



Nurturing Stewards

Connecting people to nature, and the best in themselves.

Our Mission:

Camp Kawartha inspires environmental leaders and stewards of all ages through dynamic, accessible, year-round outdoor programming and powerful partnership to create meaningful change.

Our Vision:

That Camp Kawartha will be recognized as a national leader in the delivery of high quality and inspirational outdoor and environmental programming; practicing, teaching and promoting sustainable living practices to children and adults of all ages and abilities.

Camp Kawartha in Numbers 2022-2023

14₇147 people impacted

20 educators trained

summer campers participated in the magic of camp

1,200

teachers, parents and volunteers supported programming

1,054

children sponsored or subsidized

2,211

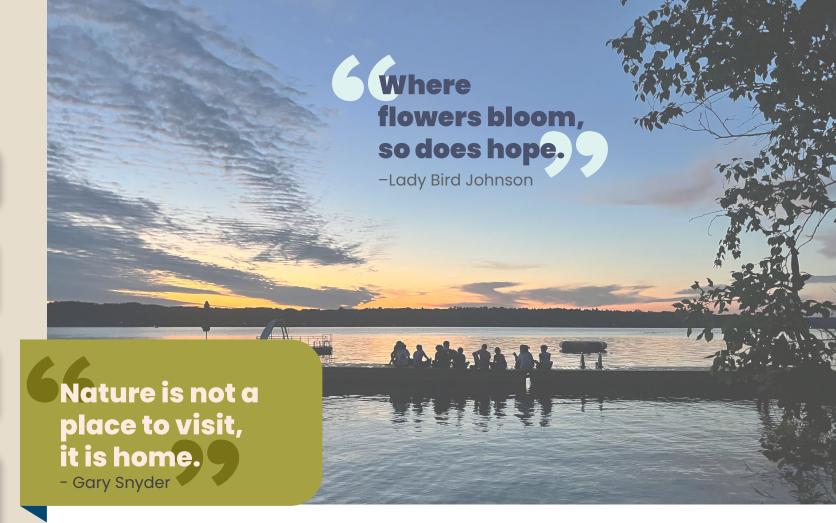
people from 41 groups rented Camp Kawartha

4,262

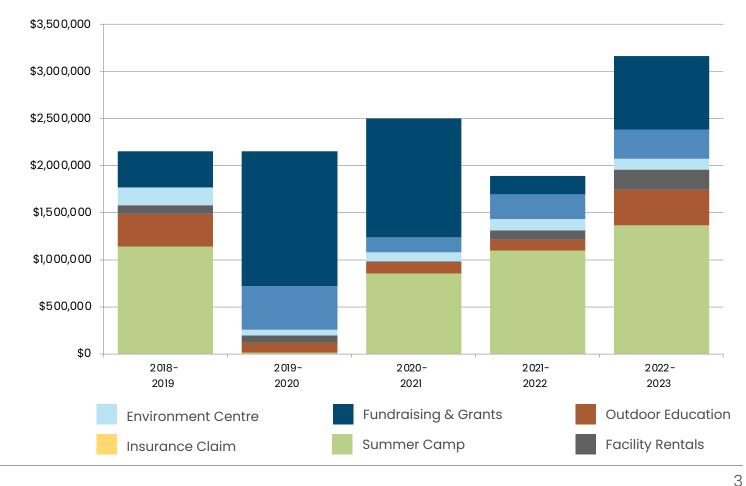
students participated in outdoor learning

7,674

people visited our environment centre, learning about sustainable living



Revenue



To those who came before...

As the years march by, we take the time to honour those who have made Camp Kawartha the award-wining organization that it is today. There is something in the water that attracts passionate, caring and dedicated volunteers, staff and board members. Often, they work quietly in the background, without fanfare to advance our mission of fostering stewards – children who grow up as caring and engaged citizens. A wonderful quote by Simon Ogunda comes to mind. He said:

"Instead of asking what kind of world we are leaving for our kids; we should ask, what kind of kids are we leaving for our world?"

