

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Inspiring Outdoor & Environmental Stewardship



Nurturing Stewards

Connecting people to nature, to each other 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.

"an understanding of the natural world and what's in it is a source of not only a great curiosity but great fulfillment."

- David Attenborough

11,349
TOTAL NUMBER
OF PEOPLE ATTENDING
CAMP KAWARTHA

1,557
GIRL GUIDES ATTENDED
PROGRAMMING AT
CAMP KAWARTHA

2,539
STUDENTS
PARTICIPATED
IN OUTDOOR AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROGRAMMING

45
ECO MENTORS TRAINED

1,586
CHILDREN
PARTICIPATED
IN DAY AND
OVERNIGHT CAMPS

3,236
VISITORS ATTENDED
RENTED CAMP
KAWARTHA'S FACILITIES
REPRESENTING
212 GROUPS

80
YOUTH TRAINED
AS YOUNG LEADERS

251
TRENT STUDENTS
LEARNED ABOUT
SUSTAINABLE LIVING

637
CHILDREN
ATTENDED
NATURE SCHOOL

1,418
TEACHERS, PARENTS AND
VOLUNTEERS ATTENDED



100 Years of Summer Camp

While we celebrated the creation of Camp Kawartha in 2021, 2022 marks a century since the first campers arrived on the shores of Clear Lake. Operated by the Rotary Club of Peterborough, the Kawartha Camp as it was called provided magical outdoor experiences for “underprivileged boys.”

A newsletter from this time-period showed what a difference the camp was making:

“The reluctance of the boys to leave the camp last Saturday, as described by Douglas Loomis, brought smiles and almost tears. Practically all the boys had never been to camp before, Fred McNeely said.

They were gathered up from the streets and out-of-way places, but they were all “pure gold,” he said.

“I know the good the Rotary Club have accomplished,” he said. “Every one of those boys appreciates deep down in his heart the privilege that has been his in attending the camp.”

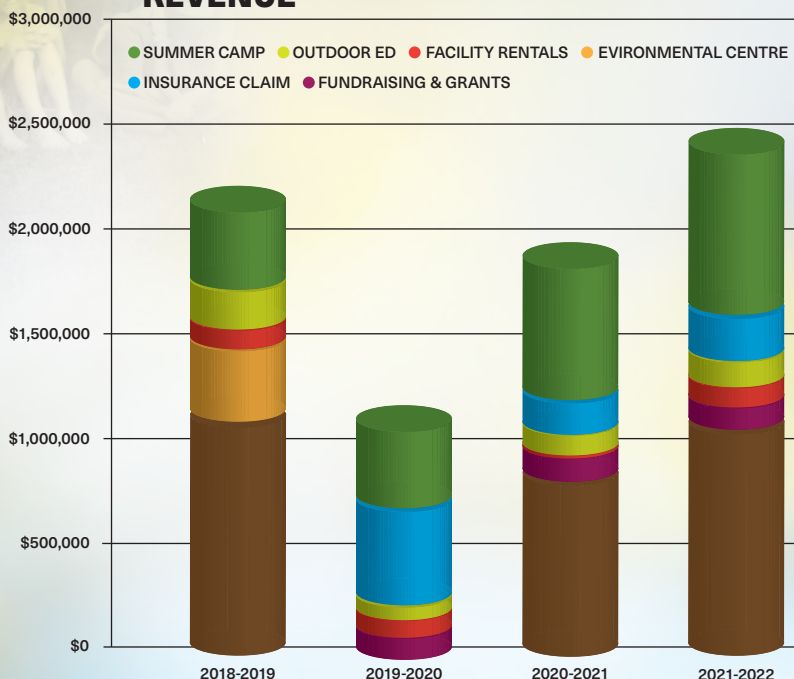
This remarkable legacy of connecting children to nature, providing them with the skills to enjoy the outdoors and more recently of fostering stewardship and sustainability, continues to this day. This past century, more than 100,000 campers, students and other groups have participated in a wide variety of programs offered by Camp Kawartha, from day camp to overnight camp; from outdoor education visits to workshops on sustainability, each day youth are activated and empowered to make a difference in their community.



“The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share.”

