



2024 Gratitude Report



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Welcome

On behalf of the Board of Directors and leadership team at Credit Valley Conservation Foundation (CVCF), we are proud to share the 2024 Gratitude Report with you. This report reflects the generosity, commitment, and community spirit that fuel our shared mission.

We continue to witness the powerful impact that individuals, corporations, and community partners can have when they choose to invest in local conservation. Thanks to your support, 2024 has been a year of innovation, and connection — from advancing land securement priorities and continuing to build momentum for the Credit Valley Trail.

Across Ontario, conservation authorities are navigating a time of transition. With changes to policy, funding models, and development pressures, our sector must remain both adaptive and forward-thinking. At CVCF, we are responding by strengthening relationships, investing in long-term sustainability, and leaning into partnerships that amplify our ability to protect, restore, and celebrate the natural heritage of the Credit River Watershed.

The truth is, this work is not possible without you. Whether you donated time or funds, sponsored a recent event, or simply

shared in our vision — you have played an essential role in making this progress possible. Your trust empowers us to keep moving forward and new exciting things are on our radar.

As you read through this year's highlights, know that every milestone is a direct result of your belief in our mission. We look ahead to 2025 with optimism, knowing that together, we are creating a resilient, connected, and thriving watershed community.

With deepest gratitude,



Ed Arundell

Ed Arundell
Chair, CVC Foundation



Bob Atkinson

Bob Atkinson
Vice Chair, CVC Foundation

The Credit River Watershed: Where Nature and Community Meet

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.

The Team Behind the Mission

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 Current Board of Directors

- Ed Arundell, *Chair*
- Bob Atkinson, *Vice Chair*
- Terri LeRoux, *Secretary*
Treasurer
- Jim Muscat, *Past Chair*
- Alvin Tedjo, *Trustee*
- Brad Fauteux, *Trustee*
- Dave Dyce, *Trustee*
- Jean Williams, *Trustee*
- Joanna Chevalier, *Trustee*
- Tom Adams, *Trustee*
- Phil Winters, *Trustee*
- Emily Quinton, *Trustee*

Our Current Team

- Terri LeRoux, *Director*,
Interim Chief Administrative Officer, CVC
- Dayana Gomez, *Executive Director, CVCF*
- Justin Kirkham, *Grants Coordinator, CVCF*
- Kristi Boulton, *Coordinator, Digital Campaigns & Communications, CVCF*

Our Goals

We remain deeply committed to improving the local environment for the health and well-being of our communities. Together with our partners, we support and enable Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) to:

- **Build and connect the 100-kilometre Credit Valley Trail (CVT)** — linking the Lake Ontario waterfront to the headwaters of the Credit River at Island Lake Conservation Area, creating a continuous natural corridor for exploration, connection, and stewardship.
- **Create dedicated spaces along the CVT and within CVC conservation areas** to recognize, honour, and share Indigenous knowledge, history, and present-day culture in meaningful and lasting ways.
- **Secure and protect ecologically significant lands** to safeguard biodiversity, support climate resilience, and offer more opportunities for people to experience and connect with nature.
- **Inspire and empower the next generation of environmental stewards** by training, mentoring, and engaging youth, adults, and newcomers in conservation leadership.
- **Enhance and maintain sustainable outdoor recreation experiences in CVC** conservation areas, promoting healthy living, nature appreciation, and community connection.

Connecting Communities Through the Credit Valley Trail



CREDIT VALLEY
TRAIL

Imagine a 100-kilometre pathway winding through the breathtaking Credit River Valley — from the hills of Orangeville to the shores of Lake Ontario in Port Credit. This is the Credit Valley Trail (CVT), a once-in-a-lifetime project designed to connect communities to the beauty of nature, rich Indigenous heritage, vibrant cultural experiences, and the life-giving waters of the Credit River.

At the heart of this vision is the support of generous partners and donors. Every step taken along the trail is a step toward a future where our natural environment nurtures our collective well-being. Thanks to all partners involved, 43 kilometres of this trail are already open for exploration and enjoyment.

The entire trail crosses the traditional lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. With the continued support of the community and our partners, we are building a trail that truly respects and celebrates this deep Indigenous heritage.

