

Annual Report 2008



The Kensington Conservancy



OUR VISION

The Kensington Conservancy will work to inspire all members of the community to embrace positive conservation values that will promote the protection and preservation of natural ecosystems for all generations.

OUR CORE VALUES

Relationship between land and people

Healthy Ecosystems

Stewardship

Healthy Habitat for People

Community Building

Economic Vitality

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My past involvement with The Nature Conservancy, and my current involvement as a Board Member of the Land Trust Alliance, has taught me much about Land Trusts and the conservation movement in general. Through these organizations, I've had an opportunity to come in contact with many of the 1,500 conservation groups in America. Half of these organizations are volunteer run and operate with budgets of under \$25,000; they are truly "grassroots" in nature. What I've learned is that the transformational step that propels many of these organizations into one's that become truly effective at influencing conservation in their communities, is hiring staff.

Since Tanna Elliott came on board as Executive Director of The Kensington Conservancy, we've completed 5 land protection projects. We've initiated programs to control invasive species that threaten our wetlands and waters. We've launched a community outreach initiative in concert with the local townships and the Central Algoma Secondary School. Tanna helped found the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition and she's been asked to serve on the Boards of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance and the Algoma Stewardship Council. In a few short years since our inception, under Tanna's leadership, The Kensington Conservancy has become a recognized leader for conservation in Northern Ontario. We've earned the respect of The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Canada, been cited in the Sault Star, and our coalition-building efforts have even been mentioned in a floor speech in the Canadian Parliament. To date, no less than 4 local grassroots conservation groups have approached us about folding their organizations into ours. After discussion with our Board, and in our desire to remain true to our mission and service area, we've respectfully deferred their requests.

Preeminent conservationist Aldo Leopold once said that conservation will never become real and lasting unless it becomes part of the day-to-day practice of people. Under Tanna's direction, The Kensington Conservancy strives to be more than just a Land Trust. Our goal is to create a "culture of conservation" in our community. A community that includes both year-round and seasonal residents. One that includes local governments, businesses, and schools. A community that transcends generations. Collectively, a group of caring people embracing conservation as part of their daily lives.

While is easy to write about our success over the past few years, it hasn't come without challenges as well. We have a number of exciting new land protection projects in the works, and were trying to keep the balls in the air in order to complete them. We're continuing to battle invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil in the Desbarats River which is not only an important wetland complex from a habitat and water quality standpoint, but also a transportation corridor for summer residents and economic lifeline for the merchants in the town of Desbarats. We're striving to diversify and stabilize our income stream so that it becomes a balance of grants from government entities and partner organizations, and private support. Finally, we're working hard to wrap up the Archibald Farm Capital Campaign in the toughest economic climate in decades. Retiring the debt incurred in this important acquisition will enable us to be nimble and to respond quickly when future project opportunities arise.

Thank you for your belief in us and our mission and for your efforts to help us conserve the lands and waters that we hold so dear...

Peter Welles,

President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Greetings Everyone

I can't believe that this is my 3rd Annual Report. My how time flies when you are having fun! What a wonderful opportunity to; work to protect the place I still call home; work with friends and neighbours; work to motivate others to adopt good stewardship behaviours; work when you feel everyday you make a difference. The perfect job.

Protecting land will always be The Kensington Conservancy's primary focus, but with unhealthy contaminated waters that protection is only paper deep!

Water quality issues are a very big problem facing inland lakes as well as the Great Lakes. Global warming, invading alien aquatic plants, hydrologic changes, nutrient loading, and sediment contamination have all become issues that need urgent attention. Building on the momentum that we initiated with a Freshwater Summit in November 2008, The Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition (CAFC) is a newly formed organization that is looking to protect, improve and restore the watersheds in Central Algoma.

