



2019 Annual Report

A highlight of the achievements made possible by our supporters



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About the organization:

Established in 1995, Ontario Streams is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the conservation and rehabilitation of streams and wetlands, through education and community involvement. Since our inception, we have worked closely with numerous communities, landowners, and school groups to develop lasting partnerships in education and environmental stewardship.

Our achievements in 2019

- Installed 30 in-stream habitat enhancement structures
- Removed 189 contractor-sized garbage bags filled with litter from along 22.8 kilometers of stream
- Removed 19 detrimental in-stream woody material blockages
- Planted 5,539 native trees and shrubs over 3.9 hectares of land
- Engaged 1,094 volunteers in projects contributing 3,008 hours of in-kind support
- Attended 6 events and hosted 47 community events

Thank you for your support!

Your generous contributions have helped us to rehabilitate streams and wetlands in the Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe watersheds.

A letter from our General Manager...

On February 20, 2020, Ontario Streams will celebrate its 25th anniversary. I have had the privilege of being a part of this organization for 23 of those years, and although I have seen many things change over that time, none of it would have been possible without the vision of the original 7 founding members. In 1995, the Board of Directors would hold monthly meetings in Elora often at a picnic table beside the Grand River, to plan the building of Ontario Streams. At times they would have to donate their own money to help pay for a phone line and office essentials, but they felt their vision of an organization that would bring people together to learn and to rehabilitate our rivers, streams and wetlands was well worth their volunteer time and personal financial commitments.



In 2001, Doug Forder was the President of our Board of Directors. In this photo he is prepping for a demonstration of backpack electrofishing at Willow Park Ecology Center. Today, Doug keeps us on track as our General Manager and Restoration Ecologist.

In 1996, with funding from the federal and provincial governments, we partnered with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to begin our first two projects, the rehabilitation of the headwaters of the Rouge River and the Humber River Marshes in Toronto. Since then,

Ontario Streams has become a registered federal charitable organization that has developed partnerships with federal and provincial governments, conservation authorities, municipalities and other non-government environmental organizations. We now typically employ up to 4 full time staff, a GIS specialist, and 6-8 summer staff on an annual basis. Over the years, Ontario Streams' experiences have allowed us to expand our programming in many ways. We have rehabilitated streams and rivers from Lake Simcoe, to Lake Ontario, restored and created hectares of wetlands, conducted research from the Greater Toronto Area to the Bruce Peninsula and from the Saugeen River to the Irondale River watershed. Our outreach programs have educated youth on the importance of our aquatic resources and provided them with the opportunity to be directly involved in rehabilitation through volunteer events and the Adopt-A-Stream Program. [Continued on page 4...]

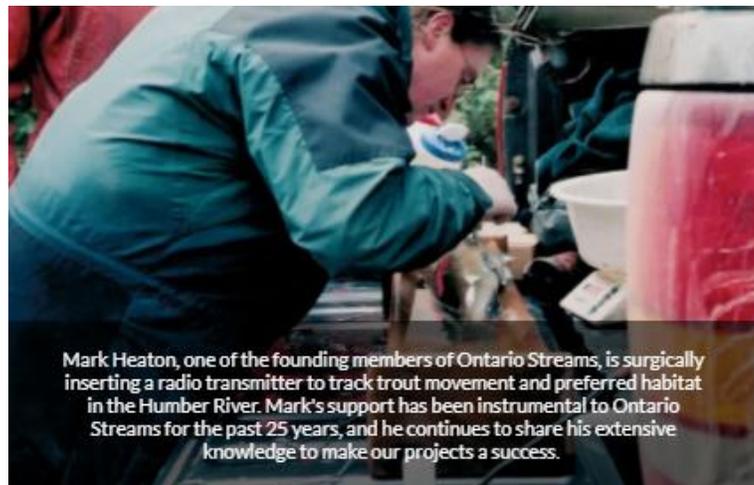


We have been removing garbage from riparian areas from the beginning. This photo shows one of many loads of garbage removed from Brampton streams in 2001.

