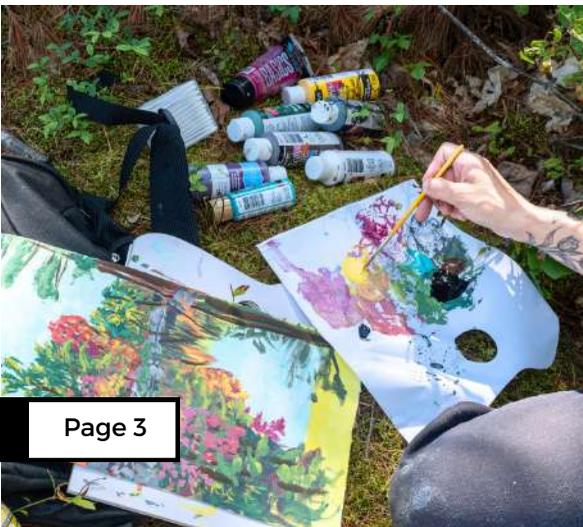
Board of Directors:

Jane Bonsteel
Susan Crowe
Kathy Hunt
Morris Ilyniak
Dale Leadbeater
Janet Machan
Lisa Neville
Bob Sullivan
Tom Wilson

Councils & Committees:

Advisory
Development
Indigenous Reconciliation
Investment Committee
Passport to Nature
Past Presidents
Personnel Committee
Policy Committee

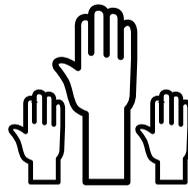
Impact & Stats



59 PROTECTED PLACES
15,224-acres protected thanks to supporters & volunteers.



54 LEGACY GIFTS
The Heartwood Fund surpassed \$4.2 million in pledges & contributions.



5,241 HOURS
Contributed by 307 volunteers to various projects & programs.



60 SPECIES AT RISK
In our region that we monitor and track with staff and volunteers.



COMMUNITY SCIENCE
16 programs and special projects on 43 reserves and easements with 279 volunteers.



449 SPECIES SUBMISSIONS
To the Natural Heritage Information Center to advance understanding of biodiversity, natural heritage and species conservation in Ontario.



638.7-ACRES
Added to Target 1 to protect 25% of Canada's lands & waters by 2025, a goal of the federal government. In total, the Conservancy has added 3,893.57-acres (1575.67-hectares).

Pictured pg 3: Passport to Nature (P2N) Bats event (T. Knight), Maeve and Sandra do water quality monitoring at Grant's Woods Nature Reserve, and the P2N Painting in the Wildlands (A. Mohamed). Pictured pg 4: P2N Music in the Grove, two moose at Grant's Woods Nature Reserve, Green Frog at an easement, Bobolink on the Carden Alvar, P2N Earth Day event with Jocelyn, Suzanne, Esme & Norm, Ethan and Lily our summer stewardship technicians, Kelly soaks in the rain during the Carden Challenge, Meg Greenwood used a chainsaw A LOT this year, and alvar landscape at the next property we are working to protect.



Corridors of Protected Wilderness



Charities like The Couchiching Conservancy must raise every dollar we spend, so we have a responsibility to spend wisely. Spending smart means having clear plans that guide decision-making and ensure each project contributes to something bigger. At the Conservancy, that bigger picture is set out in our Natural Heritage Strategy.

This strategy identifies five critical conservation corridors in our region - Minesing to Matchedash, Bass Lake West, Matchedash Wildlands, Black River Wildlands, and Carden Alvar - that must be protected to sustain biodiversity, and clean air and water: Earth's original life-support systems.

Connectivity is at the heart of this work. These corridors link forests, wetlands, and grasslands into continuous natural systems that allow plants and animals to move across the landscape. Wildlife depends on this movement to find food, mates, and shelter, to migrate seasonally, and to adapt to pressures such as habitat loss and climate change. Without connectivity, protected lands become ecological islands, isolating species, limiting healthy population sizes, and reducing genetic diversity.

The good news is that conservation corridors work. We know this not only from the science, but from decades of on-the-ground success in the Carden Alvar corridor.

When conservation efforts began in the Carden Alvar, the goal was ambitious - to protect 12,000 acres, and together with partners, we achieved it. By working alongside the community, The Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Parks, Wildlife Preservation Canada and more, nearly 15,000-acres of this globally imperilled landscape are now been protected in an almost 20km long corridor.

The work is far from over. Dedicated landowner outreach staff continue to attend local events, build meaningful relationships with community members, help landowners make positive stewardship decisions and inspire the next generation of conservation heroes. In many ways after more than twenty years, our work has just begun!

Threats & Pressure

Geopolitical and economic forces are driving unprecedented development pressure across our region. We are experiencing a sharp increase in proposals that threaten nature reserves, conservation easements, and priority natural areas, including quarry applications, large-scale solar developments, gas pipelines, road expansions, and urban boundary growth. These pressures put irreplaceable ecosystems, and the ecosystem services they provide, at risk. Our staff and partner organizations are working diligently to protect these lands and secure the best possible outcomes for nature.

With the support of our community, we have achieved important successes, including helping protect the Carden Alvar from the proposed Innergex solar development. Once lost, natural areas cannot be replaced, making protection today essential for future generations. Green solutions can't come at the cost of biodiversity.



