



2023 Gratitude Report



Credit Valley
Conservation
FOUNDATION

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Welcome



Dear Valued Supporters,

As the proud Chair of the Credit Valley Conservation Foundation, I am delighted to welcome you to our Annual Report for 2023.

Your steadfast commitment to conservation and your generous support have been instrumental in

driving positive change throughout the Credit Valley Watershed.

In the pages that follow, you will discover the tangible outcomes of your generosity: restored habitats, protected green spaces and empowered communities. Each success story is a testament to the collective impact we have achieved together.

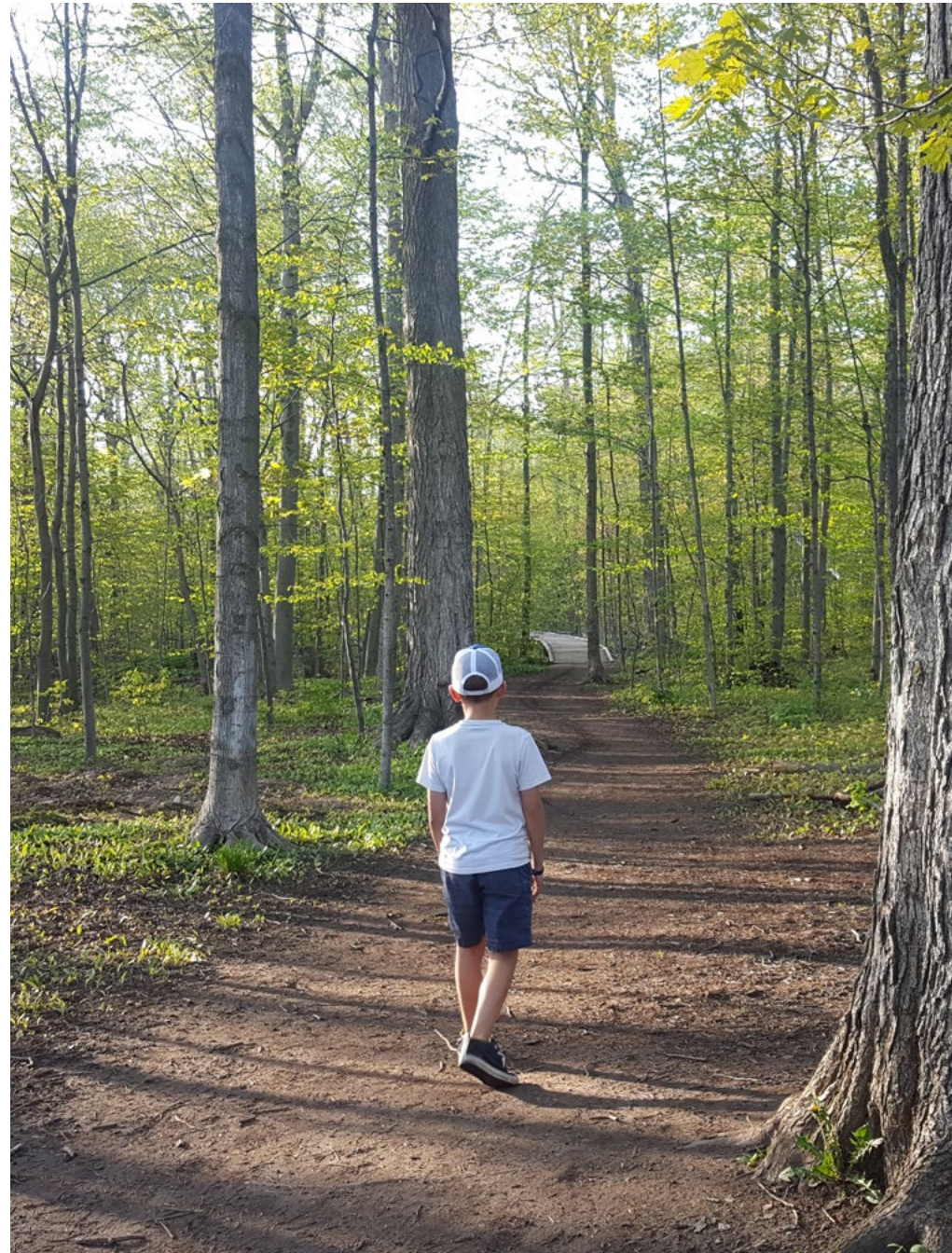
As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of environmental stewardship, your continued partnership remains vital. Together, we can overcome challenges, seize opportunities and leave a lasting legacy of a thriving environment for future generations.