There are so many good people that have helped us to foster the caring stewards of tomorrow. We begin by thanking the Rotary Club of Peterborough for having the foresight to establish Camp Kawartha back in 1921 – recognizing how formative camping experiences can be in creating resilient and engaged youth. We thank the hundreds of counselors and educators who have provided such memorable programming over the past century. We also express gratitude to those support staff that aren't always recognized - our maintenance, house-keeping, office, heath care staff that keep our campers and visitors healthy and safe. And of course, we take the time to honour our board members, who wrestle with those bigger issues that make Camp Kawartha current and relevant in everchanging times.

Time spent amongst trees is never wasted time.

- Katrina Maye

Sadly, there are people who we lose along the way. We think of Dave Hyland, a wonderful friend and volunteer for Camp Kawartha who cared so beautifully for our trees. His legacy lives on in the many trees we've planted in his name. We think of Nicole Fortin (camp name Wisp), who was a counselor at our summer camp and as a teacher, often brought her students to our outdoor education centre. Her kindness and warmth will live on in the many children she inspired.

From the Executive Director

2022/23 really has been a time to rebuild. A time to grow after several significant setbacks. In May of 2022, as we were just beginning to recover from the pandemic a major storm ripped through the camp, toppling over 600 mature trees and damaging 14 buildings. It has taken most of this past year to clear the trees, repair the buildings and bring Camp Kawartha back to stability once again. And thanks to the hard work of our team and our contractors - Camp Kawartha is now fully functional. All our buildings are repaired, and the ones completely damaged have been replaced. We've planted more than 1,000 trees. And as you'll read in this report, we've added a few new features that encourage our campers and visitors to have even a deeper connection to nature.

From our innovative Pathway to Stewardship Program, to our teacher training and Forest School for a Day, Camp Kawartha continues to build on its rich tradition of camp and outdoor learning. I encourage you to read on to find out how Camp Kawartha embodies its mission of fostering stewards — children who care for each other and the Earth we share.





Camp Kawartha ran another wonderful year of Summer Camp! Following several challenging years, Summer 2023 was a refreshing return to stability for our camping community. Camp Kawartha delivered summer camp programming to over 900 overnight and day campers! With our continued focus on stewardship, campers had the opportunity to connect with the natural world through our beautiful new canoe gardens, additional nature-infused programming, learning about the original caretakers of our land, and more. My warm thanks to all in our Summer Camp Community who made the summer so memorable, including campers, families, and our amazing staff team!



Accomplishments for 2023

Wastewater Management System

While dealing with human waste might not be the most appealing of topics, a modern well-run system is crucial in operating a safe and sustainable camp. Thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and kind donations from The William Wilson Sherport Foundation and other donors, we've replaced our old system built in 1985 with a brand-new Waterloo Bio-Filter system that will go that extra step to ensure that our wastewater is treated to the highest standard. At a cost of \$450,000 – this investment will keep the camp happily flushing for decades to come, while caring for our lakes and ground water.

A New Poplar Cabin

Replacing our old cabin that was completely destroyed during the Derecho storm, the new Poplar cabin has a larger footprint and demonstrates many sustainable features from energy efficient windows to green insulation. The new Poplar cabin can accommodate 11 campers and staff.

Morton Healing Garden

With thanks to the Morton family for their generous donation, we've installed a waterfall, Zen Garden, pollinator garden and nature play area. We've also created an interactive bird area with feeders, bird friendly plants and bird houses to encourage nature connection for our campers.

The Healing Garden, just outside of our Rotary Health Centre, demonstrates that we can create spaces where both people and nature can thrive.

Canoe Gardens

Thanks to the inspired work of Sadie Snell who designed and created this space, 8 old canoes found new life in our canoe vegetable garden. It turns out that canoes make for wonderful planting boxes!

Supplying our kitchen with fresh vegetables and herbs, the garden demonstrates to our campers and visitors that "the healthiest food is the shortest distance from the Earth to your mouth" – Wendell Berry.

1,000 Trees Planted

When lemons happen, make lemonade. This adage has come to life here at Camp Kawartha. After the devastating storm and thanks to a grant from Tree Canada – we took the opportunity to increase the biodiversity of our land by planting a wide variety of native tree and shrub species with the hope of attracting wildlife – from hickory, walnut, bitternut, sugar maple, red and white oak to service berry, nanny berry, dogwood and from cherry, willow, pine and

cedar to sumac and dogwood.
We'll use citizen science apps to monitor how quickly life comes back to our forest.



We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last generation that can do something about it.