Eldridge Nature Reserve

 Black River Wildlands

 200-acres / 81-hectares

 Jan 30, 2025

Our newest addition to the Black River Wildlands corridor. The property has been in the Eldridge family since it was granted to them by the Crown and settled in 1902. It has one of the highest instances of Species at Risk on any nature reserve protected by the Conservancy and features Canadian Shield, rock barren, wetland and mixed hardwood and softwood forests. The loop trail on this property is under a kilometre long, making this rugged landscape accessible to novice hikers. We encourage you to visit once the property is open - but remember to take tick precautions!

Blackwell Brady Clark Nature Reserve

 Matchedash Corridor

 74-acres / 30-hectares

 Oct 1, 2025

This is a critical link from north to south and east to west for migrating wildlife and Species at Risk in the Washago area. Its location in the Matchedash Corridor hugging the Trent-Severn Waterway enhances protection for the species on the T.C. Agnew and Fawcett Nature Reserves and will provide long-term safe access to the waterway for species on both shores and those travelling under the significant barrier that is Highway 11. The Blackwell Brady Clark Nature Reserve is a sterling example of conservation strategy and corridor planning in action! This property is featured on the cover of our Annual Report.

Pictured: Moose and staff at Eldridge Nature Reserve.

Alvar Road Allowance

 Carden Alvar

 15-acres / 6-hectares

 Dec 18, 2025

This strategic acquisition connects our Deverell-Morton and Wolf Run Alvar Nature Reserves to the Nature Conservancy of Canada's North Bear Alvar Nature Reserve. The addition is small in acres but big in supporting the integrity of this natural area, and the free movement of wildlife. By preventing this road allowance from being paved or developed, we have ensured our conservation efforts and investments with our partner into the future. We are thankful to the City of Kawartha Lakes for their support for this endeavour.

“Each new reserve tells a story. This one is about families who cared for the land and wanted to give something lasting to their community and to nature. Thanks to their vision, and to our partners, this reserve will protect critical habitats and connect vital corridors for generations to come.”

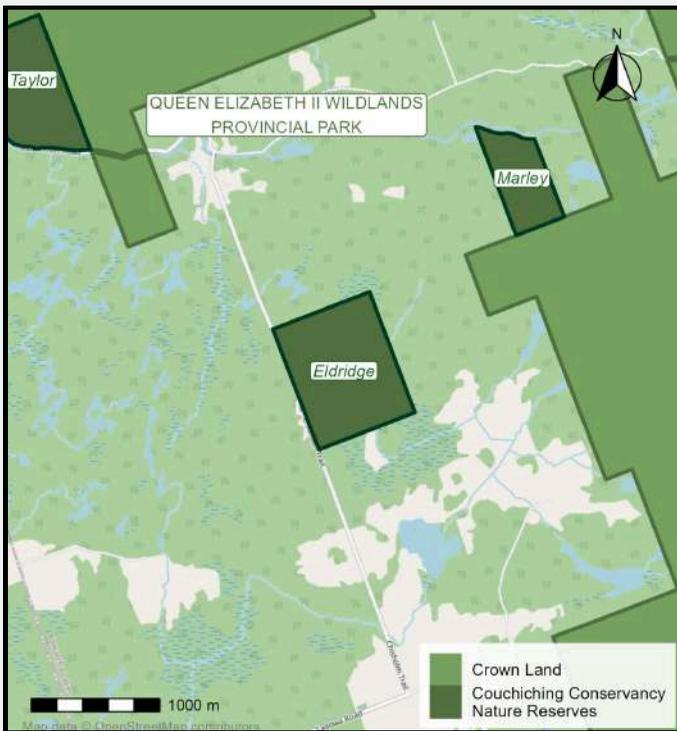
- Dorthea Hangaard, Executive Director, regarding the protection of the Blackwell Brady Clark Nature Reserve

Caring for the Land



 Eldridge Nature Reserve

 200-acres / 81-hectares



Quick Facts:

- Perfect location to enhance corridor protection for species along the Black River;
- Over 26 Species at Risk;
- Mixed forest of Balsam Fir, Red Oak and White Birch;
- Broader landscape connection to Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park and other reserves.

Pictured: Twelve-spotted Skimmer, staff and volunteers did a BioBlitz at Eldridge Nature Reserve.

We now manage 52 properties. Each year we feature one nature reserve, and showcase the details of stewardship, community science with volunteers and other events that take place at that property.

Caring for Eldridge Nature Reserve —

We officially launched stewardship activities at Eldridge Nature Reserve this year - and hit the ground running. In its first year season, hands-on fieldwork and community involvement helped shape a property management plan, set the stage for future stewardship, and deepened our understanding of the reserve's habitats and species. We welcomed the founders of the MapleCross Fund for a guided tour, sharing the natural beauty and conservation value of this new protected area that they helped us secure.

Our BioBlitz volunteers made a huge contribution, logging 382 observations of 250 species on iNaturalist, including six Species at Risk and five invasive species that will be priorities for future management. We also collected our first fish species data and removed old structures and garbage - early steps that protect this nature reserve for future generations. Additional plans include fencing and signage, which were delayed this year due to the ice storm. Once completed, a portion of the reserve will be open to the public to visit. Fencing will be an important part of protection, to ensure no ATV trespass. Frog monitoring with volunteers and acoustic monitoring devices is already underway, giving us further insights into this special landscape.

