



# Ontario Streams 2020 Annual Report

A highlight of the achievements made possible by our supporters





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## About the organization:

Ontario Streams is a registered environmental charity dedicated to the conservation and rehabilitation of streams and wetlands, through education and community involvement. Established in 1995, we have worked closely with numerous organizations, corporations, communities, landowners, and school groups to develop lasting partnerships in education and environmental stewardship.

## Our achievements in 2020

- Installed **44** in-stream habitat enhancement structures
- Removed **133** contractor-sized garbage bags filled with litter from along 21.5 kilometers of stream
- Removed **23** detrimental in-stream woody material blockages
- Planted **4,265** native trees and shrubs over **2.13** hectares of land
- Released **12,254** Atlantic Salmon fry
- Mapped **5016 ha** of wetlands
- Engaged **270 volunteers** in projects contributing **989 hours** of in-kind support
- Attended **0** events (due to COVID-19 restrictions) and hosted **27** community events

## Thank you for your support!

Your generous contributions have helped us to rehabilitate streams and wetlands in Southern Ontario.

# A letter from our General Manager...

With the end of 2021 we mark the end of our second full year as a recognized charity in Canada. The transition from Not-for-profit to charitable has been a positive one which has enabled us to grow as an organization. As a charity we have been able to receive funding for our various programs and projects from other charities and foundations not available to us in the past. We have also been fortunate enough to receive one time and monthly donations from individuals across Ontario in support of our work. We all appreciate the generosity of these gifts and are truly thankful for your support of our work.

In addition to our ongoing habitat rehabilitation projects, Atlantic salmon reintroduction project and GIS work, we have increased our outreach and educational capacity through the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation which provided funding to hire our new Outreach Coordinator, Kat Lucas. Kat has been instrumental in the development of our Corporate Stewardship Program, Adopt-a-Stream Educational Program, and bringing volunteer groups to help with clean up and planting events. Kat has also been developing our online presence with her “Livestreams by a Live Stream” where Ontario Streams’ employees discuss topics of interest such as LDD moths, fungi, electrofishing, erosion control projects and Atlantic salmon.

As we begin to prepare for the 2022 field season, we continue to look forward to the expansion of our projects and programming. Educating and involving community groups, corporations and schools with our programming will help in the long-term protection of local streams, while our restoration projects improve natural habitats and provide experience to young professionals just starting their careers in the environmental sector. None of these activities would be possible without your ongoing support. On behalf of the employees, Board of Directors and volunteers of Ontario Streams I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to even greater achievements as Ontario Streams continues to grow.



**Doug Forder**

General Manager | Restoration Ecologist



# 2020 In Review

Our projects occurred in streams in Lake Simcoe and Lake Ontario watersheds in 2020

Ontario Streams works on the traditional territories of many First Nations including the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, the Huron-Wendat, the Mississauga's of the Credit, and the Chippewa. We acknowledge that Indigenous Peoples were the first stewards of the land, and we are committed to reconciliation and recognizing the vital role Indigenous Peoples have played and continue to play in environmental stewardship.

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

# Targeted Species for Habitat Enhancement

In 2020, Ontario Streams targeted the habitat of species with significant natural heritage value including:



## **Redside Dace**

### *Clinostomus elongatus*

This iconic fish is the only minnow in Canada who jumps out of the water to catch their prey, such as mosquitos. Over 80% of their population in Ontario is found in the Greater Toronto Area and they are threatened by decreased water quality in this urban environment.



## **Atlantic Salmon**

### *Salmo salar*

Ontario Streams is one of many organizations working to restore the population of Atlantic Salmon in Lake Ontario. This population has been considered locally extinct (extirpated) for over 100 years due to overfishing by settlers and habitat destruction during industrialization.



## **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 2020 Projects were conducted in areas where they were heavily impacted by factors such as:



## Erosion Control

Stream bank erosion in the GTA is generally caused by the increased runoff of water from impervious surfaces such as paved roads and parking lots. This fast-moving water carves out riverbanks and widens channels. As the channels widen, the water temperature increases due to increased surface area absorbing the sun's heat. Erosion is also linked to sediment loading. To reduce erosion, we secure fallen trees and branches to the banks to create a protective barrier from quick-moving storm flows.



