



Kawartha Conservation turns 30

(Lindsay, October 22, 2009) Over 125 people from across the region celebrated Kawartha Conservation's 30th anniversary yesterday with an event at the Lindsay Golf and Country Club. In a room filled with balloons, flowers and photos from the past, guests heard from Ontario Minister of Natural Resources Donna Cansfield, MPP Rick Johnson, Kawartha Conservation's founding Chairperson David Murray, Pollution Probe's Quentin Chiotti and local municipal leaders.

Minister Cansfield, in her keynote address, highlighted the ways in which Kawartha Conservation has been working with the community over the past 3 decades to protect and improve the environment.

"Kawartha Conservation has evolved and changed with the local environment and the needs of communities within the region," said Minister Cansfield. "I am impressed by the innovative and creative ways that they have reached out to the public."

Kawartha Conservation was well known in the 1980s for its information and education program, which included a mobile puppet theatre focused on the role of wetlands. Aimed at children and adults, the program attracted thousands of people each year.

During that time, Kawartha Conservation also undertook studies to assess natural features within the watershed and develop strategies for protecting these features and people from natural hazards. The authority began providing input to the municipal land use planning process, flood forecasting and warning, and tree planting and erosion control services. They also began acquiring lands that contained sensitive natural features.

Kawartha Conservation acquired Ken Reid Conservation Area in 1981 and began managing Fleetwood Creek Natural Area in 1989 on behalf of Ontario Heritage Trust. They later opened Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area in 1991, Windy Ridge Conservation Area in 2004, and Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area in 2009. Each of these areas is open to the community for low impact, recreational activities and nature appreciation.

Today, Kawartha Conservation continues much of the same work, but has taken on a more active role in watershed and lake management planning, such as the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan and various plans involving the Oak Ridges Moraine. Other key initiatives include low water monitoring and response, drinking water source protection, shoreline stewardship and environmental monitoring.

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"I'm very proud to be part of an organization that has, over the years, contributed significantly to the health of our communities," said Jim McMillen, Chair of Kawartha Conservation. "As we move forward, we will continue to focus on protecting the abundant supplies of good, clean water in our lakes, rivers and wells, and the significant natural features that are vital to the health of our environment and residents."



(l to r) MPP Rick Johnson, Minister Donna Cansfield, Kawartha Conservation Vice Chair Donna Villemaire and Kawartha Conservation Chair Jim McMillen, with over 120 guests, celebrate Kawartha Conservation's 30th Anniversary in Lindsay on Oct. 21.