[...Continued from page 3]

Ontario Streams' staff and volunteer directors have also had the opportunity to engage with many experts and bring professionals in the environmental field together. We hosted River Rendezvous '97, and River Rendezvous 2001, two conferences that attracted hundreds of people to discuss the issues and research surrounding our rivers, streams and wetlands. We have been members of the Redside Dace Recovery Team, certified professionals in electrofishing and the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol, and produced Ontario's Stream Rehabilitation Manual, a resource that is still referenced thousands of times every year.

These great accomplishments would not have been possible without the hard work of our volunteers and employees. Thousands of volunteers have donated their time to support us in improving our environment by planting trees, removing invasive species, stocking native fish, rehabilitating our streams and wetlands, and removing plastic and other litter from our rivers and valleys. Working along side the volunteers, our staff



Mark Heaton, one of the founding members of Ontario Streams, is surgically inserting a radio transmitter to track trout movement and preferred habitat in the Humber River. Mark's support has been instrumental to Ontario Streams for the past 25 years, and he continues to share his extensive knowledge to make our projects a success.

are coordinating the projects, and working to improve our rivers, streams and wetlands throughout the year. I have had the opportunity to work with hundreds of employees that are just starting their career, and it is always rewarding to see them develop into young professionals and

move on to advance their careers in the field.

As we celebrate our past accomplishments, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in helping Ontario Streams grow for the last 25 years, and invite you to work

with us as we expand our rehabilitation projects and develop new partnership programs that will help rehabilitate Ontario's rivers, streams and wetlands in the future.



Overrun with invasive species such as purple loosestrife and carp, in 1996 we began a multi-year project to restore the Humber Marshes. In this photo you can see some of the original Ontario Streams crew hard at work.

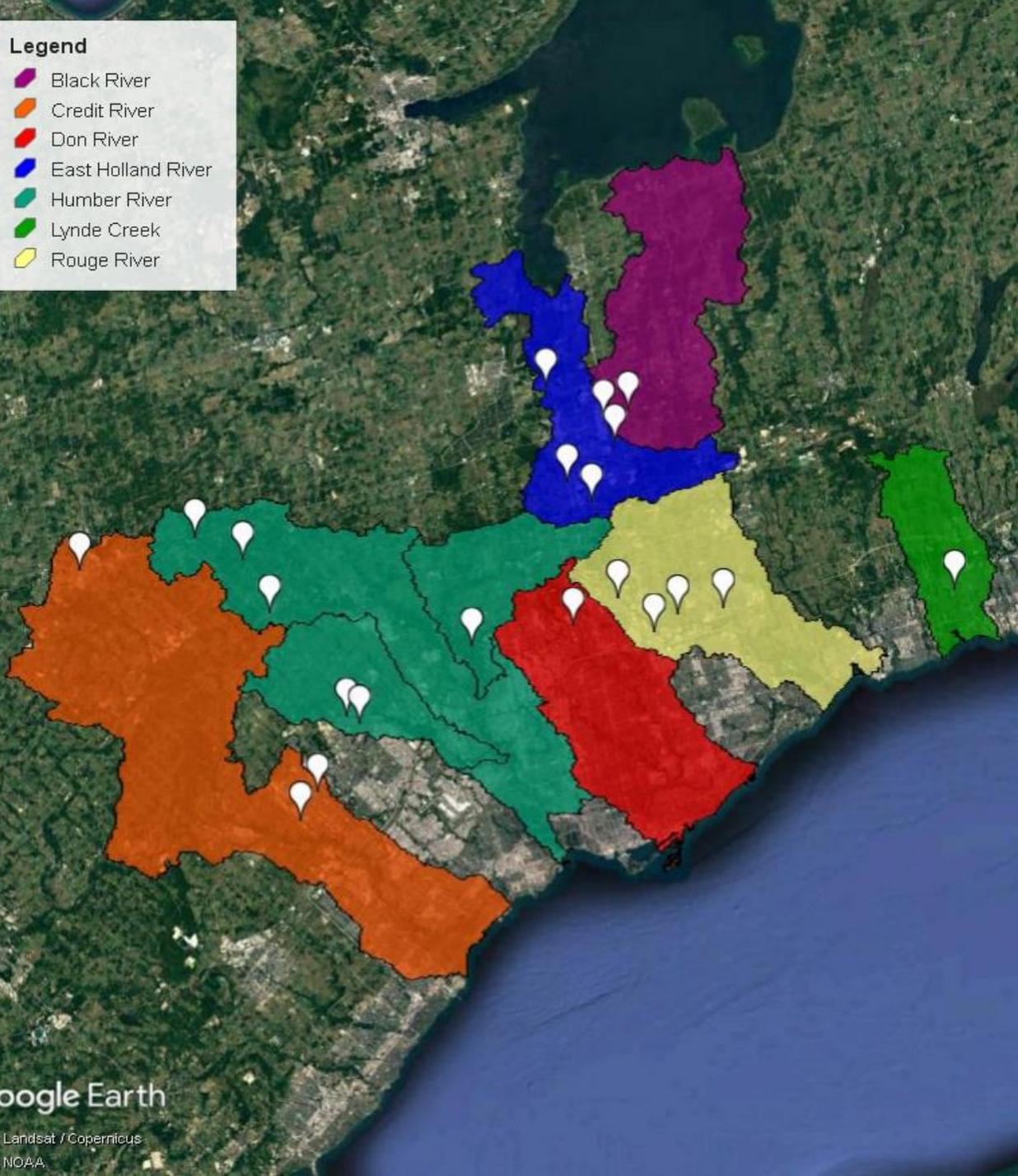
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Doug Forder
General Manager | Restoration Ecologist

