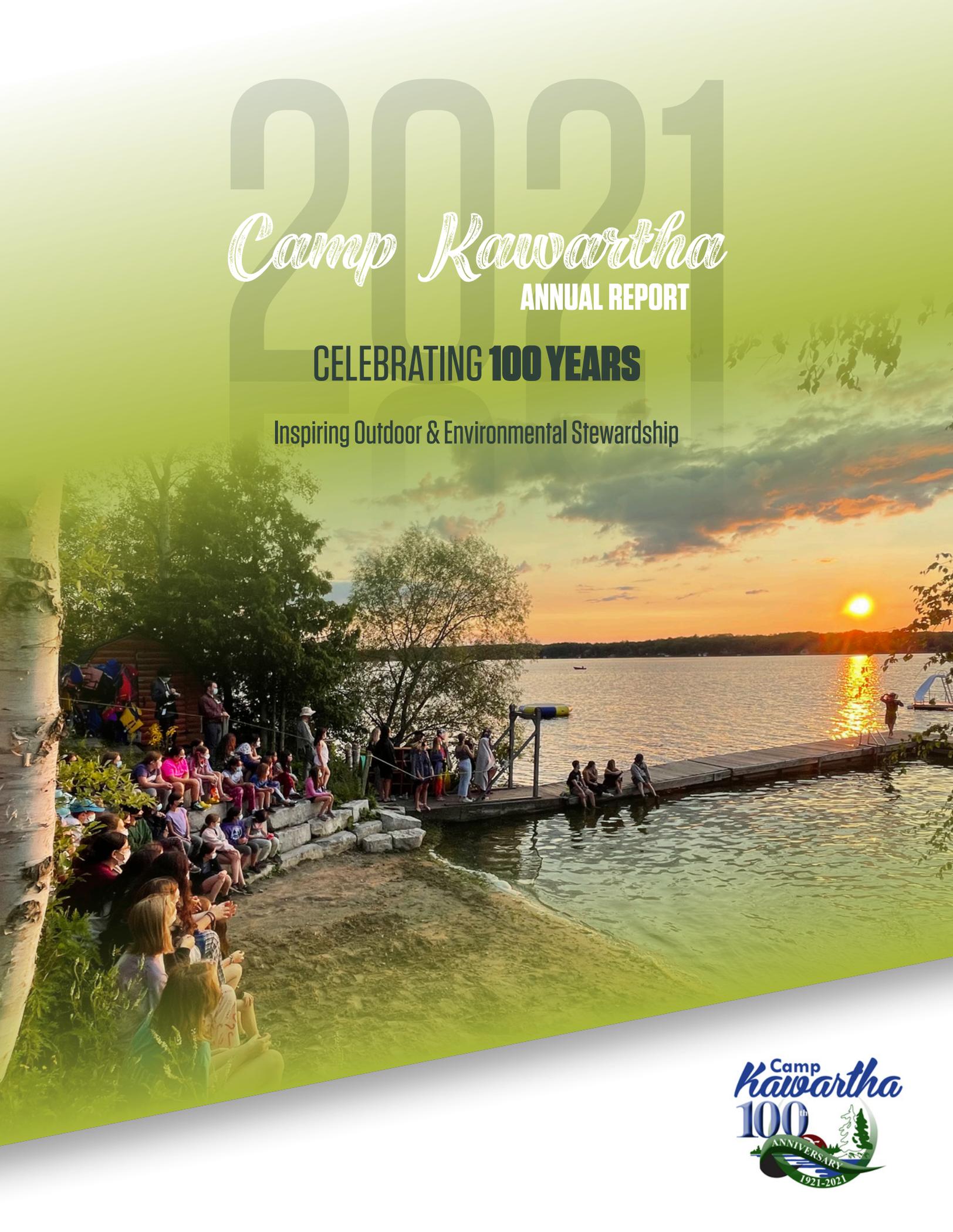


# 2021

*Camp Kawartha*  
ANNUAL REPORT

**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS**

Inspiring Outdoor & Environmental Stewardship



# Nurturing Stewards

Connecting people to nature, to each other & 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 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.