Most of these watersheds empty directly into the Great Lakes Basin (locally..the Walker River, Anderson Bay and Stobie Creek). This newly formed organization is aggressively seeking funding, initiating action plans, and presenting a strong united voice for change. They have engaged the scientific community of three prominent universities, Science Enterprise Algoma, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment and Algoma Public Health to develop a panel that will lead a scientific approach to cleaning up these waters. As Chair of this new organization I know that I am putting your voice forward and looking after the interests of all future generations. As I sit writing this report the phone has rang with someone telling me that Gibboney Lake (aka Suddaby Marsh) has been drained! It is a provincially significant wetland! We need to make people, and municipalities understand that these kind of actions have grave consequences!

During the last year I have been asked by The Nature Conservancy and the Nature Conservancy of Canada to take part in two Conservation Planning exercises; The St. Mary's River Project and The Lake Huron Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. These sessions were to develop international action plans for the conservation and restoring the native biodiversity of both Lake Huron and the St. Mary's River.

I also have been asked to serve on the Ontario Land Trust Alliance board of directors. Again, a position to allow northern Ontario Land Trusts and their members to heard!

Our website is up and running; www.kensingtonconservancy.org. It has an electronic copy of the directory in excel and print ready version as a pdf. Access to the directory will be made available to members only. A login has been assign to each member and they can print the directory themselves or download it into the contact lists. Even a few paperless directories will reduce our costs significantly as well as save trees. Many members over the past two years have suggested this. We can still mail a copy of the directory to those unable to access the directory on the internet, as well they are available from our field office in Desbarats and from Judy.

As everyone spends their precious holidays with family and friends this season I challenge you to have frank and open conversations as a family; why, with what and how are you living, enjoying, and protecting this natural landscape?

This past year has seen great growth and changes for TKC as we move forward to protect these lands and waters! I am proud to work for an organization with such great vision and hope for the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanna Elliott

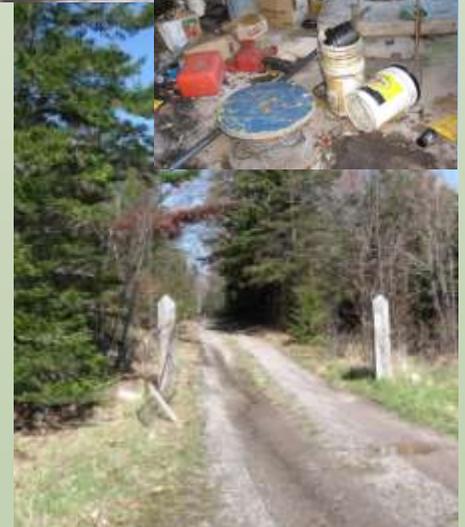


The Archibald Acquisition



Financial Report

Purchase Price	\$	350,000.00
Environmental Cleanup	\$	34,151.00
Legal Fees and Disbursements	\$	25,486.00
Building Demolition and additional property cleanup	\$	14,874.00
Land Transfer Tax	\$	3,796.00
BaseLine Document Report	\$	4,155.00
GST payable on non-residential portion (\$225,000)	\$	5,625.00
Total Cost of Acquisition	\$	438,087.00
2008 Interest	\$	8,206.00
Total Cost as of December 2008	\$	446,293.00
Acquisition Loan	\$	350,000.00
Vendor Contribution to cleanup	\$	25,000.00
Ontario Land Trust Alliance/MNR Grant	\$	13,200.00
Dollars Raised prior to purchase	\$	49,887.00
Repayment on Loan as of December 31, 2008	\$	75,000.00
Debt as of December 31, 2008	\$	283,206.00
Committed Pledges as of December 31, 2008	\$	95,000.00



The Archibald property has taken on a new life! Abundant wildlife can be seen daily as they make their home on the property, many people walk to view the bird populations, while others enjoy great exercise as they walk the 1 km walk from the waterfront around through all of the new growth where old buildings once stood and back under the beautiful canopy of trees.