## Sediment Loading

Sediment loading occurs when excess soil enters the stream, causing it to become cloudy. Many fishes rely on their vision to catch their prey and cloudier water can impact a fish's ability to hunt. Some fishes are especially sensitive to sediment loading, such as the Redside Dace, a species-at-risk which require clear water to catch their food in the air. While working in streams, we use sediment fences to reduce our impact on the ecosystem and trap sediment that occurs as we restore the ecosystem.



## Reducing Pollution

Pollution sources such as litter (especially plastics), fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides all contribute to decreased stream health. An ideal river will have lots of vegetation in the riparian zone which can filter the water entering the stream. We frequently lead community stewardship events to improve ecosystems. With volunteers, we remove garbage and plant native trees and shrubs in riparian areas to help protect the stream from pollution.



## Barrier Mitigation

Man-made and naturally occurring obstructions can impede the movement of wildlife through rivers. These barriers can block access to preferred habitats for spawning, foraging, and over-wintering. This can impact genetic diversity as populations are prevented from intermixing. We carefully remove in-stream barriers to improve the quality of habitats and allow for genetic diversity to build resiliency.

# 2020 Achievements

## 44 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.



# 2020 Achievements

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

Litter can have significant impacts on our local wildlife and ecosystems. It leads to degraded habitats, impacts the health of animals, and can leach harmful chemicals into the water. Ontario Streams staff and volunteers work to remove litter from streams and riparian areas.





# 2020 Achievements

## 12,254 Atlantic Salmon fry released

We are working collaboratively to bring the locally extinct Atlantic Salmon back to Lake Ontario through incubation tubes and classroom hatcheries. 27% survival rate from incubation tubes and 5 classrooms engaged.



# 2020 Achievements

## 23 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.

BEFORE



AFTER



# 2020 Achievements

## 4,254 native trees and shrubs planted over 2.13 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.

BEFORE



AFTER



# 2020 Achievements

## 27 stewardship events hosted | 0 partner events attended

Engaging volunteers in rehabilitation efforts in their neighbourhoods educates community members on the importance of our environment and fosters a sense of stewardship over their local streams. Ontario Streams did not attend any partner hosted events, following the suggestion of Public Health Officials.

## 270 volunteers engaged in projects totaling 989 hours of volunteer support!

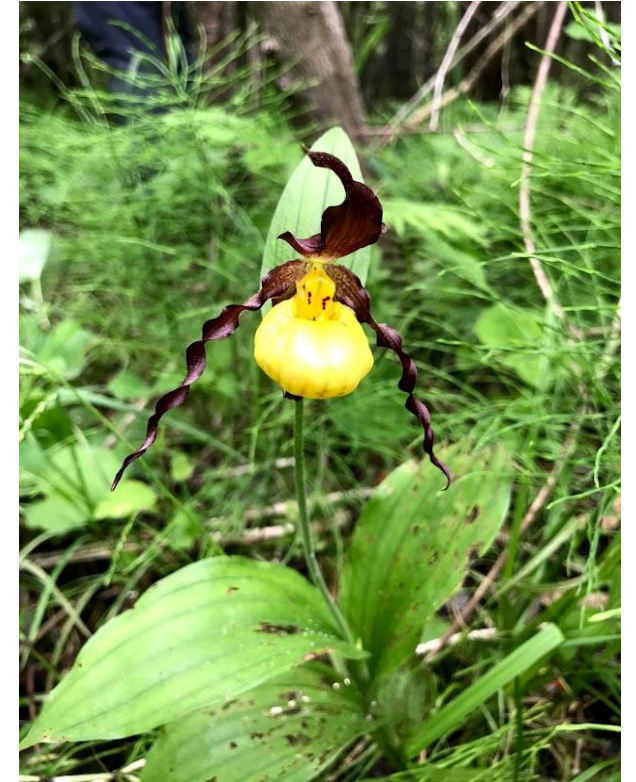
Volunteers are vital to supporting our stewardship projects. We believe that community involvement is a critical component to conservation. **Thank you** for joining us at our stewardship events!



