# CAMP KAWARTHA

# 2019 Annual Report

Inspiring Outdoor & Environmental Stewardship

# Nurturing Stewards, Inspiring Stewardship...

#### **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 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.

# **THREE PILLARS CAMP KAWARTHA**

## **Fostering Environmental Awareness**

- Provides exceptional outdoor opportunities for children and adults
- Promotes knowledge about the natural world and understanding of human impacts on natural systems
- Demonstrates age appropriate strategies for positive environmental change
- Inspires a sense of caring, wonder and awe for the natural world
- Showcases sustainable living in action

## **Building Community**

- Promotes inclusion and respect for diversity
- Develops a sense of caring for each other and the natural environment
- Collaborates with community members to create positive environmental change
- Showcases a healthy community in which both nature and people thrive

## **Developing Environmental Leaders**

- Develops action skills for positive environmental change
- Activates confidence, self-esteem, personal empowerment
- Strengthens nature connection
- Trains educators and community leaders in environmental education



"It's the little things that citizens do. That's what will make the difference. My little thing is planting trees." Wangari Maathai

# what we do...

Camp Kawartha is an innovative camp and 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, the Camp has earned **19 awards** for its work in promoting **outdoor** and **environmental learning**. Reaching over 17,000 participants per year, Camp Kawartha operates as a summer camp, an outdoor education and environment centre, provides training in environmental education and workshops on nature connection and sustainability. Camp Kawartha is striving to become a **nationally recognized Environmental Education Leadership Centre**.

## **Summer Camp**

Provides 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**.

## **Outreach Camps**

In partnership with the Wollaston Township, Jack's Lake Association, and the Association of Stony Lake Cottagers, we deliver environmental outreach camps.

## **Facility Rentals**

Camp Kawartha's facilities are available for workshops, conferences, retreats, team building, conferences, family reunions and green weddings.

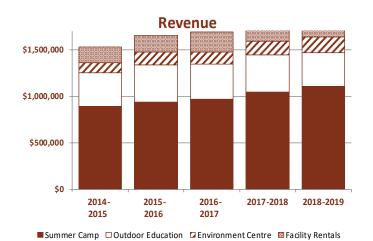
17,162 total # of people served by Camp Kawartha

#### **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**, **Environmental Arts**, **Adventure and Leadership**, **Recreation and Physical Education**. All of our programs are curriculum-linked and follow a comprehensive stewardship framework developed by Camp Kawartha.

#### **Environment Centre**

We provide over 30 curriculum-linked programs to Elementary and High school students focused on **sustainable living and ecology**. We offer workshops on environmental education to student teachers, early childhood educators and to the general public.



# **THANK YOU 2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jason Huffman - Chair Tim Nicholls - Treasurer Jamie Cahill Liam Churchill Nancy Dennis Myke Healy Lil Hirdes
David Kubica
Andrew Marshall
Betsy McGregor
Michael Papadacos
Mike Richardson

**Rotary Representatives:** 

Alan Ingram Lisa Smith

**Honorary/Founding Members:** 

Steve Ambler John Cockburn

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Here are some words written by a grandparent this past summer:

"Our grandson has just come back from his three nights of camp...he tells us he had an awesome time and loved it. When asked what was his favorite part - our grandson says he can't answer that because everything was his favorite. He was grinning from ear to ear when we greeted him and already appears to have an extra skip to his step. The time he spent on the water and on hikes in nature and with other children is so invaluable for his development. His love of nature and curiosity has increased and according to his counselors our grandson related well to other children and showed great enthusiasm for the activities presented... In short, he has not had an easy 8 years of his life... As a grandparent, I cannot stress enough how excited and rewarding it is to see our grandson thriving and happy. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all for giving him this fabulous opportunity..."