## ABOUT CAMP KAWARTHA

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 12 years, the Camp earned 20 awards for its work in promoting outdoor and environmental learning. Camp Kawartha operates as a summer camp, an outdoor education and environment centre, and 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.



*"In nature we never see anything isolated but everything in connection with something else which is before it, beside it, under it & over it."*

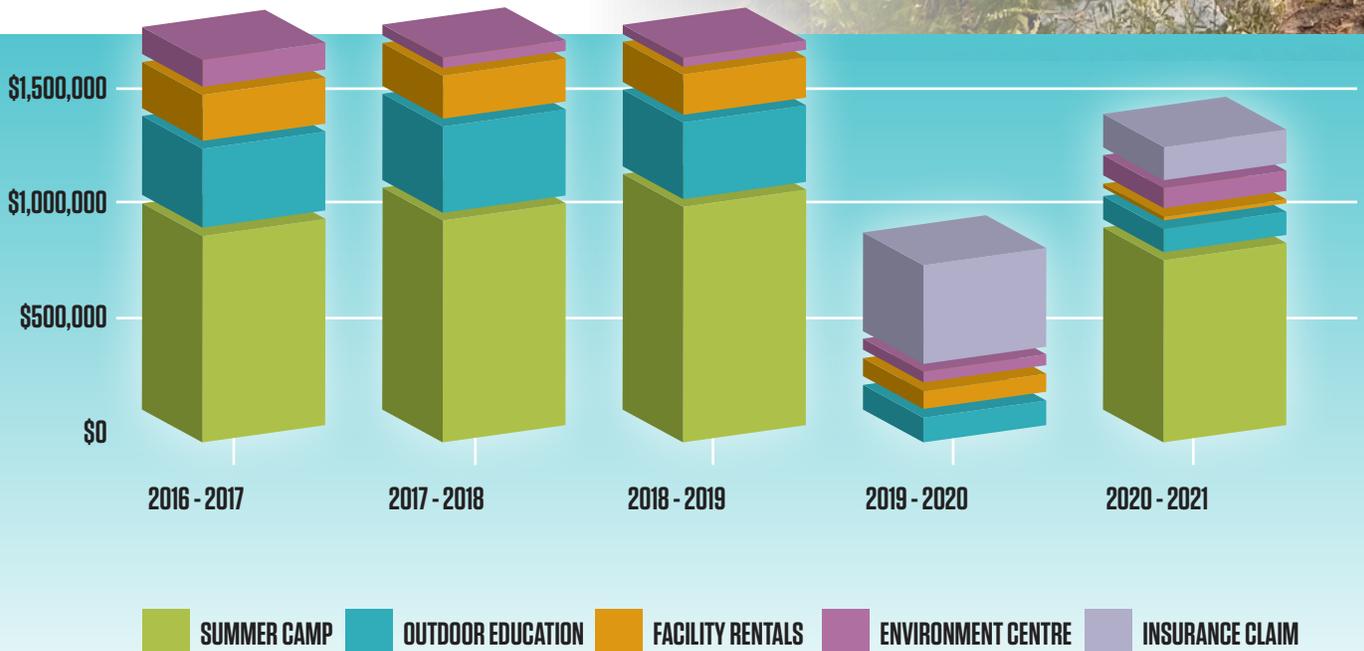
*-Goethe*

# 2020 2021

CAMP KAWARTHA IN NUMBERS

- +919** Camper weeks
  - +244** Meetings held to get ready for summer camp
  - +4150** Visits to Camp Kawartha's Environment Centre
  - +130** Classes and 2,000 students taught through Outreach
  - +600** Students participated in Camp Kawartha's Environmental Symposium programming
  - +621** People attended facility rentals
  - +30** Student teachers participated in our Eco-Mentor Program in partnership with Trent
  - +31** Students attended Forest School for 3 sessions
  - +15** Campers sponsored or subsidized
- A total of 9,249 campers, students and adults participated in experiences offered by Camp Kawartha
- +96%** of parents and campers surveyed said that Camp Kawartha's attention to health and safety was good to very good
  - +97%** of parents and campers surveyed said that staff's level of enthusiasm and fun was good to very good