LEARN MORE: We focus on managing & removing eight different invasive species from our reserves, to reduce their spread & impact on species & landscape.



Scan the QR code for more info or visit our website.

Stewardship in Action

Protection is just the beginning. Once a property is secured, our long-term stewardship work begins - ensuring the land remains healthy, resilient, and protected forever.

Each property is guided by a Property Management Plan, a living document that helps us understand the landscape, its ecological values, and the care it will need over time. This plan shapes everything, including:

- Increasing our understanding of the land through ecological assessments and ongoing observation;
- Managing invasive species to support native plants and wildlife;
- Establishing Community Science monitoring projects, including recruiting and training volunteers
- Regular reporting on monitoring results to assess change and guide future care;
- Trail clean-up, maintenance, and mapping;
- Addressing challenges such as ATV trespass, dumping, or vandalism.

Ongoing stewardship is at the heart of what we do. Just as these landscapes care for us – by providing clean air, fresh water, habitat, and other essential ecosystem services – we return that care, year after year, with intention and gratitude.

Examples of issues from this year:

- Dumping of materials at Ron Reid Nature Reserve
- Broken door, toilet and vandalism on the compost toilet at Grant's Woods Nature Reserve
- Signage stolen
- ATV trespass at Deverell-Morton Nature Reserve

Pictured: Marley NR, Pam & Gavy do monarch monitoring at Scout Valley, members of Rotary of Orillia helped with clean up at Church Woods NR, Ontario Parks staff team up to clear the trail at Sedge Wren Marsh.



COMMUNITY SCIENCE

16 programs and special projects on 43 reserves and easements with 279 volunteers



15,982

OBSERVATIONS
on iNaturalist of 2,628
species from 636
observers on all of our
protected areas.



Climate Change & Conservation

If you feel like extreme weather is becoming more frequent and intense, you're right. Climate change is no longer a distant threat - it is accelerating here and now, shaping daily life in our region. We are experiencing more frequent flooding and drought, prolonged heat waves, degraded air quality from distant wildfires, and fires closer to home, including one very near a nature reserve and easement. Winters are harsher and less predictable, underscored this year by a devastating ice storm whose impacts will be felt for years. In response, we are adapting our work by developing emergency and climate vulnerability mapping, integrating climate projections into strategic planning, expanding on-the-ground stewardship, and creating opportunities for our community to better understand how climate change is affecting their lives - and how we can respond together. While land care usually follows a familiar rhythm - managing invasive species, addressing dumping or trespassing, and removing hazardous trees - the ice storm dramatically altered that routine. At the end of March 2025, a heavy layer of ice brought down trees and cut power for days, and in some cases weeks. We closed all nature reserves to assess damage and begin cleanup. It was a labour-intensive, costly, and time-consuming endeavour. At Grant's Woods Nature Reserve alone, we chainsawed and removed 160 fallen limbs and trees, and hosted multiple volunteer cleanup events. We are deeply grateful to the volunteers who contributed their time and energy to help re-open our trails and welcome visitors back. Even amid these challenges, there were small silver linings: extreme heat and drought limited the spread of invasive dog-strangling plant on the Carden Alvar, and at Cameron Ranch, plant counts were reduced by nearly two-thirds compared to last year - an encouraging reminder that attentive stewardship still makes a difference.

33%

of field days between May and September were impacted by extreme weather - including poor air quality, extreme heat, wildfire, and severe storms - resulting in cancellations, postponements, shortened days, or changes to activities.





Youth Led Conservation

The Angela Rehorn Commemorative Project gave youth hands-on opportunities to engage with local conservation and connect with The Couchiching Conservancy's mission to protect natural habitats. One group explored a wildlife crossing hotspot, observing a wild turtle up close and witnessing the dangers roads pose - an unforgettable experience for students visiting from Nunavut, many seeing a wild turtle for the first time. Another group learned about habitat connectivity at a library workshop, designing miniature ecopassage models for Ontario species.

These are just a few of the ways The Couchiching Conservancy is bringing youth into the heart of its work. By providing hands-on, meaningful experiences, the Conservancy inspires young people to connect with nature, appreciate local conservation, and play an active role in protecting wildlife and their habitats.

Our First Eco-Passage

Between June and November 2025, eco-passage construction was a major focus of staff and volunteer effort. Of the 665 working hours available during this period, 460 hours - nearly 70% of project lead Alysha Henry's time - were dedicated to on-site excavation and installation. Volunteers contributed an additional 176 hours. Together, this work moved approximately 3,000 cubic feet of soil, equivalent to more than 11 dump truck loads or roughly 560 wheelbarrows, highlighting the scale of hands-on effort required to improve wildlife connectivity. Our thanks to the Miller Group for their assistance with making the eco-passage a reality.

"I volunteered at the Eco-Passage last summer, as I liked the idea of protecting turtles, frogs, and snakes close to my neighbourhood. Also, the work suited someone with my minimal knowledge of the natural world. I did learn a lot from Alysha Henry, who would point out things to me. It was also very rewarding to see turtles hatch on the roadside, and to see a snake rescued." - David Funnell



3,000
cubic feet of soil moved to build the Eco-Passage. That's more than 11 dump truck loads!



Pictured: Cody and David help put in posts for wildlife exclusion fencing, Midland Painted Turtle, Lily and Alysha inside the box culvert preparing to install a walkway along the sides for wildlife to use rather than the road above.

