

# Scugog Lake Stewards Inc

## 2020 Annual Report



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Charitable Number 89254 7100 RR001





## Message from the President



As I finish my second year as President, I must reflect upon how capably our Board of Directors, our consultants and advisors, and our members were able to continue our good work collectively despite the constraints of Covid.

In 2020, the Board adopted a new Strategic Plan 2020-2023 following consultations with our members and the public, with the Township of Scugog and Kawartha Conservation and others. The Strategic Plan sets out our Vision, who we are, what we stand for and a roadmap to a year over year destination. Some details on the Strategic Plan and the 2020 Work Plan that flowed out of it are captured later in the Report.

Here are a few of our 2020 highlights:

In 2020, our major 3-year research project on Lake Scugog, supported by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation was concluded. We had the benefit of science experts from Ontario Tech. University, York University, Kawartha Conservation and the community who focussed on the reasons for the decline of the walleye population and the impact of the emergence of a new invasive plant, Starry Stonewort. Final reports have been issued and posted and our task now is to identify additional research needs and options for mitigation against this invasive and its harmful impacts.

The Stewards continued to lead the fundraising for the Lake Scugog Enhancement Project (LSEP), a project of the Township of Scugog and involving collaboration with Kawartha Conservation and other agencies. This is a \$4-5 Million project involving dredging of the Port Perry Bay nearshore including the marina area to increase depths and improve the lake environment. There are a multitude of benefits associated with LSEP and we are anxious to see the project come to fruition. Through our representation on the Healthy Lake Scugog Steering Committee, a committee of Council chaired by Mayor Drew, we are working hard collectively to finalize the design, obtain approvals and continue our fundraising effort.

Also in 2020, despite Covid, we were able to maintain an active Communications profile, with regular posts on various social media to help keep all residents and agencies informed of the state of Lake Scugog and activities and issues of interest. We were also pleased to maintain and enhance our relationship with many partner agencies and organizations including Ontario Waterways (Trent Severn Waterway), the Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association, Ducks Unlimited, Ontario Streams, Save the Oak Ridges Moraine, and many others in our pursuit of our Goals and Objectives in research, science, monitoring, project development, educating and sharing.

We are thankful for the interest of and information provided to us by our members and residents of Scugog that help keep us abreast of our environmental challenges and priorities. We are excited about our future endeavours and with you, continuing to make a positive impact on our lake and watershed.

Rob Messervey

President

## 2020-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2020, the Board adopted a new Strategic Plan 2020-2023 following extensive consultations and discussions with the Township of Scugog, Kawartha Conservation, our members, the public via an Open House, and others.

The Strategic Plan sets out our Vision and Mission and enables us to set priority actions so we are directing and using our resources, especially our most critical resource, people, in the most effective way possible. Our Plan is framed around six Goals:

- Maintain Strong Alignments
- Coordinate Research and Monitoring
- Progress on the Lake Scugog Enhancement Project and other Watershed Projects
- Communicate and Educate Effectively
- Promote Strong Governance
- Make Membership Attractive

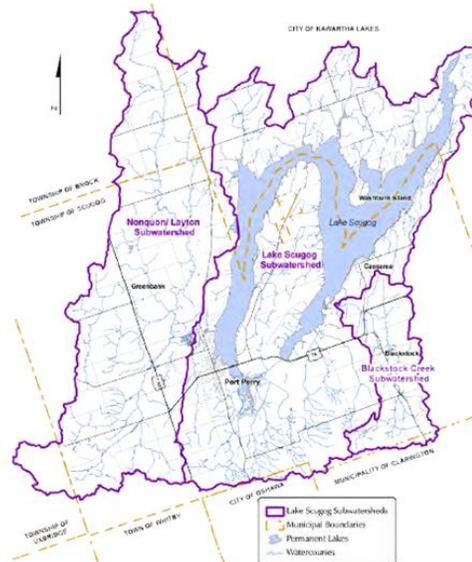
Each of these goals is supported and implemented by Objectives, Activities and SMART Action Plans for the same period.

### Our VISION

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

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*).

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, Governance
Doug Thiemann	Treasurer
Chuck Heroux	Research and Monitoring
Cliff Moon	Director at Large, Research
Barbara Karthein	Communications and Education
Heather Bell	Director at Large, Communications
Tyler Harrington	Fisheries
Tim Robins	Membership
Pat Bunting	Lake Scugog Enhancement Project

## RESEARCH

2020 was a unique year in many ways, largely because of the pandemic, which resulted in the closure of many facilities, the delay in much work, and the cancellation of most of our activities. However, there are still several interesting things to report about our research on our lake. Dr. Andrea Kirkwood and her team were able to complete the studies related to the OTF grant that concluded in 2019, and several reports and videos were released, to be found through links to our website.

