

Camp Kawartha

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



... Inspiring Outdoor & Environmental Stewardship

Camp Kawartha

OUR MISSION

CAMP KAWARTHA **inspires environmental leaders and stewards of all ages** through dynamic, accessible, year-round outdoor programming and powerful partnerships.

OUR VISION

THAT CAMP KAWARTHA WILL BE **recognized as a leader** in the delivery of high quality and inspirational outdoor and environmental programming; teaching and promoting sustainable living practices to children and adults of all ages and abilities.

THREE PILLARS OF CAMP KAWARTHA

Fosters environmental awareness by:

- Building skills which will help participants to enjoy the outdoors
- Providing environmentally sustainable outdoor and camping opportunities for children and adults
- Promoting knowledge about the natural world and understanding of human impacts on natural systems
- Providing children and adults with age appropriate strategies for positive environmental change
- Inspiring children and adults, with a sense of caring, wonder and awe for the natural world
- Demonstrating and promoting sustainable living practices and knowledge of alternative energy sources.

Builds community by:

- Promoting inclusion and respect for diversity
- Developing a sense of caring and empathy for one another and for the natural environment
- Showcasing how a healthy community can include the living and non-living systems that support and nurture us all
- Demonstrating how we can live in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.

Fosters environmental leadership by:

- Helping participants to gain confidence, self-esteem and personal empowerment
- Fostering independent thinking and problem-solving skills
- Developing and practicing action skills for positive environmental change
- Training educators, parents and community leaders in strategies to teach environmental education
- Promoting our Pathway to Stewardship and Kinship work
- Becoming a nationally recognized Environmental Education Leadership Centre.





About Camp Kawartha

NURTURING STEWARDS, INSPIRING STEWARDSHIP

CAMP KAWARTHA IS **an innovative environmental learning centre**, dedicated to fostering stewardship in the Greater Peterborough region and throughout Ontario. Camp Kawartha has been in operation **since 1921** and we've been a not-for-profit charity since 1985.

Over the past 10 years, Camp Kawartha has earned **17 awards** for our work in promoting outdoor and environmental learning. Reaching over **15,000 participants per year**, we help children, youth and adults acquire the skills to enjoy the outdoors, and we teach leadership skills and sustainable living practices while promoting nature connection and environmental responsibility.

As well as offering camp programs and outdoor education programs, we are **working to become a nationally recognized Environmental Education Leadership Centre**.

SUMMER CAMP

Providing **magical overnight camping experiences for children ages 4 to 17**, we teach children skills to appreciate, enjoy and protect the environment. We offer day camp, one, two and three week overnight camps, leadership sessions and tripping programs. We also work with local cottagers' associations to provide outreach environmental camps.

ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

In partnership with Trent University, we provide **over 30 curriculum-linked programs** to Elementary and High School students focused on sustainable living and ecology. We also provide **workshops on environmental education** to student teachers, early childhood educators and to the general public.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

We offer **over 60 curriculum-linked programs** to students from Kindergarten to grade twelve. Program offerings fall under five broad headings: Environmental Science, Canadian History, Nature Arts, Adventure and Leadership, Recreation and Physical Education. We have anchored all of our programs into a comprehensive stewardship framework developed by Camp Kawartha and each program is linked to the Ontario curriculum.

FACILITY RENTALS

We also rent both our facilities to groups. Our main camp facility on the shores of Clear Lake offers **a scenic and relaxing venue** for weekend retreats, team building, conferences, family reunions and green weddings.

The Environment Centre in Peterborough is also an ideal location for meetings and workshops.



“Today I have grown taller from walking with the trees.”

— Karle Wilson Baker

From the Executive Director

PERHAPS WE ALL KNEW THIS INTUITIVELY, but research is now revealing just how healing nature can be. Phytoncides emitted by trees help to boost our immune system. Just walking in a natural area reduces stress, decreases both our heart rate and blood pressure and flushes away stress hormones like cortisol. Even the colour green has a demonstrated calming effect. In fact, some doctors are prescribing experiences in nature as a way to combat anxiety. Richard Louv calls experiences in nature a dose of “Vitamin N” (Nature). Sadly, the average child is spending more time indoors than ever. And school officials are worried about ever increasing levels of anxiety and stress in children of all ages. Levels of childhood obesity have increased three fold over the last 30 years and this could be the first generation that does not live as long as their parents.