# 2020 Achievements

## Mapped 5016 ha of wetlands in Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe watersheds

Our GIS Technician works with municipalities to lead projects on wetland mapping, vascular plant surveys. We contributed to the evaluation of 8 ha of provincially significant wetlands. We surveyed 209 ha and identified 440 plant species, 88 which were significant species.



# Taking a look back at 2020



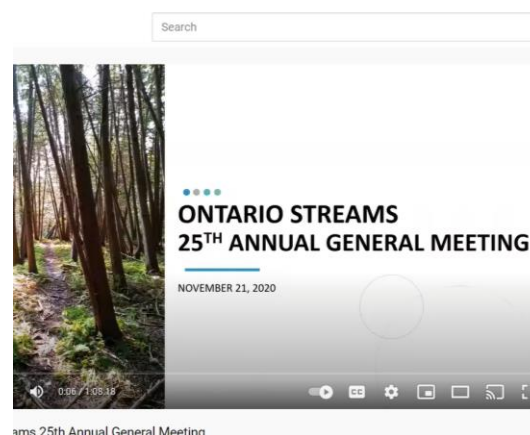
## Staying resilient through a global pandemic

In order to keep operating during the COVID-19 pandemic, Ontario Streams made many changes to our projects, programs, and protocols. We increased cleaning of equipment, limited in-person events, and hired fewer Habitat Technicians than in previous years. While prioritizing the health and safety of our staff and volunteers, we did have to reduce our capacity for restoration work and community stewardship. We look forward to reporting how we have adapted our programming and returned to full capacity in 2021!



## Celebrated 25 Years of Ontario Streams

On February 20, 2020 we celebrated 25 years of Ontario Streams! In 1995, the Board of Directors met for the first time with a mission to protect local waterways. At times, the Board would have to donate their own money towards administration and operations but they felt passionate about their vision of an organization that would bring people together to learn and rehabilitate our rivers, streams, and wetlands! Over the years we have led small and large scale restoration projects to meet this mission!



## 2020 Annual General Meeting

November 21, 2020 - For the first time, Ontario Streams held our AGM in a virtual format. Ontario Streams staff shared project successes from 2020 joined by guest speaker Dayna Laxton an Invasive Species Specialist from York Region. Check out the video [here](#) if you missed the last AGM!

## Thank you to our 2020 volunteer Board of Directors

**President**  
Bob Giza

**Past President**  
Siobhan Neil

**Treasurer**  
Tino Romano

**Secretary**  
David Gambin

**Directors**  
Grant Baverstock  
Pete Davis  
Eligio de Marco  
Michael F. Giza  
Ron Gray  
Sally Innanen  
Celeste Longhurst  
Heather Lotimer  
Asif Pradhan  
Horst Truttenbach

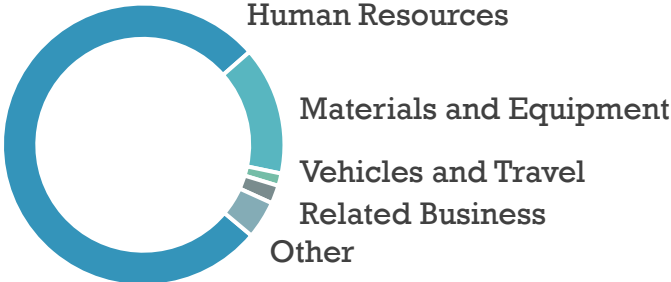


# 2020 Financial Highlights

The following is a brief overview of our 2020 financial details.

For more detailed information, visit [www.ontariostreams.on.ca/Legal-Financial](http://www.ontariostreams.on.ca/Legal-Financial)