On behalf of the entire board, thank you for your unwavering dedication to our cause. Your belief in our mission fuels our determination to create a more resilient and vibrant watershed for all.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Arundell".

Ed Arundell
Chair, CVC Foundation



Our Watershed

Situated within one of the most densely populated regions of Canada, the Credit River Watershed contains some of the most diverse landscapes in southern Ontario. In this area, the Carolinian Forest zone meets the Deciduous Forest zone, both of which contain unique species.

The Niagara Escarpment and the Oak Ridges Moraine also run through the watershed, further increasing the number and diversity of plants, animals and communities. The Credit River is almost 90 kilometres long and meanders south-east from its headwaters in Orangeville, Erin and Mono, through nine municipalities, eventually draining into Lake Ontario at Port Credit, Mississauga.

The Credit River is home to a wide range of wildlife including 244 bird species, 64 fish species, 41 species of mammals, five species of turtles, eight kinds of snakes, 17 amphibians (frogs, toads, salamanders and newts) and 1,330 plant species. The Credit River is the most diverse cold-water fishery in Ontario, if not eastern North America.



We acknowledge that the land on which we gather, and the entire Credit River Watershed, is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The Credit River Watershed is also part of the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee, and home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples today.

Treaties made with Indigenous Peoples are enduring and include responsibilities for both parties. We affirm that this land and water is our common source of life, and we must all share responsibility for its care and stewardship for now and future generations.

Who We Are



Credit Valley Conservation Foundation (CVCF) is the charitable partner of Credit Valley Conservation (CVC). Established in 1964, CVCF exists to inspire people and organizations to donate in support of vital conservation projects carried out by CVC. These initiatives protect, connect and sustain the health and well-being of the watershed and its communities.

Our Goals

We aspire to improve the local environment for the well-being of our communities by supporting and enabling CVC to:

- Build and connect the 100-kilometre Credit Valley Trail (CVT), connecting the Lake Ontario waterfront to the headwaters of the Credit River at Island Lake Conservation Area.
- Develop dedicated space along the CVT and in CVC conservation areas to recognize and honour Indigenous knowledge, history and present-day culture.
- Secure new conservation lands to protect their benefit to the environment and connect more people with nature.
- Train, mentor and inspire youth, adults and new Canadians to be environmental champions and advocates.
- Develop and maintain sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities in CVC conservation areas.

Our 2023 Board of Directors

- Ed Arundell, *Chair*
- Bob Atkinson, *Vice Chair*
- Quentin Hanchard, *Secretary Treasurer*
- Jim Muscat, *Past Chair*
- Alvin Tedjo, *Trustee*
- Brad Fauteux, *Trustee*
- Dave Dyce, *Trustee*
- Jean Williams, *Trustee*
- Joanna Chevalier, *Trustee*
- Tom Adams, *Trustee*

Our 2023 Staff

- Terri LeRoux, *Director, Parks, Lands and Community Engagement*
- Holly Nadalin, *Manager, Community Outreach, Education and CVC Foundation*
- Sharlene Hardwar, *Philanthropy Specialist*
- Justin Kirkham, *Grants Coordinator*

Credit Valley Trail



A once in a lifetime project, the Credit Valley Trail (CVT) will be a 100-kilometre pathway through the Credit River Valley – from the hills of the headwaters in Orangeville to Lake Ontario in Port Credit. The trail will connect communities to the beauty of nature, Indigenous heritage and values, rich cultural experiences, and the sustaining waters of the Credit River. Each new kilometre is a step towards a more connected future, ensuring our natural environment takes a central role in our collective well-being.