Properties & Priorities Map

15,224-acres protected since 1993
(6,160-hectares)

59 nature reserves & easements

23.5km of trails & footpaths open to the public

Protected by The Couchiching Conservancy

-  Open to the public with trails
-  Open to the public without trails
-  Not open to the public

Protected in partnership with:

Private Landowners through Conservation Easements

-  Open to the public with trails
-  Not open to the public

Ontario Parks

-  Open to the public with trails
-  Not open to the public

Nature Conservancy of Canada

-  Open to the public with trails
-  Open to the public without trails
-  Not open to the public

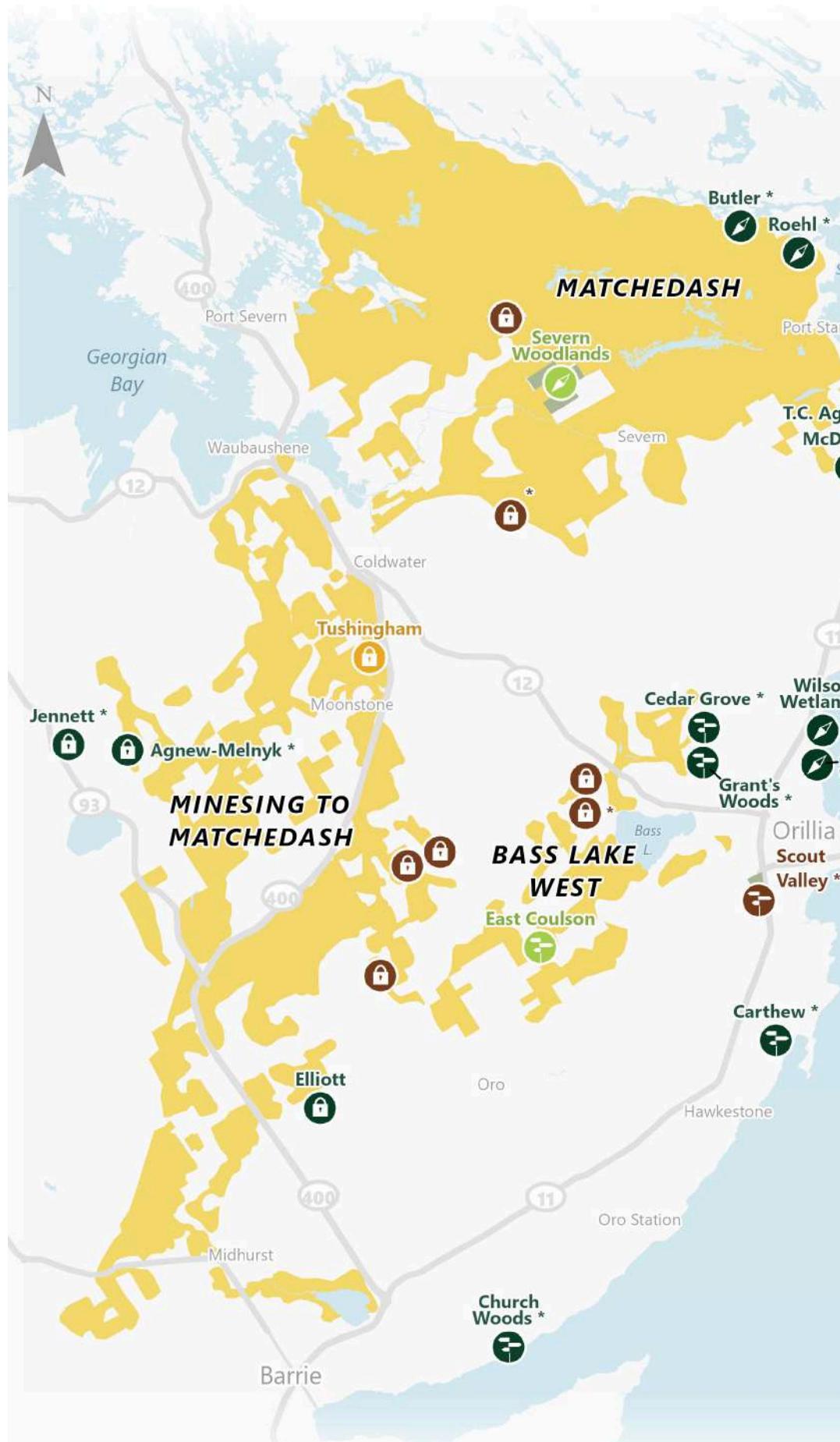
Ontario Heritage Trust

-  Not open to the public

Areas of interest for conservation:

-  Priority Area

“*” indicates nature reserves with CC Community Science and/or stewardship teams in 2025



Created by The Couchiching Conservancy, January 2026. Projected coordinate system NAD 1983 CSRS UTM 17W. Ron Reid and The Couchiching Conservancy and digitized by Kawartha Conservation (2020). Nature Reserve symbols are from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Contact for details.



PROTECTING LAND FOR LIFE:

- We identified the highest priority habitat in our region - 240,000-acres, or 40% of our region.
- To date, with partners, 8% has been protected (46,354-acres).
- The remaining 32% is shown in yellow.
- We prioritize connected corridors so wildlife can move freely. There are five conservation corridors.

The land that The Couchiching Conservancy operates on and the land we protect is the territory of the Anishinaabeg people.

