

# Watershed Watch Newsletter



## Conservation Area Strategy OPEN for Comment

Kawartha Conservation's Board of Directors has approved the new Conservation Areas Strategy, and we are now inviting public input through to November 17th. The strategy is available on our website, and we encourage community members to review it and share their feedback. This input will be instrumental in shaping the future management and enhancement of our conservation areas to ensure they align with the community's values and priorities.

[Have Your Say](#) >

## Lake Dalrymple Management Plan

Kawartha Conservation and the City of Kawartha Lakes partnered on a four-year (2021-2024) project to develop a science-based management plan for Lake Dalrymple. A dedicated working group, meeting 11 times throughout the project, played a crucial role in providing advice and feedback on the draft plan. The draft Lake Dalrymple Management Plan outlines over 40 actions to address key challenges, including shoreline development, agricultural runoff, invasive species, climate change, overuse, and quarry operations, all aimed at improving the lake's health.

[Read the Draft](#) >



Thank you to our dedicated Lake Dalrymple Working Group for their time, commitment, knowledge and expertise. It is greatly appreciated.



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As October draws to a close, the signs of winter are slowly emerging, with cooler days and the anticipation of frosty mornings. Now is the perfect time to start preparing for the season ahead! Here are a few tips to get ready:

- **Winterize your home:** Clean gutters, seal drafts, and ensure your heating system is ready to go.
- **Get your gear ready:** Check winter tires, stock up on salt or sand, and prepare emergency kits for your car and home.
- **Embrace outdoor fun:** Dust off your winter boots and skis so you're ready to enjoy the snowy season ahead!

In this issue, we introduce our official Conservation Areas Strategy, which will guide the future management of our popular natural spaces. The strategy is open for public consultation, and we invite your feedback to ensure these areas remain accessible, sustainable, and welcoming for all.

Also, we're pleased to share the draft Lake Dalrymple Management Plan, which outlines important steps for maintaining the health and sustainability of this valued lake.

We're also reflecting on our time at the International Plowing Match and Rural Expo. With more than 50,000 people in attendance over the five days, it was a fun-filled week where our team engaged with the community and shared important information about our work. A big thank-you to everyone who visited us at the Showcase Kawartha Lakes Booth!

Looking ahead, our team is putting the finishing touches on Christmas at Ken Reid and the magical Illuminated Forest. These two wonderful holiday events have become popular annual traditions for families and friends in our communities and beyond. With festive activities, lights and holiday cheer, it is the perfect event to add to your family's holiday plans.

Stay cozy as winter approaches, and enjoy the last of the fall colors before the snow settles in. Please keep in mind that vehicle access will be closed at Fleetwood Creek Natural Area, Durham East Cross Forest (South Entrance), and Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Areas as of November 1st. These areas remain open for hiking and exploration but visitors will need to walk in. Stay tuned for more updates and activities to make the most of the holiday season!

- Carolyn Snider, Community Engagement Technician



# International Plowing Match and Rural Expo

What an incredible week it we had at the 2024 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo! The energy and passion from all our visitors for conservation, agriculture, and the natural beauty of Kawartha Lakes were truly inspiring. Throughout the event, we were thrilled to connect with so many individuals and organizations who share our commitment to protecting the environment and fostering sustainable practices. The enthusiasm for our work and the broader conversation around environmental stewardship was overwhelming, and we are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to showcase what makes Kawartha Lakes so special.

A special shout-out goes to our Conservation Areas Technicians, Calli Burke, Freddy Caven, and Jackson Boyes, whose hard work and dedication brought our exhibit to life with a stunning water feature. The booth wouldn't have been nearly as beautiful without their creativity and effort. We also want to extend a huge thank you to the dedicated volunteers and organizers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. The Plowing Match may have come to a close, but the relationships we've built and the important discussions we've started will continue to grow. Together, with our incredible partners, we're planting the seeds for a greener, more sustainable future in our community. We look forward to continuing this journey with all of you!



# Christmas at Ken Reid and Illuminated Forest

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 7, for the return of Christmas at Ken Reid! This FREE family event at Ken Reid Conservation Area is a beloved tradition, offering a day filled with holiday cheer. Activities include horse-drawn wagon rides, a Christmas scavenger hunt, a kids' craft corner, story walks, musical entertainment, and, of course, visits with Santa Claus. It's the perfect way to kick off the holiday season, and while the event is free, donations are always appreciated.

In addition to the daytime festivities, we are thrilled to be bringing back The Illuminated Forest, a magical experience you won't want to miss. Open nightly from 5 to 9 p.m. throughout December, this enchanting trail transforms the natural beauty of the forest into a mesmerizing winter wonderland. Thousands of twinkling white lights illuminate the path, creating a serene and awe-inspiring atmosphere for visitors of all ages.

Whether you're seeking a quiet evening stroll or a festive adventure with family and friends, The Illuminated Forest promises to deliver. Wander beneath a canopy of trees, surrounded by the soft glow of lights, and let the magic of the season take hold. The best part? Parking is just \$4, and admission to this breathtaking display is entirely free.

Join us at Ken Reid Conservation Area for a day and night of holiday magic, where festive fun and nature's beauty come together to create unforgettable memories. We look forward to celebrating the season with you!

[Register Now](#)



Light display at the Illuminated Forest.

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