2023 was an exciting year for the CVT. Construction of the Crane Gathering Space at Island Lake Conservation Area was completed; the first of seven Indigenous dodem sites (read more about this exciting project on page 9). Supporting and empowering Indigenous communities is central to the CVT vision. Through collaboration, project partners are creating dedicated space along the trail to recognize and honour Indigenous knowledge, history and present-day culture. The entire CVT route weaves through the traditional territory and treaty lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Wayfinding signage guidelines were developed and new signs were installed at Upper Credit Conservation Area and on the Upper Canada College Trail. The newly connected Upper Canada College Trail was constructed in partnership with the Town of Halton Hills, connecting more of the CVT with key municipalities along the Credit River. In the spring, staff hosted a CVT Symposium for municipal and community Chapters, where participants could explore and hike the trail.

CVCF is proud to support CVC and their community partners through a pledge to raise \$10 million to support the CVT. Since the project's inception, \$4.5 million has been raised by CVC and CVCF. This includes \$3 million in infrastructure grant funds (Canada Community Revitalization Fund) and sponsorship from 407 ETR.

Experience the wild beauty and rich heritage of the Credit River on the 41 kilometres of trail already connected, or donate to help us connect the remaining 59 kilometres.

Learn more or donate at creditvalleytrail.ca.

2023 Donor Impact Stories



Ken Whillans Accessible Washroom

2023 contribution
\$100,000

The provision of a new facility with five washrooms, including two fully accessible, demonstrates a commitment to inclusivity and recognizes the diverse needs of visitors to Ken Whillans Conservation Area. This expansion ensures that individuals with disabilities, families with young children, and all other visitors have adequate restroom facilities, promoting a more inclusive and welcoming environment.

In a society where accessibility is often an afterthought, the decision to include two fully accessible washrooms in the new building is a testament to CVC's dedication to creating an equitable space. This deliberate design



choice acknowledges that accessibility is not a privilege but a fundamental right, allowing persons with disabilities to enjoy the natural beauty of the conservation area with fewer limitations.



Crane Gathering Space

2023 contribution
\$804,450

This year saw the first of seven Indigenous placemaking sites come to life along the CVT. At the northern trailhead at Island Lake Conservation Area, the Crane Gathering Space is a critical part of honouring our commitments to Indigenous placemaking and placekeeping. The CVT's Indigenous Roundtable has been influential in shaping the vision and design of the Crane Gathering Space.

Together, CVC and the Indigenous Roundtable worked with Indigenous architects, landscape architects, fabricators and artisans to supply critical components of the Crane Gathering Space's design and construction. The project created opportunities for Indigenous-owned businesses

and strengthened CVC's relationships with Indigenous communities by reinforcing their presence in the Credit River Watershed. The Crane Gathering Space, first and foremost, is a space for Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, urban Indigenous communities, and other Indigenous communities to have ceremony and honour their traditions on the land. It is also an inclusive space for all people and cultures to celebrate and learn about Indigenous heritage and continued presence in the watershed. With the completion of this site, we continue to plan and strategize for the remaining six sites along the trail in the years to come.



Community Tree Planting

2023 contribution
\$125,420

Planting trees is one of the most important actions we can take in protecting the Credit River Watershed, and its residents and wildlife that call it home. Together, CVC and CVCF have planted over seven million trees with residents, community groups, corporations and landowners. These trees have been fighting climate change, creating wildlife habitat, increasing property value, adding beauty and variety to yards and landscapes, improving water quality in our streams, and much more.

