



2022 Annual Report from the Hamilton Conservation Foundation

Reporting on our 2020-2021 Fiscal Year and upcoming projects. Published July 2022.

Nature and Green Spaces More Important Than Ever During a Year of Lockdowns and Uncertainty

Throughout the past year, we have seen our community spend more time exploring outdoor trails and green spaces, eliciting an increased passion for nature and conservation.

Together, we are part of a growing conservation community that desires to protect our forests, meadows, streams, and waterfalls for future generations to enjoy. As the population within our region continues to grow, how we manage and use our natural spaces will become increasingly important to the health of both the environment and community members.

While the pandemic created difficulties for many, we continued to find moments of compassion and remained inspired by the generosity of donors, sponsors, and supporters. Because of our community's strong support, we have been able to continue working on important conservation campaigns and sustainability projects over the past year.

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Hamilton Conservation
FOUNDATION
Your nature • Your legacy



Dear Friends,

Backed by hundreds of studies over several decades, research suggests that connecting to nature is one of the best things you can do to improve your health.

Over the past two years, we have seen an increase in the number of visitors to Hamilton's conservation areas, as more and more people realize that nature is essential for health and well-being.

While this increase in visitors highlighted the value of our natural lands, it has also accentuated the need for continued stewardship of these lands to ensure they can be protected and enjoyed now and in the future.

I am ever so grateful for your generosity in helping us to protect our natural landscape and the diverse species that call it home, while providing the connection to nature that so many have come to crave and enjoy.

Thank you for your continued belief in the programs and projects we support. With your help, we can continue to improve our natural spaces, and nurture future generations of nature stewards through our Environmental Education program.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Stebbing,
Chair

2022 Board of Directors

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Graham Reid, Vice-Chair
Justin Taravski, Secretary-Treasurer
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Suresh Daljeet
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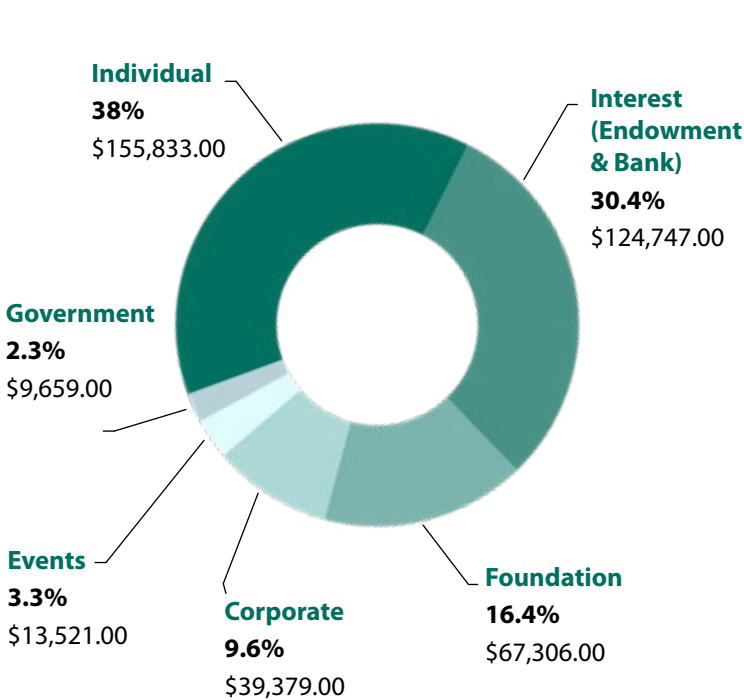
Director Emeritus:
Mr. Alan Stacey

Ex Officio Members:
Lisa Burnside, HCA CAO
Lloyd Ferguson, City of Hamilton
Councillor and HCA Chair

Your Donations at Work

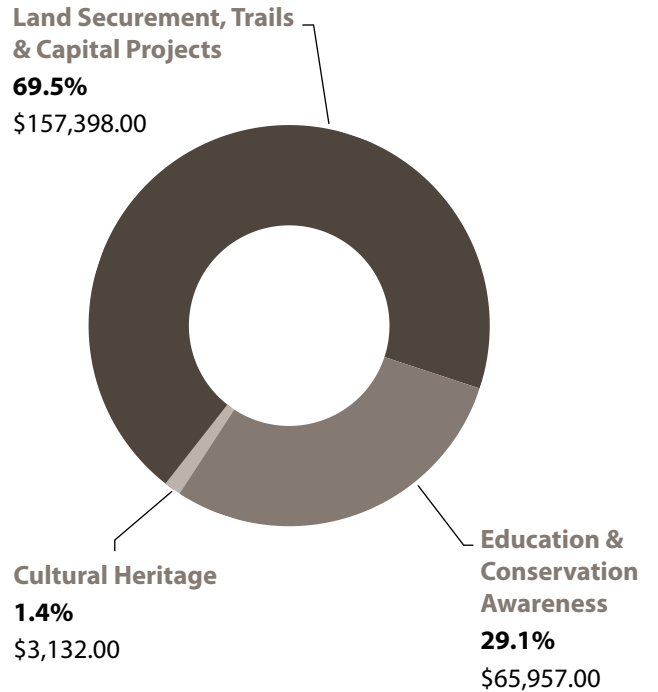
Total donations: \$410,445.00

Where donations came from:



Total donations used: \$226,487.00

What donations supported:



Enhancing Conservation Area Biodiversity Through Native Species Plantings

Our Tribute Tree Program received 48 tribute and memorial donations in 2021, making plantings possible at HCA conservation areas.

