

# Scugog Lake Stewards Inc

## 2019 Annual Report



P.O. Box 1282, 250 Queen Street, Port Perry, ON L9L 1A0

[www.scugoglakestewards.com](http://www.scugoglakestewards.com)

Charitable Number 89254 7100 RR001





## Message from the President



As incoming President, I must use this opportunity to thank our outgoing President, Barbara Karthein, for her many years of passionate, and dedicated commitment to the health of Lake Scugog and its environs while leading the work of the Stewards. Fortunately, Barbara remains a very, very active Director of our Communications Committee.

My interest in joining the Board of Directors and decision to accept the nomination for the position of President, was fueled by the wonderful legacy of achievements and community engagement and activism demonstrated by the Stewards over the past 18 years. It was also motivated by the incredible energy and expertise of the Boards of Directors past and current, and the ongoing support of key advisors and experts who share in our vision of a healthy lake and watershed

In 2019, the Stewards continued to lead the fundraising for the Lake Scugog Enhancement Project, a project of the Township of Scugog. The project, which has Kawartha Conservation as technical lead is a \$4-5 Million project involving dredging of the Port Perry nearshore including the marina area to increase depths. The dredged material will be utilized to create a wetland behind a constructed berm that will capture and filter stormwater runoff from major areas of Port Perry to reduce sediment and nutrient inputs into the Lake and provide habitat for a diversity of flora and fauna. The Stewards are represented on the Township's Healthy Lake Scugog Steering Committee, which gives oversight to the project. Our Director Pat Bunting is Chair of the Fundraising Team for the project and has led a robust, multi-sectoral campaign to date.

Science, research and monitoring continued as another key area of focus in 2019. As described in a separate section of this report, the Stewards had the benefit of science experts from Ontario Tech. University, York University and the community conducting Year 3 activities of a major 3-year research program on the lake, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The research has focussed on the reasons for the decline of the walleye population and the impact of the emergence of a new invasive plant, Starry Stonewort, and other macrophyte impacts on the lake ecosystems. One of the major outcomes of this program has been the release of dozens of videos profiling the dynamics of the lake environment. Reports will be forthcoming summer, 2020, detailing the results of this research effort.

A third primary activity of the Stewards has been communications and education. We have utilized various forms of social media to disseminate information on the state of the lake and activities undertaken by community members, partner agencies and local organizations to help address impacts on our lake environment. We are thankful for the interest of and information provided to us by our members and residents of Scugog in this communication effort and for your volunteer actions in many lake management activities.

Of final note, the Stewards have prepared and consulted on a new Strategic Plan, 2020-2023 which will be our roadmap to effective and collaborative actions in conjunction with the community over the next 3 years. We are excited about our future endeavours and continuing to make a positive impact on our lake and watershed with community involvement.

Rob Messervey

President

## 2020-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

Scugog Lake Stewards Inc. is an incorporated, all volunteer, charitable organization dedicated to the health of Lake Scugog. While we received our charter in 2003, we began our mission in 1999 as the Scugog Shores Millennium Committee. Lake Scugog is under pressure from many influences. Time and ongoing development are working against the lake. There are many pressures on the lake and watershed that include increased populations, watershed and shoreline development, invasive species, contaminant and sediment loadings, and climate change. A healthy Lake Scugog is important to all of us, our environment and economy. Through our Strategic Planning process, the Scugog Lake Stewards ensures that its Vision, Mission, Goal and Objectives and related activities are carried out to protect and enhance this precious environment. To this end, the following 6 Goals defined the framework driving SLS Objectives, Activities and SMART Action Plans for the 2020-2023 period.

- Maintain strong alignments
- Coordinate Research and Monitoring
- Progress LSEP and other Watershed projects
- Communicate and Educate effectively
- Promote strong Governance
- Make Membership attractive

### Our VISION

#### *A healthy Lake Scugog and Watershed*

The first Mississauga people to settle in the basin of Lake Scugog around 1700 appreciated the bountiful resources available in the virgin forests and unspoiled wetlands. Game and fur animals, waterfowl and fish abounded, and wild rice grew in profusion in the shallow waters.

The Scugog Watershed continues to be a natural asset of significant value. The Ecological Goods and Services (EGS) being provided has been estimated to be \$267M per annum, representing a vital component of the local economy; \$228M is attributed to tourism and recreational use (*ref. Kawartha Conservation / Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation draft Scugog watershed value assessment*).