- Barack Obama

Website

Thanks to a grant from the Community Services Fund, we are able to invest in an upgraded website full of ideas managed by Frolic Design, for parents, teachers and the community about how to cultivate a sense of stewardship in children of all ages. We'll have activities, lesson plans, resources and more so that we can strengthen our community's connection to nature, while demonstrating how we can create more resilient and nature-rich spaces that are healthier for children and the planet. The website will be launched in late January 2024.

On the Pathway

Thanks to a generous donation from the Ontario Trillium Foundation Camp Kawartha and its partners were able to develop and implement a groundbreaking stewardship framework called the Pathway to Stewardship and Kinship - helping thousands of teachers, parents and children discover ways that they can be active and engaged stewards. With over 62,000 landmarks recorded (or stewardship experiences), we blew past our original goal of 10,000 landmarks. We recently published a book describing the program and landmarks which can be downloaded for free at www.pathwayproject.ca. A documentary about the Pathway Project will be released early in 2024.

Outdoor and Environmental Education

Despite the pandemic and school closures, Camp Kawartha was able to offer on-line nature-based programming to area schools and provided more than 4,262 students and 2,211 visitors with outdoor education experiences at its main site. The Camp Kawartha Environment Centre logged a total of 7,674 visitors in its 12th year of operations and recorded 210 bookings. As of June 2022, over 420 student teachers have graduated from our Eco Mentor Program in partnership with Trent University and Fleming College.

Discover Your Schools Better Nature

Not only did Camp Kawartha deliver a wide variety of outdoor and environmental programming at its mains site and at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre, but we now offer curriculum-linked outdoor programming at schools. And at the same time, our staff have been training teachers on how to make use of their schoolgrounds as an extension of their classroom. We created a Guide to Outdoor Learning for teachers that can be accessed here: campkawartha.ca/pdf/brochures/Teachers-Guide-to-Outdoor-Learning.pdf

Forest School For A Day

Developed in Europe, Forest Schools are a model of education where most of the learning takes place outside. New this year, and based at our encampment area, Camp Kawartha is offering an entire day of learning outside using the Forest School model. Teachers can select from twenty programs linked to the Ontario Curriculum.

Preserve & cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.

- Katrina Maye

Tebey Concert

Thanks to the generosity of our friends Jim and Wendy Coyle – a special concert featuring Country Music star Tebey raised over \$50,000 to help Camp Kawartha recover from the impacts of the storm and pandemic!

Canada Summer Jobs

With a generous donation from Employment and Social Development Canada, we were able to hire seven young people this past summer to provide them with job training and skills related to their field of study. From office assistants to Eco Gardeners, this unique opportunity provided Camp Kawartha with extra staff while giving young Canadians a chance to gain valuable employment experience.

Camp Kawartha in the News...

- Caley Bedore from CHEX and Global TV's piece on our canoe garden here: tinyurl.com/532x4jrc
- We Do Docks contribution to renovating our docks. Read article here: tinyurl.com/ycyeambk
- Rotary's \$25,000 contribution to the Rotary Health Centre. Read article here: tinyurl.com/2tsauy93

Children still need a childhood with dirt, mud, puddles, trees, sticks and tadpoles.

- Brook Hampton

Getting the Word Out

Our Executive Director Jacob Rodenburg has been invited to speak at a variety of venues including:

- Presentation to the Outdoor Learning Conference held in Banff Alberta
- On-line presentation for the Outdoor Learning Workshop Series which reached over 3,000 educators signed up from around North America.
- Keynote to the Faculty of Education in Ottawa
- Keynote to the TDSB EcoSchools Conference
- Presentation to the Ontario Camps Association
- Presentation to the Alberta Camping Association.

Hot Tents

On our range area, Camp Kawartha now has installed three 16 x 20 wall tents, complete with a wooden floor and a woodstove. Each tent is large enough to sleep 8 to 10 people. This will provide campers and students the chance to experience camping under the stars. Thanks to a generous donation from the Ontario Learn to Camp Program – we have all the camping equipment we need to make an overnight experience cozy and comfortable.

Camp Kawartha's Board of Directors 2022-2023

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What is good of your stars and trees, your sunrise and the wind, if they do not enter into our daily lives?

- E.M. Forster

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Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.

- Rachel Carson

Some of the best classrooms do not have four walls.

- Anonymous

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