Jacob Rodenburg

At Camp Kawartha, we feel we have an important role to play to reconnect children to the very life systems that nurture us all — to encourage them to be active and healthy. And by teaching about sustainable living, we showcase how people and nature can occupy the same space so that both can thrive. In this report you’ll find out the many ways in which Camp Kawartha is a leader in stewardship and environmental education, from our creative outdoor programming to our internationally recognized Pathway to Stewardship and Kinship initiative. Read to find out more!

From the Summer Camp Director

THE SUMMER CAMP has enjoyed a string of successful summers, and with a high retention rate of staff, we have the privilege of building on our previous successes. Staff have brought their remarkable skills and talents to help enhance our programming and to promote the development of both soft and hard skills to campers and young leaders of all ages.

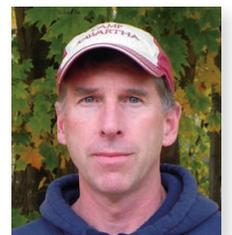


Adam Strasberg

Camp has never been so full, and Summer Camp 2019 promises to be even busier! There were over 70 staff members living on site this past summer giving us a great staff to camper ratio—in many cases 1 staff to 2 campers. Most of our staff have also been campers at Kawartha and have a strong connection to our values and expectations. As a result, we nurture deeply caring staff, a finely tuned system of operations and an ongoing tradition of excellence and training that has become the Camp Kawartha Way. We offer magical, life-altering experiences that serve as a strong foundation for the caring and engaged citizens of tomorrow.

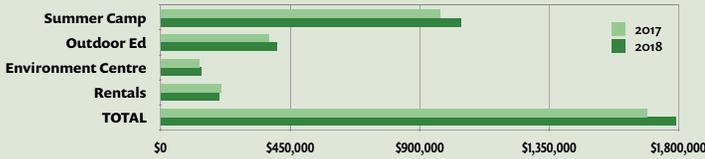
From our Outdoor Education Manager

AS A SCHOOL BUS pulls into the parking lot, students emerge with excited voices and an eagerness to begin their outdoor education experience. For many this is the first time they’ll see a salamander, build a fire, climb a wall, or gaze at stars. Thousands of students from dozens of schools visited Camp Kawartha, from as close as Lakefield, to as far away as Montreal: elementary classes, high school and even university students, as well as an increasing number of new Canadians who had never snowshoed or experienced swimming in a lake. Over the past year, we enjoyed our new accessible climbing wall, a winter “hot” tent with a small woodstove, and newly tracked cross-country skiing trails; and we implemented our new First Nations program. Our Outdoor Education staff work tirelessly and train hard to provide amazing programs for students of all ages. And when that bus leaves the parking lot with the students smiling and waving back, we know they have had the experience of a lifetime.



Neil Fortin

2018 Summary of Revenue by Department



8,347 early childhood, elementary and high school students taught

47 classes and 9 early years centres participating in Pathway to Stewardship Initiative

1100+ parent & teacher volunteers supporting programs

30 Early Childhood and Trent Student Teachers received an Eco-Mentor certificate in partnership with Trent U and Fleming College

1,384 children participated in summer, winter & spring camps

10 pollinator gardens planted

From our Environment Centre Manager

IT HAS BEEN a busy and exciting year at the Environment Centre. Over 10,000 participants visited the centre in this, our 9th year of operations. We are enjoying a beautiful new wooden floor that was built by Paul Patterson and Cathy Hooper in the spring. We have also added new environmental education programs for school visits, new camps/forest school programs and hosted many events in which participants explored how we can live more sustainably. In the year ahead, we look forward to making additions and enhancements to the Natural Playscape area, and we'll continue to work on new programs and partnerships. We are striving to make the grounds at the Environment Centre as nature-rich as possible to inspire magical encounters with the birds, insects, plants and mammals of our "neighbourhood."