For almost 100 years, Camp Kawartha has been providing magical outdoor experiences for thousands of campers. And for every one story we hear, we recognize that there are probably hundreds of other similar stories, each highlighting how a camp or an outdoor education experience has had a powerful and enduring impact on the lives of children. In a way we at Camp Kawartha, are connectors. We connect kids to each other, to the best in themselves and to the natural world. We connect each child to their potential. We give our children the chance to really

experience a healthy community - one that shows

how people and nature can live together so that both may thrive. Read on in this report and find out how

Camp Kawartha has become a leader in connecting at

a time when division, mistrust and misunderstanding

Jacob Rodenburg (B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed) **Executive Director** 

seem all too common in this world.

#### **Awards**

Executive Director Jacob Rodenburg was presented with two awards this year. He received the **Conservation** Award from Otonabee Conservation for "passionate" determination, inspiration and innovation in fostering awareness and understanding of the world around us. Also, Jacob received the "You Rock" Award from PTBOCanada for making a difference locally.

#### **Peterborough Examiner Readers' Choice Awards**

Our Camp Kawartha Environment Centre recently won the Readers' Choice 2019 Award in two categories:

- Summer Camps Gold Award
- Kids Activities Platinum Award

## And the Word gets Out

Over 12 articles about nature and environmental education were written by Camp Kawartha staff and appeared in magazines such as EcoParent, the Herald and Lake of the Woods Magazine. There were also articles about Camp Kawartha appearing in Trent Magazine, Kawartha Cottage and the Peterborough Examiner. Jacob Rodenburg was keynote speaker and presenter at 10 events over the past year.



# **SUMMER CAMP**

**2019** has been our largest summer yet. That is a testament to the hard work, dedication and passion of our remarkable staff. They have created a safe, nurturing and inclusive culture that has helped to grow the reputation of Camp Kawartha. Parents know that their campers will participate in fun, meaningful and life-enhancing experiences in which campers care for each other and for their environment. Our staff put campers at the very heart of everything we do. Each pre-camp, we work hard to teach our staff to be sensitive and caring mentors to our campers and for each other.

From our day camps to our new CK overnight session, from our nature camp to our specialized tripping programs, Camp Kawartha overs a unique range of opportunities for **children ages 4 to 17**. This culminates

in our acclaimed leadership programs run by Senior Staff members that not only train our future staff, but provide them with foundational leadership skills that will serve them in whatever future career they chose to pursue. Last summer we had 71 leadership candidates in 6 programs.

Whether it's the first week or last week of camp, we offer consistently magical experiences to both our campers and staff who are now itching for the start of summer camp and the next round of adventure. Welcome summer 2020!

- Adam Strasberg (B.A., B. Ed.), Summer Camp Director

1,093 campers

86% of campers VERY SATISFIED with camp experience

**71**leadership campers in six 4-week programs

4.8 / 5 staff rating

#### **Parent Testimonials:**

"My stepson spends a lot of time indoors. Video games are a big part of his everyday. This was his first camp experience, first independent week away. He went on the junior canoe trip and when we picked him up he said 'that was the greatest week of my life and I want to join the leadership program next year' – that was music to our ears."

"My child has been going to camp since she was seven and loves it more every year. Camp has taught her many important lessons about herself and others. The minute she gets home she starts talking about how much she wants to come back next year."

"Over the week Danica was at Camp Kawartha she found self awareness, independence, and a love of the outdoors. She learned about environmental responsibility and is teaching what she learned to her friends and family. Danica can't wait to go back next year."

"My child is not the most athletic child or who spends time out side. I love how this camp makes her unplug from Social media and just enjoy the outdoors. When she comes home from camp she wishes she could go back and hearing how much she enjoyed her time at camp and all the activities she took part in that she never would have if she were home"

"Our 14-year-old had his 3rd year at camp this year. When he returns, we see so much growth in him. He has matured from an introverted pre-teen glued to his computer, to wanting to do Counsellor Development. The amazing counsellors at Camp Kawartha have played a key role in this. Thank you so much for helping to build his confidence!"

"My boys came back to me bronzed and smiling, telling tales of outdoor adventures. It is so refreshing to hear them get excited about "unplugged" activities."

