

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

to the watershed community

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Otonabee
CONSERVATION

2022 Board of Directors

The eight member municipalities within the Otonabee Region watershed appoint representatives to our Board of Directors.

Our eleven member board oversees the activities of the Conservation Authority.

Township of Cavan Monaghan

Ryan Huntley (Chair)

Municipality of Trent Hills

Michael Metcalf (Vice Chair)

Township of Selwyn

Andy Mitchell
Sherry Senis

City of Peterborough

Diane Therrien
Gary Baldwin
Kim Zippel

Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan

Joe Taylor

Township of Douro-Dummer

Karl Moher

City of Kawartha Lakes

Tracy Richardson

Township of Asphodel-Norwood

Paula Warr

Message from Chair/CAO

2022 saw Otonabee Conservation settling into the new normal. For all the pivoting and adapting we have done as an organization since the pandemic, we have emerged more agile, resilient and as a stronger public sector organization. The Board of Directors remained focused on ensuring the legislative responsibilities and policy changes were met and the organization has continued to be in good standing.

In the spring of 2022, former CAO/Secretary-Treasurer announced his retirement. Dan Marinigh, was at the ORCA helm for 8 years and lead the organization through significant transitions and challenges.

2022 was a busy year for Otonabee Conservation. We continued our focus on keeping people and property safe. We issued 14 Flood Forecasting and Warning messages to the public.

Our member municipalities continued to benefit from our support for the delivery of the *Clean Water Act* by providing the Risk Management function and educational programs.

The investments of the past two years in our on-line services and technology continues to payoff. Online services have emerged as the preferred method for many of our customers. People can reserve a campsite, make an application for a Sec. 28 permit, or obtain a permit to hunt on conservation lands with our efficient online services.

2022 saw a 25% increase in the number of people using our conservation areas. We launched an on-line visitor survey to gather information about their experiences and to receive their suggestions to feed our continuous improvements. In addition, we hosted a 14% increase of campers at Beavermead and Warsaw campgrounds over the previous year.

Staff responded to a year over year increase in the number of planning and permitting inquiries and permit applications. 375 plan review applications were processed and 370 development permits were issued. The new service standards established in 2021 continued to be tracked and reported on in 2022, which saw ORCA meet or exceed the standards. Ongoing monitoring and modernizing our organization's effectiveness continues to be a key objective for staff.

Staff responded to more inquires for advice on stewardship and land restoration projects, sold 14,000 tree seedlings to 115 different landowners,

and in the fall planted 30,407 trees, shrubs, and wildflowers with our municipal partners.

In June, Otonabee Conservation received confirmation that we would receive over \$1M in FedDev funding for rehabilitation work on the Jackson Creek Trail and the construction of 3 new washroom projects at Selwyn Beach, Harold Town, and Squirrel Creek Conservation Areas. It has been a team effort completing the projects and we appreciate the cooperative working relationships we have with our contractors and member municipalities.

Over the past 2 years, community fundraising for the Jackson Creek Trail has been a huge success with over \$60,000 raised, which speaks to how much the trail is cherished by the community.

Along with October municipal elections came the appointment of a new Board. Our new Board has confirmed their commitment to the core values, success, and mandate of Otonabee Conservation.