Map data: OpenStreetMap contributors, Imagery: Mapbox, Contains information licensed under the Open Government Licence – Ontario; Priority areas and conservation corridors conceptualized by The Couchiching Conservancy; Symbols designed by Finn Canadensis, HonkHonk Graphic Arts, This is an artistic rendering and is not meant for navigation or legal purposes.

In the Community



PASSPORT TO NATURE

13 events & activities were made possible by 20+ volunteers who contributed 345+ hours of time. Sponsors contributed \$20,000+ to keep events free or low cost.



CARDEN CHALLENGE

61 participants raised over \$21,000 and counted 177 species in 24 hours.

Events & Activities

We connect with our community in many ways, meeting people where they are and inviting them into conservation in ways that feel welcoming, relevant, and fun. From our monthly columns in Orillia Matters to website Field Notes favourites like Eco-Passage, reptile and bat monitoring, we share stories that bring conservation to life. Through viral social media content, Passport to Nature events, volunteer Ambassador outreach, the Carden Challenge, and more, we continue to grow awareness of local land protection. We're also excited our Wild Routes documentary is now being used by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority in their school programming, extending the reach of this storytelling tool beyond our region.

Passport to Nature remains one of our most impactful ways to engage people. This year, we offered 13 events and activities thanks to generous volunteers and sponsors including Jackie Ramler of Raymond James, Conair, Parklane Landscapes, Crank & Sprocket Bicycle Co, Home Hardware Orillia, and Sojourn Outdoors. Our first-ever Birds, Beer & Bingo was a standout success - a joyful mix of beginner birding with Couchiching staff

member Meg Whitton, laughter, prizes and local beer.

The 21st annual Carden Challenge was a soggy one, with rain adding an extra layer of difficulty to an already ambitious day of biodiversity discovery. We are grateful to everyone who participated and supported teams this year, and we especially felt the absence of Ron Reid, one of our founders, who passed away last year.

Out in the community, we were able to hire Community Engagement Summer Staff member Izzy McEwen, who focused on farmers' markets, local events, and connecting with trail users at Grant's Woods and Alexander Hope Smith Nature Reserves. Building awareness of our work - and the role land trusts play - remains essential. The best thing you can do? Tell a friend about land trusts.

Want us to keep you up to date on conservation impact, upcoming events and more? Scan this QR code.

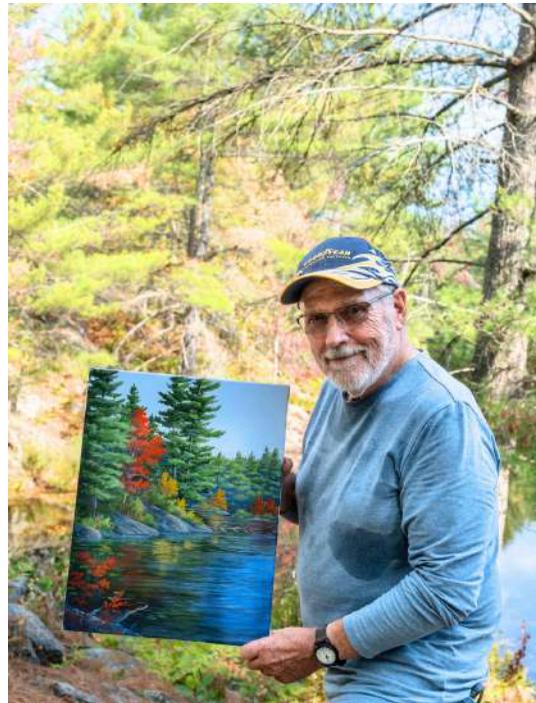


Pictured: Thumbs up and smiles all around. Birds, Beer & Bingo. Rose gives a thumbs up even in the rain. Soaking in everything during the P2N Forest Therapy event at an easement. Izzy at a farmer's market. Doug is one of our long-standing event leaders. Jane helps as Ambassador. Kelly soaks in the rain. Paddling the Black River.



“I signed up for the Passport to Nature Forest Therapy event, and was delighted and so relaxed! Beth Foster was a wonderful guide, and the Conservancy team was so welcoming and inclusive. I've since become a regular office volunteer, joined the Passport to Nature planning committee, and hiked many of the Conservancy's trails.”

- Elizabeth Ireland, volunteer and member



AMBASSADORS & GRANT'S GREETERS

15 volunteers contributed 144+ hours at Grant's Woods Nature Reserve or at events, and talked to almost 1,620+ people.



Volunteers



Together, we are accomplishing more for nature than ever before. Volunteers help steward our nature reserves, assemble mailings, monitor Species at Risk, support events, tackle trail maintenance, and so much more. The impact of their time and dedication reaches across every part of our work. We are truly grateful to each of the individuals listed here who generously share their energy and commitment to conservation.