# **OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE**

With a fresh layer of snow on the ground, seasonal change is always a good time to reflect on the success of the previous Outdoor Education year. When I look back at the schools or client groups that have attended our Outdoor Education Centre recently, two words truly stand out: diversity and multiculturalism. In my 20 years at Camp Kawartha, I don't think I have seen a year where we have connected with so many students, schools, groups representing such a diverse and global background. International students from Wilfred Laurier University, Fleming College and others became immersed in the Canadian landscape in a way they'll never forget. To watch a student from India experience ice for the first time or a student from Senegal tromping through the woods on snowshoes brought smiles to our instructor's faces. This past year has seen more elementary schools from the Greater Toronto region, largely urban areas bringing with them an incredible mix of cultures, languages and family backgrounds. Teachers told us that they were delighted

that their urban students had the opportunity to be immersed in and learn about their natural environment. Diversity was also highlighted in a year when we provided outdoor opportunities for First

Nation groups like Native Child & Family

Services, the Fleming Indigenous Student Services as well with the local Heads Up For Inclusion students. We are reaching far and wide, from serving schools just around the corner in Lakefield, to reaching schools from Montreal in the East and London in the West. Our outdoor educators bring them an impressive array of skills, abilities and knowledge that promote environmental learning. They work hard to foster an inclusive atmosphere for all students, no matter their age or background. The outdoors is for all!

- Neil Fortin, Head of Outdoor Education

curriculum-linked programs

students taught

#### **Teacher Testimonials:**

"We had an absolute blast at Camp Kawartha! The students loved everything from their programs (Lost in the Woods, Quest for Fire, Tracks and Trailing), to their cabins, to the Dining Hall experience and best of all the fantastic Survival game on our last day! Its been a couple of weeks since our trip and the students are still sharing stories that start with, "remember when we did.....at Camp K!". Thank you so much, to the knowledgeable staff, for making our first experience at Camp K something our Grade 6 students will remember forever! We will back next year!" - Erica Duncan, Murray Centennial PS, Trenton

"Camp Kawartha provided our students with an amazing experience that they would not of otherwise had an opportunity to participate in being from a financially vulnerable neighbourhood! The amazing and talented staff was the cherry on the top! Thanks Camp kawartha and see you next year!" - Centennial PS, Brampton

405 teachers & parent chaperones

1,670 facility rental visitors

"I have been bringing classes to Camp Kawartha for many years. I am always extremely impressed by every aspect of the program. What I like best is the laughter and learning of my students that is fostered in this amazing place!"

- Andrew Wilton, Westmount PS, Peterborough

"Avalon has been attending Camp Kawartha for over 5 years. The staff is knowledgeable, engaging & friendly. They work well with children of all abilities. The programs are educational & fun. We highly recommend it!"

- Ava<mark>lon Children's Mon</mark>tessori School, Toronto

"Our school has been coming to Camp Kawartha for 15 years and we will continue to make this trip a grade 6 tradition for many years With engaging programming come. enthusiatic staff our students are quaranteed to have an exceptional experience. Thank you!" - C.R. Gummow PS, Cobourg

# THE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

It has been a busy and exciting year at the Environment Centre. Over 11,000 participants visited the Centre in this, our 9th year of operations. We are enjoying the beautiful new wooden floor that was built by Paul Patterson and Cathy Hooper last spring. There are also a suite of new environmental education programs for school visits, new camps and forest school programs and we hosted a variety of events, from exploring Indigenous ways of knowing to workshops on raising Monarch Butterflies. A big thanks to all the great families, kids, teachers, schools, staff team and our partners who make the Environment Centre such an inspiring place to learn, explore, connect and

return to. In the year ahead, we look forward to making additions and enhancements to the Natural Playscape Area, and we continue to work on new programs and partnerships and to make the grounds at the Environment Centre as nature rich as possible. Our thanks as always to Gainey Foundation and the many donors who through their generosity, made this building and the creative programs that take place there, possible.

- Craig Brant, Environment Centre Manager

**POLLINATOR GARDENS** established

**ECO MENTORS** trained

WATERSHED STEWARDS certified 11,864 students & visitors

#### **Teacher Testimonials:**

"We come to Camp Kawartha every year – enthusiastic leaders, engaging activities and so much learning! Can't recommend them highly enough!"

