

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**KAWARTHA  
CONSERVATION**

Discover • Protect • Restore



**LEADERS IN INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**

# Our Corporate Values

## Our VISION

Engaged communities that love, respect and appreciate our natural environment.

## Our MISSION

To champion watershed health as the recognized leader in natural asset management.

## Our FOCUS

Outstanding water quality and quantity management, supported by healthy landscapes through planning, stewardship, science and education.

Our values guide our actions, as they shape the kind of organization that we are part of. In all of our decision-making, we will:

- *Act with Integrity*
- *Value Knowledge*
- *Promote Teamwork*
- *Achieve Performance Excellence*
- *Foster Innovation*

## 2023 Board Members

CHAIR – Robert Rock  
*Township of Scugog*

VICE CHAIR – Pat Warren  
*City of Kawartha Lakes*

Tracy Richardson  
*City of Kawartha Lakes*

Eric Smeaton  
*City of Kawartha Lakes*

Gerry Byrne  
*Township of Cavan Monaghan*

Peter Franzen  
*Municipality of Trent Lakes*

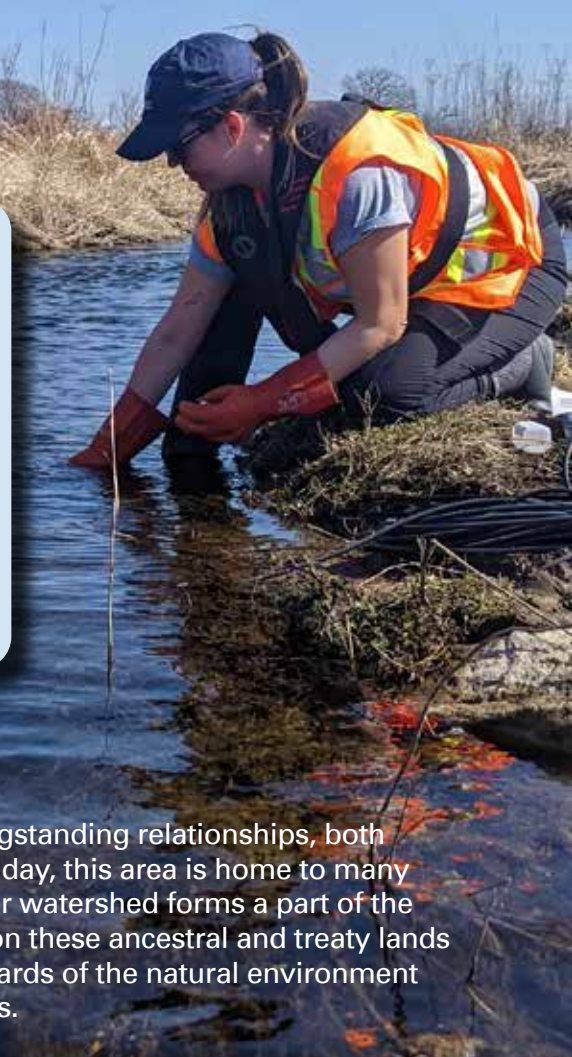
Harold Wright  
*Township of Scugog*

Cria Pettingill  
*Township of Brock*

Lloyd Rang  
*Municipality of Clarington*

### *First Nations Land Acknowledgement*

We would like to acknowledge that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which we are located. Today, this area is home to many indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We acknowledge that our watershed forms a part of the treaty and traditional territory of the south-eastern Anishinaabeg. It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we live and work. To honour this legacy, we commit to being stewards of the natural environment and undertake to have a relationship of respect with our Treaty partners.





# Message from the Chair and CAO

As we reflect on 2023, we are reminded of the transformative journey we have embarked upon. This past year has been a pivotal one, marked by transition, resilience, and forward-thinking collaboration.

The last year also saw us navigating the complexities of changes to the Conservation Authorities Act. These changes, while challenging, provided us with an opportunity to adapt, innovate, and strengthen our approaches to conservation and community engagement.