Joy Ackert
Jeremy Adkins
Sandy Agnew & Lynne Melnyk
Jennifer Arnott
Carole Audet
Courtney Baker
Stevie Baker & family
Gordon & Jane Ball
Aileen Barclay
Mychal Barnettson
Rita Bauer
Carolyn Beaumont
Sharon Beebe
Jessica Benavides
Sue Benjafield
Eric Bennett
Joan Berndt
Ted Bigelow
Mark & Sandi Bisset
Jake Bissonnette
Stewart Blackwell
Jane Bonsteel
Jack Booth
Jane Brasher
Jack, Bronwyn & Rebecca
Bray
Holly Brown
Michael Brown & Nancy
Crepe
Leslie Bruce
Leah Burgan
Kathy Callahan
Perry Camisso
Joanne Campbell
Philip Careless
Darian Carpenter
Anita Caven & Matthew
Wilson
John Challis & Gayle Carlyle
Joe Chen

Nancy Chong
Douglas Christie
Natalia Chumak
Tanya Clark
Christine Coates
John & Kathy Connor
Amy Cooper
Doug Cooper
Micaela Cooper
Lorelei Cornish
Meagan Coughlin
Trudy Coughlin
David Cowl
Susan Crowe
Katherine Culbert
Cameron Curran
Tricia Currie & Larry Hrivnak
Evan Dahlke
Peter Dale
Sue Deadman
Diana Deakin-Thomas
Brolin Devine
Julian Diener
Elaine Donnelly
Brenda & Dave Dorward
Kelly Douglas
Michael Drescher
Leslie Dubeau
Meghan Duell
Pat Duncan
Sandra Dunn
Lily Edmunds
Meghan Edwards
Judith Eger & James
Knowles
Lynnette Eisen
Cody Elsey
Olivia Escobar
Heather Ewing
Robbin Fendley

Morah Fenning
Kristyn Ferguson
Marg Ferraro
Mike Francis
Simon Francis, Melissa
Bulgutch & Reid
Evelyn Frantzke & Robert
Williamson
Jonathan French
Pamela Fulford
David Funnell
Mary Sue Gamroth & Ed
Konda
Mary Gartshore
Heather Gauldie
Kelly Gibson & Alexander
Grout
Mandy Gibson
Raj Gill
Lisa Gillette & Gary Peters
Donna Godfrey
Kailey, Kelvin, Sarah & Thea
Graham
Janet Grand
Ann & Neil Gray
Megan Greenwood
Rory Greenwood
Gabrielle Guedes
Brandon Guoth & Nicole
Rulff
Haven Hache
Deb Halbot
Philip Hamilton
Ron & Sharon Hancock
Victoria Hand
Celia Harte
Hannah Hatton
David & Julie Hawke
Emily Hawton
Elisabeth Hearn

Amanda Henderson
Ruth Henderson
Andrew Henry
Jason Henry
Sarah Hodgkiss
Glen Hodgson
Doug Holmes
Paul & Valerie Holt
David A. & Bonnie Homer
Mitchell Horn
W. Joseph Horne
Janet Houston
Kyra Howes
Linda Huisman
Kathy Hunt
Katrina Hunt
Edina Illyes
Morris Ilyniak
Beth Ireland
Matt Ireland
Jean Iron
Mourad Jabra
Patrick Jackson
Jeramie Jenkins & family
Justin Johnson
Dr. Richard Johnson
Bill Jones
Nancy Jones
Jeff Jones
Thomas Kaethler
Alyson Karson
Andrew Keaveney
Leland Kelly
Karen Kennedy
Greta Kieft
Ronald & Ronna Kluger
Tyler L Knight
Karen Koornneef
Avery Konda
Glenn Kozak

Julianne Kryla
 Karena Kyne
 Maryanne Labrash
 Jamie Laidlaw
 Pete Lamprey
 Ellen Larsen
 Dale Leadbeater
 Si & Wendy Lowry
 Janet Machan
 Ada Malmstrom
 Jane & Jeff Marshall
 Sophie & Stan Mathewson
 Joanne Matte
 Carole May
 John Mayo
 Brittany McCaughey
 Lucas McLennan
 Derek McTavish
 Mary Mick
 Mark Miller
 Amina Mohamed
 Ginny Moore
 Shirley Moorman
 Leo Moriarty
 Jordyn Morin
 Markelle Morphet
 Arthur Morrison
 Melissa Morrison
 Chase Moser & family
 Barb Murkar
 Brian Murrant
 Lisa & Jim Neville
 Catherine Nixon
 Mike Norton
 Carley O`Hara
 Jodi Oscroft
 Rosamund Owen
 Matthew Palarchio
 Rob Palin
 Pam Paylor
 Maeve Pearce
 Clifford Perry
 Joni Pethick

Becky Plant & Toby Rowland
 Margaret Pomeroy
 Jamie & Valerie Powell
 Joy Poyntz
 Bryn & Leslie Pressnail
 Nadiya Richardson
 Suzanne Robillard
 Paul Robinson
 Nathalie Rockhill
 Jamie & Ann Ross
 Kyle Rostalski
 Rotary Club of Orillia
 Aaron Rusak
 Lynn Russell
 Zahra Sakr
 Kevin Shackleton
 Sleiman Shakkour
 Victoria Shelep
 Bill & Vicki Sherwood
 Carol Sinclair
 Lynn & Norman Sinclair
 Laura Slaf
 Jane Sloley
 Alan Smale
 Jane Smith
 Judy Smith
 Judy Smith*
 Alexander Soucy
 Laurie Stafford
 Jordan Stanford
 Laurie Stanford
 Robert Stavinga
 Merrill Stephen
 Mark Stevenson
 Christopher Stewart
 Debra Stewart
 James K Stewart
 Noella Storry
 Grant Stott
 Tim Stott
 Bob Sullivan
 Gavy Swan-Mansfield



We are thrilled to celebrate Sandra Dunn for her passion and dedication. Always ready to lend a hand, she contributed over 30 hours to the Eco-Passage project and supported many other volunteer roles such as wildlife on roads, reptile monitoring, acoustic devices (pictured here), and office jobs. Her enthusiasm and generosity truly inspire everyone around her.