"We always love coming to Camp Kawartha! Everything is so well organized and well run. Being outside for most of the day is the best part!"

"Thank you so very much for the wonderful day! The kids had a fantastic day outside in the snow and learned so much about animal tracks and how to snowshoe! We'll be back next year!"

"The way the staff engage the students is our favourite part. It is a paradise of learning opportunities!"

"Beautiful building with lots to explore for the kids excellent staff. We loved the frog band!"

"I love how even though it was rainy, you planned for us! Awesome exploring and learning!"

#### **Parent Testimonials:**

"Love, love, LOVE the opportunity for my daughter to enjoy being kids in this beautiful natural space. Love the youth role models and high quality, thoughtful experiences organized every day to keep the kids engaged and interested in the natural environment!"

"Lots of fun outdoor adventures and appreciation for nature. This camp is my favorite summer camp!"

"It was an amazing week. (Our daughter) learned so much about trees and plants - she had endless stories!"

"You exceeded at providing unique experiences which inspired my son to learn and grow. You exceeded at making my son feel helpful by allowing him to instruct younger children in activities."

"If there's a space available – sign up! My children always have come home at the end of each day with big smiles. Such experiences in a natural setting are more important than ever!"

# **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### Wheel Chair Accessible Garden

Camp Kawartha continues to connect kids to their local food. Thanks to a donation from the Arscott Family Fund, the Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation, the Peterborough Foundation, Gosling Foundation and the Pilkington-Hennigner Charitable Trust, Camp Kawartha was able to naturalize a portion of its parking lot by installing planter boxes. These cedar boxes not only create lots of growing space for healthy herbs and vegetables, but they have been designed to be completely wheelchair accessible. The garden was designed by gardening expert Cathy Hooper and constructed by Paul Patterson. Kids of all ages and ability will have the chance to plant, tend, harvest and prepare the freshest local food. As Aldo Leapold once said, "the healthiest food is the shortest distance from the earth to your mouth!"

## **Capital Improvements**

As Camp Kawartha ages, more investment is required in upgrades to keep our facilities in excellent condition. This year, we repaired our kitchen support wall, replaced old and leaking underground pipes, refinished many cabins and planted dozens of trees.

## **Sponsorship and Subsidy Program**

Thanks to donations from the Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund, The Utting Foundation, The Ingleton Kids Endowment Fund managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough, the Wilson Williams Sherport Foundation, AMICI, The Charitree Foundation and others, Camp Kawartha was able to provide **405 children** in need with a magical camping experience. Whether an inner city school or a child recommended to us, Camp Kawartha is striving to make Camp Kawartha accessible to all.

## **Demonstration Pollinator Garden**

Thanks to the Environment Council of Clear, Stoney and White Lakes and their many volunteers, Camp Kawartha now has a beautiful restored shoreline. Over **1,300 native shrubs and wildflowers were planted** along the shores of Clear Lake. The garden is being used as a demonstration project to teach lake residents and visiting campers and children, the ecological value of a **naturalized shoreline**. From preventing erosion,

to improving water quality; from creating wildlife more friendly habitat creating more biological diversity, healthy shorelines means healthy lakes. Our gratitude to Ontario Wildlife Foundation, the Stony Lake Heritage Foundation, Basterfield Associates, Ralph



and Carol Ingleton and the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough as well and Robert Little and Bill Ratcliff for supporting this important initiative.