## + REVENUE





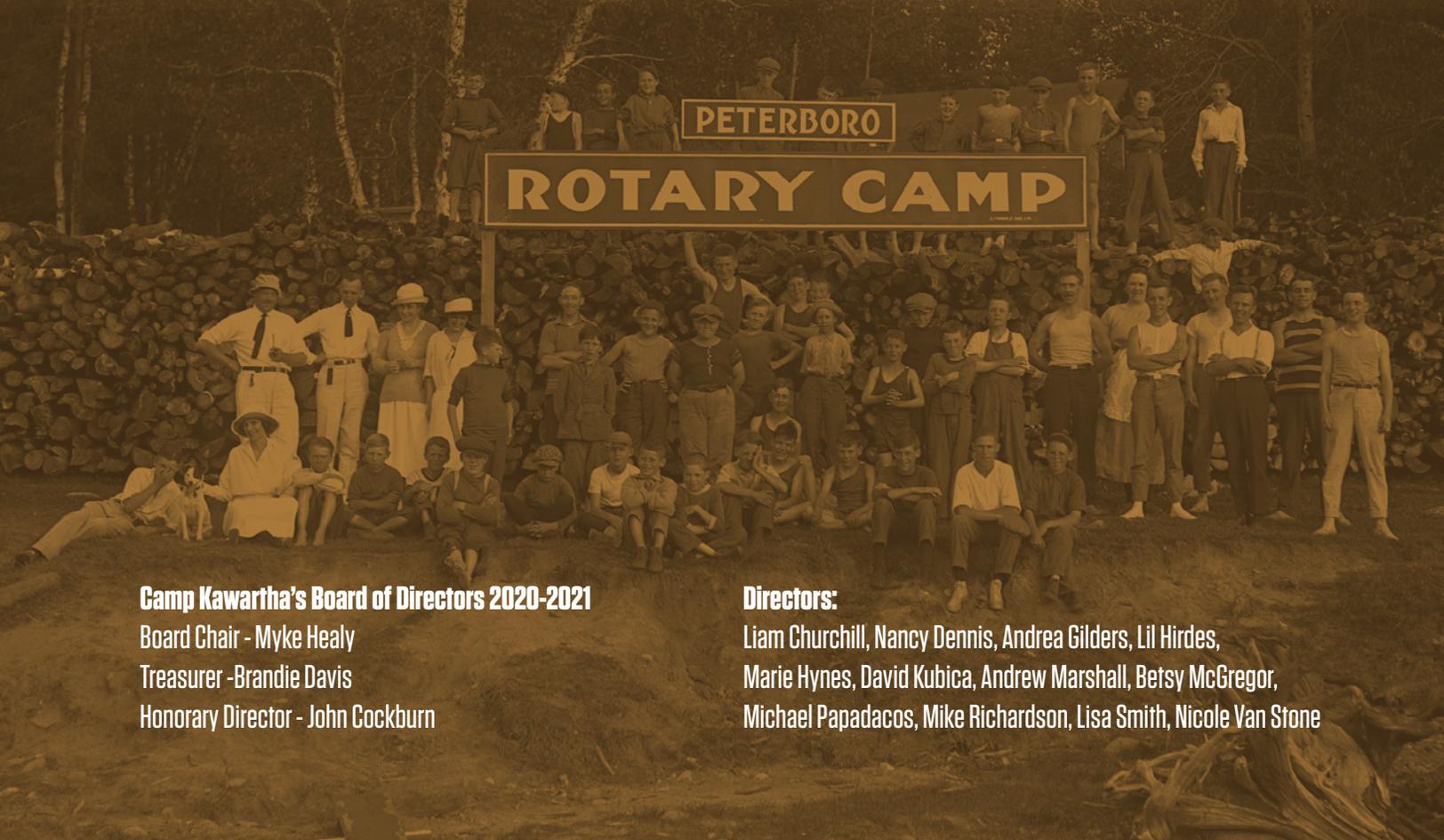
# Years of Camping & Outdoor Learning

We are proud to celebrate our centennial this year. Camp Kawartha is 100 years old! Back in 1921, Rotarian Claude Rogers approached a local farmer Samuel Bryson, who owned property on Clear Lake, to see if he might consider selling land to the Rotary Club in order to start a camp for “underprivileged boys”. Bryson agreed but only if the price could be reduced by half (the agreed price- \$250) because he really believed in the idea of a camp. On June 22nd 1922, the first cabins were constructed by volunteers and the camp opened for 40 boys in July of that year. The Peterborough Rotary Camp ran until in 1954 and subsequently asked the YMCA to take over operations. The YMCA renamed the camp “Camp Kawartha” making this available to both boys and girls each summer until 1985, when facing financial challenges, the YMCA decided to sell the property. Fortunately, a number of dedicated Rotarians who wanted this land to remain in the hands

of children, purchased Camp Kawartha and they created a year-round camp and outdoor centre. Since that time, Camp Kawartha has operated as a not-for-profit charity, overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors.

Camp Kawartha honours the founders whose vision and foresight in 1985 helped Camp Kawartha survive and thrive. They are: Steve Ambler, Max Comstock, Edgar Spurway, Bernie Cahill, Jack Roger, John Cockburn, Don While, Willard Chapman, Roy Leake.

A special tribute goes out to Steve Ambler, who was the driving force behind purchasing Camp Kawartha in 1985. Sadly, Steve passed away on November 11th, 2020. To Steve and all the founding members, we express our deep gratitude.



## **Camp Kawartha's Board of Directors 2020-2021**

Board Chair - Myke Healy

Treasurer - Brandie Davis

Honorary Director - John Cockburn

## **Directors:**

Liam Churchill, Nancy Dennis, Andrea Gilders, Lil Hirdes,

Marie Hynes, David Kubica, Andrew Marshall, Betsy McGregor,

Michael Papadacos, Mike Richardson, Lisa Smith, Nicole Van Stone