Dave Taylor
 Sandy Taylor
 Dagmar Teubner
 Bev Theakston
 Isabelle Thiess
 Adam Thomson
 Ken Thomson
 Jade Tibbett
 Sheena Tolland
 Joel Trudell
 Allan & Melanie Tuck
 Michael & Sharon Turlej
 Josiah Vandenberg
 Charon & Doug Varty
 Olivia Vaughan
 Ellen Venus
 Joan Vincent & Roland Rehorn
 Claire Walker
 Cameron Wand
 Kimberly Wand
 Cory Wannamaker
 Audrey Warren

John Watson
 Suzanne Wesetvik
 Meg Whitton
 Ed Wilmot
 Bruce & Jean Wilson
 Tom Wilson
 Mindy Wiltshire-Gibson
 Jessica Winchester
 John Wright
 Patti Young
 Paul Zhao

**yes, we have two volunteers named Judy Smith!*

Pictured pages 15 16: Blue-winged Warbler at Turnbull Ranch NR. Orillia Beavers clean up Grant's Wetland NR (K. Campbell). Doug Varty helps at an Ambassador booth. Pam Paylor, Leah Burgan and Beth Ireland volunteer in the office with data entry, mailings and more.



Supporters



Our sincere thanks to the supporters who make this work possible. Your generosity powers the stewardship of our nature reserves, protects vital wildlife habitat, preserves biodiversity, and keeps nature accessible to our community. Together, we are mitigating the impacts of climate change, safeguarding clean air and water, and advancing conservation across our region - and beyond.

Heartwood Fund, our legacy giving program:

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 Courtney Baker
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 Jane Bonsteel
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 Mary Walton-Ball

Plus ten anonymous gifts.

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

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"I came to the Conservancy inspired to help protect nature, and was wowed by the incredible impact land trusts have on the ground. Learning about the Heartwood Fund, which sustains this work long term, inspired me to become its youngest pledger and show you don't need wealth to make a difference. With guidance from Tanya Clark and Gord Ball, I'll leave \$100,000 through life insurance— directly supporting conservation during the thick of climate crisis."

- Courtney Baker is a staff member, Heartwood Fund supporter, member & monthly supporter, and is pictured with her family.

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“My mom used to take me from the city to my great-grandparents’ northern cabin for the summer. It was a place of magical connection to the things that exist along wild shorelines and in forests deep. Exploring it freely sparked curiosity and joy. My family sold that beautiful property. Oh, how I wish that they had known to donate that property to a land trust, so it would always be a place where children could experience the gifts of the land the same as I did. There’s an internet acronym, IYKYK, meaning ‘if you know you know’. It’s something I’ve felt out on Conservancy properties. I get to experience the natural world like I did as a child, and I know that these lands are protected forever. As a part of Conservancy, I feel the amazing IYKYK feeling that comes from being a part of the work that has helped a property remain a treasure for generations to come.”

- Janet Machan is a volunteer in many ways, member & monthly supporter



Pictured on pages 17-18: Northern Pearly-eye. Tanya Clark (staff) & Denis Paccagnella (President, Orillia Naturalists’ Club), Board & supporters at Lake Dalrymple. Teamwork makes the dream work, and even better when it’s family - here’s Jocelyn Trudell’s dad, who built a sign for Grant’s Woods Nature Reserve.

Barbara Crowther
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Pictured: Upland Sandpiper in Carden. The unveiling of the Agnew-Melnyk Nature Reserve.



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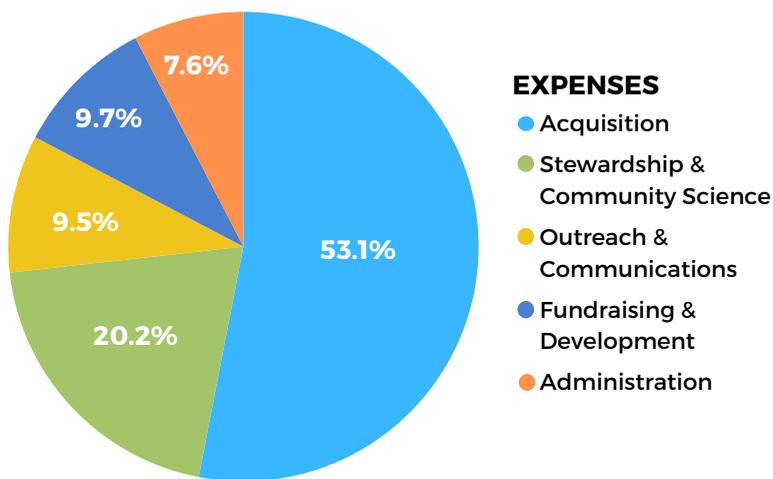
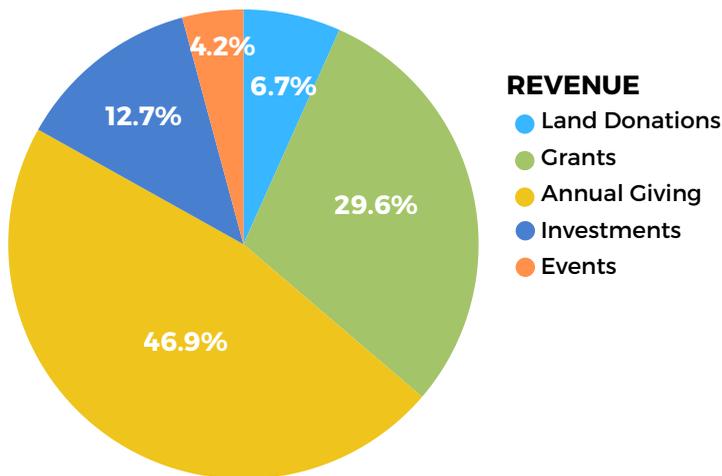
Pictured on pages 19-20: unveiling the Agnew Melnyk Nature Reserve. Upload Sandpiper in Carden. Staff at the Blackwell Brady Clark Nature Reserve. Jane completes water monitoring at Scout Valley, an easement with City of Orillia.