104
children participated in our environmental outreach camps



# **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

## **Pathway to Stewardship & Kinship**

47 classes and 10 childcare centres participated in our Pathway to Stewardship and Kinship initiative. Working together with over 40 organizations including Public Health, Trent University and local school boards, The Pathways project provides a series of landmarks or goals fostering stewardship through each age and stage of a child's development. The Pilot Survey Report is available for review. Here are some key findings:

- 100% of Grade 5-6 teachers said that easy access to natural areas near homes and schools is very important for their students
- Teachers and Parents said they would love opportunities to develop their outdoor and nature knowledge and skills
- 69% said they found the project very beneficial
- A summary of research conducted found that nature play develops creative thinking, decision making, leadership and problem solving skills.
- Teachers are seeking professional development opportunities to help them teach outdoors and to link outdoor experiences with curricular expectations.
- Minimum standards for outdoor and nature connection time should be developed for schools, to encourage outdoor learning and exploration at all ages.
- Pathway Landmarks are a practical and feasible place for schools and families to begin to build supportive relationships and develop skills for stewardship and sustainability.

Camp Kawartha is applying for funding to expand this program throughout the Peterborough Region.

## **Eco- Mentor Program**

This is the eighth year that we've partnered with Trent University in a delivering a unique Eco Mentor Program. Student teachers participate in a series of in-depth workshops on environmental education at the Environment Centre delivered by Trent Faculty and Camp Kawartha Staff. Students graduating from this program receive an Eco-Mentor Certificate from both Trent University and Camp Kawartha. The certificate

tells future employers that these teachers have the skills, knowledge and expertise to be their schools "Eco-Mentor." This model of environmental education has been adopted by 4 other universities! This year, we are collaborating with Canada Eco Schools as we train future teachers.

This is the fourth year of our Eco-Mentor program in partnership with Fleming College's Early Childhood Education Program. This year 25 students are enrolled in the program. By teaching Early Childhood Educators how to use nearby green spaces and encouraging young children to engage with their environment, not only will we have improved the health and physical activity of young children but we will have laid the foundation for future stewardship. This is now an annual program.

# Partnership with TRACKS (Trent Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and Science)

Thanks to a generous donation by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough, Camp Kawartha and TRACKS will be able to install a Tipi at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre. TRACKS, located at Trent University, is a program dedicated to providing hands-on experiences for youth interested in the intersections of Indigenous and western sciences. The Tipi will be used as a culturally relevant space to deliver programming promoting Indigenous knowledge and connections to land. This partnership and project will be carried out under the guidance of the First Peoples House of Learning (FPHL).

Camp Kawartha and TRACKS will support each other in programming within this space. Along with the regular programming conducted by TRACKS and Camp Kawartha, this project will also be a gathering space for Indigenous high school aged youth. TRACKS Oshkwazin is a program that provides cultural education and leadership development opportunities for Indigenous youth from local high schools. TRACKS Oshkwazin hosts cultural and leadership gatherings for Indigenous high school students throughout the year, including water ceremonies, land-based workshops and storytelling panels with knowledge holders.

# Our 2018-2019 Donors

### **Foundations & Charities**

**AMICI Camping Charity** Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation Kawartha Haliburton Children's Foundation Michael Evans & Heather Gardiner Foundation Ontario Wildlife Foundation Otto & Marie Pick Charitable Foundation Pilkington-Henniger Charitable Trust Spectrum Health Care Foundation St. Peter's On-the-Rock The Arscott Family Fund The Charitree Foundation The Douglas Utting Foundation The Gainey Foundation The Gosling Foundation The Peterborough Foundation The Stoney Lake Heritage Foundation Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund Williams Wilson Sherport Foundation

## **Community Supporters**

Basterfield & Associates Inc. **Birchcliff Property Owners Association** Birkdale Investements Ltd Brian D. Bulger - The Life Insurance Guy C.C.I. Canada - Ontario Region Central Ontario Offroad Jeep Club City of Peterborough Farm Credit Canada AgriSpirit Fund Government of Canada H. Owen Investments Inc. Heathbridge Capital Management Ltd Kawartha Credit Union Limited LLF Lawyers LLP **Nexicom Group Inc** Nightingale Nursing Registry Ltd North Renfrew Family Services **Ontario Nature** Order Of The Eastern Star - Ptbo Chapter #161 Owen Sound Field Naturalists Peterborough Utilities Group Services Corp. Stoney Lake Triathlon - Runner's Life The Liftlock Group The Peterborough Club Your Own Design