# *From the Executive Director*

Celebrating 100 years as an organization during a global pandemic is indeed a mixed blessing. We have cause to be thankful for all those that came before to help Camp Kawartha become the award-winning organization that it is today. However, I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our incredible staff who made Camp possible during this past challenging year. We survived lockdowns, cancellation of Summer Camp 2020, closure of Outdoor Education and Facility Rentals. Despite these obstacles, our staff found ways to make camp relevant during a pandemic. For example, our summer camp staff, ably led by Adam Strasberg, held more than 200 meetings in order to determine how to operate summer camp 2021 safely. Adam and his team developed a highly successful system of testing and cohorting. This past summer camp went ahead and even though we operated a bit differently, in our most recent survey, parents and campers gave us an astonishing rating of 5 stars out of 5 for program effectiveness! And not a single case of COVID-19 occurred at Camp!

Our Outdoor Education and Environment Centre Team all found ways to re-invent programming. From offering a Forest School, to creating Outreach programs where we taught students in their own schoolyard – we found ways to deliver our mission of fostering stewardship during one of the most daunting years the Camp has ever faced. To all our team who went far above and beyond, my deep gratitude.

## **FAREWELL AND THANK YOU TO ADAM STRASBERG.**

Much of the success and reputation of Camp Kawartha's Summer Camp can be directly attributed to Adam Strasberg. Adam is an expert when it comes to building community. He hires passionate and engaged staff, he creates a culture of caring for all and he does so in an atmosphere of joy and fellowship. Adam realizes that it takes a village to create a warm and nurturing camp and thousands of campers and hundreds of staff have benefited from his leadership and commitment to excellence. Adam has decided to move on and we know he will make a huge and positive impact on those lives he has yet to touch. And so we say a warm thank you to Adam for his remarkable 19 years of service!

We'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome Emma Robert, our New Summer Camp Director. While Emma has big shoes to fill, with her many years of experience at Camp Kawartha as senior staff and most recently as Assistant Summer Camp Director, she is well positioned to carry Adam's legacy forward.



