



# Scugog Lake Stewards Inc

## 2025 Annual Report



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

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

Charitable Number 89254 7100 RR0



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Lake Scugog is a unique natural resource that plays a vital role in the social and economic vitality of our many communities within the Lake Scugog watershed and beyond. The Scugog Lake Stewards are dedicated to the enhancement of the lake, and through our work with partners and residents, we remain focussed on ensuring the lake and its watershed remains healthy, usable and attractive for future generations. I am pleased to present the 2025 Scugog Lake Stewards Annual Report.

To assist us in our work, I am excited about the addition of three new Board members joining us in 2025. Misty Santos, who is the new Executive Director of the North Durham Chamber of Commerce is serving as our Director of Membership. Dr. Ken Wilson, who recently relocated from Saskatchewan to take on the position of Dean of Science at Ontario Tech University, is serving as our Director of Science and Research. Curtis Tomlin, who works for the City of Toronto Parks Department is our new Vice-Chair. These new Directors have added vitality and special expertise to our already robust Board and we now have a renewed capacity going forward to deliver on our goals and objectives.

With the decision of the Township of Scugog Council to not proceed with the Lake Scugog Enhancement Project for Port Perry Bay in late 2024, the Stewards took time early in 2025 to reframe our efforts and focus on lake and watershed enhancement projects. As a result, we have supported a Fisheries Shoal Enhancement Project in the lake that was led by Kawartha Conservation and also supported by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nations. The re-establishment of three fishing shoals was a component of the discontinued LSEP project so we are pleased this important fisheries work is proceeding. In addition, the Stewards have developed a Lake Carrying Capacity Study. The purpose of the Study is to determine Lake Scugog's capacity for urban development now and in the future, in order to provide actionable recommendations to guide future land-use policy and decisions. This project is currently out for bid.

In 2025, the Stewards continued to play a strong role in advocating for strong environmental policy. One example is our review of and input to the Township's redrafting of a By-law dealing with the import and application/dumping of large scale fill within the Township. We were also a strong voice in commenting to the Province of Ontario regarding the provincial proposals under Bill 68 on Conservation Authority regionalization, and addressing allegations of fragmentation of and inconsistencies in CA program delivery. The local CA's, particularly Kawartha Conservation and the Lake Simcoe Region CA are important partners in the work that we do.

Our Research and Monitoring program remained robust in 2025. We continue to participate in the Lake Partner monitoring Program, and support the research being led by Ontario Tech University, York University, Kawartha Conservation and the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority. This research enables us to report on water quality issues such as blue-green algae and the status of invasive aquatic species such as Starry Stonewort and their impact on the health of the lake and changes in the lake environment. We hold regular Science Social events and a Discovery Day for the community to share information from our research activities.

As we enter 2026, we have our sights on updating our current 2024-2026 Strategic Plan. We will be engaging our partners, members and the public in establishing our goals, objectives, strategies and implementation priorities for the Stewards going forward to 2030.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Board directors, advisors and volunteers for their interest and support in helping us meeting our Strategic Plan objectives this past year. We are excited about our work ahead to keep us abreast of our environmental challenges, with you.