#### **Individuals**

Anonymous (4) Kathleen Allen Ed Arnold Spencer Barnes Nathalie Begin Katie Binda Brad & Karen Bird Terry Boucher **Craig Brant** Jane Bremner Neil & Margaret Broadfoot Don Bull **Bob Burgis Geoffrey Butson** Liam Churchill Susan Clarke John Cockburn Robin & Marion Collins Karen Copson Rachael Cosby Julie Cosgrove James G. Coyle Warren Craft Garry Culverson Rochelle Declute Catherine deDomenico Nancy Dennis Ross & Ann Dobbin Greg Dowdall Susan Dunkley Heather Dunlop Patricia Elder Mike Evans Dianne Everson Gordon Fallen Hugh & Becky Fife

**Corin Forrester** Nicole Fortin **Bob French** Cheryl Gamble Peter Gardner Andrea Gilders Kate Graham Betsy Ann Gynane Al Haight Jo Hayward-Haines Myke Healy Karen Higgins Lilian Hirdes Cindy Hobbs Joan Hogan Roberta Hubble Jason Huffman & Fiona Lasenby Milan Ichniosvsky Ralph & Carol Ingleton Alan Ingram **Bruce Johnson** Herman Klausen Audrey Laiken Christina Laing Ronald Lalonde Cal Langman Terra Lasenby **Brian Learoyd** Anna Lee Paul Legacy Terry Lewis Robert Little Peter & Marilyn MacLoghlin Douglas MacMillan Chris Magwood **Daniel Marinigh Andrew Marshall Rudy Massimo** Craig McFarlane Leslie McGrath

Barbara McGregor **Betsy McGregor** Joe McLinden John & Susan **McWilliams** Richelle Morgan **Bob Mosurinjohn** Lia Murray Tim Nicholls Elizabeth Nisbet Dr. Brian J. Noble Jeanette Northrop Marilyn Patton Jennifer Porter Ken Powell **David Ramey** Susan Ramey Kathleen Ramey-Hoy Jacob Rodenburg Adrienne Ross Nancy Ross Ron & Carol Ross Lisa Roszel John Sabatino Billie Sabovitch Brianna Salmon Haley Shanoff Alan & Linda Slavin Lucas & Anne Smith **Prior Smith Heather Spratt** Tammy Steele Kathleen Stewart Anne Struthers **Atul Swarup** Jennifer Taylor Nick van der Kamp Ron Walker Don Watkins Doug Wellman Vicki Whetung Marylyn White

Fran Flanagan

John Flynn

camper & student subsidies & sponsorships

Mary Anna Zakula

(10% increase from last year)

# **CAMP KAWARTHA LIVING BUILDING PROJECT**

Lett Architects completed its Living Building Feasibility Study for Camp Kawartha's Capital Campaign called "Branching Out for a Sustainable Future." Lett created a stunning design for one of Canada's first fully certified Living Buildings that is intended to replace our current dining hall, kitchen and increase our capacity to deliver award-winning outdoor and environmental programming. The Living Building Challenge (www.living-future.org) is the most rigorous green design standard in the world. Instead of doing less harm, the creators of the Living Building Standard imagined creating buildings that are net positive for the environment, that are regenerative and beautiful. Like a tree, Living Buildings produce more energy than they use, uptake carbon, create habitat, are non-toxic and collect water from the footprint that they occupy. Living Buildings integrate nature and beauty in every element of their design. There are only 20 fully certified Living Buildings in the world and 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.

## Our Branching Out for a Sustainable Future Campaign also includes:

- Reclaiming green space for a large organic food and pollinator garden with an outdoor kitchen. This will serve as an important teaching tool helping visitors to understand the importance of healthy, local food.
- Replacing our aging Health Care Centre with a sustainable zero building (zero carbon, zero toxins and zero waste). This space is being designed by the Endeavour Centre as a showpiece for what is possible in sustainable design and innovation.
- Updating our waste-water management system with the greenest alternative available that is approved by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

If you want to learn more, become involved or make a donation, please contact Jacob Rodenburg, jacob@campkawartha.ca