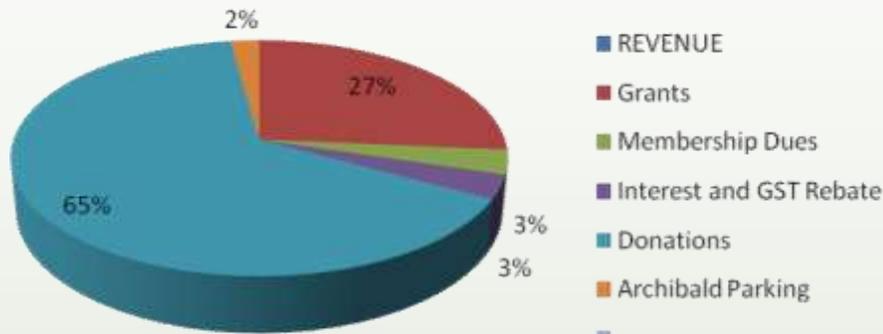
There are still projects to be completed on the property as it is a work in progress.

Volunteers to assist with the annual monitoring are needed to ensure the property is well maintained. Call the TKC office and find out how you can help

FINANCIAL REPORT 2008

REVENUE

OPERATING SUPPORT



	\$	%
Gifts/Donations		
Donations	103,874	65
Interest & GST Rebate	5,230	3
Membership Dues	5,371	3
Archibald Parking	3,500	2
	<u>\$117,975</u>	<u>73%</u>

Grants		
SeaInnovation/ N. ON. Heritage Fund/ Human Resource Dev. Cda.	26,891	17
Ontario Land Trust		
Alliance (OLTAP)	15,350	10
	<u>\$160,216</u>	<u>100%</u>

OPERATING EXPENSES

EXPENSES

	\$	%
Operating	58,524	54
Membership and Professional fees	7,723	7
Outreach	26,998	25
Stewardship	5,317	5
Training and Conferences	9,232	8
Insurance	1,493	1
	<u>\$109,287</u>	<u>100%</u>



This report is a consolidated report of our Canadian and USA financial picture. The Kensington Conservancy is happy to report that during 2008 we remained in a strong financial position. With your continued support we will be able to carry on with environmental projects and land protection. Respectfully submitted: Carla Bumbaco, Treasurer

COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2008

Freshwater Summit

We held a Freshwater Summit in November 2008 to address the threats and pressures facing the local watershed. This initiative was in partnership with Johnson Township.

This project has resulted in the creation of the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition. The Kensington Conservancy's Executive Director, Tanna Elliott is currently the Chair of this growing organization.

"The Kensington Conservancy works to inspire and educate through their community outreach programs." Tanna Elliott, Executive Director

Johnson Township Recycling Program

We continue to contribute to this community initiative. The program has been so successful that Johnson Township is increasing their collection receptacles to include a new set at the landfill site as well.



Northern Ontario Heritage Foundation Grant (NOHFC)



TKC partnered with Science Enterprise Algoma to develop an new and innovative tool for invasive species education. This project was lead by the Invasive Alien Species Awareness Coordinator, Ms. Jessica Sicoly.

Jessica designed and implemented a continuing education course focusing on invasive alien species. You can try her on line modules at:

www.seainnovation.com/invasive_species/index.cfm

Jessica, during her 12 month contract gave many community presentations, organized the Biodiversity Invasive Species Education Day at C.A.S.S. for 45 elementary school students, and assisted with the developed Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition.

Lake Huron Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

The Kensington Conservancy was asked to participate in a Conservation Strategy Planning Session in Sarnia Ontario. The vision for this ongoing project is "Maintain and restore viable (or healthy and diverse) native plant and animal communities of Lake Huron by conserving the habitats and processes that sustain them so all may benefit from their values now and in the future.



This is a bi-national project. Representatives from both sides of the border were in attendance.

"We speak of "protecting" land through conservation easements or fee acquisitions but how do these tools "save" land from climate change, acid rain or a public that simply no longer cares? To be truly meaningful and enduring, the work of conservation must be grounded not just in legal statutes, but in people's hearts, minds, and everyday choices". Peter Forbes

Land Protection in 2008