Craig Brant

2018 by the Numbers

3,289 facility rental guests

2,887 students participated in overnight outdoor education programming

365 campers & students received a subsidy or sponsorship

We received a rating of **4.8** out of 5 for our staff as positive role models.

85% were very satisfied with their camp experience

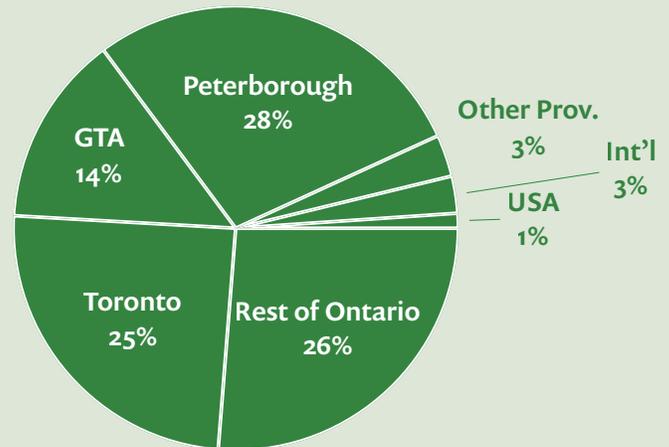
12 articles + 2 book chapters written; 16 presentations made about environmental education.

464 students earned a Be A Watershed Steward Certificate

WE LOGGED A TOTAL OF

15,994 students, campers, rental guests and volunteers over the past fiscal year.

Where our 2018 Summer Camp campers come from:



Our growing Social Media audience in 2018:

Camp Kawartha Facebook — **up 8%**
 Camp Kawartha Environment Centre Facebook — **up 7%**
 Camp Kawartha Twitter — **up 4%**
 Camp Kawartha Environment Centre Twitter — **up 6%**
 Instagram — **up 18%**
 Pinterest — **up 15%**

Camp Kawartha is on the Pathway

The pathway to **stewardship**...

We are thrilled to be piloting our **Pathway to Stewardship and Kinship** initiative. This is a unique approach to environmental education that provides a guide and a road-map towards stewardship based on every stage of a child's development.

Using a series of landmarks, or goals for each age group (30 benchmarks in total), this strategy outlines key experiences that every child should have in order to become engaged stewards of their environment. It provides local resources that may be able to support the achievement of each landmark and suggests ways in which schools, parents, local organizations, public health and municipalities can work collaboratively to make this happen.

This project has been **cited in a report for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity**, featured in a recent World Watch publication, and was a feature article in the magazine *Green Teacher*. 47 classes are involved in our pilot, along with 9 early years centres. As well, over 25 members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists are volunteering their time to become nature mentors. They will help classes explore and learn about who else lives in their "neighbourhood."



The pathway to **accessibility**...

Thanks to the generosity of the Rick Hansen Foundation, The J.P. Bickell Foundation and other donors, we constructed **an accessible pathway down to our waterfront**. For the first time, kids with limited mobility or those in wheelchairs can now have access to Clear Lake and participate in those signature camp activities like canoeing and sailing. Rick Hansen Ambassador Sioux Lily, who herself is in a wheelchair, spoke eloquently at our ribbon-cutting ceremony about how wonderful it was to feel connected to water again and how delighted she was that this gift can now be offered to children of all abilities.

Camp Kawartha recently was awarded the **National Accessibility Champion Award** from the Council of Persons with Disabilities for its efforts of going above and beyond for accessibility and inclusivity. As it mentions in a recent news release: "Camp Kawartha has been innovative and inclusive for their business and operational philosophy namely, full inclusivity for children and adults of all abilities.

The recent developments include an accessible cabin cluster comprising a large accessible deck for group activities, plus accessible sleeping quarters with power entry doors and accessible washrooms and showers."





... the pathway to becoming a nationally recognized Environmental Leadership Centre

The 7 Grandfathers taught...