- Lady Bird Johnson

REVENUE



Honouring Cathy Romano

There are volunteers and, once in a great while an extraordinary volunteer shows up. Sometimes they only stay a little while and even more rarely, they stay for a long time. Such is the case with Cathy Romano our long time Health Care Coordinator – who single handily organized all Health Care at Camp Kawartha for over 24 years! It started back in 1998 when she joined our team. At that time, there was an old Health Centre with spongy floors and crooked walls. Cathy bravely took care of all health concerns and over time organized nurses, modernized the way we delivered health care, created manuals updated systems and helped to make our Health Care one of the best at summer

camps in Ontario. Cathy also served as a board member of Camp Kawartha and was elected President. Cathy sat for many years on the Ontario Camps Health Care committee, providing advice and guidance to other summer camps about how to manage their health care. More recently, Cathy helped us through the challenges of providing care to campers and staff during the pandemic, a huge undertaking. Cathy also helped to organize the creation of a brand new, zero carbon Health Centre, a beautiful building that showcases sustainable living in action. Sadly, she is retiring this winter and to her we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude! Thank you, Cathy!



"Volunteers aren't paid. Not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."

- Anonymous

From the Executive Director

"Strength doesn't come from what you can do, it comes from overcoming those things you thought you never could."

We were gearing up for Summer Camp 2021 when, on May 21st a huge storm called a Derecho swept through Camp Kawartha toppling over 600 trees. 14 buildings were damaged, one completely crushed. A tangle of branches, uprooted root balls and criss-crossed trunks made navigating the camp just about impossible. Our hearts were in throats as we witnessed the extent of the damage. But thanks to volunteers, the help of contractors such as Mortlock Construction and Landon Electric, we were able to clear the camp of danger trees, repair buildings and open just in time for summer camp 2021. Thanks also to the kindness of donors, we were able to raise more than \$85,000 to help Camp Kawartha get back on its feet. We were tested yet again, when many of our staff fell ill because of COVID, and summer camp was closed for one week. With the resolve, hard work and dedication of our team, we persevered and offered a creative and fun camp to those kids who so desperately were looking for something normal during such abnormal times. That is the wonderful thing about Camp Kawartha – our staff and volunteers know the true value of a camp experience and will go to the moon and back to make sure this is offered. I'm privileged to work with such a committed group of people.

Please read on to find out how Camp Kawartha continues to inspire change, fostering children who care for each other and the environment, who are resilient, kind and compassionate; ready to face an uncertain world.

Jacob Rodenburg

A Word From our New Summer Camp Director

In the century that Camp Kawartha has been running the spark at the heart of our summer camp community has continued to burn bright year after year. There's something in the magic of our close-knit summer camp community that stands strong in the face of adversity – that can overcome any obstacle, from pandemics to derecho storms. As we look to the centuries ahead, we know the spark of summer camp magic will continue to burn bright for those who it matters the most to – our campers. Each child that comes to Camp Kawartha leaves a different person than who they were when they came – equipped with memories, new experiences, deeper connections with the natural world, and friendships to last a lifetime. It is our privilege to light up our campers' lives with a little spark of Camp Kawartha magic each summer, and we look forward to continuing to positively impact lives for summers to come.

Emma Robert (Geller, she/her)

"All those hours exploring the great outdoors made me more resilient and confident."

- David Suzuki



2022 Accomplishments


Summer Camp - Finding a replacement for Adam Strasberg was a tall order. We've been lucky enough to hire Emma Robert, Camp name Geller, as our new Summer Camp Director. Emma is a passionate voice for the environment, for inclusion and for creating a summer camp culture of caring and belonging. Emma did an outstanding job of operating a summer camp after a major storm and in the midst of a global pandemic. Although a small COVID outbreak among staff, caused a one week's suspension of summer camp, Camp Kawartha was still able to deliver 7 full weeks of summer camp. After a challenging last few years, all programs were able to fully resume, including leadership, tripping, kinder camp and day camp.

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 1,600 students and 1,096 visitors with outdoor education experiences at its main site. The Camp Kawartha Environment Centre logged a total of 8,257 visitors in its 11th year of operations and recorded 210 bookings.