Legend

-  Black River
-  Credit River
-  Don River
-  East Holland River
-  Humber River
-  Lynde Creek
-  Rouge River



2019 In Review

Our projects encompassed streams in Lake Simcoe and Lake Ontario watersheds in 2019.

The following pages provide an overview of priority targets and achievements.



Targeted Species for Habitat Enhancement

In 2019, Ontario Streams targeted the habitat of species with significant natural heritage value including:



Redside Dace

Clinostomus elongatus

Listed as *Endangered* under the Federal *Species at Risk Act*, more than 80% of Canada's Redside Dace population is found in the Lake Ontario Watershed.



Atlantic Salmon

Salmo salar

Ontario Streams is one of many organizations working to rehabilitate the population of Atlantic Salmon that called Lake Ontario home which has been extirpated since the late 1800's.



Brook Trout

Salvelinus fontinalis

The only native Trout in the tributaries of Lake Ontario, Brook Trout are sensitive to water quality changes. Urban development and climate change pose significant threats to its survival.

Targeted Areas for Restoration

Our 2019 Projects were conducted in areas where they were heavily impacted by factors such as:



Sediment Loading

Sediment loading occurs when excess soil enters the stream, causing it to become cloudy. This impacts the health of the fish and smaller aquatic invertebrates fish count on for food, disrupting their food chains. Some fish are especially sensitive to sediment loading, such as the Redside Dace, a species-at-risk which require which requires clear water to catch their food in the air.



Erosion Control

Stream bank erosion in the Greater Toronto Area is generally caused by the high influx of water off impervious surfaces such as paved roads and parking lots. This increases water flow rates and erosion downstream, widening channels. Increasing channel width drastically reduces stream health by increasing area to be warmed by the sun, and erosion leads to sediment loading.



Reducing Pollution

Pollution sources such as garbage (especially plastics), fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides all contribute to decreased stream health. Healthy, vegetated riparian zones contribute greatly, as they act as filters for the water entering the stream. We conduct garbage removal and native tree and shrub plantings in riparian areas to help protect the stream from pollution.