*To cherish knowledge is to know wisdom;
To know love is to know peace;
To honour all of Creation is to have respect;
Bravery is to face the foe with integrity;
Honesty in facing a situation is to be brave;
Humility is to know yourself as a sacred part of Creation;
Truth is to know all of these things.*

The pathway to reconciliation...

Camp Kawartha is proud to work with the Rotary Club of Peterborough Kawartha, Curve Lake First Nation and Canadian Canoe Museum to offer up a 6 day, 100 kilometer adventure through the Kawartha Lakes. This is a **journey of reconciliation and understanding** provided to 20 First Nations and Non-First Nations Youth between the ages of 16-18. By exploring the history of the Kawartha Lakes, meeting elders and learning about traditional ways of knowing, youth gain a new appreciation for each other's cultures. The trip culminates in a wonderful feast and celebration at Curve Lake First Nation.

Local artist Michael Ketemer produced a large, interactive canvas map of the Kawartha Lakes to use as a **teaching tool to promote Indigenous awareness** for visitors. This map will help us teach our First Nations Awareness Program allowing participants to literally walk through the geography of this region and use this tool to explore the rich history of the Anishinaabe and the Williams Treaty. We are also working with the Trent Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and Science (TRACKS) in developing joint programming.

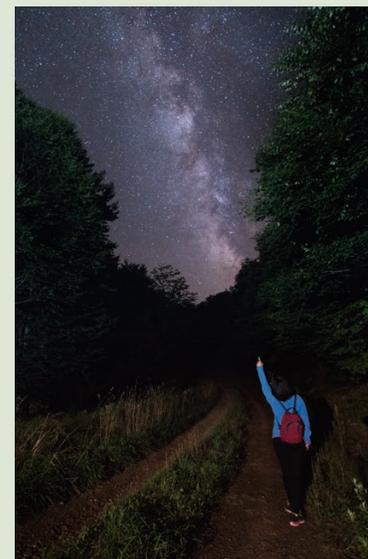
Word about what we are doing is getting out! The Pathway to Stewardship and Kinship initiative is being **featured in two new books** being published by both Emerald and Springer Press. As well, the Pathway initiative is mentioned in a report to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity entitled "Connecting with Nature to Care for Ourselves and the Earth."

Jacob Rodenburg has written **numerous articles** for *EcoParent*, cottagers' magazines and others about ways in which we can foster a stronger connection to nature. Jacob has also presented to many organizations and was a **keynote speaker** for the Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario at their 2018 fall conference.

Camp Kawartha is **training future leaders**. This year, in partnership with Ontario EcoSchools, we will be offering training to teachers on strategies for effective environmental education. This is in addition to our EcoMentor Certificate program for student teachers and for early childhood educators in partnership with Trent University and Fleming College. Over the past 9 years, Camp Kawartha has directly **trained over 380 EcoMentors**.

Camp Kawartha is working with community partners. On May 15th, 2017 over 200 children from Kindergarten to Grade 8 participated in the 10th **annual Environment Day** organized by Camp Kawartha at Beavermead Park for the PVNC Catholic District School Board. With help from the Otonabee Conservation and Ecology Park we provided programs on water quality, composting, local wildlife, soils and traditional skills.

Camp Kawartha offers **outreach environment camps** with three local cottager associations, reaching an additional 350 campers per year.



Capital Campaign Update

CAMP KAWARTHA IS **working with LETT Architects** to design one of Canada's first fully certified Living Buildings. Far beyond LEED, the Living Building Challenge is a standard that ensures buildings are designed to use materials with the lowest possible embodied energy and toxicity.

There are only 30 fully certified living buildings in the world, and only one other in Canada. This will be **a demonstration project for architects, builders and developers** — to adopt these strategies into the mainstream and help youth and adults develop leadership skills, foster ecological awareness and provide **an inspiring example of how nature and humans can be fully integrated into the same living space.**

This building will **replace our aging and energy inefficient dining hall** and modestly expand our capacity. It will also be fully accessible to ensure there are no physical barriers to Camp Kawartha's programs and services. We are consulting with local First Nations groups and will incorporate Indigenous elements of design.

