



VISTA

2016-17 Annual Report from the Hamilton Conservation Foundation

Impact is the key to Stackpole International's donation

Going for a walk or run in the sprawling 3,000 acre Dundas Valley is part of the daily routine for many in our community.

Ionut Stefan wants us to know just how lucky we are to have nature in our back yard. Ionut's career takes him around the world and wherever he goes, he puts on his sneakers and goes out for a run.

"There are very few places I visit where so much of the natural world is protected like this," he tells us. "It's really quite remarkable."

Ionut works for a company named Stackpole International. He's their Director of Global Operations. Stackpole has, for the past two years, donated to the Foundation's Area of Greatest Need Fund as part of its commitment to support the Hamilton community. The company, which makes oil pumps and powdered metal products, has operations in North America, Europe, Asia and Turkey and has its headquarters here in Ancaster.

Now, why is a global organization supporting a small local charity?

"Impact," Ionut replies. "We want to have an impact in our community. For us, that's Ancaster and Hamilton. With the Foundation, I can see the results when I go for a run."

He points to the recent Hermitage Ruins restoration as a prime example of a project where donations had an immediate impact.

"I saw what was happening and said 'I want us to be a part of that!'"

We're so glad he did.



Ionut Stefan, Stackpole's Director of Global Operations

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Dear Friends,

Regular readers of our Vista Newsletter may wonder why we keep talking about a big East Escarpment Conservation Area project without unveiling trail loops, pavilions and parking lots.

While we announced the first two properties purchased for the project at the end of 2015, these acquisitions were just the first step in a larger project to reduce flooding, increase water quality and boost biodiversity in the east end of the Hamilton Watershed.

While there will be some recreational amenities at this new Conservation Area, the vision is much larger. Studies, environmental assessments and plans are setting the stage for a thriving, diverse ecosystem.

The west end of the watershed is home to a healthy Spencer Creek winding through Valens Lake, Christie Lake, Spencer Gorge and the Dundas Valley. Through your generous donations, the east end of the watershed will be home to an equally majestic ecosystem that will be preserved for future generations.

As I will soon be stepping down as Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Foundation, this will be my final Vista column. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our readers, for your support of conservation projects. I wish you all a wonderful summer, and hope that you have the opportunity to experience the beauty of our many Conservation Areas around Hamilton.

Anne Tennier, Chair, 2016-17

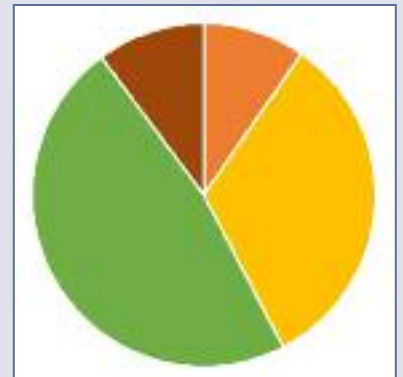


Anne Tennier, Chair, 2016-17

Your donations at work

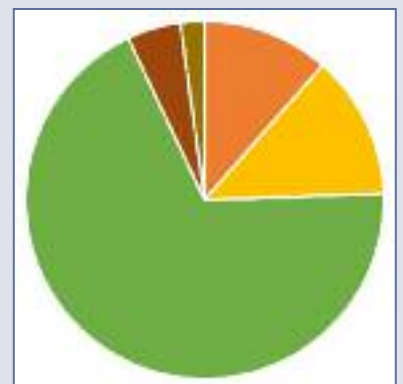
Where donations came from:

●	Corporations:	\$55,880	10%
●	Foundations:	\$189,312	33%
●	Individuals:	\$274,816	47%
●	Endowment Interest:	\$58,940	10%
	Total:	\$578,948	100%



What they helped to achieve:

●	Environmental Education	\$55,000	11%
●	Improving natural lands	\$62,611	13%
●	Securing more natural lands	\$329,482	69%
●	Improving trails	\$23,307	5%
●	Westfield & heritage sites	\$10,450	2%
	Total:	\$480,850	100%



A discrepancy between donations received and spent is to be expected from year-to-year as land and trail projects do not necessarily proceed in the year in which funding is received. To view our complete 2016 Audited Financial Statements and Statements from previous years please visit our website at www.YourNatureYourLegacy.ca or call Foundation Administrative Coordinator Toby Tresidder at 905-525-2181 ext. 129.