Situated within 90 minutes of Canada's largest population center, Lake Scugog is:

- A major driver of the local economy
- An important part of the traditional territories of the Mississauga of Scugog Island First Nation
- The primary source of drinking water to Lindsay via Scugog River outflow
- The headwaters to the Trent Severn Waterway

Lake Scugog Watershed



## Our MISSION

*Through effective research, engagement, communications, and education, we will build awareness and participation with the community on focused efforts to enhance the lake and watershed environment.*

## Our FOCUS

*Our motivation is to preserve, protect and enhance Lake Scugog and its watershed environment. Our lake, like others, has challenges impacting its vitality and health long term. We are dedicated to working with partners to ensure the lake remains healthy, usable, and attractive for future generations.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rob Messervey	President
Bill Eull	Vice-President
Doug Thiemann	Treasurer
Chuck Heroux	Research
Cliff Moon	Research
Barbara Karthein	Education and Communication
Heather Bell	Education and Communication
Tyler Harrington	Fisheries
Tim Robins	Membership
Pat Bunting	Lake Scugog Enhancement Project

## SCIENCE and RESEARCH

2019 marked the culmination of our Trillium Foundation Grant and will lead to several reports throughout 2020 on the results and analysis of the volumes of data collected by several research bodies that the Scugog Lake Stewards were able to fund and support with this grant



In addition the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry carried out an important study on walleye populations by capturing twelve walleye “couples” and evaluating fertility from several perspectives before returning the young to the lake. They found a hatching rate close to 50%, which was what they expected. The Walleye Watch conducted by volunteers around the lake had its fourth season, with the number of volunteers down somewhat.

An evaluation of tributary spawning beds was carried out through the summer, with a report issued that will lead to selected site observation in the spring.

We conducted the second annual Research Open House as part of Lake Week, and it was a successful presentation of our various projects. In addition, three science socials were held to involve the community in the work of the Scugog Lake Stewards.

We continue to work closely with sister agencies including Kawartha Conservation and KLSA, and our academic partners in the region, to develop our next steps based on the results of the just-ended project.



## WATER QUALITY:

This year our research team under the direction of Dr. Andrea Kirkwood from Ontario Tech. completed three years of on lake water quality studies. In addition, this past year Kawartha Conservation studied near-shore water quality with the help of 12 citizen scientists. In addition, Kawartha Conservation under the studied the water quality in all the major tributaries running into Lake Scugog. Their overall results were not surprising.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBRHj0QFs> ) Water quality near urban centers showed more problems than other more natural areas. Weather differences caused by climate change such as increased major rain events, higher temperatures overall as well as increased chloride (salt) levels are very important in water quality. The new predominance of the plant-like invasive starry stonewort and its equally invasive partner zebra mussels, have made a negative difference in water quality within recent years. However, every year is different, every location in the lake is different. It will be essential to continue this research in order to spark solutions.

## INVASIVE SPECIES:

There is no question that our lake and watershed have been besieged by many invasive species over the years, some we have gotten used to such as common carp and Eurasian watermilfoil. Others are more recent nasty invaders such as zebra mussels and the plant-like alga, starry stonewort. We are very close to Lake Ontario and the GTA where boat and rail imports from around the world come in.

We must all be vigilant about cleaning, draining and drying our boats and equipment both before we enter the lake and after. There are still many, many invasive species in Lake Ontario and other lakes that would do very well in Lake Scugog.



## COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

2019 saw more than 9 new educational videos added to the previous 30 produced by the partners of our Research Team all available through our Scugog Lake Stewards YouTube portal. Of special interest should be the Ontario Trillium Foundation 3 year Research Grant Summary. reference <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcAAcQvgNLs&t=78s>. These videos will answer almost any question you might have about the lake. Enjoy!