In 2023, we diligently focused on developing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with our member municipalities. These MOUs represent more than just agreements; they are a testament to our commitment to working hand in hand with local governments for the betterment of our watershed communities.

As we look forward to 2024, we are ready to embrace new opportunities. Leveraging our past achievements, we aim to further our

mission with increased focus and energy. Our Kawartha Conservation team, known for its commitment and expertise, will maintain close collaboration with our municipal partners. Our joint efforts will be directed towards enhancing the environmental wellbeing and prosperity of the Kawartha watershed, its communities, and local businesses.

As we embrace the challenges and opportunities of the future, we would like to recognize the unwavering support of our communities. Your belief in our mission fuels our efforts to create a sustainable and vibrant environment for all.

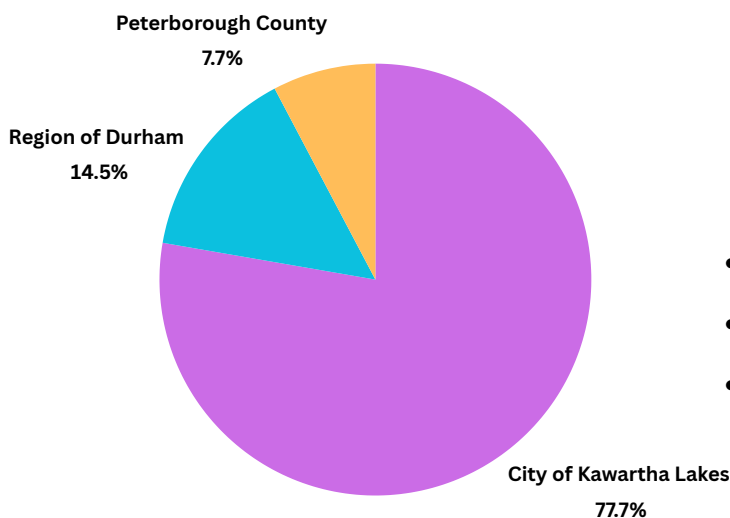
We look forward to advancing our vision and mission, which transcend the scope of immediate environmental concerns; it's about safeguarding a sustainable future. Through our work, we are establishing a lasting foundation for the environmental well-being of our community and its economic prosperity.

**Robert Rock** - Chair  
**Mark Majchrowski** - CAO



# Permitting and Planning

In 2023, Kawartha Conservation continued to play a pivotal role in environmental stewardship through its comprehensive planning and permitting functions. Our work is crucial in evaluating and protecting natural features within the Kawartha watershed. By assessing environmental impacts and ensuring compliance with regulatory guidelines, we ensure sustainable development and conservation practices. This approach not only safeguards against being impacted from natural hazards but also streamlines the planning and permitting process, balancing environmental and community development needs. Our commitment to these responsibilities reflects our dedication to maintaining a healthy and resilient natural environment for current and future generations.



## Planning Applications Reviewed (2023)

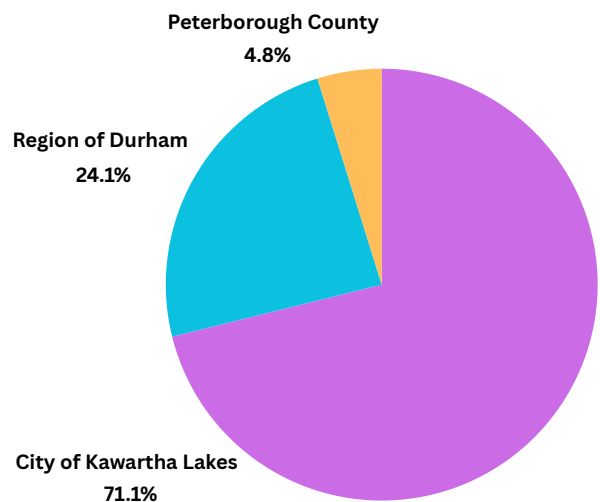
220 Planning Applications Reviewed

- City of Kawartha Lakes - 171
- Region of Durham - 32
- Peterborough County – 17

## Permits Issued (2023)

478 Permits Issued

- City of Kawartha Lakes – 340
- Region of Durham – 115
- Peterborough County – 23



# Integrated Watershed Management



In 2023, the Integrated Watershed Management team continued its steadfast commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable management of our watershed. This year marked significant advancements in our ongoing initiatives, underlined by collaborative efforts and innovative approaches to conservation and community engagement.