Through the summer of 2020, Erin Smith, a PhD student under Dr. Kirkwood, developed a programme using community scientists who volunteered to collect samples and data from several

sites on our lake, plus others throughout the Kawarthas. They were trained, and as the water samples were collected, they were frozen until they could be collected. Analysis is ongoing, and ultimately the data will be shared with Kawartha Conservation, KLSA, Curve Lake First Nations, SLS, and all the volunteers. They also conducted a survey among cottage and landowners throughout the region, to seek a link between human activity during the pandemic and water quality. Drs. Jennifer Korosi and Joshua Thienpont of York University has been studying core samples from the bottom of the lake, to identify historical markers in plant cycles through the centuries. They have sent us a preliminary report that verifies the assumptions of the sampling protocols, identifies the sedimentary organisms present since the Lindsay dam was built in the 1830s, and confirms the recent history of cyanobacteria in Port Perry Bay through identification of the unique pigments derived from toxic *Microcystis* blooms seen recently on the western arm of the lake. This work was part of the OTF project, but results have been delayed because of Covid-related shutdowns of labs, etc.



A programme called Eyes on Lake Scugog, coordinated by Kelly Gibson, was devised to increase volunteer participation around the lake, and involved weekly reporting on local near-shore conditions.

A number of science committee meetings were held remotely through the year, and our course of action for 2021 was laid out, pending certain grant outcomes. We agreed that, with Covid the main theme of nearly everyone, large-scale grants for environmental issues will likely have to wait, and we are seeking smaller contributions. Our goal for 2021 is to fund the hiring of a volunteer coordinator to continue the work of training an effective corps of citizen scientists around the lake, so that the data collection work can continue.

A significant finding of the OTF work was the growth in abundance of Starry Stonewort, an invasive macro-alga that has taken over large sections of the lake and squeezed out many native plants. It also seems to reduce biodiversity where it thrives and could also affect fish populations through reduced dissolved oxygen levels. We have reached out to sister organizations around the Great Lakes, and discovered a Starry Stonewort Collaborative exists, tracking its spread as far west as Minnesota. We are sharing data and ideas with this group, which includes academic as well as government agencies.



Our normal community outreach efforts were severely curtailed, of course. Lake Week was cancelled, but we were able to host a Science Social over Zoom in August that was well attended.



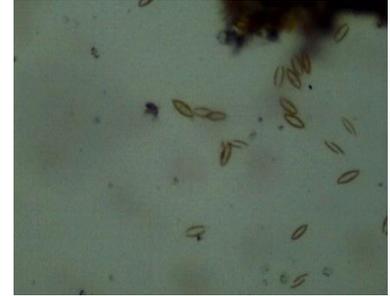
We are also participating in several programmes being established for summer of 2021 by both Kawartha Conservation and the Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association. These include a KLSA initiative for continuous temperature monitoring in several lakes including ours, and two citizen science programmes organized by Kawartha Conservation.

# SCIENCE

## Lake Scugog Wildlife Never Sleeps



The photograph is a microscopic view of a water sample taken from the shoreline of the lake at the mouth of Williams creek that enters the lake at the public boat launch. It was taken on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2021 and is teeming with microscopic organisms. Not all life can be seen by the naked eye. This is just one drop of the water from our remarkable ecosystem called Lake Scugog.

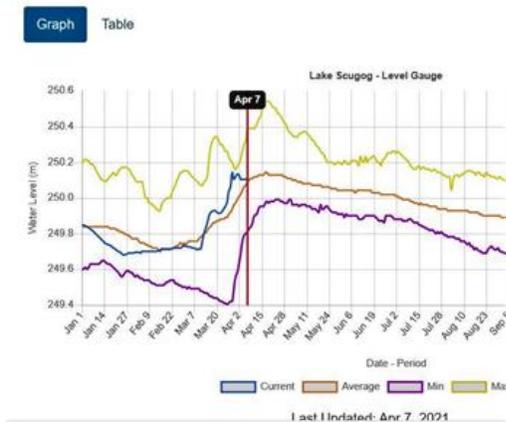


# LAKE LEVEL MANAGEMENT

This year we had two especially important meetings with Trent-Severn Waterway management to stress the critical nature of more sensitive management of the dam at Lindsay. We reiterated our desire to go into summer with the highest possible lake level. Our economy and the dynamics of our environment and climate change require it. We will continue to monitor the dam and the consequent level of the lake as well as keep up a continuous dialog with dam management. You can see from the graph that this spring the water is now right on average for this time of year.



Lake Scugog



# COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

We have all experienced major disturbance and obstacles starting in March of last year because of the pandemic. While much of the Lake Steward's educational and communication work could continue through technology, many aspects had to be shelved such as our Science

Open House, Lake Week Festivities and so many previous opportunities to meet with you and our partners in person and to take part in events that contributed to covering our expenses.