3,246 children participated in Forest Fridays, Woodland Wednesday and special leadership programming. This segment expanded because of the impact of COVID on school visits. As of June 2022, over 400 student teachers have graduated from our Eco Mentor Program in partnership with Trent University and Fleming College.

Discover Your School's Better Nature – Thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium and the Pathway Project, Camp Kawartha offered curriculum-linked outdoor programming to 75 classes from area schools and implemented 10 teacher training workshops. The workshops showcased how to use the school grounds as an extension of the classroom and included a comprehensive Teacher's Guide with ideas and resources on outdoor learning.

Community Resiliency Grant – Thanks to the generosity of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Camp Kawartha received \$217,000 in funding to support Camp Kawartha's operations and programming while recovering from the impacts of the pandemic.

A photograph of three children lying on their stomachs on a grassy field. The child in the foreground on the left is a boy with a rainbow face paint, wearing a blue and purple shirt. The child in the foreground on the right is a girl with a rainbow face paint, wearing a pink and yellow shirt. The child in the background is a girl with glasses and a rainbow face paint, wearing a light blue shirt. A quote overlay is positioned in the upper right of the image.

*"One touch of nature
makes the whole
world kin."
- William Shakespeare*

Accomplishments

National Environmental and Sustainability - Education Certificate Program – Camp Kawartha, in collaboration with several universities from across Canada, helped to develop an online course for Teacher Candidates from 12 Schools of Education. Students learn about the principles and practices in Environmental Education that they'll be able to implement in their future teaching. This is the second year the course is being offered, graduating more than 150 teacher candidates.

Pathway to Stewardship and Kinship Project - This is the third year of a three-year Ontario Trillium grant of \$750,000 to help promote stewardship education across the Peterborough Region. Over 40 organizations including Trent University, Fleming College, 11 childcare centres and 116 classes are involved in this project providing stewardship opportunities for each age and stage of a child's development. Our grant stipulated that we needed to reach 10,000 reported landmarks (or stewardship experiences) over 3 years. We have exceeded

40,000 reported landmarks and are on track to exceed 50,000 by the end of the grant.

Morton Healing Garden - Thanks to a very generous donation from the Morton Family, we created a beautiful interactive garden in and around our Health Centre. The garden promotes nature connection, mindfulness, and well-being by encouraging children to engage with nature. The garden includes a lovely water feature with small stream tumbling over rocks and whimsical benches carved from logs. We are also installing a Zen Garden, a sensory garden, a Pollinator Garden as well as Gnome Homes and Fairy Gardens, to activate a child's imagination.

Peterborough Museum and Archives - An exhibition hall outlining Camp Kawartha's colourful 100-year history was on display from September 27th to December 4th at the Peterborough Museum and Archives. The exhibit and text were both developed by our own Susan Ramey, featuring more than 40 historical photographs.

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make."

- Jane Goodall



Accomplishments

Adventures in Understanding - Over 20 First Nations and Non-First Nations youth participated in a unique canoe trip organized by Camp Kawartha's Glen Caradus. This is a Kawartha Rotary/Camp Kawartha's 6 day, 5 night, 100 km canoe trip through the Kawartha lakes teaching youth about First Nations history and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

Ride for the Climate - Glen Caradus and Nick Ormond completed a remarkable 421 kilometre, 18-hour bicycle ride and raised more than \$5,000 for Camp Kawartha's Climate Change Program. Each kilometre rode represented one of the 421 parts per million of carbon dioxide, the current level in our atmosphere. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world needs to ensure carbon emissions are less than 450 parts per million to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

Peterborough Pathway of Fame - Jacob Rodenburg, Camp Kawartha's Executive Director, was inducted into the Peterborough Pathway of Fame on September 10th, 2022 for his work in promoting environmental education.

Presentations - Camp Kawartha's Executive Director presented to a number of regional, national and international organizations including to the North American Association of Environmental Education, Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario, Ontario Society of Environmental Educators, 4 Our Grand Children and a Keynote for Eco-Schools Connecting with Communities conference.

"No matter how old you get, may you always stop to fill your pockets with smooth stones, empty snail shells & other little treasures."

- Nicolette Sawder



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2022

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