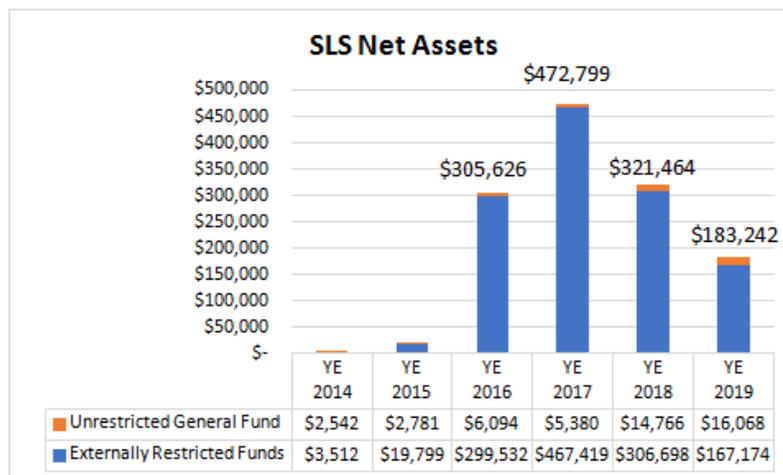
Our website remains a strong source of diverse lake and watershed information. We posted almost daily on our Facebook site and regular Instagram and Twitter posts kept our large number of followers in Scugog and beyond up to date and united.

Our August 'Lake Week' was very successful culminating in our yearly Science Open House featuring our various scientific partners discussing the lake research under the large grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. We made many presentations to groups of adults and children. We sincerely look forward to extending our outreach activities in 2020 once restrictions are lifted. Be sure to contact us if you would like a speaker, or if you have any stories or great pictures of life on the lake. Send them to [info@scugoglakestewards.com](mailto:info@scugoglakestewards.com)



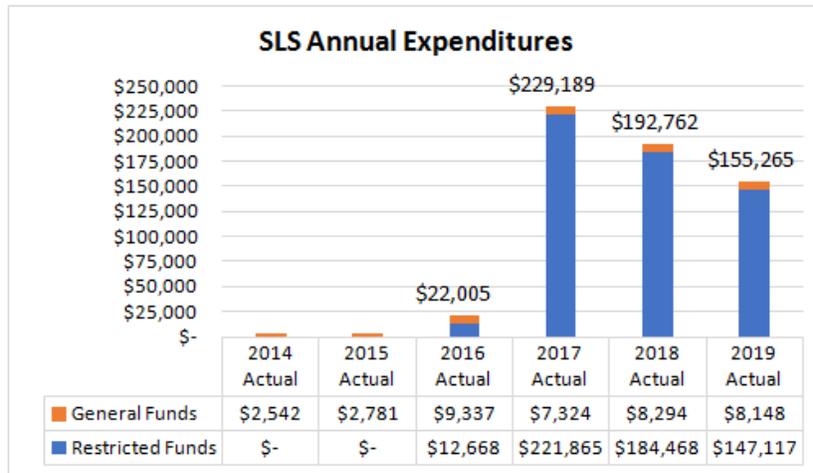
## 2019 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### NET ASSETS



Year over year net asset reduction reflects Lake Scugog Enhancement Project disbursement to the Township for project work plus ongoing Research expenditures against previously committed grant funds

## EXPENDITURES



Essentially all of the Restricted Fund\* expenditures (\$134,963) reflects the completion of the 3 year Trillium Grant research program with the remaining \$12,154 to cover LSEP Fundraising. General Account expenditures (covering SLS insurance, bookkeeping, tax preparation costs, audit costs, software costs, printing fees and other project support costs) continue in line with previous years.

*\* Restricted Funds are held in Reserve Accounts only to be used for specifically defined purposes*

Financial Statements of SCOGOG LAKE STEWARDS INC. December 31, 2019 are attached

## MEMBERSHIP

### SLS membership is important

As an incorporated charitable organization, it is the SLS members that the Board of Directors are responsible to in implementing the organization’s vision and mission as set out in the Strategic Plan and in setting priorities and actioning them through our annual Work Plans. We encourage regular communication from our membership on matters of interest in order to apprise and advise the Board on SLS’s effectiveness in addressing member issues and concerns. A larger membership that encompasses the entire watershed makes it more likely that we will be aware of concerns affecting the lake or watershed.

For the Scugog Lake Stewards to effectively serve its Membership, a Membership Survey and Plan was developed, to be implemented in 2020.



Membership dollars are important to enable us to carry out our work, to do projects, do research and help to educate the community about how to best serve Lake Scugog. These dollars go into a “general” account to pay for insurance, bookkeeping, tax preparation and audit costs, software costs, printing fees and Annual General Meeting costs. The Scugog Lake Stewards cannot function without membership dollars.