Ryan Huntley
Chair, Board of Directors



Janette Loveys Smith
CAO \ Secretary-Treasurer

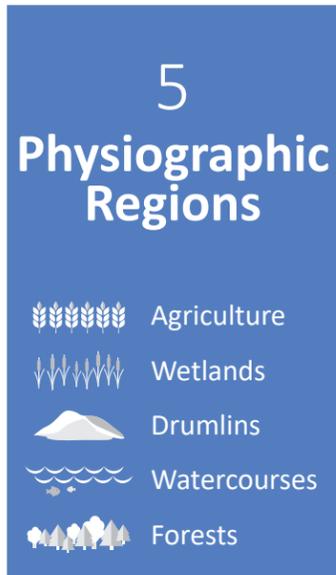
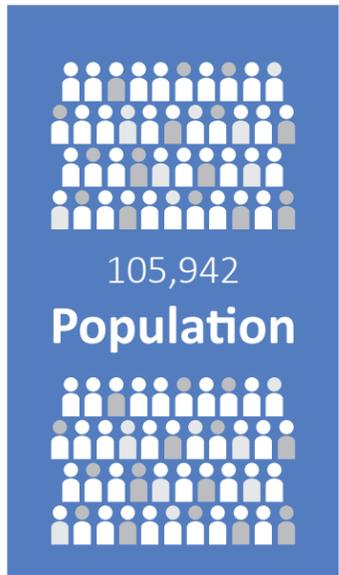
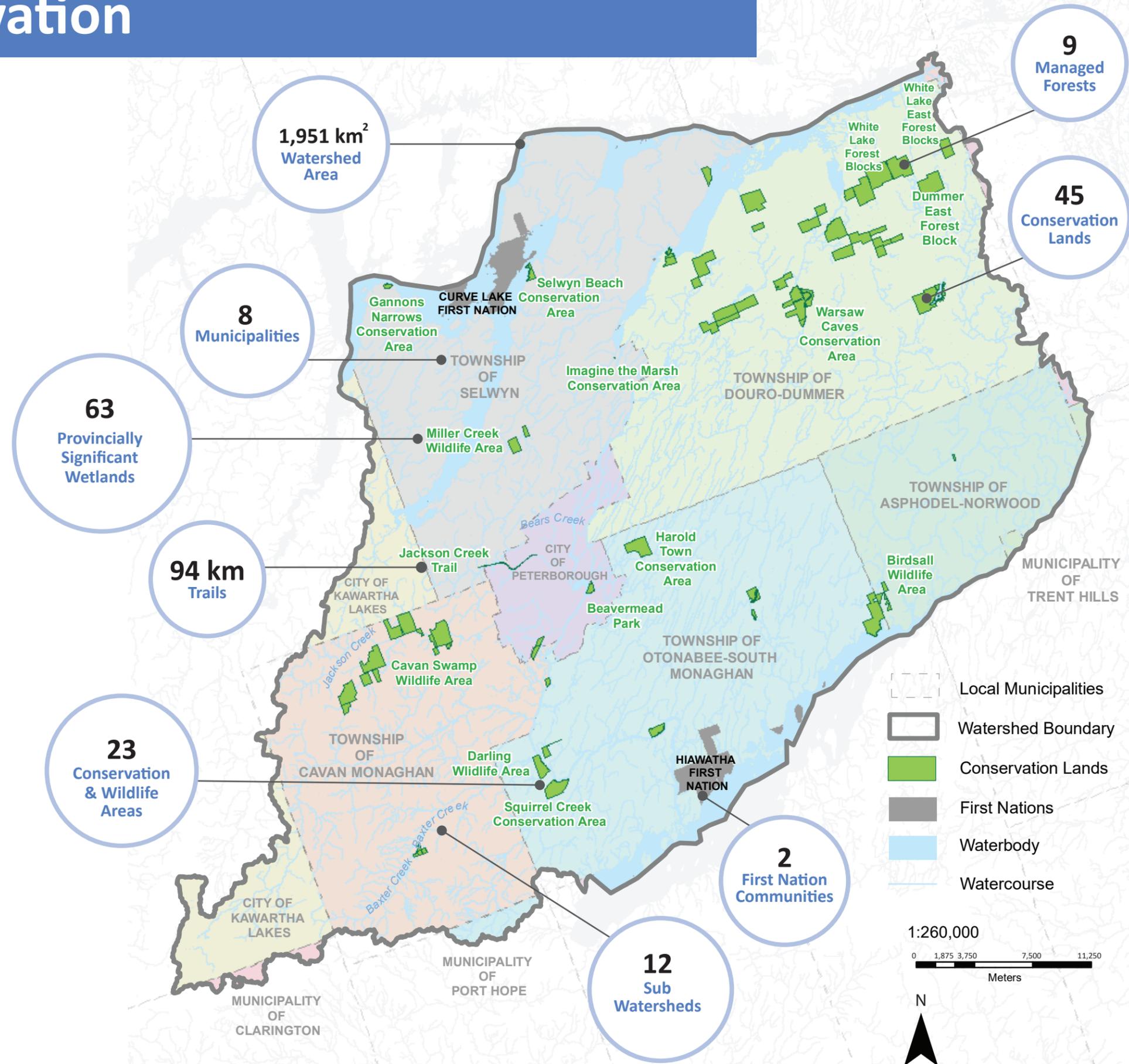
On behalf of the Otonabee Conservation Board of Directors and Staff, we would like to sincerely thank Dan Marinigh for 8 years of leadership as CAO/Secretary-Treasurer from 2014 to 2022.