Rob Messervey

President

## SLS 2024-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

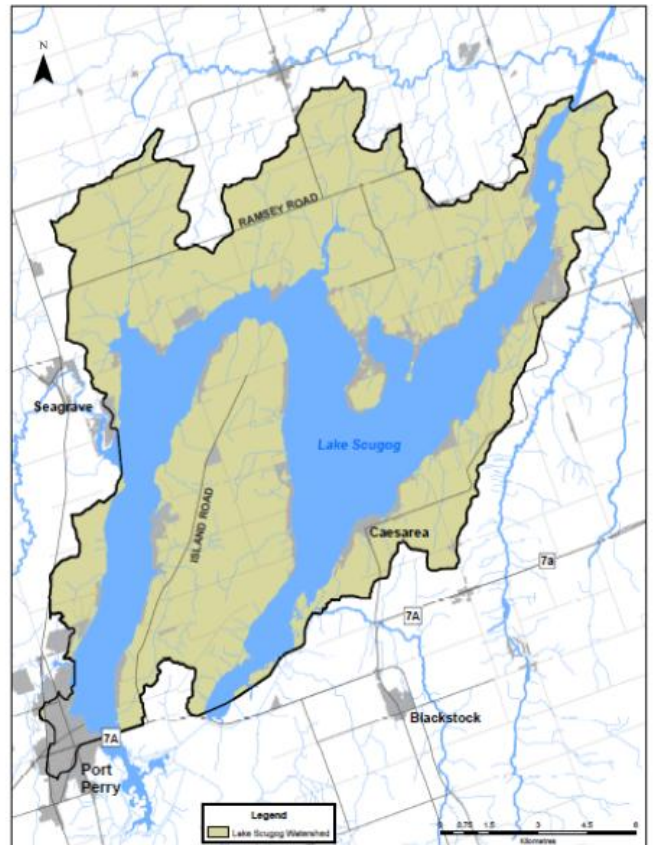
### Our VISION

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

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.

### 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 GOALS



**RESEARCH & MONITORING:** We will build on past research and monitoring initiatives with key environmental stakeholders and the lake communities.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION:** We will inform and educate our partners and the public about the status of and impacts on Lake Scugog and its watershed, while motivating community participation and involvement through programs and events.

**PROJECTS:** We will lead and continue to support, with other partners, the undertaking of lake and watershed enhancement projects.














**ALLIANCES:** We will develop activities in support of our strategic goals and objectives that integrate our efforts and actions with various levels of federal, provincial, regional and municipal governments, first nation authorities, local businesses and key stakeholder organizations.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** We will implement a multifaceted engagement strategy to motivate and mobilize community involvement and cultivate and nurture a dedicated network of patrons and community stakeholders committed to the success of our initiatives.

**FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND GOVERNANCE:** We will pursue financial resources to enable us to deliver operational programs, projects, and initiatives in conjunction with our partners while adhering to best practices, including observing the legal requirements governing our operations as a registered charity.

Each goal is supported by Objectives, Activities and Action Plans.  
For the complete plan, follow the link at <https://scugolakestewards.com>

## 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
|    | <p><b>ROB MESSERVEY, <i>President: B.Env. Studies, M. Public Admin.:</i></b><br/>         Policy director OMNR, past CAO Kawartha Region Conservation Authority, Director of Ontario Greenbelt Foundation, VP of Ontario Native Plant Growers Association</p>   |    | <p><b>CURTIS TOMLIN, <i>Vice-President: Urban Arboriculture (Humber College); Water Quality (Durham College):</i></b><br/>         Supervisor with the City of Toronto Parks Department, expertise in park operations, land management, and environmental stewardship.</p>                 |
|    | <p><b>PAT BUNTING, <i>: P.Eng., BSc App Sci.:</i></b><br/>         Project Director national and international oil industry megaprojects, Corporate Management executive office, past president Kawartha Cottagers Association; SLS past Vice President</p>   |    | <p><b>JOHN BROWN, <i>Director, Governance: B.Econ., post grad Urban Planning:</i></b><br/>         CAO Collingwood, City Manager Brantford, Oshawa Saint John NB, Planner/Corporate Mgmt. Prov. Ont., Calgary, Ottawa.</p>   |
|    | <p><b>JEANNE SYMES, <i>Treasurer:</i></b><br/>         Retired small business owner with expertise in bookkeeping, generally accepted accounting principals, normal business practices and required audit standards.</p>  |    | <p><b>MISTY SANTOS, <i>Director, Membership:</i></b><br/>         Founder Trifecta Sales Systems consulting, owner Disgraceful Marketing, TEDx speaker, author, current Executive Director North Durham Chamber of Commerce</p>  |
|   | <p><b>LYNDA KAMSTRA, <i>Director Admin. Services: B.SC, B. Ed.:</i></b><br/>         Outdoor Environmental Educator for Conservation Authorities, Durham District School Board teacher, North Durham Nature Director, Salvation Army academic volunteer.</p>  |   | <p><b>CLIFF MOON, <i>Director at Large: BEd., BSc. OCT/ODT:</i></b><br/>         Teacher, DDSB Science Consultant, Instructor Ontario Science Center, Assoc Prof. Science Education Ont Tech. University.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>BARBARA KARTHEIN, <i>Director, Research &amp; Monitoring: BSc, LAT:</i></b><br/>         Design/Build Landscape Architectural Technician, founding member of Scugog Shores Millennium Committee (Scugog Lake Stewards, 2003); Design Coordinator for Joe Fowler Park, Baagwating Park; SLS past President</p> |  | <p><b>MIKE BROCK, <i>Director at Large (Research): P.Eng., BSc. App Sci., MScE Civil Coastal Hydraulics and Geotechnical:</i></b><br/>         RCM Technologies Design Team Lead; Marine Engineer, Public Works and Government Services Canada; Dive Engineer, underwater inspections.</p> |
|  | <p><b>.KEN WILSON, <i>Director at Large (Research &amp; Monitoring): BSc. Phd.:</i></b><br/>         Professor U o f S, currently Dean of Science Ont Tech U., teaching academic plant biology, genetics; manager research labs.; specialist in organizational and research strategic planning.</p>                 |  | <p><b>JULI LYONS, <i>Director at Large (Communications): BA, MBA:</i></b><br/>         CBC career as a radio producer, corporate positions in change management, strategic planning, project leadership. Mississauga and Toronto Arts Board volunteer, hotoographer, writer.</p>           |
|  | <p><b>TONY JANSSEN, <i>Director at Large (Membership): Centennial College Design:Owner PP Print &amp; Digital Services,</i></b> advisor Port Perry Bulletin, past President Scugog Communications Group Inc., past President Scugog Chamber of Commerce.</p>  |   |  |