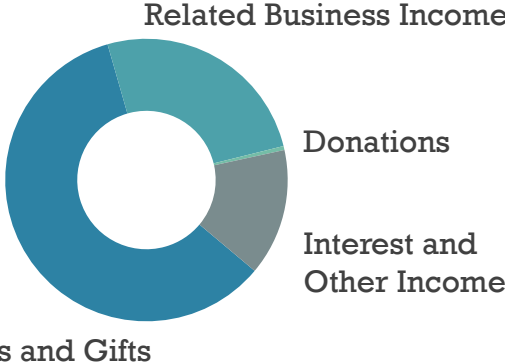
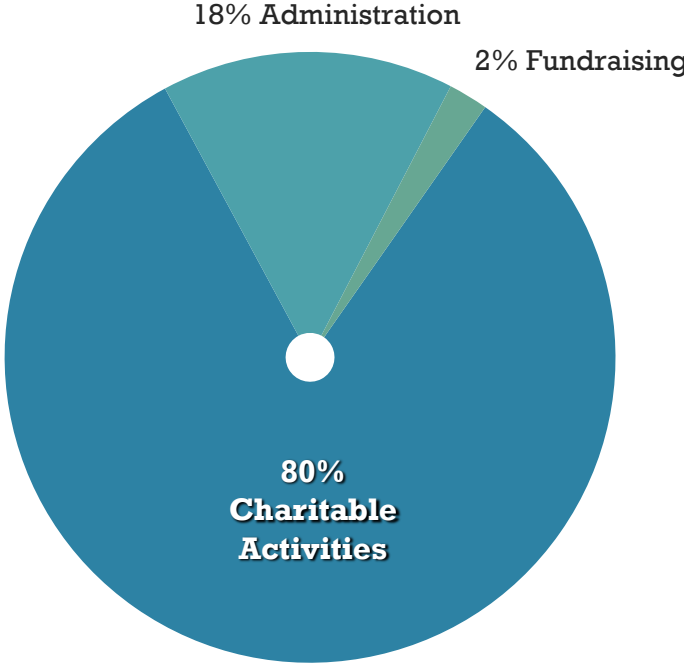
# Ontario Streams 2020 Financial Highlight



Expense Breakdown

Category	Expenses
Human Resources	\$296,870
Materials and Equipment	\$56,385
Vehicles and Travel	\$5,468
Related Business	\$8,005
Overhead	\$16,577
<b>Total Project Expenditures</b>	<b>\$383,305</b>

Total Expenditures



Total Revenue

Category	Revenue
Grants and Gifts	\$307,251
Related Business Income	\$132,166
Donations	\$2,363
Interest and Other Income	\$75,084
<b>Total Project Value</b>	<b>\$516,864</b>



# Thank you to our 2020 project supporters!

## Community Groups

Aurora Bassmasters  
Caledon East Wetland  
Environment Team  
Galloway Family  
Islington Sportsman's Club  
YMCA Cedar Glen

## Corporations

SAP  
McKesson Brampton  
WSP Corporation  
Lotek Wireless

## Organizations

Credit Valley Conservation  
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority  
Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority  
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters  
Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
St. Francis Center  
York Regional Police

## School Groups

Caledon East Public School  
Humberview Secondary School  
James Bolton Public School  
Macville Public School  
T.E.A.M Milliken Mills Secondary School  
St. Andrews College  
Villanova College  
University of Toronto  
Fleming College – Ecosystem Management

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**Everyone who donated  
or took a course  
in support of Ontario Streams!**

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

[Click here to donate!](#)

# Thank you to our generous financial supporters!

## \$25,000 - \$50,000

Cabela's Canada  
City of Brampton

TC Energy  
Regional Municipality of York  
Government of Canada

ECHO Foundation  
City of Richmond Hill

## \$10,000 - \$24,999

JP Bickell

The McLean Foundation

## \$1,000 - \$9,999

Town of Caledon

Volunteer Canada  
Patagonia

EcoCanada

## < \$1,000

St. Andrew's College School  
McKesson Brampton  
Ontario Power Generation  
Anonymous (2)

Calvin Arellano-Chua  
Heather Wilton  
JJ Smith (Monthly)  
Jocelyn Dunn (Honorarium)

Marilyn Baxter (Honorarium)  
Scott Hildebrandt (Monthly)  
Siobhan Neil  
Warren Young

## Related Business Clients

Regional Municipality of York  
City of Markham

City of Toronto  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority  
Town of East Gwillimbury



# Thank You!

We hope to continue to enhance the health of our watershed with your support for another year of success in 2021!

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 their time to get it all done!