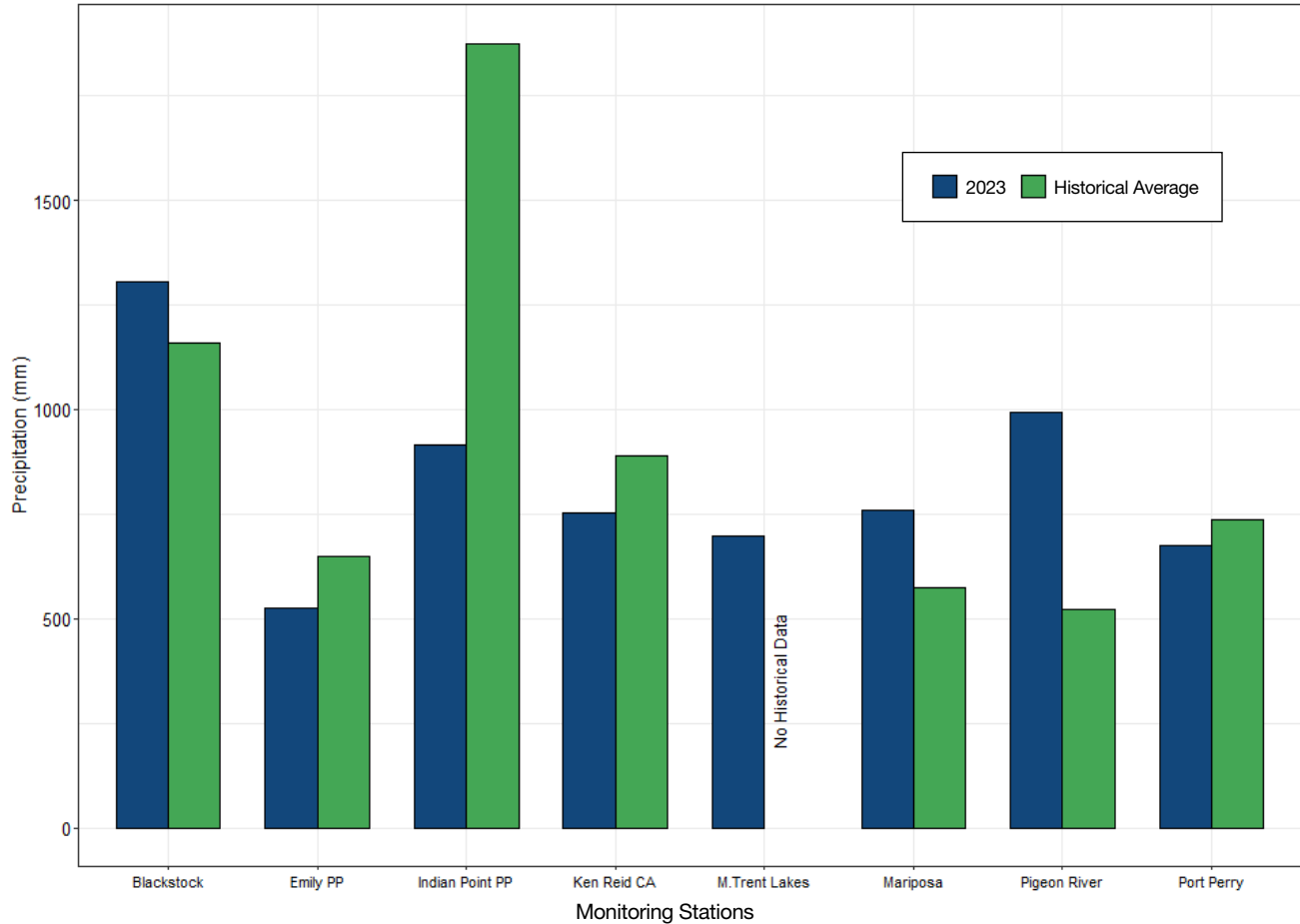


## Lake Dalrymple Lake Management Plan (Year 3)

- Gathered crucial data on water quality, hydrology, climate, and shoreline characteristics for the lake and surrounding watershed.
- Progressed towards establishing a robust baseline for future 'state of the lake' reporting.
- Facilitated 3 Working Group meetings to engage public consultation and input.
- Formulated draft management challenges and potential solutions.
- Updated Lake Dalrymple Monitoring Dashboard and integrated new data visualization tools for better public understanding.

# Flood and Water Safety Communications

- Issued 11 critical messages, including 9 water safety and 2 flood water messages.
- Enhanced flood forecasting service by adding an all-weather precipitation gauge at the Trent Lakes Municipal Office.
- Collected 178,814 precipitation readings through monitoring equipment.



Historical Data = 2005-2022: Pigeon River and Mariposa | 2014-2022: Ken Reid CA | 2016-2022: Blackstock and Indian Point PP | 2018-2022: Emily PP | 2019-2022: Port Perry





## Watershed Monitoring

- Monitored key environmental trends such as water quality and temperature at 30 sensitive coldwater stream sites.
- Collected 119 PWQMN samples.
- Published several reports highlighting key environmental trends and watershed health.
- Engaged in scientific research and training, including erosion and sediment control, aquatic plant control studies, and environmental biomonitoring.

## Erosion and Sediment Control Training

- Hosted a one-day symposium in Fenelon Falls with 9 industry professionals presenting and 10 exhibitors, attended by 74 participants.
- Conducted several training opportunities, including two-day webinars in partnership with the Sustainable Technologies Evaluation program, attracting 133 attendees.
- Maintained staff qualifications as Certified Inspectors of Sediment and Erosion Control.



## Education and Awareness Initiatives

- Produced and released several educational videos covering topics like the Van Dorn Water Sampler, Secchi Disc Depth, Biomonitoring with STREAM, and Deepest Depths on Dalrymple.

