

2022

Foundation Donor
Impact Report

Supporting a **Green, Resilient,
Connected Tomorrow**



We look back on 2022 and the events of the past few years with tremendous gratitude for our donors and sponsors. Your support inspired us during challenging global times, and last year, it was thanks to you that we were able to return to normal with many of our programs and initiatives after two years of uncertainty and change.

This much awaited shift included the Halton Children’s Water Festival running again at Kelso Conservation Area for 800+ students after a hiatus from in-person programming during the pandemic. We expanded new educational pilots, such as our *Green Space* climate action program for newcomers, with the renewed support of our donors. We strengthened growing partnerships to provide more opportunities for engagement and outdoor learning at our parks and in the local community. Together with many of you, we also gathered at Crawford Lake Conservation Area’s Longhouse Village on September 15th for *Re:Generations*, our

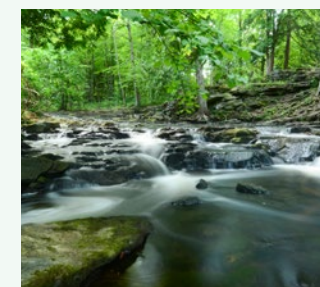
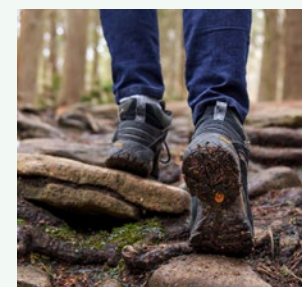
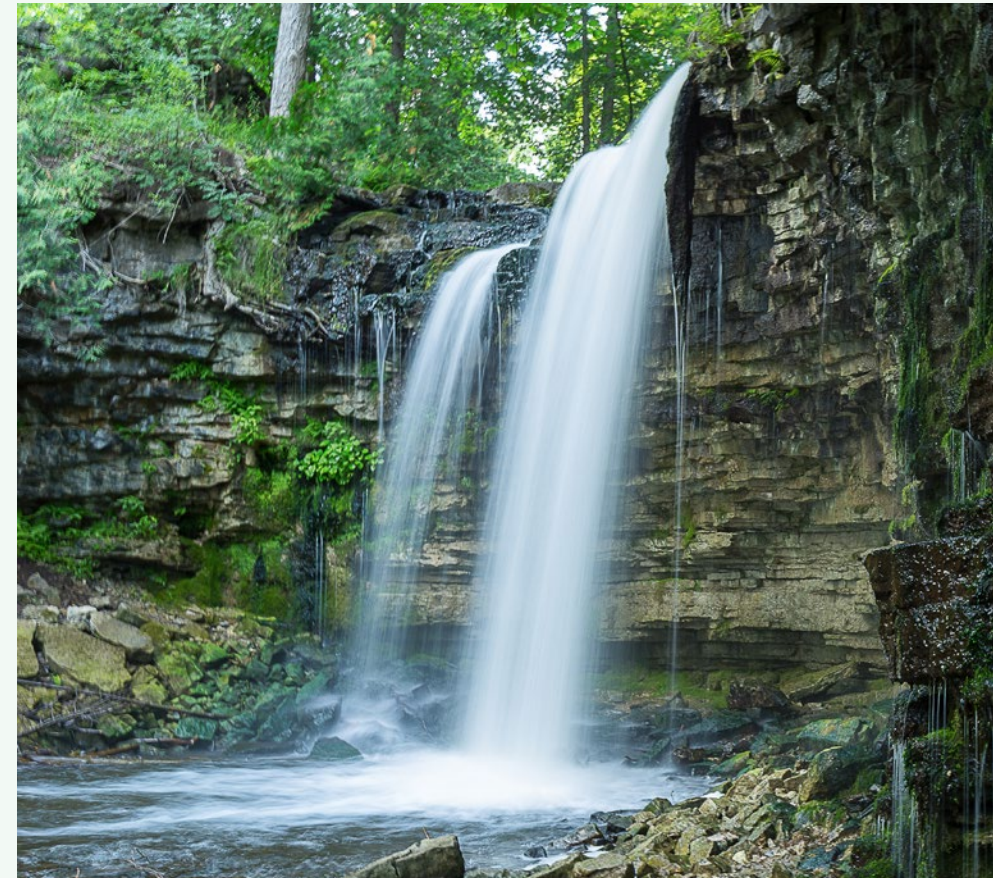
fourth annual fundraising gala. The proceeds from this event combined with our broader fundraising efforts in 2022 allowed us to direct \$711,347 towards Conservation Halton projects and programs last year.