In 2023, CVC's Community Outreach team hosted 70 events, with a combined 2,227 participants who contributed over



5,300 hours of volunteer work. Together, they planted over 6,000 trees and shrubs to restore an area of almost three hectares, planted 1,325 wildflowers and removed over 8,000 square metres of invasive species and 600 pounds of litter!



Youth Environmental Stewardship

2023 contribution
\$68,952

Youth in the Credit River Watershed are taking action to make change right in their own neighbourhoods. This is inspiring their peers and families to care for the land as much as they do. Climate change is a top concern of youth today. CVC and CVCF have the honour of facilitating a series of programs to support them in their mission to improve the environment.

CVC's youth stewardship programs provide valuable and inspiring, hands-on volunteer and learning opportunities in conservation. This year, CVC hosted 182 youth events, with 2,300 participants who contributed nearly 10,000



volunteer hours. They planted 2,340 trees and shrubs to restore more than a hectare of land, planted nearly 1,000 wildflowers and removed over 11,000 square metres of invasive species!



Greening Corporate Grounds

2023 contribution
\$34,415

CVC's Greening Corporate Grounds program helps community partners, such as corporations, local businesses and organizations, landscape their property more sustainably. This program helps partners transition from conventional to sustainable landscaping to reduce the risk of property damage from flooding and extreme weather, improve water quality, lower maintenance costs, and improve employee health and wellbeing.

In 2023, the foundation supported a project at St. Georges Church. Three hundred and ninety-six trees and shrubs were planted in a 100 square metre area, thanks to the help of

community volunteers. This project was instrumental in marketing the mini forest technique. We're looking forward to supporting another project in 2024 with Le Cercle L'Amite Community and Cultural Centre that will include planting native trees, pollinator gardens and stormwater management features. The revitalized space will help beautify the area, create beneficial habitat for local wildlife like birds and insects, and provide an educational opportunity for youth.

2023 Fundraising Events

13th Annual Friends of Island Lake Bass Fishing Derby

The Friends of Island Lake (FOIL) hosted its 13th Annual Bass Derby on Saturday, July 15 and Sunday, July 16 at Island Lake Conservation Area in Orangeville.

The Derby generated over \$31,000 in revenue to support Island Lake Conservation Area projects, including the Vicki Barron Lakeside Trail re-route. The event welcomed 308 registrants who took part in bass fishing over the weekend. A huge thank you to FOIL for hosting another successful derby and to our derby sponsors that made the event possible—Sunshine Landscape Design and Construction, Brock Aggregates, Dufferin Northern Peel Anglers and Hunters Association, Marks Work Warehouse, The Gould Team, and Deja Vu Diner.





17th Annual Conservation Gala Reflections of Conservation

This year we hosted our 17th Annual Conservation Gala, presented by 407 ETR on Thursday, October 12 at Lionhead Golf and Conference Centre in Brampton. The gala brought together 330 guests who raised over \$240,000.

Proceeds from this year's gala support CVCF's 10-year \$10 million fundraising campaign to connect the CVT. The campaign launched in November 2020 and is the largest fundraising project in the foundation's history, raising \$4.5 million to date.

This year we incorporated a new theme, Reflections of Conservation, which was incorporated throughout the gala's festivities. Indigenous drummers welcomed guests and the gala featured a cocktail reception with food stations, live

music, birds of prey, a roaming magician, a photographic art display and silent auction.

The gala was successful thanks to our presenting sponsor 407 ETR and the generous sponsorship support from Argo Development Corporation, NAK Design Strategies and Urbantech Consulting, Bureau Veritas, G&L Group, Earthco Soil Mixtures, Imperial Oil Ltd., GEI Consultants, Crozier Consulting Engineers, Canada Lands Company, Fieldgate Land Development Ltd., Geo Morphix Ltd., R&M Construction, R.J. Burnside and Associates Ltd., Mayfield McLaughlin Developments, Equitable Bank, Paradise Developments, Canon Canada Inc., Lakeview Community Partners Ltd., TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley and Sunshine Landscape Design and Construction.