*Sign up online through [www.scugoglakestewards.com](http://www.scugoglakestewards.com) or send a cheque for \$40 membership for individuals or families, or \$100 for your business to:*

*Scugog Lake Stewards,  
PO Box 1282, 84 Water Street, Port Perry ON L9L 1A0*

*Tax receipts for memberships and donations will be issued.*

## KEY PROJECTS / AREAS of INTEREST

### LAKE SCUGOG ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (LSEP)



LSEP is a \$4-\$5 million environmental improvement and dredging project of the Township of Scugog in partnership with Kawartha Conservation and the Scugog Lake Stewards (SLS); SLS have fundraising responsibilities. The project scope includes dredging a 15 acre area from the marina south into Port Perry Bay and using the dredged material for the creation of a 4 acre enhanced wetland including a 245 metre berm with a walking trail with fishing pods. The enhanced wetlands

will filter out sediment, reduce excess nutrients and enable enhanced habitat diversity. In addition, LSEP will increase boating access, promote excellent angling, extend the waterfront trail, and provide educational opportunities. The project was initiated by the Healthy Lakes Scugog Steering Committee (HLSSC), a Committee of Council to the Township of Scugog. The purpose of the HLSSC is to research short and long term solutions to the health of Lake Scugog to improve the environmental, financial and social economies of the Lake Scugog watershed. The HLSSC is comprised of representatives from: Township of Scugog Council and staff; local MP office; local MPP office; Kawartha Conservation; Parks Canada/ Trent Severn Waterway; Scugog Lake Stewards; Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; business owners; Township of Scugog residents; BIA/ Chamber of Commerce and Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation. Detailed engineering and permit approvals will be finalized in 2020 with construction scheduled to start in 2021

## SHORELINE NATURALIZATION AND PROTECTION:

Wave and ice action eat away at shoreline properties slowly reducing property dimensions but also helping to fill in the lake. It is in the shoreline owner's best interest to create wave and ice resistant lake edges through a combination of well-sloped round rocks and cobble stone and deep rooted native trees and plants. Kawartha Conservation will help homeowners plan a suitable shoreline edges and can even help gain funding to pay for part of the cost through municipal Water Funds.



Buffer strips of native trees, shrubs and plants, not grass, will not only help buttress your shoreline, but will help prevent nutrients and other pollutants from reaching the lake and reducing water quality. Naturalized shoreline buffer strips also provide habitat for the 90% of lake life that takes place there.

## LAKE LEVEL MANAGEMENT:

The water level in the lake and navigation is a constant source of frustration for boaters and shoreline owners. Since we are a man-made lake created by a Trent Severn Waterway dam and lock system in Lindsay, there is always speculation regarding its management. However, some things must be taken into consideration.

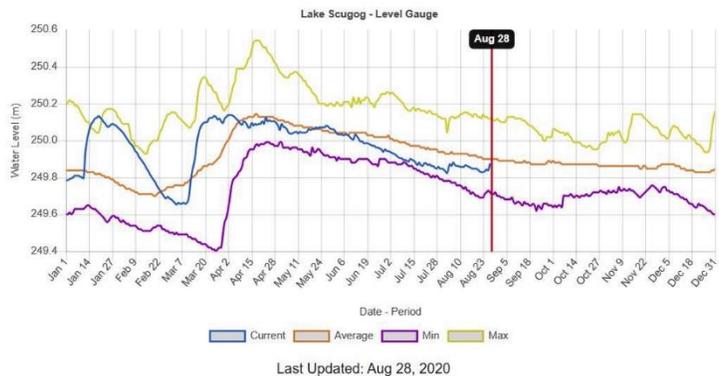
Water cannot be stockpiled behind the dam which has a maximum height of 250 m. above sea level. Unless the watershed is saturated and there is a large rain event predicted, the dam is closed all summer. During the times of no or little rain, evaporation can occur from our large, shallow lake. This is magnified when the lake water is warm, and it is windy. We only can receive water from our own watershed so when the soil is dry, there is little replenishment of that evaporated water. (For daily water level updates see <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/trentsevern/info/infonet/niveau-eau-water-levels>.)

To exasperate the situation, the lake is slowly filling in from composted plants and sediment coming in from the land., a process referred to as eutrophication.

### Water Levels

#### Lake Scugog

Graph Table



## “The Stewards have got your back, Lake Scugog”

*“The folks on Lake Scugog stepped up to help with water testing and sort out how invasive starry stonewort was impacting lake health”*

June/July 2020 Cottage Life



**Scugog Lake Stewards Board and Research Team**

**Scugog Lake Stewards  
2019 Audited Financial Statements**