About Otonabee Conservation

Otonabee Conservation is a locally-focused, community-based environmental agency that protects, restores, and manages the natural resources within the Otonabee Region watershed. We work with our eight member municipalities to maintain a healthy, environmentally-diverse watershed that improves the quality of life for residents, makes our area more appealing to visitors and new businesses, and helps to ensure a more vibrant regional economy.

Otonabee Conservation delivers programs and services that support the sustainability of the environment, within the physical and economic context of the watershed and in consideration of the social, cultural, and economic aspirations of its residents.

We work closely with our member municipalities, watershed residents, and many partnership agencies to achieve program outcomes that balance a diversity of needs and local conservation priorities.



Natural Hazards Protection



We protect people and property from flooding and other natural hazards.

Responded to
**1,118
General
Inquiries**
regarding natural
hazards & permitting

Responded to
**37
Legal
Inquiries**

**1,352
Students**

participated in the
Spring Water Awareness Program,
a water safety and natural hazard
education program delivered in
partnership with
Ontario Power Generation

Plan Review & Permitting

Otonabee Conservation protects people and properties from loss of life and property damage by working with applicants to minimize any risks from natural hazards.

We ensure compliance to Ontario Regulation 167/06 and related policies by receiving, reviewing, and issuing permits.

We provide timely customer service to achieve high response standards when issuing permits.

We meet our delegated responsibility to represent the provincial interest in natural hazards through timely engagement with our member municipalities in the review of applications under the Planning Act.



370

Permits issued under the Conservation Authorities Act



99%

Permits issued within timeline standard (Conservation Ontario)



375

Plan Reviews for natural hazard matters

Natural Hazards

Otonabee Conservation operates a flood forecasting and warning program to ensure that residents and municipalities are aware of potential flood-related events in a timely manner.

We work collaboratively with our municipalities, local agencies, interest groups, and First Nations as part of the Ontario Low Water Response Program to alert the public about low water conditions and encourage water conservation.

We contribute to protection of life and property by delivering a flood forecasting and warning program.

We monitor conditions to detect low water and support the Water Response Team (WRT) to respond to low water / drought events.

We operate and maintain water and ice control structures ensuring they were in safe and working order and that all public safety measures are in place.

We operate and maintain 7 meteorological monitoring stations.



14

Flood Forecasting and Warning messages issued throughout the year



3

WRT meetings throughout the year with zero low water messages issued



14

Snow surveys completed throughout the watershed

Natural Hazards Mapping

Otonabee Conservation acquires and maintains floodplain mapping to better understand flood risks throughout our watershed, provide a tool to protect and respect the floodplain, and to help guide decisions about land use development.

We completed and released mapping for Meade, Curtis, Jackson, and Baxter Creeks, Lakefield tributaries, North and South Kawartha Lakes, and the Ouse River.

We made progress on floodplain mapping along Thompson Creek and Byersville Creek.



8

Priority subwatershed areas mapped throughout the Otonabee Region



2,540 km

of watercourses & shoreline mapped

Conservation Lands Management



We manage and conserve lands for the protection of natural heritage features and values.

We provide opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Otonabee Conservation manages and conserves our lands for the protection of biodiversity and natural heritage including the preservation of areas of significant environmental and ecological importance.

We ensure the proper management and stewardship of 10,300 acres of land owned by the Authority.

We operate several free day-use conservation areas for outdoor recreation activities including hiking, biking, geo-caching, nature viewing, boating, picnicking, fishing, swimming, and more!



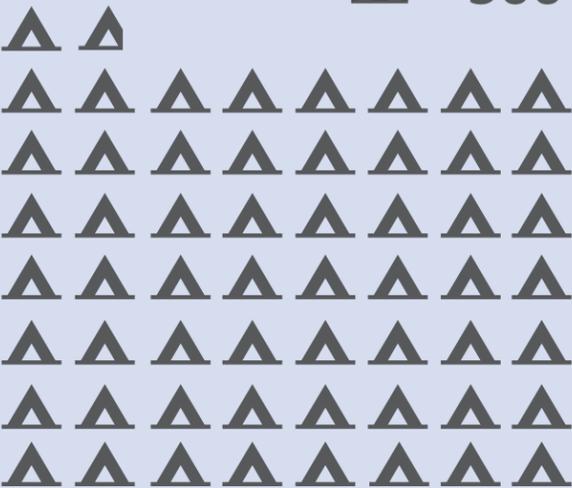
Beavermead Campground

We operate Beavermead Campground for group, public, and seasonal camping, on behalf of the City of Peterborough. This includes canoe rentals and retail sales for items such as firewood and Ice.

