

# Watershed Watch Newsletter



## International Plowing Match and Rural Expo

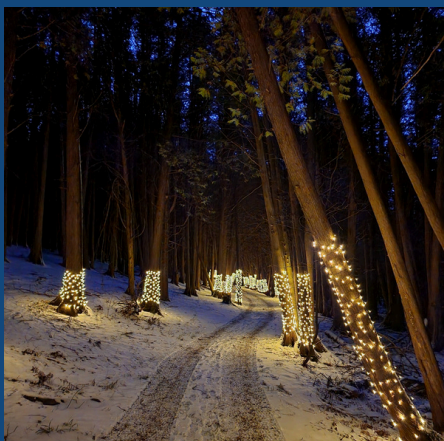
Visit Kawartha Conservation at the International Plowing Match and Rural Expo at the Lindsay Fairgrounds from October 1-5. We're excited to be part of the Showcase Kawartha Lakes exhibition booth and connect with visitors from all over Ontario. Stop by to learn more about our initiatives. To learn more about the plowing match visit the link below.

[More Information](#) >

## Event Sponsorship Program

At Kawartha Conservation, we bring our vision of engaged communities that love and respect nature to life through our Kawartha Fall Fest and Christmas at Ken Reid. These free, events celebrate our environment and community spirit but require significant resources to continue. We are looking for sponsors and partners to help sustain and grow these gatherings. With your support we can continue to help inspire and grow a greater connection with nature. To donate, click the link below.

[Donate Now](#) >



Snapshot of the Illuminated Forest at Ken Reid Conservation Area



October 2024 / Vol 7

Across our watershed, including Durham, Kawartha Lakes, Brock, Trent Lakes, and Peterborough County, it's a time of change as the dog days of summer give way to the magnificent sights and sounds of autumn. Whether it's the golden leaves blanketing the trails or the cool breeze stirring through the trees, now is the perfect time to embrace the outdoors and explore the breathtaking transformation around us.

In this edition, we've highlighted the incredible work of the Community Science Program, led by Nathan Rajevski and powered by our dedicated volunteers. These volunteers play a critical role in monitoring the nearshore lake environment, gathering essential data that helps us understand the health of our lakes and waterways.

Don't forget to stop by and visit us at the City of Kawartha Lakes Jump-In Booth at the International Plowing Match and Rural Expo. We'll be sharing the latest news on our conservation efforts, and our upcoming projects. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with our community and dive into the exciting work that's shaping our future.

While we enjoy the brilliance of fall, our team is already hard at work preparing for the festive season ahead. Planning is in full swing for Christmas at Ken Reid and the Illuminated Forest, two events that have become community favorites. These magical experiences bring the joy of the holidays to life, and we can't wait to welcome everyone back to celebrate together. Expect more details soon—these are events you won't want to miss!

As we move deeper into the fall season, we encourage you to make the most of these cooler days. Whether it's hiking through the vibrant forests, cycling along scenic trails, or simply enjoying a quiet moment surrounded by nature, this is the time to experience the wonders of autumn. Get outside, soak in the fall colors, and celebrate the season before winter arrives!

Here's to a beautiful and busy October—full of community, conservation, and the joy of fall!

- Carolyn Snider, Community Engagement Technician



Canadian Geese migrating south for the winter.

# Community Science Program

Kawartha Conservation's Community Science Program is a dedicated, volunteer-led initiative focused on gathering essential nearshore water data from the Kawartha Lakes. This program builds on the success of the Nearshore Program, which ran from 2019 to 2021, and is now primarily focused on Balsam, Cameron, Sturgeon, and Pigeon Lakes. Currently, 13 committed volunteers collect water samples from their properties. These samples provide valuable data that helps shape a clearer picture of the health of these lakes.

The sampling process takes place once a month between May and September. Volunteers measure important water parameters such as temperature and conductivity. These basic metrics are complemented by water quality samples that are sent to a laboratory to test for key indicators of water health, including chloride, phosphorus, nitrogen, and E. coli. These factors play a significant role in determining the overall quality of the water and provide insights into potential environmental stressors affecting the lakes' ecosystems.

The data collected helps to identify the impact of human activity on nearshore waters. Pollution from nearby sources, malfunctioning septic systems, and other contaminants can compromise water quality and harm the delicate balance of these aquatic environments. Nearshore waters are incredibly productive ecosystems, serving as essential habitats for wildlife, fish, and aquatic vegetation. Healthy nearshore areas support biodiversity and contribute to the natural beauty and recreational opportunities that make these lakes so valuable.

The Community Science Program fosters a sense of stewardship among volunteers and residents, empowering them to actively participate in protecting and preserving these vital natural resources for future generations.

For more information please contact Nathan Rajevski at [nrajevski@kawarthaconservation.com](mailto:nrajevski@kawarthaconservation.com)



Equipment provided to the Community Science Program volunteers.



Tanner Liang, Water Quality Specialist, training new volunteers on proper water collection techniques.

*For more information on how Kawartha Conservation can help.  
Conservation Lands: [conservationareas@kawarthaconservation.com](mailto:conservationareas@kawarthaconservation.com)  
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