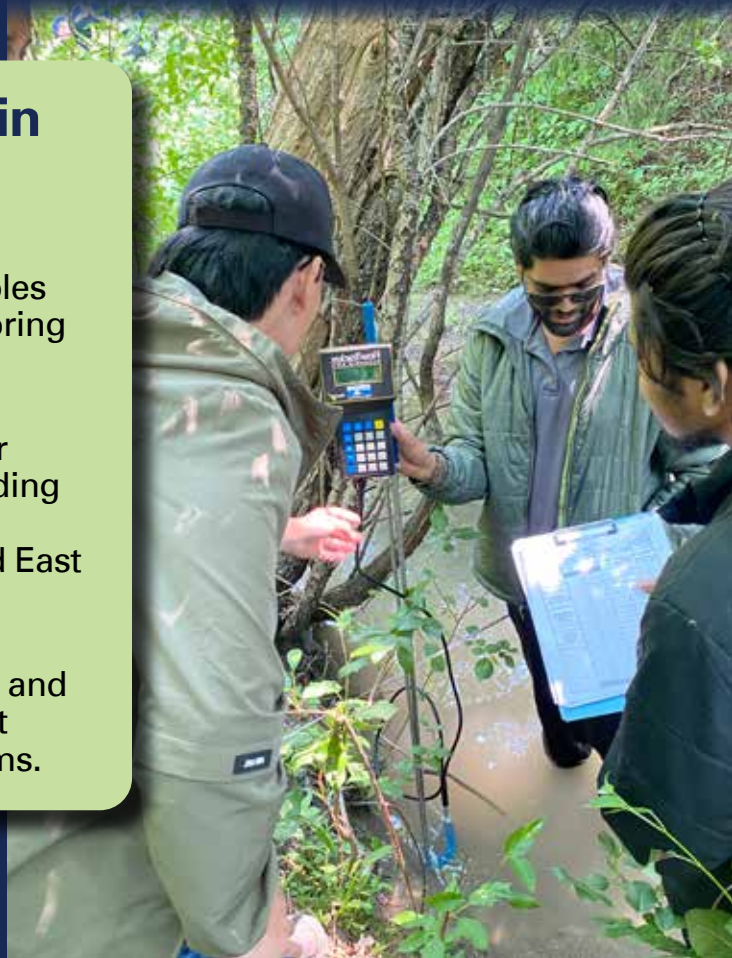


## Lake Scugog Enhancement Project Funding and Implementation

- Worked together with the municipality and community partners on furthering project components to increase recreational opportunities, enhance stormwater treatment, tourism and fisheries productivity.