28,951

Campers at Otonabee Conservation's 2 Campgrounds

△ = 500



Warsaw Caves Conservation Area

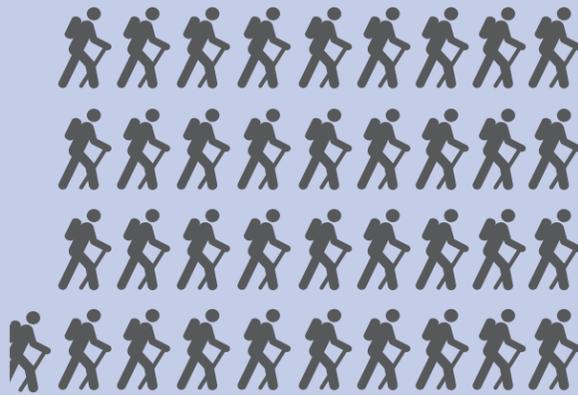
Otonabee Conservation operates Warsaw Caves Conservation Area for day-use activities including swimming, paddling, and spelunking, and group and family camping. This includes canoe rentals and retail sales for items such as ice, firewood, and headlamps.

18,420

Day Use Visitors at Warsaw Caves Conservation Area

97% increase

🚶 = 500



Jackson Creek Trail Revitalization

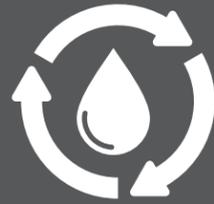


Lakefield Campground

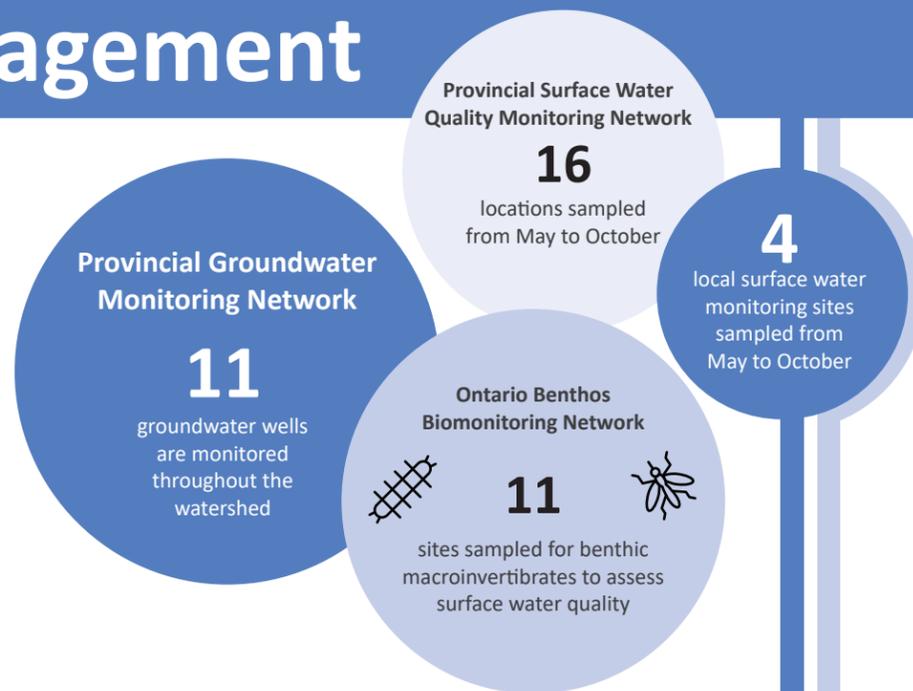
In 2022, we entered into an agreement with Selwyn Township to operate Lakefield Campground starting in 2023. This will include public and seasonal camping, canoe rentals, and retail sales for items such as firewood and ice.