# RESEARCH

Barbara Karthein, Dr. Ken Wilson, Dr. Andrea Kirkwood

## SCUGOG LAKE STEWARDS RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- Coordinate and support continuing scientific research and citizen science programs around Lake Scugog and its tributaries.
- To coordinate and use current and historic data for the development of our 2026 strategic plan.
- Engage with other environmental groups, educational institutions and levels of government in our watershed and beyond to strengthen our combined knowledge and outreach.
- Broaden public understanding of the health of the lake and its watershed.

*Research continued to play a very important part in the work of the Scugog Lake Stewards in 2025.*

- Financially supported Ontario Tech. U. and the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (LSRCA) in a field study by Dr. Brian Ginn and PhD candidate, Flavia Breje (picture) looking at the environmental conditions associated with the plant like alga starry stonewort and the overall lake plant community composition. During the testing period there were lake-wide harmful blue green algae blooms which presented an excellent opportunity to analyse the conditions for such blooms.
- Financed and found citizen science volunteers to do nearshore water sampling at 5 sites around Lake Scugog as partners of a much larger water data collection throughout the Kawartha Lakes.
- Participate in the long-term (2015) dataset of information on phosphorus, sulphates, calcium, and water transparency data in lakes in Ontario that informs scientists, government, and community groups across the province.
- Held regular pontoon boat tours of the lake to connect scientists with directors and Township staff to understand what is going on in the lake.
- Active through the year on Social Media explaining what is happening in and around the lake in all seasons.



## SCIENCE SOCIALS:

Scugog Lake Stewards Science Socials include themed presentations to educate and encourage community discussion about topics of concern to lake health and to foster vital education and dialogue.

The Stewards held 3 well-attended Science Socials for the community with guest speakers that discussed:

- Solutions to fighting the invasive phragmites grass,
- Septic Systems with the Durham Department of Health,
- Algae and Plankton,

In addition, we held a joint science information event with North Durham Nature called The State of the Lake, The Flora and Fauna of Lake Scugog.

**Science Social: What's that lake slime?**  
**Paradox of the Plankton: Algae, Lakes, and Climate Change**

Join us for a panel discussion about the algae of Lake Scugog with special focus on problem algal blooms.