- Installed the Casimir St. oil-grit separator, a pivotal development in treating incoming stormwater before it enters Lake Scugog.
- Began installation of the Baagwating Park oil-grit separator, furthering our commitment to water quality enhancement.

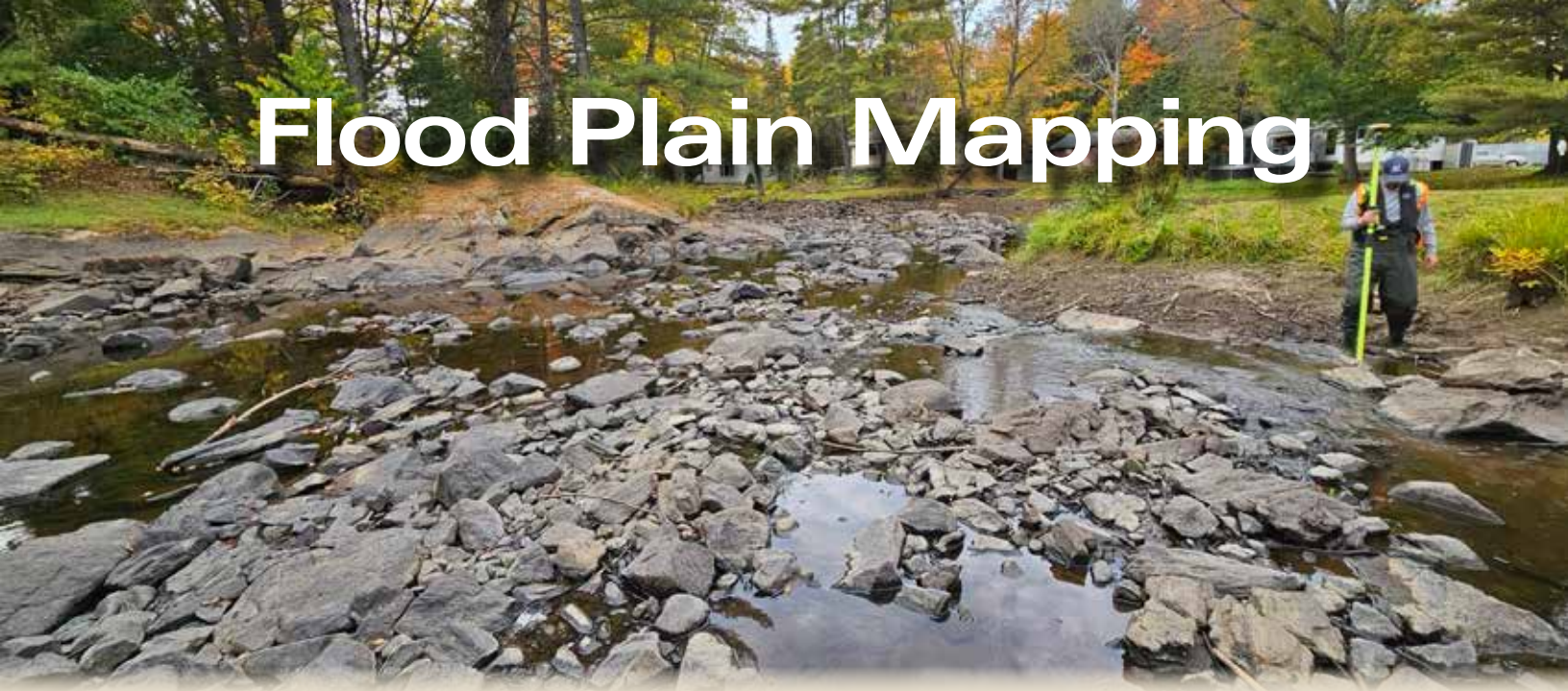
## Technological Advancements in Environmental Monitoring