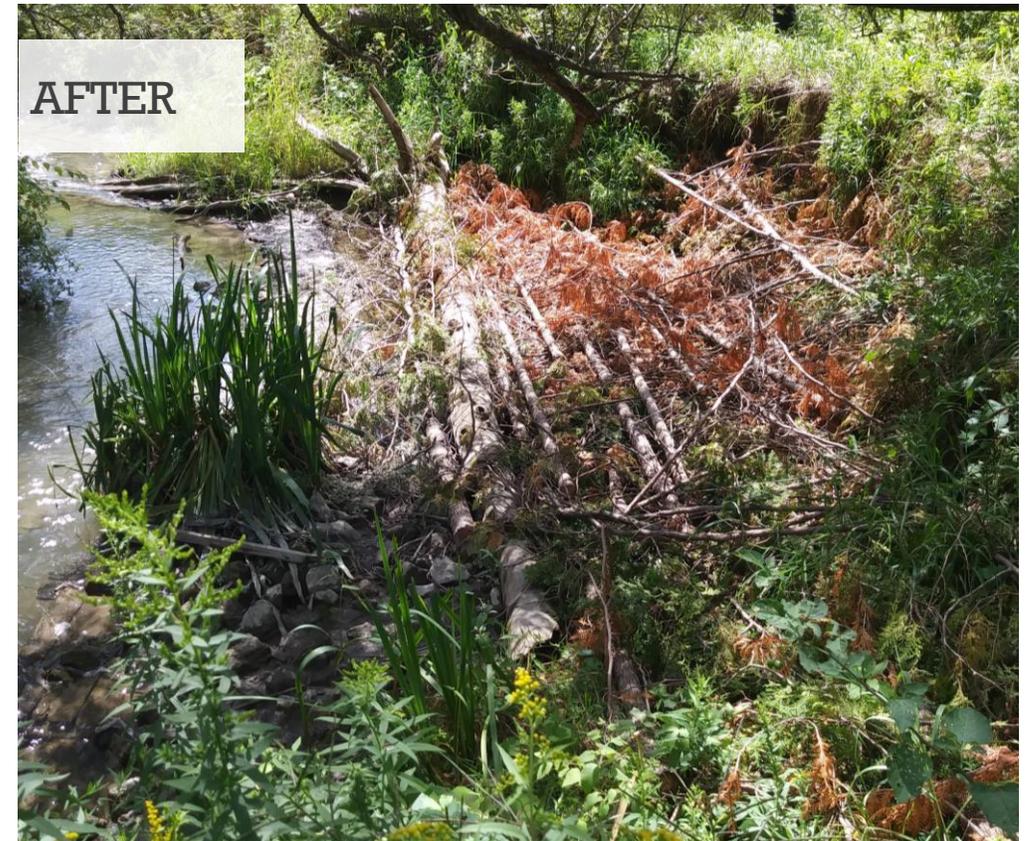
Barrier Mitigation

Man-made and naturally occurring passage obstructions in streams negatively impact fish movement. Obstructed access to preferred spawning, foraging, and over-wintering habitat can have a detrimental effect on sensitive species and over time can impact genetic diversity as populations are prevented from intermixing.

2019 Achievements

30 in-stream habitat enhancement structures built

Using natural materials, like cedar logs, these structures restore streams to their natural form and combat erosion while providing habitat for invertebrates, fish, and other wildlife.



2019 Achievements

189 contractor-sized garbage bags filled with litter from 22.8km of stream and riparian area

Litter and plastics in and around streams degrades habitat, causes physical risk through ingestion, and leaches harmful chemicals into the water. Ontario Streams actively works with staff and volunteers to manually remove litter from streams and riparian areas.

BEFORE



AFTER



2019 Achievements

19 detrimental in-stream woody material blockages removed

Woody material blockages have the potential to block fish passage and cause excessive erosion and sedimentation which can lead to habitat loss and property damage.



2019 Achievements

5,539 native trees and shrubs planted over 3.9 hectares of land

Planting native trees stabilizes soils on streambanks, filters runoff from urban areas, cools streams by providing shade, and provides habitat for birds, pollinators, mammals, and other wildlife.



2019 Achievements

47 stewardship events hosted | 6 partner events attended

Engaging community volunteers in rehabilitation efforts in their neighbourhoods educates citizens on the importance of our environment and fosters a sense of stewardship over their local streams. Ontario Streams also attended 6 partner events: York Region's Fall Forest Festival, Peel Children's Water Festival, 10,000 Trees Earth Day, Canoe the Humber, Patagonia Store Front, and The Brook Never Sleeps.

