

A few words from our previous grant recipients ...

Funding from the Ontario Wildlife Foundation has supported key components of the Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program, including fish production and education/outreach. This has enabled us to ensure that eggs for classroom hatcheries and fish for tributary stocking were available.

Program staff also traveled to our schools to provide grade-appropriate presentations about the program, providing hands-on science opportunities and inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards. **We appreciate the support from OWF!**

Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre (OTCC) is a fully integrated turtle hospital, conservation and education centre dedicated to conserving our at-risk turtle populations and their wetland habitats. In 2019, the Ontario Wildlife Foundation supported our Hatchling and Head-start Project. Support of this project helped us to mitigate the reproductive loss from injured at-risk adult female turtles, and replenish declining populations. It also enabled us to head-start hatchlings over the winter to reduce the risk of predation when they are released back into the wild. The funding provided by the OWF has been integral to our success, particularly given the increasing demands being placed on OTCC for turtle rehabilitation, and as a result, the accompanying increase in eggs and hatchlings. In 2019, over 4000 eggs were incubated, with 1965 hatchlings being released back to their source wetlands. Education and outreach is an essential companion project to the Hatchling/Head-start project, with 10,000 program participants taking part in interactive workshops in 2019. Thanks to OWF for their continued support in conserving Ontario's at-risk turtle species and their wetland ecosystems. For further information visit www.ontarioturtle.ca.

The Ontario Wildlife Foundation has been an enduring backer of the Environ-Mentoring program at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph since it launched in 2014. This program is a group initiative whereby our 'Bigs' (volunteer mentors) and 'Littles' (at-risk child mentees) attend a series of organized outings to provide opportunities to learn about nature, wildlife, and their surroundings, while fostering the mentor relationship that the Bigs and Littles have built. The goal of the program is to nurture an understanding of environmental and conservation issues in the youth participating in the program. In the time that the program has been running, OWF has helped us to provide environmental stewardship education to 504 Bigs and Littles. Learn more about the program and how you can help at <https://guelph.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/what-we-do/our-programs/#env>

The early and generous funding support from the Ontario Wildlife Foundation was a catalyst that helped make our shoreline naturalization project possible. The design and installation of over 1,600 native plants – shrubs, trees, and pollinator plants – has stabilized two sections of our waterfront. These plants will hold the soil and lessen nutrient runoff into Clear Lake, enhance habitats and help to improve watershed health. We use these areas to teach students, campers, as well as residents of our lake system, the importance of naturalizing shorelines as a way to increase biodiversity and create nature-rich spaces for both people and wildlife. We are grateful to the OWF for their leadership and engagement. To find out more about Camp Kawartha's shoreline naturalization project, visit www.campkawartha.ca/shoreline-garden.

The Ontario Wildlife Foundation's support for EcoSpark's School Watch and Science in the City programs has transformed the lives of students and community members in the Greater Toronto Area. Participants learn the skills to become citizen science sleuths. They learned to engage with the world as scientists, monitoring for problems and engaging in stewardship projects to improve local environmental sustainability. A big thanks to OWF for all their support. For more information, go to: www.ecospark.ca/school-watch



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Message from the President:

Thank you for your interest in the Ontario Wildlife Foundation (OWF). The OWF is a non-profit, charitable organization that provides us all with a way to help conservation in our province. By visiting our website you can see we believe that great environmental strides begin in our own backyard.

Ontario is a vast and truly breathtaking province. With today's busy schedules we sometimes forget what we have right in front of us. I fear one day we will look up from our busy lives and see that the beauty has disappeared. Sitting on my back porch I can hear the song birds and see the flowers and trees blooming. I know that I am truly blessed to live in this great province.

As a retired school teacher I have always had, and continue to have, a strong passion for education. Representing the OWF has given me another opportunity to help educate other Ontarians who care about nature.

Through continued support from our many partners and supporters, like you, and working with other like-minded organizations in the area of scientific research and conservation education, we are making a difference.

With the support of people like you, we can affect change for better conservation of our natural surroundings.

Invest in your future today!

Our Mission:

The mission of the Ontario Wildlife Foundation is to raise funds and awareness for the conservation and enhancement of Ontario's natural resources through research and restoration. Our strength comes from partnering with other groups on conservation projects and promoting conservation education.

Our Vision:

The Ontario Wildlife Foundation wants to provide opportunities to educate the public and to participate through hands-on projects to ensure our natural resources are there in the future for all to cherish and enjoy.

Our Challenges:

The greatest challenges before us are habitat loss and our youth becoming disconnected from nature.

Without the connection of youth to nature, future support for conservation work will be severely diminished and our natural resources and environment will suffer. That's why conservation education programs are just as important as habitat restoration projects.

Our Mandate:

1.

To conserve and enhance natural habitats.
Loss of suitable habitat is the single greatest pressure faced by Ontario’s wildlife. The OWF funds hands-on conservation projects, often in cooperation with local or provincial conservation or community groups.
2.

To promote, cooperate and participate in conservation education.
Only interested and aware citizenry can make natural resources a healthy priority. The OWF will produce educational materials for both school-aged children and adults. The OWF will also cooperate or partner with the conservation activities of others to make the mutual effort more effective. Through education and stewardship, individual Ontarians can learn the importance of wildlife, the need to conserve and enhance our natural world, and their own role within nature.
3.

To encourage the enjoyment of healthful outdoor recreation.
Birds, fish, animals and their habitats have an intrinsic value to residents of Ontario. Just knowing they are healthy and abundant contributes to our mental well-being. To many they are the sources of important recreation activities such as bird watching, hiking, camping, canoeing, etc. The OWF will work to ensure that Ontarians continue to have ample opportunity for such recreations in all corners of the province.
4.

To promote and support scientific research and general investigation of birds, fish, animals and their habitats.
Government cutbacks have resulted in less research being done on the needs and status of our precious natural resources. The OWF will identify and sponsor necessary research both on its own and in cooperation with government and non-government research agencies. The OWF also intends to offer research grants to deserving university and postgraduate students carrying out pertinent research or assessment.
5.

To allow for abundant stocks of healthy birds, fish and animals so they can be readily available for the use and enjoyment of all people.
Natural spaces and a healthy environment are necessary for the well-being of all residents of Ontario. Through protection and enhancement techniques, the OWF will help ensure that the environment and its inhabitants are healthy and available for the enjoyment of all Ontarians. Man must be a part of nature, not apart from it.
6.

To cooperate with other organizations and individuals in conservation.
It will take far more than one Foundation to make Ontario the best it can be for wildlife. The OWF will partner and cooperate with other organizations with compatible goals. The OWF will enhance the overall conservation community’s success at local, provincial and national levels.

Projects & Partners

It’s our responsibility to make sure that individuals, organizations, governments and corporations are aware of the potential impact they have on our natural resources. But we can’t stop there. It only makes sense to develop partnership with the same groups if we want to protect and enhance Ontario-based flora and fauna. Over the years we have partnered with many like-minded organizations to promote education and conservation initiatives.

2020 Fundraising Campaigns

- OWF Calendar Campaigns
- OWF Stamp & Label Campaign
- OWF Christmas Card Campaign
- OWF Notepad Campaign



Monthly Giving Donor Thank-You

As a way to thank you for your commitment to wildlife, everyone who contributes \$20/month or more through our monthly giving program will receive our OWF notebook.