Old-fashioned after-school bake sale helps family make a difference for conservation lands on Earth Day

Heather and kids Maggie (9), Stella (7) and Jamie (3) wanted to do something special for Earth Day.

The family quickly decided on a bake sale fundraiser in support of an environmental charity. After school on Earth Day, the family set up a table in front of AM Cunningham School just east of Gage Park where Maggie and Stella are students.

To say their little fundraiser was a success is an understatement.

"Next time we need to make more!" explains Maggie proudly. "We sold out in like, three minutes!"

"I didn't even get to save anything for my teacher," chimes in Stella.

After their success, the family headed home and picked the Foundation as the lucky beneficiary of their hard work. In all, the family raised \$90 for the Area of Greatest Need Fund.

"I wanted to teach the kids about giving back," explains Heather.



Heather, Maggie, Stella and Jamie drop off their bake sale proceeds

Cherish and protect Hamilton's nature forever.
Plan your legacy gift today.

 **Hamilton Conservation**
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New Trail Loop finished at Fifty Point - plantings needed next

Known for its marina, beach and ball hockey facilities, Fifty Point is actually home to a thriving creek system winding its way out to Lake Ontario.



The centrepiece of the new trail loop is a bridge across the Fifty Point lagoon.

This summer, the Foundation will officially unveil the new Fifty Point Trail Loop. The loop, which connects the marina, beach, lagoon, birding platform, forest and meadow is now finished and awaits an official opening this summer.

The project, funded by The Helderleigh Foundation, ArcelorMittal Dofasco and the Federal Government's Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program, helps connect the Conservation Area's diverse natural areas with the recreational amenities which make it such a popular destination.

Visitors this summer will notice plenty of bare areas adjacent to the trail. Fundraising continues for native plantings which will beautify the trail and accelerate the surrounding ecosystem's recovery following construction.

Dundas Valley Cider Shack will provide shelter in heart of former Merrick Orchard

Nestled in the former Merrick apple orchard off the Main Loop Trail on Merrick Lane, the Apple Cider Shack will be reborn as a pavilion with donations to the Dundas Valley Fund..

Initial plan estimates show that it will take \$50,000 to convert the shack into a pavilion, the entire cost of which is expected to be funded through donations to the Foundation.

Despite its rustic charm, the deteriorating shack has long been an eyesore in the Conservation Area. Faced with a decision to either demolish the shack or renovate it, the Conservation Authority has opted to convert it into a pavilion for use by Outdoor Environmental Education classes and hikers.

The former orchard is home to a thriving meadow and a number of surviving apple trees.

Plans for the pavilion also include interpretive signage to explain the cultural and ecological significance of the area.



The Cider Shack sits in the former Merrick Orchard just off the Main Loop Trail in the Dundas Valley

East Escarpment Conservation Area planning moves ahead

Engineered wetlands, meandering streams and wet meadows will be part of the 500-acre vision to improve the east end of the Hamilton Watershed

The words “Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek Flood and Erosion Control Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment” probably don’t inspire much excitement in your mind. They are, however, the next step in an exciting 10-year multi-million dollar project which will provide flood control, protected natural lands and recreation opportunities which the east end of the Hamilton watershed so desperately needs.

The Foundation has pledged to raise \$250,000 to support these efforts over the first five years of the project.

The project has already helped to secure over 241 acres of land which will form the core of the new area.

The Conservation Authority is currently working with consultants Amec Foster Wheeler to conduct the Assessment which will identify floodplain areas where wetlands can be

constructed and where they will most effectively mitigate flooding.

The long-term vision involves securing over 500 acres of land along the Stoney and Battlefield Creeks in order to provide a host of benefits to the Hamilton and Stoney Creek communities. These will include retaining water to control flooding, enhancing and enlarging existing wetland areas, creating new wetlands, provide more water during low-flow periods and restoring, enhancing and enlarging the natural heritage features and functions of the wetlands and watercourses.

Ultimately, the project will also provide a number of recreational opportunities including trails, interpretive signage and, of course, visitor parking.



The new Conservation Area will sit immediately to the south-east of the Devil's Punchbowl CA (pictured)

Thank you to all of our fantastic donors

We're excited to recognize everyone who donated between December 1, 2015 and November 30, 2016

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We want to recognize the following donors whose cumulative giving hit a new milestone in 2015-16!

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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!



Indigo Bunting



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VISTA

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