Nearly 3,000 native trees, shrubs, and grasses were planted at Fifty Point, Mount Albion, and Valens Lake Conservation Areas in 2021. These events incorporated a wide variety of native species to boost biodiversity in the areas.

Each planting had a customized inventory of plants that were best suited for the individual areas. Beach grass was planted at Fifty Point, which is particularly important for stabilizing sand dunes and shoreline habitat. Additional diverse native species will be used to try to reduce invasive Japanese Knotweed at Valens Lake, by creating shade through the increase

of trees and shrubs. Each area will benefit from the new plants, since they will also support pollinators, birds, and other wildlife in the area.

These events were further supported by 50 volunteers, who came out to do the dirty work. Additionally, our Tribute Tree Program partner, Dodsworth & Brown Funeral Home-Ancaster Chapel, continues to provide annual funding for signage and tree plantings.



Photo: Native species planting at Eramosa Karst Conservation Area



(continued from page 1)

Nature and Green Spaces More Important Than Ever During a Year

Projects and programs which relied on donations to the Foundation for their implementation in 2021:

Outdoor Environmental Education

- Staff designed virtual programs on topics including Birds of Prey, Tracking, Hamilton Habitats, and Rocks and Fossils of the Niagara Escarpment. Additionally, training sessions were created to provide teachers with activities, ideas, and tips for outdoor teaching and taking classes outside. Program staff created these instructional sessions and introduced four topic areas in the fall of 2021, with an additional four occurring this spring.

Saltfleet Conservation Area

- We are so proud of the newly engineered wetlands in the Upper Stoney and Battlefield Creek sub-watersheds. Not only will they protect natural areas along both creeks, but also expand them into nearby conservation lands, dramatically increasing their resilience in the face of a rapidly changing climate. This will decrease the downstream flood risk, create habitat for a whole range of species, and lead to a healthier and more resilient creek system.

Trail and Bridge Improvements in Dundas Valley Conservation Area

- Trails across Hamilton's watershed have seen a dramatic increase in users over the past year. Because of donations to the Trail

Development Fund, the Foundation was able to fund approximately \$60,000 in trail and bridge improvements last year. HCA maintains a network of over 145 km of recreation trails that are enjoyed by a variety of users. While some of these trails are more rugged, others provide a multi-use experience and are accessible to users of all abilities. Opportunities for increased accessibility are considered when new trails are designed, or existing trails need repairs.

The Hamilton Conservation Foundation works alongside HCA to encourage sustainable practices, support cultural heritage, and protect the environment for future generations. This partnership is vital to the success of critical conservation initiatives in the Hamilton watershed. The Foundation is a separate organization from HCA. It is a registered charity, responsible for raising and managing funds for priority conservation projects of HCA. As a separate charity, the Foundation manages funds and provides grants for HCA projects, avoiding potential conflicts between HCA's regulatory functions and donors. The Foundation and HCA operate under a memorandum of understanding that outlines each organization's role in the partnership.

Founded in 1976, the Foundation originated as a result of the community's desire to protect lands in what is now the Dundas Valley Conservation Area. Since then, the Foundation has grown alongside HCA, and the partnership between the two has developed into a shared commitment to achieving HCA's vision of a healthy watershed for everyone.



of Lockdowns and Uncertainty

HCA does receive government funding; however, it is explicitly intended for the mandated core functions required of conservation authorities. The operation of conservation areas is funded through self-generated funds, including membership pass and day pass sales. To fill the gaps, HCA relies on funds raised through the Foundation. This funding supports important conservation projects that may not otherwise be completed due to budget constraints.

To determine fundraising priorities, the Foundation consults with HCA staff, who identify the needs of each area and recommends projects in line with such needs. These recommendations are presented to the Foundation Board of Directors, who then review and set the priorities. The Board ensures each project fits within the Foundation's mission, and that it is able to raise the necessary amount of funds. Once these criteria are met, projects are ready to begin.

The Hamilton Conservation Foundation is proud of all its accomplishments over the past year, despite the difficulties faced throughout the pandemic. Our successes are because of the continuing support we receive from our community—who recognize the importance of having access to nature, while supporting our initiatives to build and protect natural spaces for future generations. We look forward to another successful year of fundraising and welcoming a new generation of adventurers and nature enthusiasts to our areas, in hopes of inspiring them to become a supporter of the Hamilton Conservation Foundation.



Foundation Friends Continue to Provide Support

Volunteer groups, Friends of Westfield Heritage Village and Friends of the Eramosa Karst, have helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for conservation efforts.