- Successfully programmed and utilized a new automatic water quality sampler to collect samples during high flow periods, enhancing our monitoring capabilities.
- Expanded our network of loggers to provide continuing monitoring of conductivity and water level monitoring across multiple locations including Mariposa, Jennings, Distillery, Albert, Sinister, Sucker, Stoney, Janetville Creek, Blackstock, and East Cross Creek.
- Led the installation and maintenance of aquatic thrusters at six sites, split between Lake Scugog and Canal Lake, as part of research into aquatic plant control methods and their impacts on ecosystems.





# Flood Plain Mapping



In 2023, Kawartha Conservation made significant progress in flood plain mapping across various regions. These efforts are pivotal in enhancing our understanding of flood risks and informing both the community and disaster mitigation strategies.

## **Fenelon Falls South**

- Completion of the Fenelon Falls South Flood Plain Mapping technical report.

## **Trent Lakes Project**

- Conducted early engineering work associated with hydrology and hydraulics modelling.
- Completed field work in Nogies Creek and Miskwaa Ziibi River study areas, with project work supported by the federal Flood Hazard Identification Mapping Program.

These mapping projects represent our ongoing commitment to providing accurate and up-to-date information to help inform better planning decisions, enhance flood preparedness, and response.



# Conservation Lands

In 2023, the Conservation Lands team made significant strides in enhancing and developing the infrastructure of our conservation areas, ensuring they continue to be vibrant, accessible, and engaging spaces for the community. Our efforts this year focused on upgrading existing facilities, expanding services, and exploring new opportunities for community engagement and environmental education.



## Infrastructure Upgrades

- Replaced 5 sections of the marsh boardwalk at Ken Reid.
- Installed 2 wind phones at Ken Reid.
- Installed 3 sections of puncheons at Pigeon River Headwaters.
- Repaired 60 feet of the marsh boardwalk at Pigeon River.
- Added 2 new portage launches at Ken Reid.
- Celebrated the official opening of the disc golf course at Ken Reid.





## Community and Cultural Engagement

- Engaged in mental health and wellness events, emphasizing the therapeutic value of nature.
- Hosted 7 public and 3 private Forest Therapy sessions.
- Conducted multiple Yoga sessions at the beach.
- Collaborated with Kawartha Lakes Food Source and supported the Canadian Mental Health Association.
- Planted 85 trees, 331 shrubs, and 1000 perennials in partnership with TD Friends of the Environment.
- More than 80 students involved in the planting of hundreds of trees, shrubs, and perennials throughout the Ken Reid Conservation Area.



# Stewardship



In 2023, the Stewardship team deepened its commitment to community-based environmental stewardship, witnessing an inspiring surge in volunteer participation and project implementation. This year was a testament to the power of collaborative efforts in enhancing and protecting our natural landscapes.

## Landowner and Community-Based Stewardship Projects

- Successfully executed the OMAFRA/Talbot River Healthy Environment Initiative, implementing 5 agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) projects.
- Awarded Water Fund grants to 30 landowners and 3 community organizations for diverse environmental projects, including agricultural, rural, waterfront, and urban initiatives.
- Engaged 40 volunteers to plant 136 trees as part of TD Tree Day at Herbert A. Bruce Park Trail in Port Perry.





## Agricultural, Rural and Urban Community Engagement

- Presented at workshops and conferences, contributing to discussions on soil health and environmental farming practices.
- Collaborated with the City of Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee and engaged in urban environmental initiatives.
- Provided education on aquatic plants and water bugs on “Lake Day”, a community event, partnering with Township of Scugog and the Scugog Lake Stewards.
- Conducted an educational farm tour, highlighting our OMAFRA project achievements to 33 attendees.