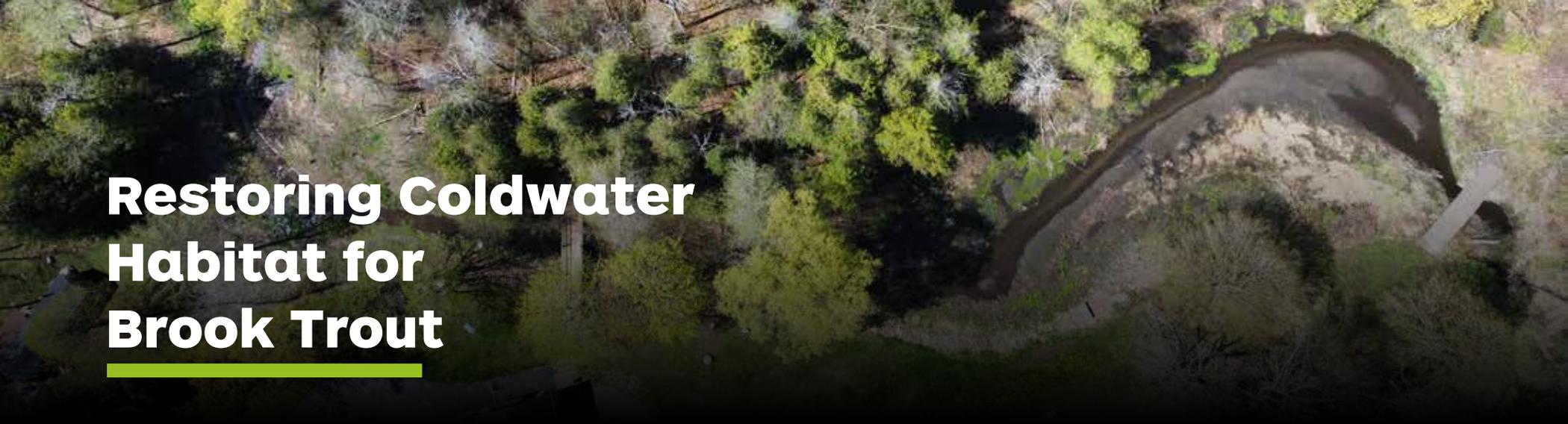
But the journey is far from over. Join us in connecting communities, protecting natural spaces, and honouring Indigenous culture. Together, we can create a lasting legacy that will inspire and sustain generations to come.

Explore the trail's wild beauty and rich heritage — and be part of this transformative journey.

Learn more or donate at creditvalleytrail.ca.



Your Support in Action: 2024 Impact Highlights



Restoring Coldwater Habitat for Brook Trout

The Brook Trout Habitat Restoration Project is making a real difference in the Credit River Watershed. Brook trout are a sensitive native species that depend on cold, clean water to survive — but climate change, dams, and other man-made barriers are threatening their future.

Thanks to our funding partners, CVC has been working to restore three critical sites in the headwaters of the Credit River. Each project helped reconnect cold-water creeks, giving brook trout better access to the spawning and resting habitats they need to thrive.

This year we accomplished:

- **Mill Creek Weir Removal (Orangeville):** An old concrete weir was removed, opening up vital upstream spawning grounds for brook trout.
- **East Credit Tributary Restoration (Caledon):** Two weirs that had been warming and backing up the creek were removed, restoring natural flow and supporting a healthier cold-water fish community.

- **Caledon Trailway Fish Passage Innovation:** A floating ramp was installed at a perched culvert to allow fish to swim upstream, reconnecting habitat all the way to the Terra Cotta Conservation Area.

Two of these projects were on private lands, made possible through strong collaboration with local landowners. The third was on public land owned by the Town of Caledon.

The impact doesn't stop at the water's edge. In 2024 alone, over \$90,000 in external funding was successfully secured to support these incredibly important efforts and the resilience of the brook Trout — funding detailed designs by expert consultants, project construction by experienced contractors, and ecological restoration, including tree planting.

All three sites are now being carefully monitored by Credit Valley Conservation to ensure lasting results that **benefits many**

We thank all of the partners involved for their recent support in helping us protect cold-water species and restore the natural flow of our creeks and rivers. Your commitment to conservation is bringing life back to the watershed — one stream at a time.



Deepening Community Roots Through Engagement

Every tree planted is part of your story — a story of hope, restoration, and connection. Thanks to your support, communities are coming together to restore vital habitats, protect precious water resources, and take meaningful action against climate change.

Because of you, our Community Outreach team engaged over 2,000 volunteers at 70 local events in 2024. Together, and inspired by your commitment, they planted more than 6,000 native trees and shrubs, restored nearly three hectares of natural space, removed countless invasive species, and cleared 1,000 pounds of litter. These lasting changes — for both people and wildlife — were sparked by your generosity.

Every planting isn't just a seed in the soil. It's an act of care, a symbol of resilience, and a step toward a healthier future — all made possible by donors like you.

Thank you for helping communities grow stronger, greener, and more connected to nature.





Inspiring Tomorrow's Environmental Leaders

Young people across the Credit River Watershed are stepping up to protect nature — and it's all happening because you believe in their potential.

Your support empowers local youth to lead on climate action and conservation. Through hands-on stewardship programs, young people are learning practical skills, building confidence, and becoming passionate environmental leaders — all with you walking beside them.