Financial Report

Our 2025 financial statements indicate significant year-over-year growth in donations and grants, and another year of strong returns on our investments. This allowed for two property acquisitions, along with increases to the Heartwood Fund (\$200,077) and Stewardship Endowment Fund (\$100,410). Well-controlled operational expenses came in under budget, and benefited from investment income from the President's Reserve.

Please see the Audited Financial Statements by Hehn Trickey Professional Corporation for the year ending October 31, 2025 on our website."



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	2025	2024
Current		
Cash and bank	\$163,772	\$368,333
Short-term investments	1,569,979	1,293,168
Accounts receivable	22,469	20,231
Government grants receivable	2,744	1,556
Accrued interest receivable	8,183	6,916
Prepaid expenses	60,811	9,975
	1,827,958	1,700,179
Long-term investments	-	190,977
Endowment assets	1,369,835	1,084,557
Capital assets (property)	7,501,435	6,930,828
	10,699,228	9,906,541

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current	2025	2024
Accounts payable	\$53,233	\$42,943
Deferred contributions	307,857	393,183
	361,090	436,126
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$80,414	\$82,514
Invested in capital assets	7,501,435	6,930,828
Internally restricted - acquisition	400,001	400,001
Internally restricted - President's	320,001	300,001
Externally restricted - Corridors	31,661	189,372
Externally restricted - Priority One	150,000	-
Internally restricted - other	1,329,911	1,143,394
Externally restricted - other	524,715	424,305
	10,338,138	9,470,415
	10,699,228	9,906,541

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	2025	2024
Revenue		
Land Donations	\$134,000	\$685,000
Grants	587,261	439,027
Annual Giving	930,541	485,980
Investments	252,379	359,657
Events	82,824	76,970
Other	-	-
Total Revenue	\$1,987,005	\$2,046,634
Expenses		
Acquisitions	\$900,967	\$910,959
Stewardship & Community Science	342,950	330,818
Outreach & Communications	161,092	139,298
Fundraising & Development	128,908	111,725
Administration	164,364	119,900
Total Expenses	\$1,698,283	\$1,612,700

What's Ahead?



NEW PROTECTED PLACES

Protecting the Lake Dalrymple Alvar and other landscapes



WILD ROUTES & ECO PASSAGE

Completion of our first Eco-passage to reduce road mortality & complete Wild Routes Part 2.



EVOLVE & GROW

Welcome our new Executive Director & grow our staff.



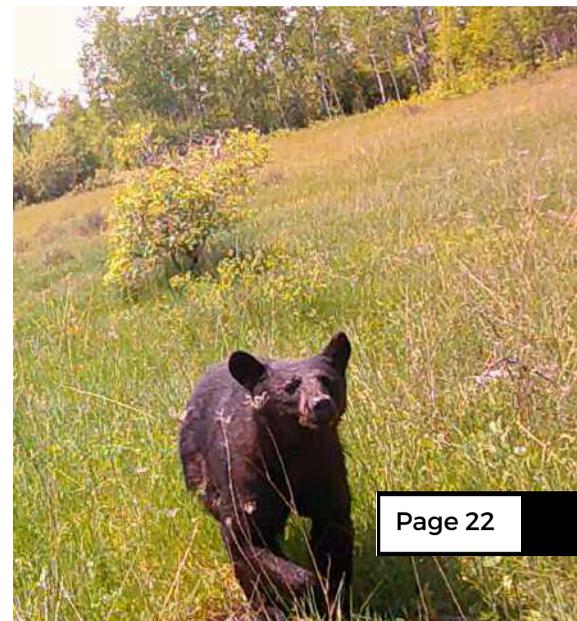
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Including emergency management mapping & stewardship implications.



GROW OUR COMMUNITY & CONNECTIVITY

Community & landowner engagement, mapping, working in partnership, new protection strategies





Contact Us

Mailing: Box 704, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7

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

Phone: 705-326-1620

Website: couchichingconserv.ca

Charitable registration number: 13972 5030 RR0001

    @couchichingconservancy

Photography by staff, contactors, supporters and volunteers.

Front cover: Blackwell Brady Clark Nature Reserve near Washago. Back cover: Marsh Wren at Sedge Wren Marsh on the Carden Alvar.