Watershed Management



We contribute to and support local & provincial water monitoring programs to assess watershed health and track changes in our environment.



Otonabee Conservation supports the implementation of water quality and quantity monitoring programs in partnership with provincial agencies.

Otonabee Conservation provides support and advice for private and public land restoration and stewardship activities, which contributes to a healthy watershed. This is often in the form of tree planting, habitat enhancement, and shoreline naturalization projects that are often undertaken in partnership with municipalities, schools, public agencies, and community service groups.

We deliver events and presentations to foster awareness of climate change and the watershed environment.



We advance and contribute to the maintenance of a healthy and resilient natural environment.



29,705 trees, 1,076 shrubs and 256 wildflowers planted at 14 locations in the watershed.



14,000 trees planted by 115 watershed residents through the Tree Seedling Sales program.



77 secondary students planted 1,147 native trees, shrubs & pollinator plants at 4 locations.



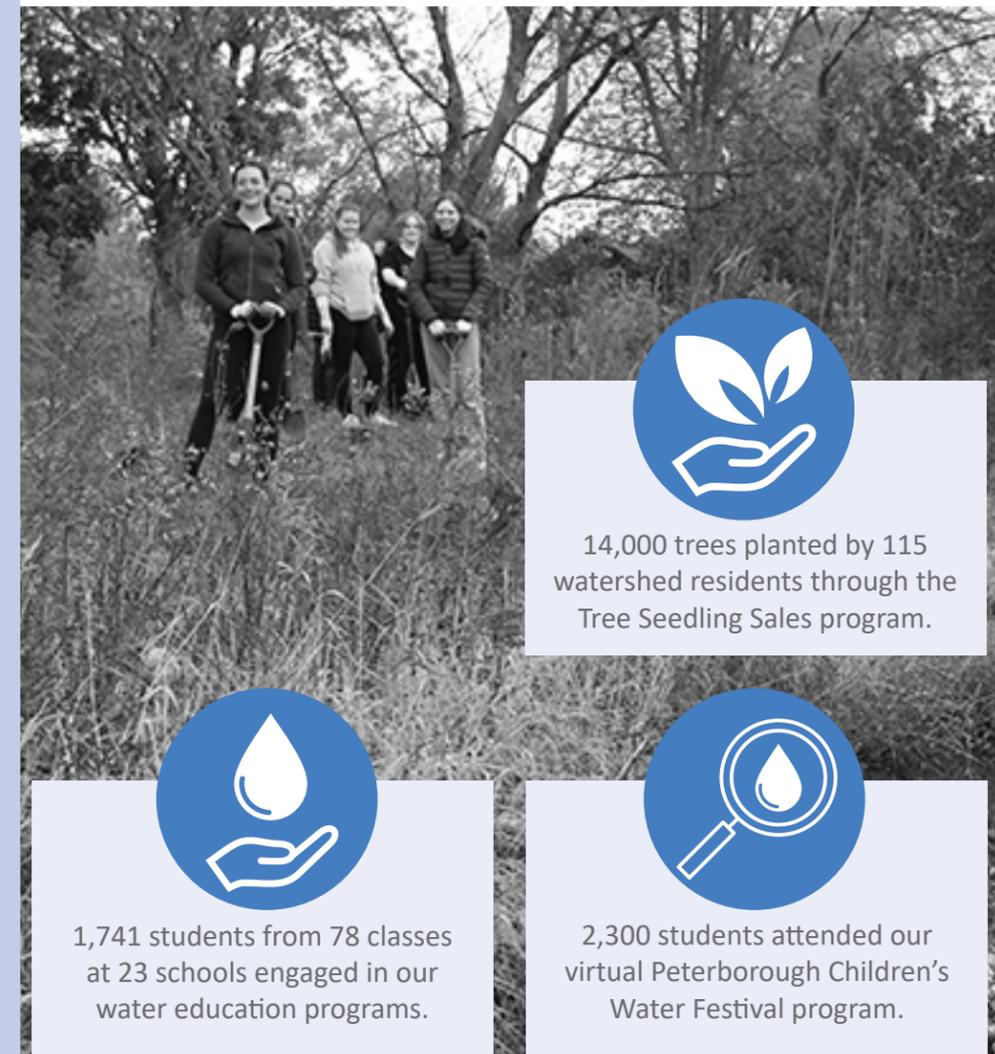
1,741 students from 78 classes at 23 schools engaged in our water education programs.