Partnering with *Friends* volunteer groups plays an important role in assisting the Foundation to raise funds for priority projects, within specific areas. The two main Friends groups the Foundation works with are the Friends of Westfield Heritage Village, and the Friends of the Eramosa Karst (FOTEK).

The Friends of Westfield Heritage Village fundraising efforts have contributed over \$300,000 to projects at Westfield via the Foundation since their inception. Funds are raised primarily through the operation of the on-site Gift Shop and special events the Friends host. In spite of challenges presented by the pandemic and reduced visitation, the group still raised nearly \$18,000 in 2021. These funds will be directed to various projects at Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area.

FOTEK was formed in 2007, and supports the conservation and enjoyment of the Eramosa Karst Conservation Area. Fundraising efforts, in partnership with the Foundation, are used to protect and enhance the Eramosa Karst lands, including the unique geological and ecological systems present there. The group's efforts extend to public education, community events, and providing volunteer support. FOTEK has contributed over \$130,000 to the Foundation for conservation projects at the Eramosa Karst Conservation Area.

Thank you to all our fantastic donors!

We're proud to recognize everyone who donated between December 1, 2020 and November 30, 2021. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of these listings and we apologize for any errors or omissions.

Individual Donors

- Christine Adams
- Gina Aiello
- Margaret Anderson-Herrmann
- Emelie Anhorn
- Cindy Aniol
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- Carol Zinszer

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- CHML Children's Fund
- Cogeco Connexion
- Dodsworth & Brown Funeral Home - Ancaster Chapel
- Enbridge Inc.
- The Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation
- Estate Planners' Council of Hamilton
- Friends Of Doctor Cairo
- Friends Of Westfield Heritage Village
- Greenbelt Foundation
- H. Williams Jewellery
- Hamilton Community Foundation
- Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association
- Hamilton Police Communications
- K W & Area Bug Club
- National Steelcar Limited Employees Charitable Donations
- Ontario Environment Industry Association
- (ONEIA)
- RBC Dominion Securities
- Catherine Rockton
- Antique And Hobby Club
- St George Garden Club Horticultural Society
- TC Energy
- Trans Canada Trail

Tributes

Tribute Tree Donations

Donations for our 2022 native tree and shrub plantings across the Hamilton watershed were received in honour of:

- Abrams Family
- Joan Christine Agro
- Jaclyn Aguiar
- Rocco Battaglia
- David Baulcomb
- Allan Beattie
- Forrest Bentham
- Boatsmith Family
- Heather Braun
- Brian Coutts
- Nick Curto
- Marjorie Dalsto
- Eric Deys
- Ved Prakash Dhingra
- David Duffy
- Debbie Edwards
- Kathryn Fairfield
- Elaine Fawcett
- William Finn
- Allessa Fisher
- Ron French
- Erika Garwood
- John Phillip Gauthier
- Chara Gidley
- Charles Gidley
- Maria Gower
- William Grant
- Alison Healing
- Abigail Rebecca Hughes
- Callie Heather Knox
- Ignacy Kukuczka
- tribute_name
- Anna Latus
- Brian Lukas
- Ethel MacDonald
- Cheryl and Bruce MacDonald
- Marion Malloy
- Cliff Morris
- Fred Niemeyer
- Marija Palcic
- Cathy Paul
- Peter Pawlik
- Ben Sherwood
- Julie Stahlbaum
- Zoltan Szabo
- Rita Williams
- Ken Yardley
- Zacharia Family
- George Zontanos

Other Tributes

Donations were received in honour of:

- Babette
- Thomas Beckett
- Thomas Bryner
- Deb Chandler
- Jeff Ciraolo
- Rob French
- Gallagher Stables Inc.
- Ron Gillespie
- John Hannah
- Alison Healing
- Crystal Helms
- Arie Hoeflaak
- Robert Letby
- Bruce MacLean
- Donald Mann
- Kendra Marjerrison
- David McCulloch
- Judy McIlwraith
- Emily Munzar
- Rob Robson
- Doug Scott
- Jennifer Stebbing
- Jean Tamminga
- Frank Taylor

Legacy Gift Circle

We are proud to recognize all those who have shared their plans to make a gift through their estate:

- Krista Boyd
- Theodore Dwyer & Madeline Tanglao-Dwyer
- Angie & Gordon McNulty
- Doug & Malle Scott
- Chitra & Robbie Singh
- and 3 donors who wish to remain anonymous

You've always found ways to support conservation.

KEEP THE LOVE GOING

Support Hamilton Conservation Foundation in your will.



Your donations to the Hamilton Conservation Foundation help to:

- Get kids learning about the environment outdoors
- Protect and improve the Hamilton watershed's meadows, forests, streams, and wetlands in our conservation areas.
- Build new trails and improve existing ones
- Bring history to life at Westfield Heritage Village

Thank you!



VISTA

Published by:

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Hamilton Conservation Authority

The Hamilton Conservation Foundation protects and enhances natural and cultural legacies by raising and stewarding funds for the Hamilton Conservation Authority. Our charitable registration number is 85997 5617 RR0001.