## Tree Planting Successes

- Surpassed our Stewardship Strategy target by planting a total of 60,059 trees, through various initiatives, including OMAFRA, Kawartha Water Fund, Scugog Water Fund, and the 50 Million Tree Program.
- Sold 19,100 seedlings in 2023, with a continuing upward trend in sales.



## Shoreline and Habitat Restoration

- Enhanced, protected, or restored 2,490 feet of streambank and shoreline.



# Enhancements in Service

The year 2023 saw Kawartha Conservation embrace technological advancements to enhance our operational efficiency and community service. Through the integration of new tools and systems, we significantly improved our processes in mapping, planning, permitting, and parking management.

- Introduced a user-friendly mapping tool enabling efficient data interaction and decision-making.
- Enhanced the web-based permitting form, streamlining the application processes.
- Launched a new online app for paid parking, simplifying the user experience and improving administrative efficiency.

## Community Engagement and Events

- Successfully hosted two major events at Ken Reid Conservation Area; The Kawartha Fall Festival and Christmas at Ken Reid, attracting more than 4,000 community members.



## Environmental Grant Programs and Urban Development

- Completed a permeable pavement project in Port Perry for enhanced water quality and public education on low-impact development.



In 2023, Kawartha Conservation embraced significant technological advancements and infrastructure upgrades. These enhancements not only improved our operational efficiency but also fortified our data security and workplace functionality.

- Upgraded backup software to the latest versions for enhanced data security and recovery.
- Undertook multiple security improvements including local admin removal, encryption, and upgraded VPN security.
- Implemented audio and visual improvements and Wi-Fi enhancements.