2,300 students attended our virtual Peterborough Children's Water Festival program.



148 students participated in citizen science programs in partnership with Pathway to Stewardship and Water Rangers.



8

2 meetings of the O-PSPA
6 meetings of the TCC SPC

288

Active files were responded to....

62

Notices issued under Section 59 of the Clean Water Act

Otonabee Conservation, acting under its authority as the Otonabee-Peterborough Source Protection Authority (O-PSPA), coordinates the local implementation of the Drinking Water Source Protection Program. We support municipalities, landowners, and the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Committee (TCC SPC) to meet obligations under the Trent Source Protection Plan (TSPP) and the *Clean Water Act*.

The TSPP is 1 of 22 Source Protection Plans in Ontario. Under agreements with 8 municipalities, we operate the Risk Management Office and deliver an ongoing Education & Outreach program.



We contribute to the protection of existing and future sources of municipal drinking water.

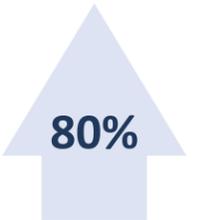
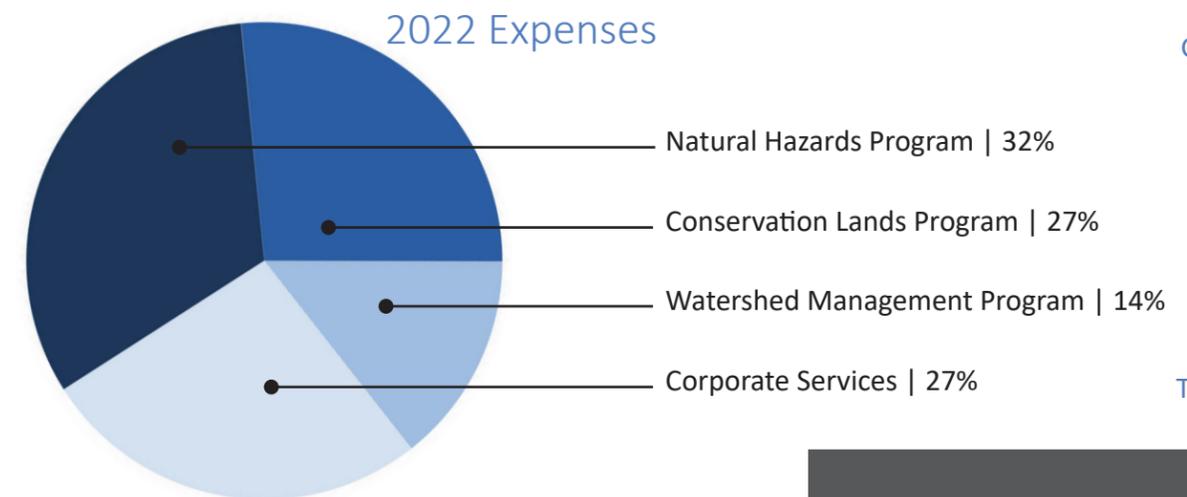
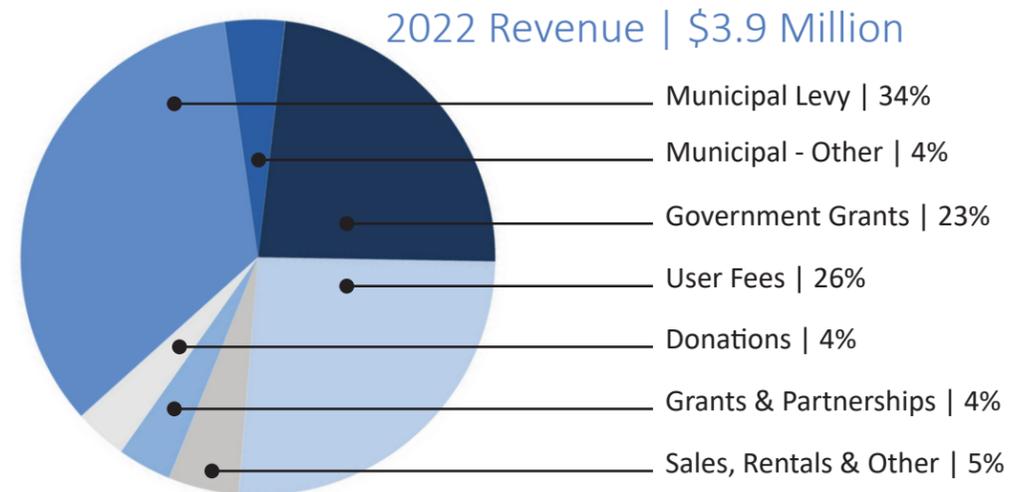


We ensure effective and efficient operations when delivering our programs and services.