In 2024 alone, your generosity made it possible to host nearly 200 youth-focused events, where 2,300 young participants contributed almost 10,000 volunteer hours. Together, they planted 2,320 trees and shrubs, restored over a hectare of natural space, and removed 600 pounds of litter from local ecosystems.

This isn't just education — it's a movement.

And because of you, it's growing stronger every year. Thank you for nurturing tomorrow's leaders and making lasting change possible.



Building the Trail: Enhancing Access and Experience

Thanks to your continued support, 43 km of the planned 100 km Credit Valley Trail are now connected—an exciting milestone that reflects the strength of our partnerships and shared vision. With the completion of the [State of the Trail](#) report, we've charted a clear course for the next phase of CVT planning (2024–2028). This includes **connecting more trail segments** in collaboration with local municipalities and community partners and **enhancing eco-tourism opportunities**, encouraging sustainable exploration of the valley's natural and cultural assets.

We're proud to mark a key milestone in our commitment to honouring Indigenous voices along the trail. In 2024, with guidance from our Indigenous partners and the CVT Indigenous Roundtable, we unveiled **The Crane Gathering Space** at Island Lake Conservation Area — the first of seven culturally significant sites planned along the route. Now open to the public, The Crane Gathering Space is a place for **education, community building, and connection** — welcoming all who seek to engage with Indigenous culture and stories in a respectful, inclusive way.



To learn more or to book the Crane Gathering Space, please [visit our website](#).

We're also celebrating progress in our \$10 million fundraising campaign—now at 50% of our goal! This momentum is powered by your generosity and the leadership of our CVT Fundraising Cabinet, a dedicated team forging key partnerships and securing transformational gifts. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. If you're inspired to make an impact, now is the time to join us. Let's build it together.

Learn more or donate at creditvalleytrail.ca.

Moments That Moved Us: Events & Connections



14 Years of Community, Conservation & Competition

The Friends of Island Lake (FOIL) proudly hosted their 14th Annual Bass Derby on Saturday, July 13, and Sunday, July 14, 2024, at the Island Lake Conservation Area in Orangeville.

This exciting weekend event attracted 275 enthusiastic anglers, all casting their lines in support of a great cause. Together, they helped generate over \$31,000 in revenue to fund important conservation projects — including the much-anticipated Vicki Barron Lakeside Trail re-route.

A heartfelt thank you to FOIL for organizing another fantastic derby and to our generous sponsors who made it all possible. Your support is making a real difference at Island Lake!

Sponsorship

- Sunshine Landscape Design & Construction
- Allto Construction
- Dufferin Northern Peel Anglers & Hunters Association
- Brock Aggregates
- Royal Chevrolet
- Liuna
- Larry's Small Engines
- The Gould Team - Remax
- Nissan Orangeville

- Orangeville Precast
- Bryan's Fuel

Donations

- Belwood Electric
- LaFarge

In Kind Donations

- Home Hardware (Orangeville)
- McDonalds
- Lakeside Garden Gallery
- Sobey's Orangeville

- Mark's Work Warehouse
- Peavy Mart
- Kelsey's
- Sunbelt Rental
- Pet Value on Riddell
- Dairy Queen
- M&M's
- Zehrs
- Home Depot
- Canadian Tire
- Vaultra Storage
- The Gould Team - Remax



Partners in Conservation: Thank You.

\$50,000 – \$99,999

- 407 ETR Concession Company Limited
- Arbor Day Foundation
- Canon Canada Inc.
- Government of Canada
- RBC Foundation

\$25,000 – \$49,999

- Government of Ontario
- LesLois Shaw Foundation
- Petro Canada Lubricants Inc.
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

\$10,000 – \$24,999

- Bass Pro Canada ULC
- Dods & McNair Funeral Home & Chapel

...Continued

- Green Communities Canada
- Invasive Species Centre
- Kerr Waid
- Mississauga Foundation
- Ontario Rivers Alliance
- TAKLA Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

- American Eagle Outfitters Foundation
- Greenbelt Foundation
- Micheline Muscat
- Town of Caledon
- Transcanada Pipelines Limited

\$1,000 - \$4,999

- Allto Construction Services Ltd.
- Belwood Electric
- Julia Colton
- Michael Dehn
- Dufferin Northern Peel Anglers & Hunters
- Joanne Filipic
- GoodLot Farm and Farmstead Brewing Co.
- Guidewire
- International Plowing Match & Rural Expo Local Committee Inc.
- Shreenath Kargutkar
- LiUNA Local
- Chris and Beth Mitchell
- Mr. Jim & Michelline Muscat
- Nunzia Pannia
- Race Roster
- Royal Chevrolet Cadillac Inc.
- Martin Rudd
- Stantec Consulting Ltd.
- Sunshine Landscape Design & Construction
- The MacLeod Green Family Foundation
- Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.
- Jean Williams
- Julie Williams
- Marvin Yuchtman