1,094 volunteers engaged in projects totaling 3,008 hours of volunteer support!

Volunteers are instrumental to our success, and we believe that community involvement is a critical component to conservation. *Thank you* for joining us at our stewardship events!



Taking a look back at 2019



We are now a Registered Charity!

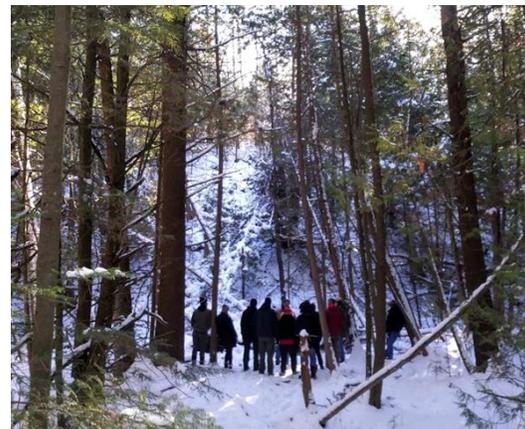
After serving our community for 24 years as a non-profit environmental organization, Ontario Streams gained registered charitable status in January of 2019.

As a part of this change, we will be providing annual reports to our supporters, partners, and donors on our educational and conservation programs. For more information visit: www.ontariostreams.on.ca/Legal-Financial



We adventured with TVO Kids FishHeads

Leo's FishHeads is a kids' adventure science series that explores what is going on under the waves and around the shorelines as our hosts discover the aquatic world of Ontario, the rest of Canada and beyond - getting to know these amazing Eco-systems and the beings that call them home. Ontario Streams staff joined the Fish Heads for an educational day surveying streams for the Endangered Redside Dace.



2019 Annual General Meeting

November 19, 2019 – Held at Bill Fisch Forest Education Centre in Stouffville, Ontario Streams staff shared project success's from 2019 joined by guest speaker's from Park People and the Greenbelt Foundation.

The event was followed by a guided hike in Eldred King Forest highlighting headwater streams on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Thank you to our 2019 volunteer Board of Directors

President

Siobhan Neil

Past President

Bob Giza

Treasurer

Tino Romano

Secretary

David Gambin

Directors

Asif Pradhan

Celeste Longhurst

Eligio de Marco

Grant Baverstock

Heather Lotimer

Horst Truttenbach

Michael F. Giza

Sally Innanen



2019 Financial Highlights

The following is a brief overview of our 2019 financial details.

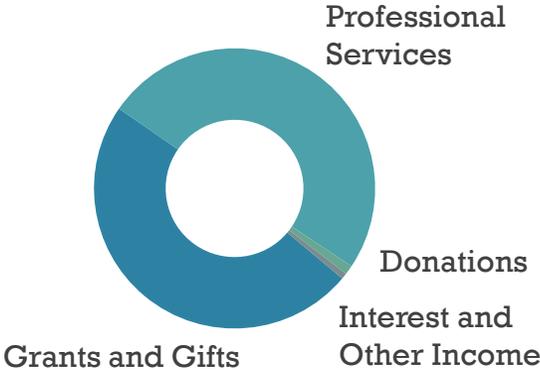
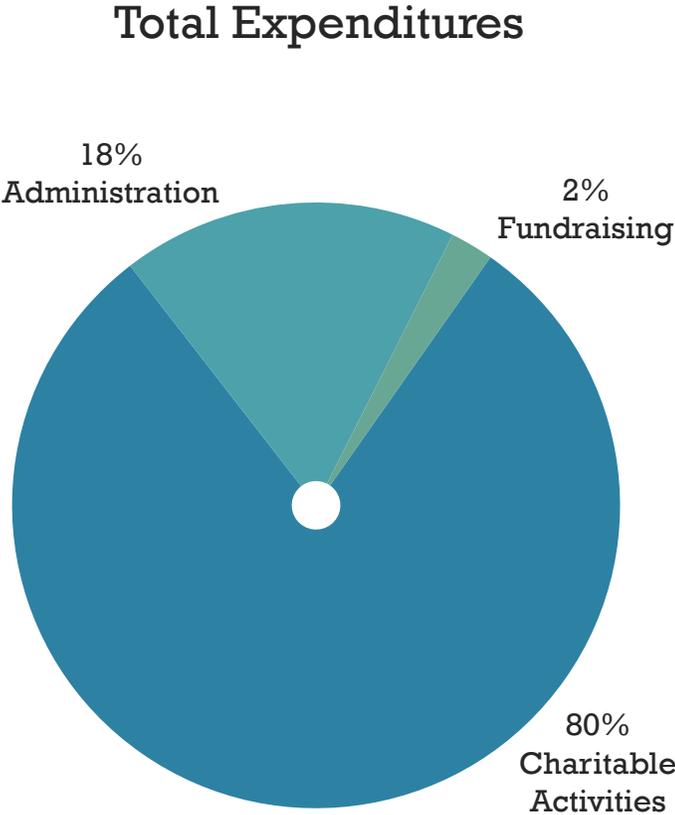
For more detailed information, visit www.ontariostreams.on.ca/Legal-Financial