Your generosity makes it possible for us to continue advancing our mission in the Halton watershed—to protect, connect and inspire. With deepest gratitude, thank you for being such an important part of our community and for continuing to invest in our work.

Garner Beckett
Executive Director

Jim Sweetlove
Board Chair

Watersheds are areas of land that catch rain and snow, which, in turn, drain or seep into wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes or groundwater. Some watersheds cross municipal, provincial or even international borders. They come in all shapes and sizes and can vary from millions of acres, like all the land that drains into the Great Lakes, to a few acres that drain into a pond. Conservation Halton is responsible for an area that spans more than 1000 square kilometres. This includes the Grindstone, Bronte and Sixteen Mile Creek watersheds and 18 smaller urban watersheds that enter Lake Ontario from Grindstone in the west to Joshua’s Creek in the east.





Vision

We envision an engaged and supportive community, driven to creating a healthy environment with clean streams, abundant forests and thriving natural spaces.

Mission

Our mission is to support and advance Conservation Halton's critical environmental projects that **protect** our natural assets, **connect** people with nature and **inspire** change.

Values

Sustainability

We will embody sustainability in everything we do, from the facilities we build to the communities we help plan, in an effort to limit our impact on the environment.

Diversity

We will be a leader in supporting and advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion. We value the diversity of the people and communities we serve and recognize and respect human differences and similarities.

Integrity

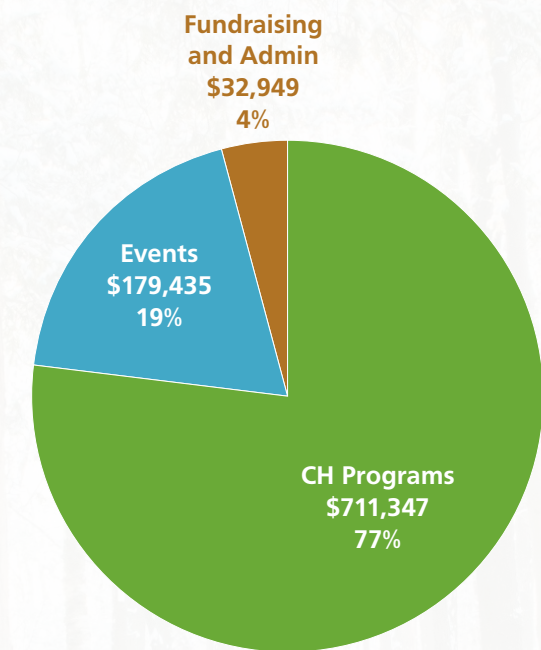
We will take a proactive approach to accountability, transparency and financial responsibility and make difficult decisions with integrity.

Collaboration

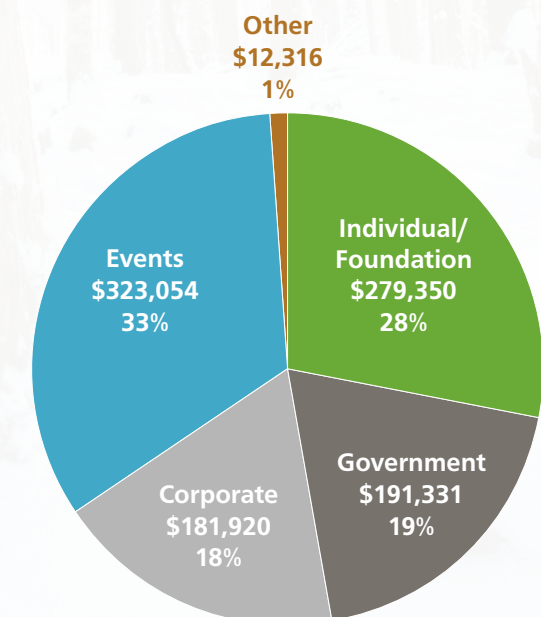
We will build strong partnerships and create opportunities for collaboration with our customers and community members.