\$500 - \$999

- Vicki Barron
- Belfountain Public School
- Jean Bowman
- Dinesh Chigullapalli
- Adrian Horwood
- David Humphrey
- Arvind Kamath
- Kiss Personal Real Estate Corporation
- Larry's Small Engines
- Ann Lawlor
- Ian MacRae
- Councillor Matt Mahoney
- Deborah Martin-Downs
- Brenda Mullan
- Orangeville Nissan
- Storm
- David Vincent

Financial Stewardship: Transparency & Trust



Generously Supported By:



24

Corporate Partners



9

Foundations



270

Individuals & Families



19

Community Organizations



3

Government Partners



3

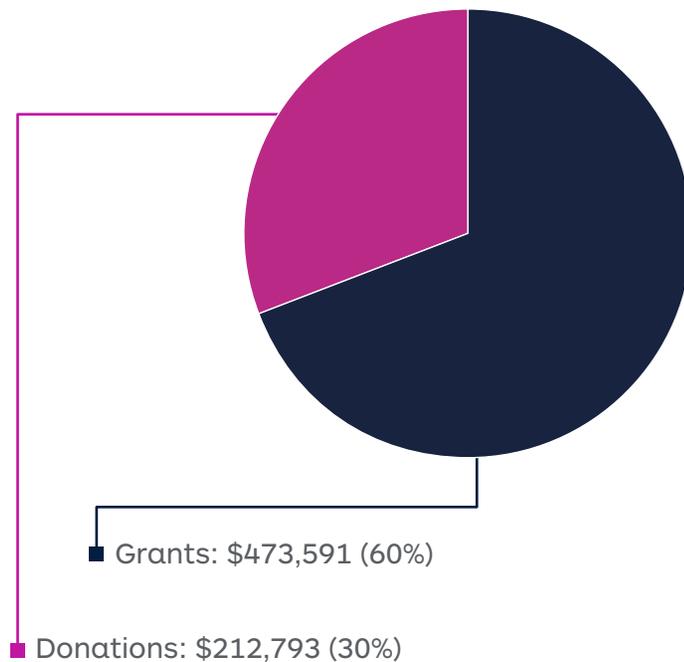
In-kind Donors

Revenue & Expenses Breakdown

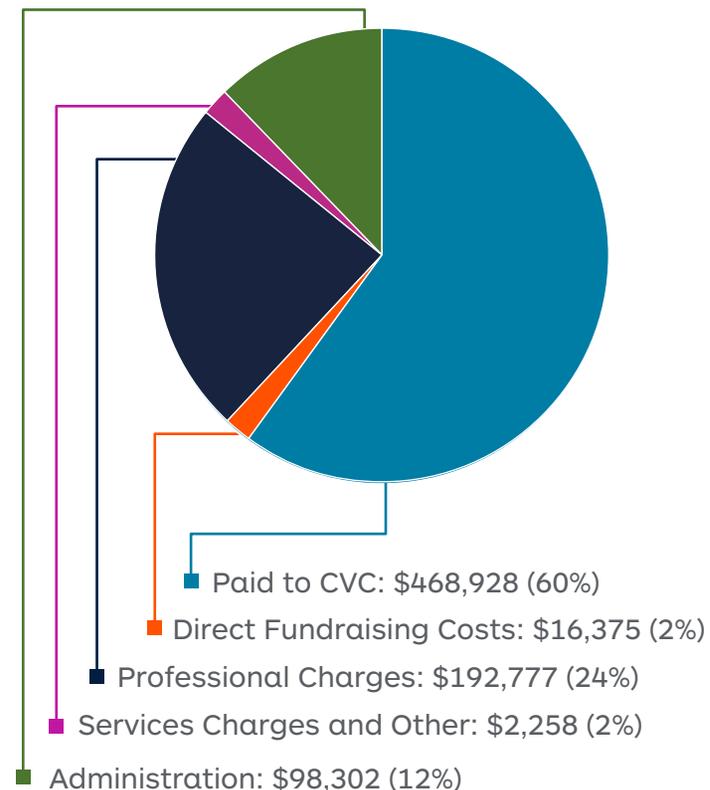
Financial highlights for the year, ending December 31, 2024.

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: \$686,384



Total Expenditures: \$778,640





Want to Partner with Us?

At CVCF, we believe in the power of partnership to protect and restore the natural spaces we all care about. If you're passionate about making a lasting impact in the Credit River Watershed, we'd love to connect.

To explore partnership opportunities, please reach out to:

Dayana Gomez, Executive Director

dayana.gomez@cvc.ca

Let's make a difference—together.

Credit Valley Conservation Foundation

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