Thank You to Our Generous Supporters

\$100,000+

- Community Foundation of Mississauga
- Government of Canada
- RBC Foundation

\$50,000 – \$99,999

- 407 ETR
- Canon Canada Inc.
- Government of Ontario
- Jim and Micheline Muscat
- Ontario Lands Trust Alliance Inc.
- United Parcel Service (UPS) Foundation

\$25,000 – \$49,999

- Arbor Day Foundation
- Lorna Kay
- Argo Development Corporation
- Lakeview Community Partners Ltd.

\$10,000 – \$24,999

- Bass Pro Canada ULC
- Green Communities Canada
- NAK Design Strategies Inc.
- Paradise Developments
- Petro Canada Lubricants Inc.
- TAKLA Foundation
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley
- Trans Canada Trail
- Urbantech Consulting, A Division of Leighton-Zec Ltd.

\$5,000 – \$9,999

- American Eagle Outfitters Foundation
- Arc’Teryx
- Ishraque Chandan
- Dods & McNair Funeral Home & Chapel
- Enbridge Gas Distribution
- Equitable Bank
- Fieldgate Land Development Ltd.
- GEO Morphix Ltd.
- Mayfield McLaughlin Developments Inc.
- One Tree Planted
- R&M Construction
- R.J. Burnside and Associates Ltd.
- Region of Peel
- St Marys Cement Inc.
- TD Canada Trust
- Town of Caledon
- TransCanada Pipelines Ltd.
- Tree Canada

\$1,000 – \$4,999

- Arundell Solutions Inc.
- Ballantry Homes
- Mary Brock
- Brock Aggregates
- Bureau Veritas
- Canada Lands Company
- Angel Chacon
- Susanna Cheung
- City Park Homes Management Inc.
- Crozier Consulting Engineers
- Michael Dehn
- DG Group
- Dufferin Northern Peel Anglers and Hunters
- Earthco Soil Mixtures
- Derek Fleming
- GEI Consultants
- Chris Gerrits
- Greater Toronto Sewer and Water Contractors’ Association
- Greenbelt Foundation
- Halton-Peel Woodlands and Wildlife Stewardship
- Imperial Oil Ltd.
- Kaneff Properties Ltd.
- Joe Lamanna
- Ann Lawlor
- Matthew Lindsay
- Matt Mahoney
- Mattamy Homes
- Chris and Beth Mitchell
- Andrew Morris
- Orangeville Ladies 3 Pitch Vintage League
- Brigitta Oswald
- Race Roster
- Michael and Karen Ras

\$500 – \$999

- John Atchinson
- Bob Atkinson
- Edward and Tara Hunkin Ayranto
- Vicki Barron
- Jean Bowman
- Scott Breard
- Melanie Budicky
- Deja Vu Diner
- Dufferin Supply
- Marilyn Dyce
- Bruce and Cheryl Forth
- Dwayne Fudge
- The Gould Team - RE/MAX Real Estate Inc. Brokerage
- David Graham
- Jose Herrera Castro
- Susan Huntley
- Lionhead Golf Club and Conference Centre
- Marks Work Warehouse
- Ellen McGregor
- Joanne McManus
- Malcolm Moore
- Brenda Mullan
- Holly Nadalin
- Jose Perez
- Gail Purpura
- The Riverwood Conservancy
- David Vincent
- Ken Yoshida

Thank you to the following businesses that made in-kind donations (\$500+) in support of our signature fundraising events:

- 407 ETR
- Canada Lands Company
- Credit Valley Golf and Country Club
- GoodLot Farm and Farmstead Brewing Co.
- Jim and Micheline Muscat
- Lionhead Golf Club and Conference Centre
- Mississauga Golf and Country
- Thirty Bench Wine Makers



2023 Financial Statements

We are generously supported by:



49

Corporate
Partners



9

Foundations



337

Individuals &
Families



22

Community
Organizations



4

Government
Partners



79

In-kind Donors



338

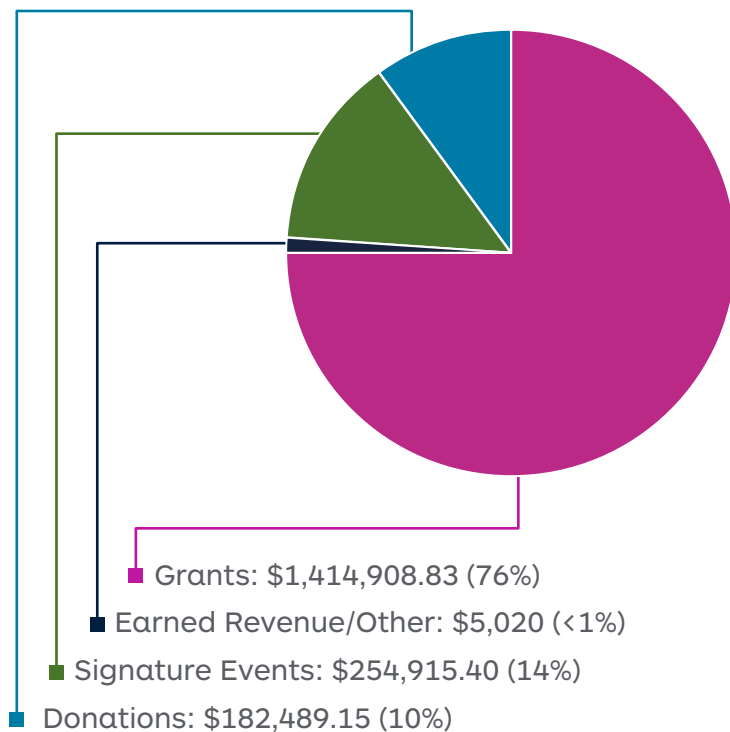
Event
Guests

2023 Financial Statements

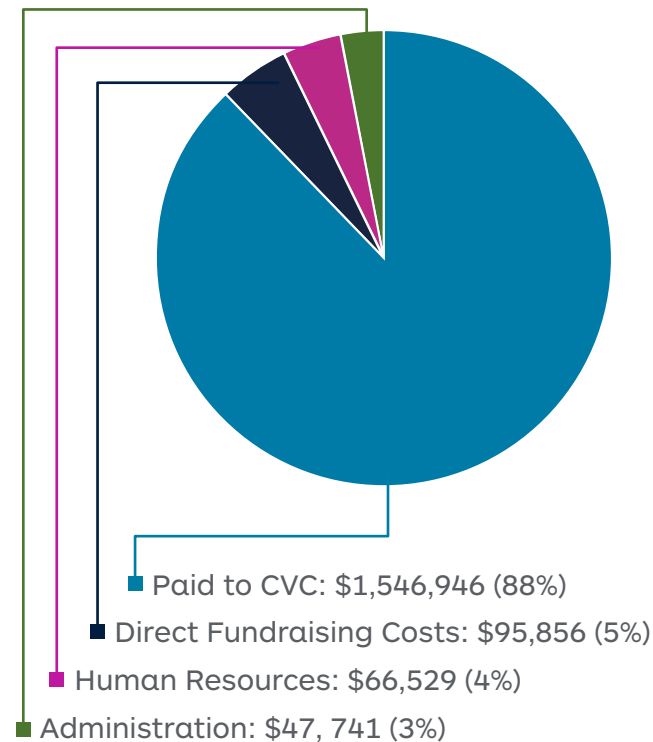
Financial highlights for the year, ending December 31, 2023.

CVCF is committed to the highest standards of accountability and transparency. To view the audited financial statements, please visit the [CVCF Publications page](#).

Total Revenue: \$1,857,333.38



Total Expenditures: \$1,757,072



Credit Valley Conservation Foundation

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Web: cvcfoundation.ca

Charitable Registration #118879048RR0001



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