Financial Snapshot

2022 Expenses
\$923,731



2022 Revenues
\$987,971



Events & Milestones

Last year on September 15th, the Conservation Halton Foundation held its annual fundraising gala at Crawford Lake Conservation Area. Engaging with the theme of *Re:Generations*, our event brought together close to 300 guests in Crawford Lake’s Longhouse Village and raised over \$315,000 for the park’s educational programs and learning spaces. We are grateful to our community partners and to all of our supporters and corporate sponsors for making our fourth annual fundraising gala a resounding success. Special thanks to our lead sponsors: Mattamy Homes, Argo Development Corporation, and Distrikt | Alterra.



300 | **\$315k**
guests | raised



RE:GENERATIONS

Longhouse Village,
Crawford Lake





Protecting Nature

Nature conservation is at the core of our mandate. The funds that we raise in this critical area help us protect beautiful and biodiverse natural spaces in our watershed for outdoor recreation, learning and community wellbeing.



Local Engagement for a Greener Halton

Last year, Conservation Halton’s outreach team engaged over 15 corporate and community partners and 570+ event participants to help restore and protect the natural environment. Through our employee engagement events, local companies and organizations took part in activities that resulted in significant habitat improvements: 4.9 hectares of forest and riparian habitat was enhanced thanks to plantings and the removal of invasive plant species, like Common Buckthorn and Honeysuckle; over 2,300

native trees, shrubs and wildflowers were added to the landscape, improving local ecosystem health and resilience; and, more than 1,000 wildflower seeds were formed into “seedballs” to be used in ecological restoration projects across the watershed.



Growing the Urban Forest in Oakville

With the support of TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the Conservation Halton team worked with local partners and community volunteers to restore close to an acre of degraded urban creekside woodland in Oakville in 2022. Staff and volunteers removed swaths of invasives, such as Common Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard, before planting 300 native understory trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Along with improving habitat quality and resilience, these activities also helped volunteers learn about species identification and the benefits that native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants provide within Oakville’s Natural Heritage System.



More Brook Trout in Bronte Creek

Conservation Halton’s *Brookies in Bronte Forever* program is a long-term initiative that has been making a measurable difference in the Bronte Creek watershed since its launch in 2014. Its ongoing successes are a direct result of our donors’ philanthropy and shared vision for a greener, resilient Halton. In 2022, with the renewed support of the Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, our restoration staff set out to complete new channel-narrowing projects and stream clean ups (to remove litter as well as large woody debris that impedes water flow). These efforts resulted in over 2.8 km of restored creek, 330+ community volunteer hours, and local knowledge-sharing as the project team demonstrated how Christmas trees can find new life in the water—as woven “sediment mats” that capture floating sediment to form new streambank.



Connecting Communities

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and partners, we are able to grow and develop initiatives that are cultivating meaningful community connections at our parks and across Conservation Halton's watershed.



Ski/Snowboard Programming for Newcomer Families and Youth

During the 2021/22 winter season, the Conservation Halton Foundation supported the launch of *First Tracks*, a ski and snowboard program at Glen Eden for Newcomers and New Canadians, in partnership with Halton Multicultural Connections. Generous support from Scotiabank ScotiaRISE and Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities enabled our pilot to take shape in late 2021 and kick off on the Glen Eden ski hill in early 2022. Running from January to March, *First Tracks* welcomed over 300 participants for a

fun and engaging introduction to winter sport that alleviated barriers to access, connecting communities with nature, and inspired children, youth, and their parents to learn skiing or snowboarding in a safe, supportive environment.