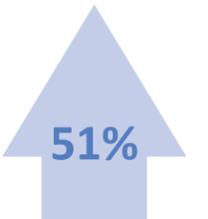
-  Support the Board of Directors to meet its legislated mandate and responsibilities.
-  Provide the necessary administrative and support services for the efficient and effective operation of the Conservation Authority.
-  Provide communications and marketing to ensure our watershed residents are aware of our programs and services.
-  Provide outreach to form collaborative relationships with watershed residents, municipalities, and community partners.



- 129**
News items
in the
local media
- 12**
Accessibility
features added
to website
- 1st**
Climate Change
Report Card
published
- 103,000**
Website
Users
- \$86,507**
Employment
Subsidies



Increase In Donations



Increase In Grants & Partnerships



Net increase in Tangible Capital Assets

We are grateful for government funding received in 2022:

Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario
Canada Community Revitalization Fund
Tourism Relief Fund

Employment & Social Development Canada
Canada Summer Jobs

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure Fund
Flood Management Program



Thank you to our member municipalities for your collaborative contributions, which further our work together in the watershed!

Donors & Grants

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We are grateful for the generous contributions from individual donors, local organizations, foundations, and community partners who make our work possible!



Conservation Champion \$50,000 +

Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough
Trans Canada Trail
[Tree Canada](#)

Conservation Guardian \$10,000 - \$49,000

[Eco Canada](#)
Anonymous Donor

Conservation Steward \$5,000 - \$9,999

[TD Friends of the Environment](#)

Conservation Supporter \$1,000 - \$4,999

[Nefab Inc.](#)
[One Tree Planted](#)
[Ontario Power Generation](#)
Peterborough Field Naturalists

Conservation Friend \$250 - \$999

Lorraine Begley
in memory of Brian Begley
Dan and Julie Brandsma
Charitable Impact Foundation
John and Marlene Dunford
Eric Howe
Edward Kloosterman and Valerie Anderson
Nil Lavallee
Patty Macdonald
[Charlie and Hayley Martin](#)
Thomas Miller
Carol Pearson
in memory of Lenore Kane
Alan and Linda Slavin
Dagobert and Eleonore Wyslouzil
Kim Zippel

Conservation Donor up to \$249

Jim Abel
Josie Baker
in memory of Brian Begley
Ann Barrett
Chris Bell
Harold Briggs
Dustin Buchanan
Stacey Butcher
in honour of Allan Robinson
[CanadaHelps.org](#)
[Protect the Environment Fund](#)
Meredith Carter
Jim and Sylvia Cashmore
Sharon Chapman-Sheehan
in memory of Brian Begley
Karen Chomniak
Daniel Chronowic
Geoffrey Daw
Patricia Dillabough
Pearl Dixon
Matt Dunn
Noah Edwards
Christopher Fox
Jamie Germaine
in memory of Brian Begley
Karen Halley
Gregory Harris
in memory of Brian Begley
Judi Hendry
Arthur Herold
Teresa Holla
Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan
in honour of Emmanuel Edeh
Julie Klinger
Terra Lasenby
Robert Loney
Janette Loveys Smith
Marta Lundman
Michael Mackey
Peter and Marilyn Macloghlin
Rachael Marcotte
Daniel Marinigh
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Bob Mason
Anonymous Donor
Drew Monkman
David Morrison
Anonymous Donor
Elouise Perry
in memory of Brian Begley
Mike Ploc
in memory of James Ploc
Allison Potts
in honour of Barbara Potts
Christopher Pritchard
in memory of Molly the beagle
Mike and Cathy Puffer
in memory of Brian Begley
Li Robbins
Robers and Anne Ross
Heather Ryner
Richard Scott
Cassandra Shaw
Tammy Sikma
Ravi-Inder Soligo
John Sousa
Patricia Spink Handschuh
Charlene Steele
Joe Taylor
Evan Thomas
Anne Trudell
[Maria Vavro](#)
Matthew and Emily Warren
Paul Yungblut