*"Nature is not just a place  
to visit, it is home."*

*-Gary Synder*

# 2021 Accomplishments

**Camp Programs:** Despite the pandemic we were still able to provide camping, outdoor and nature-based programming over the past fiscal year. So many studies have highlighted the mental and physical health benefits of time spent outside, from boosting children's immunity, to improving their mood. Thanks to Summer Camp staff, we successfully ran sessions B to E. We were able to offer our Leadership Programs, our Tripping Programs and Day Camp. At our Environment Centre we offered Bushcraft and Wilderness Skills, Home-Schooler Programs, WILD Leadership programs and Forest Kindergarten, as well as summer day camp. We offered Camp Kawartha's first ever Forest School for students Kindergarten to Grade 6. We developed an outreach program called "Discover your School's True Nature" featuring over 20 curriculum-linked programs so that we could showcase outdoor learning in the schoolyard. We delivered an Eco-Mentor Program to student teachers from Trent University, training them on best practices in environmental education.

**Rotary Health Centre:** Thanks to the generosity of many donors, businesses, and foundations over \$475,000 has been pledged or received for the creation of the Rotary Health Centre. A special thanks to the Rotary Club of Peterborough whose signature gift of \$100,000 made this building possible. The gift celebrates both Camp Kawartha and the Rotary Club of Peterborough's 100th anniversary.

An exemplar in sustainable design, the Rotary Health Centre has been a welcome addition during the pandemic. With an assessment room, three treatment rooms and living quarters for our nursing staff, this modern health facility made it possible for Camp Kawartha to operate during a pandemic. Some of the sustainable features include: strawbale walls, earthen floor, highly efficient air sourced heat pump, living roof, rubble trench foundation and non-toxic finishes. The Centre sequestered more carbon than it took to build – making this a negative carbon Health Centre – one of the very first in the Peterborough region. The Rotary Health Centre demonstrates that it is possible to create spaces where both people and nature can thrive. Thanks to a generous donation from David and Patricia Morton, we look forward to creating the Morton Healing Garden adjacent to the Centre during the spring of 2022.



## FUNDING SUPPORT

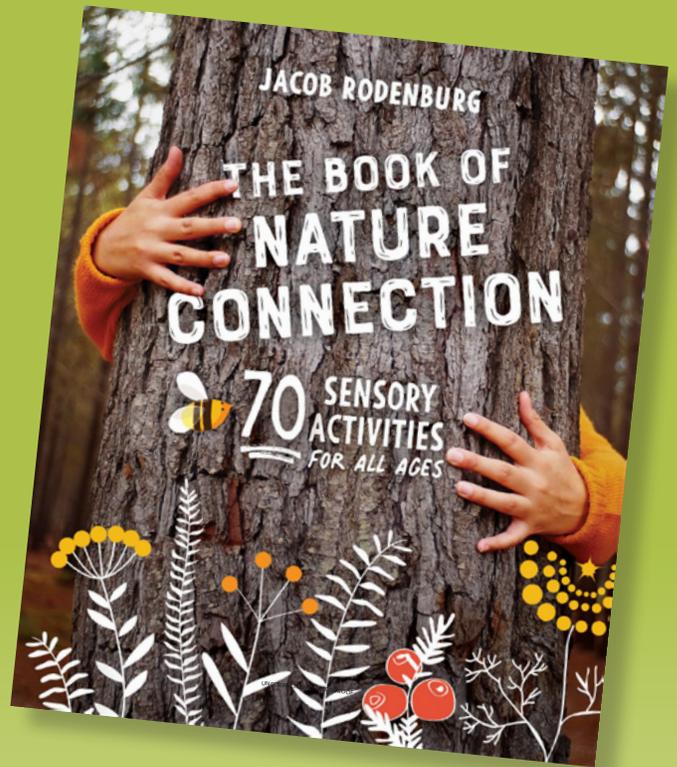
It would not have been possible to operate this past year without generous support from the Ontario Trillium's Community Building Fund, Ontario Trillium's Resiliency Fund, Canada's Wage Subsidy Program, Peterborough Kawartha Economic Development Corporation and Canada Summer Jobs Program. In total, Camp Kawartha received \$483,840 in funding to help us weather the Pandemic.