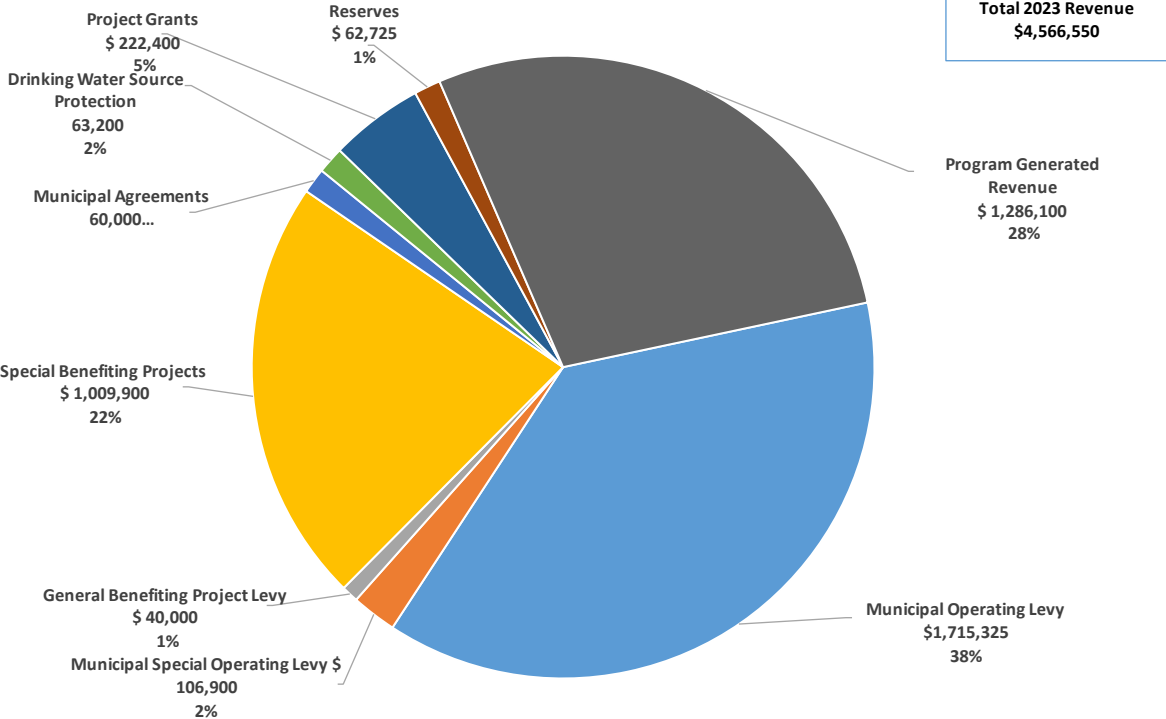
## Corporate Services Initiatives

2023 was a year of transition and collaboration with all of our member municipalities to achieve legislative compliance with the Conservation Authorities Act revisions. With our municipal partners, we developed a number of Memorandum of Understandings (MOU), and implemented other transparency and accountability initiatives.

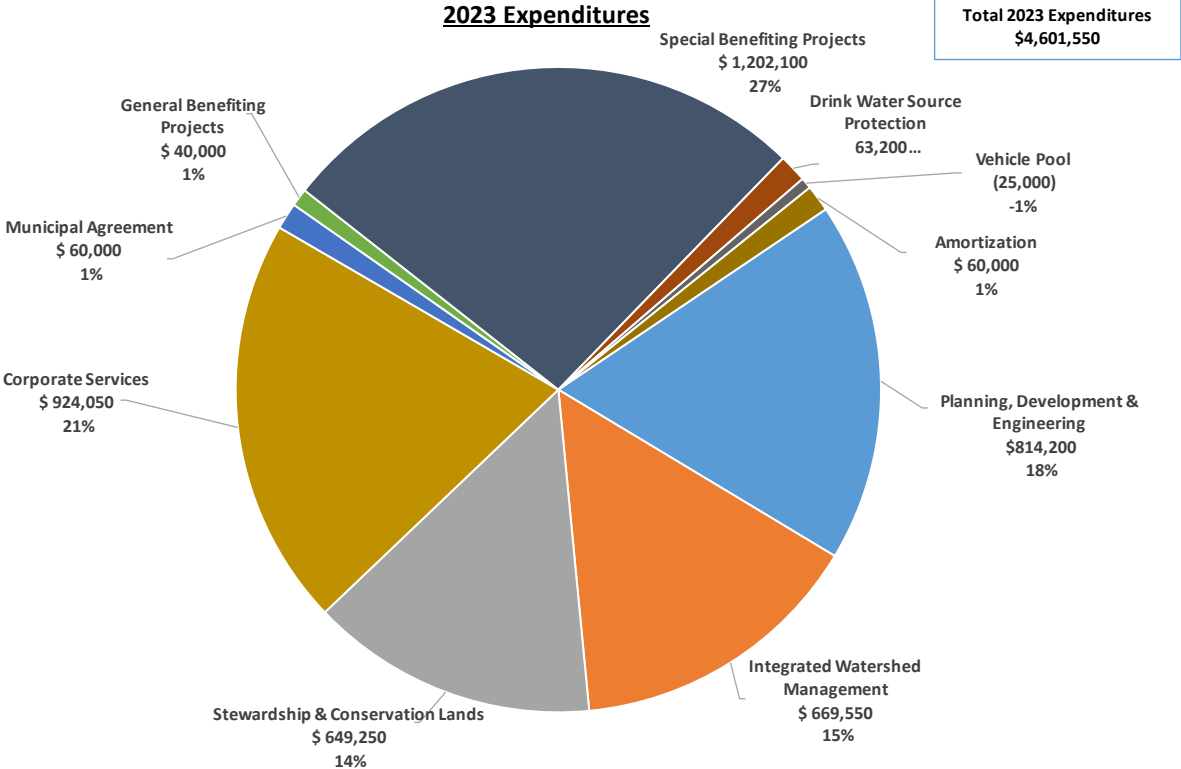


# Finances

## 2023 Revenue



## 2023 Expenditures



NOTE: This financial information is condensed from the Board of Directors' Approved 2023 Budget Summary. The complete auditor's report for the year ended December 31, 2023 is anticipated to be available in May 2024, copies of which will be available on our website.