Camp Kawartha is also planning to:

- *Replace our waste water management system with a state of the art green system that accommodates our increased capacity.*
- *Reclaim green space for a large organic food and pollinator garden with an outdoor kitchen. This will serve as an important teaching tool for helping visitors to understand the importance of healthy, local food.*
- *Replace our aging Health Care Centre. We need a designated, accessible space to care for the health needs of visitors, campers and students. This space will be designed by the Endeavour Centre as a showpiece in sustainable design and innovation.*





Our 2018 Donors

Individuals

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 Kate Andrew
 Alison Armstrong
 Daryl Bennett
 Blair Bevan
 Ted Bickell
 Katie Binda
 Joshua Blank
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AMICI Camping Charity
 CGOV Foundation
 Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough
 Gainey Foundation
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 Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Foundation
 Ontario Trillium Foundation
 Otto & Marie Pick Charitable Foundation
 PRHC Foundation
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 St. Peter's On the Rock
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In the words of our Community...

“I am so appreciative of the subsidy that allowed my daughter to take part in Camp Kawartha. As a single parent, I stress about whether or not my girls are going to get the same life experiences and opportunities as other children, and **thank you to the donors at CK** my daughter got an experience I could have never provided her on my own.... I cried tears of joy leaving her behind as she began her journey.”

“Our son’s two weeks at Camp Kawartha were completely transformational: he went from a kid who couldn’t spell fun to someone who asks how to spell ‘accipiter’. He has a natural curiosity that suddenly has a purpose. Both weeks instructors took an interest in him and made an effort to engage his strengths. **The result was a kid with sudden confidence and energy and spark:** he has dedicated the last 6 months to researching and obsessively drawing birds of prey...memorizing scientific names and range maps and traits. When we drove home and he described the saw whet owl, the wingspan and eye size for the fifth time we were both crying, he can’t stop saying it was the ‘best day of his life.’ **The camp and staff have made such a difference in his little life...** being different isn’t easy, but being himself has only been possible by finding his place at Camp K.”

“Our usually ‘preoccupied with electronics’ 11 year old loves environmental camp. He has been 4 times now over the last few years. When he gets home he still doesn’t go straight to the computer. We love that he is getting active, enjoying the time spent with the counsellors and new friends, and being interactive with the outdoor physical games he can play. And guess what — he is learning too!”

*“It looks like **my kid had one of the greatest times in her life so far!** Thank you very much for all the organization, effort and care. My daughter has become **much more mature and grown up just in two weeks’** term! Best counselors, best friends, best everything! We look forward to next summer!”*

“For my son & daughter, the Camp Kawartha experience is priceless. **They are more self-aware, more confident and better stewards of the environment** because of their experiences at Camp Kawartha.”

*“I have never been to summer camp before and it was so awesome! There were so many favorite parts of the week. One part I really liked was **in the tent at night and I could hear crickets, loons and coyotes.** I am so grateful to the generous donors because this is a week that I will remember forever. I hope to be able to give back to the camp when I can in the future.”*

“Camp Kawartha Outdoor Ed Centre has been **a wonderful experience** for both students and staff. Students were encouraged to step outside their comfort zone and they realized their own amazing potential. **Programs like this are burned in memory for a lifetime.**”

“Our trip to KOEC was fantastic! I heard about Camp Kawartha through various recommendations from teachers throughout our board. We completed the Alternative Energy, High Ropes and Cross Country Skiing programs. They were **very well organized, specific to our curriculum and so much fun!** On top of the great programs, KOEC also excels with enthusiastic flexible staff, delicious food and clean, comfortable accommodations. I look forward to returning to KOEC in the very near future and recommend it highly to anyone looking for a balanced combination of fun, education and hands on activity!”