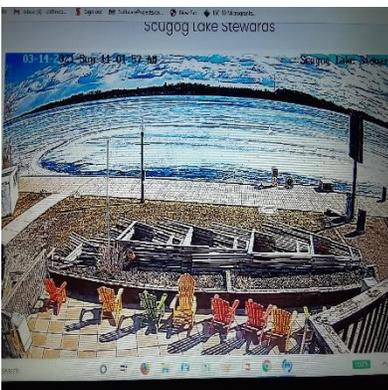
We are very happy with our media outreach in these times. Our website: [www.scugoglakestewards.com](http://www.scugoglakestewards.com) is continually growing to cover our new work, our member Newsletter experiences a 100% open rate. Our popular educational Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Scugog-Lake-Stewards-106982494808449>) continues to experience a very high view and engagement rate with many posts experiencing over 1,000 viewers. Our Instagram

page, has 638 followers after only 6 months (<https://www.instagram.com/scugoglakestewards/?hl=en>) On our website, we have two new features on the home page; one a continuous weather update, and secondly a webcam picture of Port Perry Bay from the Port Perry Marina building. This webcam, installed in partnership with the Marina, was especially useful to check out ice rink conditions, ice-in/ice out conditions and look at the lake and boardwalk in general. Please check out our 2021 volunteer opportunities in the RESEARCH section of our website.



Newsletters were sent out each month to members in good standing giving additional information about happenings around the lake, about our work and about the results of research carried out by Dr. Andrea Kirkwood's Lab. at Ontario Tech. University, or by lakeshore volunteers in a special Near Shore Study with Kawartha Conservation.

### **Scugog Lake Stewards Live Web Cam**



The Scugog Lake Stewards Web Cam is located on the Port Perry Marina Building at the junction of Water Street and North Street roundabout. It faces east and shows a live picture of the lake in front of the marina. The ice rinks, created by Port Perry Marina owner John Mackey, are visible in the foreground of the picture with Scugog Island in the background. To the far right of the scene on the camera, you can see the causeway into Port Perry. It is a great way to see the activity on the lake and at the waterfront which only magnifies the need to protect and preserve this wonderful natural resource. Be sure to check it out at our website, [www.scugoglakestewards.com](http://www.scugoglakestewards.com)

## KEY PROJECTS

### *Lake Scugog Enhancement Project (LSEP)*

LSEP is a \$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.

BEFORE

AFTER

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 now be finalized in early 2021 with construction scheduled to start in the fall of 2021. Fundraising at the government and corporate levels continues; the Community Campaign scheduled to start in early June. Due to Covid, community fundraising will essentially be restricted to on-line activity.

## ***Walleye Spawning Bed Creation Project***

Lake Scugog has suffered a decline in its walleye population in recent years. Beginning in early 2018, the Scugog Lake Stewards, led by Director Tyler Harrington, submitted an application to Parks Canada (Trent Severn Waterway) for the installation of a proposed walleye spawning bed. The SLS, with support from the OFAH and the MNRF, planned and designed the project to be located at Oakdene Point, in the NE arm of Lake Scugog. The primary objectives are to

improve the understanding of walleye and their use of artificial spawning habitat in the lake, and to monitor and assess the spawning activity using egg mat surveys. The MNRF's volunteer-based Walleye Watch Program has identified the area as a suitable location for the work. The work proposed involves cleaning sediment from the current shoal, and then laying about 35 tonnes of locally sourced, small diameter, clean round rock to enlarge the current shoal.



Since the original application was submitted, the review of the proposal has involved a number of agencies, now including the Departments of Transport and Fisheries and Oceans, and legislative and regulatory requirements have also changed.

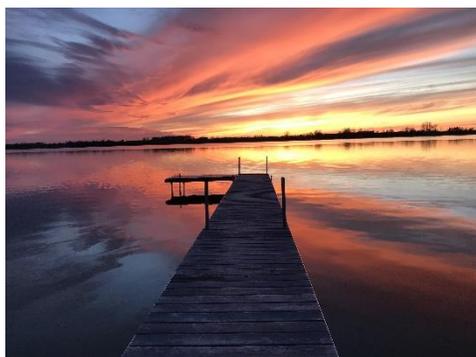
Coincidentally, this project mirrors similar walleye spawning bed installations that are now required in 10 or so locations around the lake to meet requirements of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to compensate for the impact that the proposed Lake Scugog Enhancement Project in Port Perry Bay may have on fish habitat there. Consequently, we decided with Trent Severn Waterway in February to incorporate the Oakdene Point Project within the broader proposal, thereby hopefully bringing all these proposals to fruition at the same time with no duplication of agency review process. The lake will be surveyed this spring to determine what other spawning bed areas will best benefit from spawning bed rehabilitation. We anticipate that the works will be undertaken early in 2022.