Ontario Streams 2019 Financial Highlight



Expense Breakdown

Category	Expenses
Human Resources	\$302,530
Materials and Equipment	\$45,432
Vehicles and Travel	\$12,990
Professional Fees	\$10,129
Overhead	\$19,062
Total Project Expenditures	\$390,134



Total Revenue

Category	Revenue
Grants and Gifts	\$169,572
Professional Services	\$173,928
Donations	\$3,690
Interest and Other Income	\$2,393
Total Project Value	\$349,583

Thank you to our 2019 project supporters!

Community Groups

5th Unionville Scouts
6th Richmond Hill Scouts
8th Markham Scouts
Caledon East Wetland
Environment Team
Conservation Youth Corps
Islington Sportsman's Club
Redstone Community Group
YMCA Cedar Glen

Corporations

AMEX
BMW
Combined Insurance Company of America
Home Depot Aurora
SAP
Tangerine
Unisync
VISA
WSP
York Regional Police

School Groups

Caledon East PS
Humberview SS
Huron Heights SS
James Bolton PS
Macville PS
Milliken Mills HS
Orangeville Christian HS
Pierre Elliot Trudeau PS
St. Andrews College
Summitview PS
Villanova College

Organizations

MNRF
CVC
TRCA
CLOCA
OFAH



**Join us to conserve and restore
Ontario's streams and wetlands**

[Click here to donate!](#)

Thank you to our generous supporters!

\$100,000+

Regional Municipality of York

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Government of Canada

City of Richmond Hill

\$10,000 - \$25,000

City of Brampton
Park People

Government of Ontario
The McLean Foundation

City of Markham
Cabela's Canada

TD Friends of the Environment

\$1,000 - \$9,999

Toronto Zoo
Town of Caledon

Town of East Gwillimbury
Volunteer Canada

L'arche Daybreak
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation

City of Toronto

\$1 - \$1,000

Natural Resource Solutions
St. Andrew's College School
Michael Choy
Monica Choy
Milliken Mills High School
Anonymous (12)

Robert Neil
Warren Young
Michael Giza
Peter Drake
Sharon Cote
Pete Davis

Scott Hildebrandt (Monthly)
Sally Innanen (Memorial)
Geoff MacGregor
Erica Wilkinson
Adam Gagnon
Jane & Raj Singh

Ramrattie Singh
Steve Neil
Sally Innanen
Douglas Molina Trevizan
Christine Pritchard
Tara Marini

Balbir Singh
Bal Naraine
Jean Maclean
Rina D'Amico
Jan Lopez
Amit Jaisinghani



Thank You!

We hope to continue to enhance the health of our watershed with your support for another year of success in 2020!

We are so grateful for your financial, volunteer, and in-kind support. Without you, our projects would not be possible. Thank you for your vital contributions to the enhancement of our local streams and wetlands.

Together, we built in-stream habitat enhancement structures to restore fish habitat, removed litter and plastics from streams, planted thousands of native trees and shrubs to stabilize soil while providing habitat for wildlife, and motivated hundreds of members of our community to donate thousands of hours to get it all done!