## NATIONAL CERTIFICATE COURSE IN ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION (ESE) FOR STUDENT TEACHERS

Camp Kawartha helped to develop a unique on-line course for teacher candidates from Faculties of Education across Canada to explore the principles and practices of Environmental and Sustainability Education (ESE). In this course, teacher candidates learn from ESE experts (including Camp Kawartha staff), connect with educators engaged in ESE, and implement environmental teaching strategies in their practice. Available for student teachers from across Canada, the course is sponsored by EECOM, Canada's only national Environment Education network. Over 250 teacher candidates expressed interest for 100 available spots.

## BOOKS & ARTICLES

A new book is coming out by Executive Director Jacob Rodenburg called The Book of Nature Connection and will be published by New Society Press in Spring of 2022. Jacob's other book called The Big Book of Nature Activities, co-authored with Drew Monkman recently achieved Best Seller status in Canada. He also published six articles this year on environmental and nature education, in various journals.



## ALONG THE PATHWAY

Camp Kawartha conceived of and is directing the Pathway to Stewardship and Kinship Project. This is unique partnership between 40 different organizations all working together to ensure that children in the Peterborough region have access to stewardship experiences through each age and stage of their development. From learning more about the plants and animals in their community, to engaging in action projects, the Pathway program helps children become healthy stewards of their environment. Our grant stipulated that we needed to reach 10,000 reported landmarks (or key stewardship experiences) at the end of a 3-year period. Entering year two, we are now at over 16,000 landmarks and we've revised our goal to achieve 25,000 landmarks by the grant's end. The Pathways project has been written about in four published books, numerous articles and was mentioned as a valuable approach to environmental education, in the UN's 2019 report on biodiversity.

## AWARD

Camp Kawartha is a proud recipient of an Award of Excellence in Environmental Education and Communication 2021, as Outstanding Organization from the Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication (EECOM). The award goes to a non-profit, or private organization that has significantly contributed to an environmental education or communication project locally or across Canada. Executive Director Jacob Rodenburg received a Paul Harris Fellowship Award from the Rotary Club of Peterborough Kawartha for his work in advancing environmental education.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

Camp Kawartha was in print media 29 times this past year, with articles in the Peterborough Examiner, Lakefield Herald and the Toronto Star. There were three TV appearances that explored topics such as Summer Camp, Forest School and our 100th anniversary.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Each year Camp Kawartha strives to make our facilities more accessible. This past year, thanks to grant from the Enabling Accessibility Fund from Employment and Social Development Canada as well as contributions from Kiwanis Club of Peterborough, Motion Cares, Chemung Lake District Lions Club, Rotary Club of Peterborough Kawartha, we were able to purchase a Hoyer lift, all-terrain wheelchair, beach wheelchair, amplification system and retrofit tables to accommodate wheelchairs.



*Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished."*

*- Lao Tzu*



## **SPONSORSHIP AND SUBSIDY**

Camp Kawartha continues to work hard to provide sponsorship and subsidy opportunities for kids in need. Last summer we sponsored 26 children for Forest School and Summer Camp. While lower than normal because of the pandemic, we have been able to add to the Sponsorship and Subsidy fund so that we can make a camp experience accessible for more than 100 campers and students in our next fiscal year.

## **TRENT REGENERATIVE CAMPUS**

Camp Kawartha is excited to partner with Trent University to assist with their project – “Bringing Nature Home - Creating Regenerative Spaces for Teaching and Learning at Trent.” Together with Peterborough GreenUP, we’ll be helping to create innovative outdoor spaces to facilitate nature connection and outdoor learning at Trent University as part of the University Green Network.

## **MONARCH ULTRA**

In order to raise awareness of the plight of the Monarch Butterflies, a team of ultra marathon runners ran from Peterborough to Barrie, Ontario via Toronto, Hamilton, Niagara Falls, along Lake Erie, and looping back up to Barrie. Runners each ran legs of 30km and 50km over 21 days. They hoped that their efforts will teach Ontario about the importance of conservation, protecting and enhancing Monarch habitats. All proceeds have been directed to Camp Kawartha and they raised an impressive \$10,900 to support environmental programming! Our heartfelt thanks to the generosity of 242 donors who supported the Monarch Ultra run!



# Donors+

## FOUNDATIONS & CHARITIES

AMICI Camping Charity  
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The TVM Group  
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## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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# Camp Kawartha



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