“[O]ur experience was truly unforgettable! ... **Our students were constantly engaged and built relationships that they otherwise would not have.** Camp Kawartha is a fabulous outdoor ed centre and **we can’t say enough positive things about you.** We hope to make this an annual event”

*“If you want to take an elementary class on an overnight excursion, **you must go to Camp Kawartha.** The staff, facilities, education and food are second to none!”*

“Camp Kawartha is **a rich learning experience** for all students. Learning goes beyond the curriculum and includes life skills such as: community building, curiosity, and a joy of our Ontario environment. **I will always bring my students here.**”

“Our experiences at Camp Kawartha have been phenomenal! **Our “city kids” have truly gained a greater appreciation for nature and our environment,** as well as having experiences and taking risks they would never have had the opportunity for in their daily lives. **We love Camp Kawartha and will be back again next year!**”

“Our school’s 14 year relationship with Camp Kawartha is built upon **the foundation of excellence and commitment** found at all levels of the CK family.”

“**You can always depend on a great experience at Camp Kawartha** with Ontario Curriculum links, great facilities, friendly, knowledgeable staff and a well-run program. We look forward to returning each year for many years to come. **A quote from the kids: ‘Do we have to leave?’**”

“Thank you to all of you and your staff for providing such a wonderful experience for the children of C.R. Gummow, Cobourg, I was fortunate enough to be a chaperone along with my daughter. We had some great bonding moments at the camp learning and having fun. **Your camp counsellors were all wonderful and you should be proud of them and your facility.**”

“Camp Kawartha’s programs have been **a wonderful learning experience for our students.** Linked to the Ontario curriculum, the programs . . . are engaging and rich in team-building opportunities. The staff are very knowledgeable at what they do and are always available to assist the kids at any time. Their ability to motivate the students and adopt different teaching styles promoted an enthusiastic learning opportunity and guaranteed success for all in each of the program areas. We look forward to future visits!”

“Another amazing three days at Kawartha. **Simply amazing!** Thanks again for your generosity and kindness. The kids had **an awesome experience.** Many thanks to all of the staff for making it **a huge success.** Much admiration.”

“**My students had a fantastic time** at Camp Kawartha. They learned about the fur trade by actually participating in it and that experience was invaluable. The staff was knowledgeable, creative, and accommodating and I will be back next year for sure! Thanks for everything.”

“It’s hard these days to connect with the environment the way we used to. Our society has been growing in a way that hasn’t been conducive to growing our environmental attitudes. . . . This can change though, all it takes is increased environmental awareness brought forward in a positive light to help fight against the learned helplessness. **We need Environmental education centers, we need Camp Kawartha.**”

“I have brought students from three different schools for over ten years now. Every year students claim their CK experience is the best part of the year. **I have students from years gone by who keep in touch & still talk about the trip to CK.** A jewel that needs to be treasured. **Every child should get the opportunity to go at least once.**”

“Camp Kawartha provided **an exceptional experience from start to finish.** The booking process was straight forward, the camp staff is friendly, knowledgeable & engaging. We highly recommend the program.”

“After attending Camp Kawartha, **I found myself uplifted by the phenomenal amount of knowledge, positivity and passion present in the staff.** I found myself inevitably drawn into the experience where I not only gained knowledge on the natural world in a fun and engaging way but also felt motivated to increase my own environmental stewardship practices. I believe this is an ideal mindset to impart on the youth and Camp Kawartha does an excellent job of conveying it.”

“This has been **one of the most enriching field trips that I have been on in 29 years!** The instructors were knowledgeable, friendly, organized and experienced!”

“**The programs were geared directly to our Kindergarten curriculum.** The staff engaged the children and stimulated their learning. We look forward to extending today’s learning in our classroom!”

“We had **an exemplary day** at the centre. We knew from the moment we arrived that our Kindergarten students would be engaged. The children were delighted with their day! Thank you!”

“Visiting the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre will definitely become an annual tradition for my class. The staff are knowledgeable and bring a genuine sense of enthusiasm that is infectious. **How great to bring learning out of the classroom and into the outdoors!** Great, hands on, inquiry based programming!”

Camp Kawartha

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*To see a world in a grain of sand,
And a heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour.*

— William Blake



... Inspiring Outdoor & Environmental Stewardship