Environmental Excellence Awards

Individual Conservationist

Robert Crowley & Family

Conservation Partnership

Curve Lake First Nation Cultural Centre

Conservation Partnership

Gillian Barnes, City of Peterborough

Business

David Bonsall, D.M. Wills

Fleming College Awards

Otonabee Conservation Award for Excellence in Environmental Technology

Patrick Finkle

Otonabee Conservation Award for Excellence in Ecological Restoration

Tyler Mercotte

Peterborough Regional Science Fair Awards

Otonabee Conservation Award for Excellence

Sydney Dobbin & Annalise Musclow
Quantitative Study of Microplastics in Jackson Creek

Staff Service Awards

Neil MacFarlane | 5 years
Terri Cox | 15 years

2022 donors to Jackson Creek Trail Revitalization

2022 donors to programs or the Otonabee Conservation General Fund

Stewart's Woods Conservation Area



Jim Stewart (left) with cousin Robert Stewart, sister Linda McCreery (nee Stewart), cousin Pat Stewart, and brother, Mike Stewart playing in a sandy area of the recently donated property in the mid-1950's.

“

Our family enjoyed this property for walks in the woods, picnicking, and the pristine views along the Otonabee River; now it will be protected for its natural heritage and can be enjoyed by all.

– Jim Stewart –

Otonabee Conservation is the recipient of a land donation in the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan, recently donated by the Stewart Family. Jim Stewart, and his siblings, Mike Stewart and Linda McCreery (nee Stewart), have donated 30 acres of wetland and forest located southwest of the existing Stewart's Woods, a 70-acre property that was bequeathed to Otonabee Conservation in 1969 by Lin Stewart, who owned an adjacent farm.

This most recent land donation fulfills their mother, Jean Stewart's wishes to donate the remaining family property for preservation and protection of natural heritage features and to provide recreational opportunities, such as hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing, photography, and wildlife viewing.

The Stewart Family first acquired 150 acres of land here in 1890. Ormiston and Lizzie Stewart (Jim, Mike, and Linda's Grandparents) farmed a portion of the land while the remaining parcels that are now managed by Otonabee Conservation, were left in their natural state.

The donated land features great ecological significance with wetland and forest ecosystems and approximately 1 km of natural undisturbed shoreline along the Otonabee River.

Stewart's Woods Conservation Area has now grown to 100+ acres! It is also located across the Otonabee River from Darling Wildlife Area, providing enhanced connectivity to adjacent lands that are currently owned by the Conservation Authority, and creating a corridor of protected lands that will conserve the area's natural heritage.



Bill Stewart (Jim, Mike & Linda's Father), his sister Beth Flett (nee Stewart), and brother Max Stewart at the donated property, now known as Stewart's Woods Conservation Area.

Otonabee Gravel Pit

A former gravel pit within Otonabee-South Monaghan Township is now being managed for conservation. This announcement comes as the gravel pit license for the Otonabee Conservation-owned property near Crowley Line and Rosa Landing Road was surrendered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF).

This site was originally acquired by Otonabee Conservation in 1977. The main purpose of this acquisition was to conserve a section of wetland shoreline on the Otonabee River and to provide a site to develop a Conservation Area after the aggregate was depleted.

Aggregate extraction has been inactive in the licensed pit since the late 1990's and since, the

area has naturally regenerated with many biophysical features including functional wetlands that provide homes to a variety of flora and fauna.

Recently, the MNRF determined that the property in its current state provides ecological value for the adjacent Otonabee Midriver Complex Provincially Significant Wetland and as Species At Risk habitat, in particular for nesting turtles. It was deemed that further rehabilitation work would not be necessary as most of the licensed area of the property has naturally regenerated over time. This has been an objective of many past Otonabee Conservation Boards.



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We look forward to protecting the natural habitats, diverse species, and surrounding sensitive ecological features of this property. We will be managing this site for conservation purposes and recreational pursuits such as hiking and birdwatching.



Otonabee
CONSERVATION

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