**October 14, 7 pm**  
**Church of the Ascension**  
**266 North St., Port Perry**

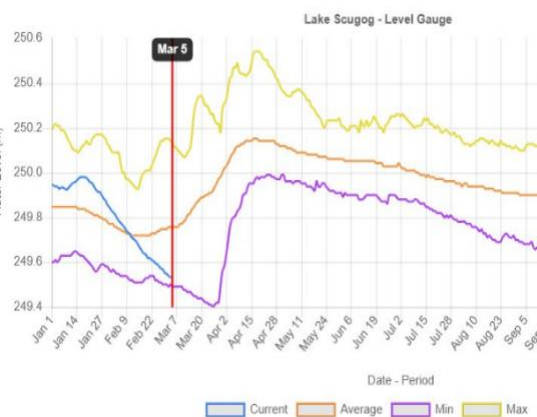
**Dr. Ken Wilson**  
Ontario Tech University  
Moderator

**Dr. Lewis Molot**  
York University

**Dr. Kevin Erratt**  
University of Toronto

## WATER LEVEL MONITORING:

The Scugog Lake Stewards recognize that nothing is more important to the community than knowing the status of the water level in the lake. While the Trent-Severn Waterway lock and dam at Lindsay controls the level of the lake to keep as much water in the lake for the summer, they cannot store water above 250m above sea level because this is the level of the top of the dam.



Preparing for spring run-off, TSW opens the dam to draw the lake down. They also take out logs if there are large rain events predicted. TSW normally put all the logs in the dam in mid June to get ready for summer. When a long drought occurs, the lake is totally dependent on its watershed to replenish. The Scugog Lake Stewards are on the Kawartha Water Watch team with Kawartha Conservation that monitors and reports on watershed water saturation.

SLS have volunteers who regularly photograph and check the Lindsay Dam to see just what is going on and stay in contact with the TSW water management team. They are aware that navigability and the ability of the community and visitors to enjoy various forms of recreational use of the lake is essential to the health of our community and strength of our local economy.



## USING WETLANDS TO HELP CLEAN STORMWATER

From its inception, the Scugog Lake Stewards have been concerned that we are losing the important natural shoreline areas around the lake that help clean the lake, provide habitat and stop erosion. Urban areas challenge the lake as they add vast amounts of silt, sediment, nutrients, chloride and pollutants.

Our research team is backing up the mandate of the Scugog Lake Stewards by not only continuously sharing our data about best management practices, but continuing to push for naturalized shorelines, stormwater runoff improvement, reduced land development for shorelines, and Scugog Township policy changes to protect and improve the lake.

Of all the methods for helping the lake and its inhabitants, encouraging the restoration of functioning wetlands, natural shorelines and tree planting as well as the insertion of hard infrastructure oil and grit separators for the stormwater system are essential.



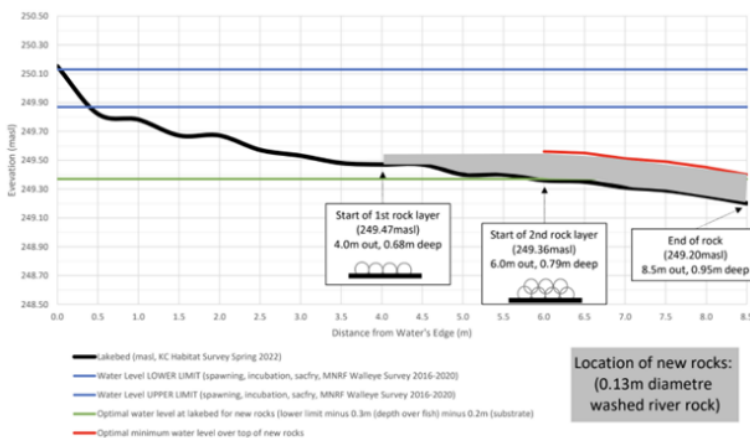
# PROJECTS

## SCUGOG LAKE STEWARDS PROJECTS OBJECTIVE

Assist in the completion of lake and watershed enhancement projects while mobilizing and aligning community efforts with these initiatives to help ensure the long-term well-being of the lake and watershed ecosystems.

### FISH SPAWNING SHOALS:

In partnership with Kawartha Conservation and the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and Ontario Anglers and Hunters, a project is proceeding to enhance three fisheries spawning shoal areas. The shoals are located in areas of Lake Scugog that had been previously identified as important spawning areas and had been part of the Lake Scugog Enhancement Project. In 2025, the Stewards provided design advice and fundraising support to the project. In February 2026, rocks for the shoals were installed on the ice at the chosen locations. Once settled, the shoals will help the Walleye population along with other desirable fish species by protecting eggs and fry.