## **PHOTO CONTEST.**

In 2020, we kicked off our Scugog series of photo contests with great success! We ran three themed challenges this year to promote the beauty and fun had on, in, and around Lake Scugog: *Sunrise & Sunsets*, *Summer Fun* and *Fall for Scugog*. We received over 100+ photo entries all told, and we want to thank all of those who participated and entered.

The photo contests will continue into 2021 with 4 different themes: *Winter Life*, *Wildlife/Spring*, *Summer Fun* and *Sunrise/Sunsets*. We look forward to seeing your entries.....look for our spring contest on our Facebook or Instagram sites sometime in late April.

### **2020 Sunrise and Sunsets**



1st place  
Rowena Garcia



2nd place  
Brian Robert



3rd place  
Heather Hayne

### **2020 Summer Fun**



1st place  
Lindsay Coutts



2nd place  
Ian McDougall



3rd place  
Sara-Beth Radovin

## 2020 Fall for Scugog



1st place  
Rachelle Mack



2nd place  
Aidan Doak



3rd place  
Danielle Rodriguez

## MEMBERSHIP

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.

We continue to seek new members. This year, we have expanded our drive to include gold (\$500), silver (\$250) and bronze (\$100) business sponsors. For 2021, one of our prime goals will be to engage shoreline residents all around Lake Scugog in helping protect and enhance the lake, whether they live in Scugog Township or the City of Kawartha Lakes.



**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 a \$40 membership for individuals or families, or a business to:

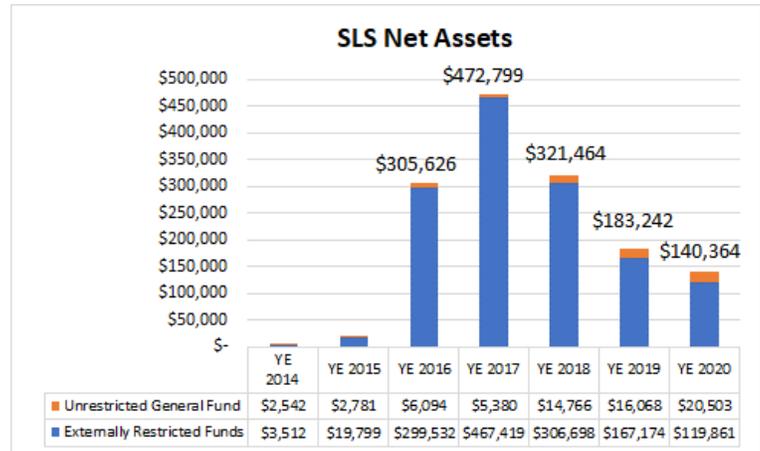
Scugog Lake Stewards,  
PO Box 1282, 84 Water Street, Port Perry ON L9L 1A0

*Tax receipts for memberships and donations will be issued*

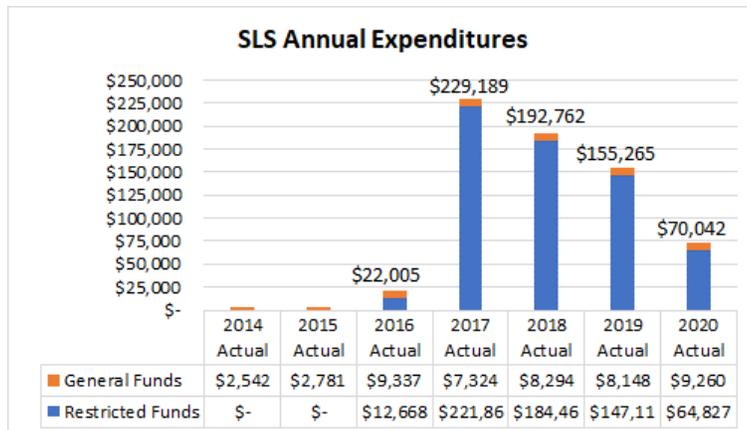
## 2020 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### NET ASSETS

Year over year net asset reduction reflects the winding down of the Trillium Grant funded research project and return of unused funds.



### EXPENDITURES



Essentially all of the Restricted Fund\* 2020 expenditures reflect the winding down of the 3-year Trillium Grant research program (\$60,071) with the remaining \$4,756 to cover LSEP Fundraising. General Account expenditures of \$9,260 cover SLS insurance, bookkeeping, tax preparation costs, audit costs, software costs, printing fees and other project support costs.

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

**Financial Statements of SCOGOG LAKE STEWARDS INC. December 31, 2020 will be posted once approved at the April 22, 2021 AGM**