Indigenous Food Sovereignty at Crawford Lake

With a TD Green Space grant from the Arbor Day Foundation, Crawford Lake's gardens expanded in 2022. In partnership with Miinikaan Innovation and Design, Conservation Halton enhanced the park's Mashkiki Gitigan (Medicine Garden) with garden maintenance and new plantings. The team also established an Edible Forest Garden, with fruit- and nut-bearing species like American Chestnut and Butternut. Together with the park's Three Sisters Garden, these planting projects are helping to make traditional foods and medicines more abundant and accessible to Indigenous communities in Milton and the Greater Toronto Area. Our 2022 garden activities culminated on September 4th as Crawford Lake held its second annual Indigenous Food Sovereignty Celebration. The event invited community members to Crawford Lake's Longhouse Village for a day full of food, dance, singing and teachings.



Healing Projects with Halton Black Voices

In 2022, a contribution from Hydro One's Energizing Life Community Fund, a new two-year commitment from the Province of Ontario (through the Anti-Racism Anti-Hate Grant Program), and a donation from Cogeco supported *Healing Projects*, Conservation Halton's partnership initiative with Halton Black Voices. Building on our 2021 projects, we kicked off 2022 activities in spring, installing a new wildflower garden in a local subsidized housing complex to enhance community greenspace and connection. In summer, we hosted a Healing Cookout and Campout for Black youth and families at Kelso Conservation Area. Participants enjoyed activities like boating and yoga along with delicious food from local BIPOC-owned businesses. Our funders also supported two Black Mental Health Hikes at our parks, as well as anti-racism workshops for community organizations and businesses in Halton.



Inspiring Change

With new and renewing supporters, we continue to invest in hands-on educational programs and events that inspire thousands of children and youth to turn environmental knowledge into action.



Marking 16 Years of the Halton Children's Water Festival

After a hiatus from in-person programming during the pandemic, the Halton Children's Water Festival returned to Kelso Conservation Area in 2022, marking fifteen years of hands-on water education. Over 800 elementary school students took part in the festival, enjoying 15 unique activity stations that explored the importance of water through the lenses of science, technology, society, and community health. The festival's activity stations also attracted the support of local high school

volunteers, who practiced their leadership skills while guiding younger students through fun, outdoor, water-themed learning. Delivered in partnership with Halton Region and local school boards, our popular festival continues to grow in its reach and impact each year as an essential outdoor learning experience for children. Thank you to the Halton Region, Town of Oakville, City of Burlington, Town of Halton Hills, and GEO Morphix for supporting our 2022 event.



Outdoor Education and Forest Stewardship with *From the Ground Up*

From the Ground Up launched in 2018 and has quickly become one of our most popular outreach programs for middle schools. In 2022, the program engaged 823 students from Anne J. MacArthur Public School, Silver Creek Public School, Pilgrim Woods Public School and White Oaks Secondary School in active forest stewardship. Over 35 classes visited local natural areas (within walking distance of their schools) to learn about native species and good forest stewardship—and to help plant 1,200 native trees, shrubs, ferns, wildflowers, and grasses. Along with enhancing local biodiversity and forest resilience in areas of our watershed where the forest canopy is poor or at risk, this neighborhood-based program motivates children and youth to get involved in environmental stewardship and take action in their local community. Our 2022 program activities were generously funded by the Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, TC Energy, SC Johnson, and the Invasive Species Centre.



Green Space: Climate Action Programming for Newcomer Youth

Our multi-year climate action pilot, *Green Space: Newcomer Youth Climate Forum*, has engaged over fifty youth since its launch in late 2021. Through regular climate action events and monthly workshops with environmental experts and community guest speakers, *Green Space* is inspiring participants to build their climate literacy, explore environmental career pathways, and spark meaningful change at home, at school and in the community. With environmental monitoring as a core curriculum component, the program also gives youth a firsthand look at the in-field technologies and systems that watershed managers use to understand the health of local ecosystems. We are grateful to both the RBC Foundation for their founding support and renewed investment in this innovative pilot, and the Catherine Donnelly Foundation for their generous grant towards our 2022 *Green Space* activities.

Thank You to Our Donors and Supporters

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Argo Development Corporation
Distrikt | Alterra
In the Spirit Giving Foundation
Mattamy Homes

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