As illustrated, the strip of stones are installed 4.0m to 8.5m from shore.

## LAKESHORE CAPACITY STUDY FOR LAKE SCUGOG

Given ongoing development pressures being exerted on the lake shoreline and major tributaries, with the Avenu Properties proposal on Cawkers Creek being a recent example, the Lake Stewards developed a Terms of Reference for undertaking a Lake Carrying Capacity Study. This involved an extensive review of other related studies and consultations with experts in the field and with the Township and Conservation Authority. This form of study is designed to produce a planning tool that determines the maximum level of development a lake can support without causing significant

water quality degradation, primarily due to increased phosphorus levels. Currently the Stewards are in the process of reviewing consultants' bids with contract award being imminent.

The Lake Scugog Capacity Study will:

- Assess the water quality trends of Lake Scugog.
- Provide scientific and evidence-based recommendations for development on and near Lake Scugog.
- Inform the planning processes of various government bodies to enable good decision-making regarding new developments.
- Provide Best Management Practices and minimum habitat protection standards for shoreline development.

The findings of the Lake Scugog Capacity Study will support:

- TOWNSHIP OF SCUGOG and CITY OF KAWARTHA LAKES in making land-use decisions that protect lake water quality.
- KAWARTHA CONSERVATION in its efforts to manage watershed health through planning, monitoring, and conservation management.
- MISSISSAUGAS OF SCUGOG ISLAND FIRST NATION (MSIFN) in their role as stewards of the lands and waters of the Lake Scugog watershed.
- THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND PARKS (MECP) in assessing the impact of private sewage treatment facilities and other development-related discharges into the watershed.
- THE DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRY by establishing science-based recommendations that may enable sustainable development.
- THE COMMUNITY by keeping the Lake Scugog ecosystem healthy to continue to deliver economic, social and health benefits to businesses, residents and tourists.

## POTENTIAL PROJECTS:

Other projects under consideration within the 2025 Work Plan and beyond include:

- Control by treatment or removal of Invasive Plants
  - Control of invasive plant species such as Phragmites.
- Education for Homeowners on the lake by local Representatives to encourage:
  - Planting of large trees with deep roots on the shoreline to absorb nutrients from septic beds from running into the lake as well as help prevent erosion.
  - Planting of native plants with long roots in a natural buffer at the lakeshore to improve habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species.
  - Regular pumping of Septic Tanks and upgrading of old Septic systems

- Landing Blitz
  - Events for boaters and other recreationalists to learn more about the risks of spreading aquatic invasive species at public and private boating access sites. The events would emphasize the need to **Clean, Drain, Dry** boats whenever they come out of the water, and **Dispose** of any unwanted bait (in the garbage).



## ALLIANCES

### SCUGOG LAKE STEWARDS ALLIANCE'S OBJECTIVE:

To develop activities in support of our strategic goals and objectives that integrate our efforts and actions with various levels of federal, provincial, regional and municipal governments, First Nations communities, conservation authorities, local businesses and key stakeholder organizations.



### KEY STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATIONS CONNECTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Scugog Lake Stewards are very fortunate to be surrounded by environmental talent and expertise with whom we can work with and share information: 3 conservation authorities, multiple universities and colleges (especially Ontario Tech. U.), and august organizations such as the Greenbelt Foundation, the STORM Coalition, North Durham Chamber of Commerce, Watershed Canada, FOCA; as well as volunteer organizations such as North Durham Nature, Kawartha Lake Stewards and the SEACCAC which is a committee of Township Council.

We take very seriously the importance of sharing data, information, planning responses and joint efforts with this multitude of groups.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## SCUGOG LAKE STEWARDS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVE:

Expand community involvement through communication and events while encouraging volunteerism and financial contributions to ensure the support needed to achieve our goals and objectives.



Reflecting on an extraordinary year with the Scugog Lake Stewards' Marketing and Communications/Education team, we are celebrating remarkable progress in safeguarding Lake Scugog.

## MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Our strategic outreach drove substantial membership growth, fueled by community passion for lake health and bolstered by our strategic plan updates in early 2025. The seamless rollout of the \$5 monthly payment system on [ilovelakescugog.ca](http://ilovelakescugog.ca) made sustaining support effortless, with secure options like credit card and PayPal drawing in recurring stewards eager to protect our watershed.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

We revived the beloved Lake Discovery Day on August 19, 2025, at Latcham Centre, featuring hands-on demos from partners like Kawartha Conservation, Invading Species Council and North Durham Nature hikes—family-friendly fun that packed the house. A joint workshop with North Durham Nature spotlighted aquatic plants and birds, while our Science Social series, including phosphorous talks and expert panels, fostered vital education and dialogue. This expanded schedule solidified our role as Scugog's lake champions.



## COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

Consistent campaigns across social media, newsletters, and events shattered records for registrations, amplifying our voice on invasive species, water quality, and shoreline advocacy. These efforts not only not only boosted visibility but also deepened community ties and partnerships.

Our new “*Meet You at the Market*” campaign was a successful in-person education and membership growth project, which will be returning this year. This project amplified our visibility in the community and brought recognition to the work of the Scugog Lake Stewards.

Many thanks to Theatre on the Ridge who brought back the production of *Monsters & Milfoil: A Tale of Lake Scugog*; an interactive children’s play featuring Scugie, a misunderstood lake monster. Scugie teaches about local history and environmental care. The play was created in partnership with Scugog Arts and Scugog Lake Stewards.

Other outreach last year included talks by our President, Rob Messervey at the G-Moms of Port Perry Annual Galla and at the Port Perry Retirement Villa regarding lake related challenges and the good work being done to address them.

We will continue to build our community relationships and visibility in 2026 with other Scugog organizations.



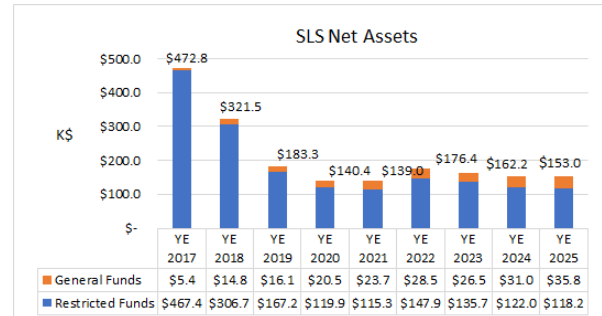
***Lake Scugog is the soul of our community and the economic heartbeat of Port Perry.***

***Join us today on [ilovelakescugog.ca](http://ilovelakescugog.ca) and protect our lake for future generations***

## 2025 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### NET ASSETS

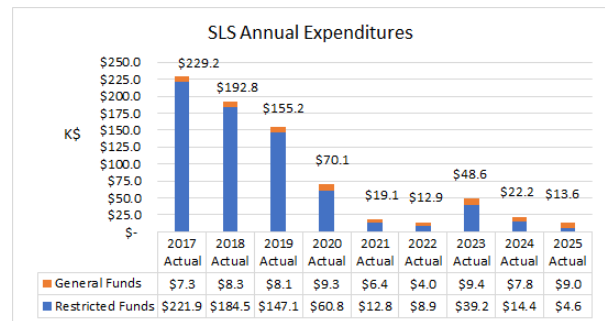
The majority of year end assets are *restricted* funds held for Lake Enhancement Projects and Research. Restricted Funds are held in Reserve Accounts only to be used for specifically designated purposes.



### EXPENDITURES

The General Fund expenditures increased slightly year over year reflecting ongoing communication/education efforts.

Restricted funds expenditures decreased year over year as additional opportunities were reassessed after LSEP's cancellation .



*FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF  
SCOGOG LAKE STEWARDS INC. AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025,  
WILL BE POSTED ONCE APPROVED AT THE APRIL 7, 2026 AGM*

## SCUGOG LAKE STEWARDS 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Scugog Memorial Library  
Tuesday, April 7, 2025, 7 p.m.  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
*Terry Rees*

Former Executive Director, FOCA  
Water Canada Magazine Advisory Board  
FireSmart Canada Advisory Committee

presenting



*COMMUNITY, CONNECTION, AND COMMITMENT  
WHY OUR LOCAL LAKE COMMUNITY IS OUR BEST HOPE FOR THE FUTURE*