

Education Program Overview

Board of Directors

September 29, 2023

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Lake Simcoe Region
conservation authority



Member of Conservation Ontario

Agenda

- Our Goal
- Staff Team
- Delivery Mechanisms
- Pillars and Partners
- Achievements
- Challenges and Solutions
- Priorities for Future Growth and Sustainability

Our Goal

To engage learners of all ages, interests and abilities through **programmed learning experiences** that raise awareness, impart knowledge, create understanding and **inspire action** that leads to real and lasting change.



Staff Team



Delivery Mechanisms

Scanlon Creek – Nature Centre, Discovery Play Garden



Outreach – schoolyards, local greenspace

Virtual – live, interactive

Online – activities, resources



School Programming

- Provincial curriculum-connected programs and services for students and educators from K to 12, including teacher professional development
- Service agreements with school boards in York Region and Simcoe County
- Programming outside the scope of school board contracts, as requested by educators (e.g. Durham Region, private educational institutions)
- Special events such as York Region's Envirothon and Children's Water Festival



Spotlight – Grade 4 Integrated Learning



Healthy Lake

Schoolyard

Focused on Aquatic:

- Habitats
- Animal Adaptations
- Limiting Factors

Measure of Success:

Socio-emotional
learning exit ticket



Healthy Land

Nature Centre

Focused on Forest:

- Food webs
- Animal diets
- Predator & Prey interactions

Measure of Success:

Community connections
art installation



Healthy Life

Schoolyard

Focused on Urban:

- Human impacts
- Species at risk
- Action pledges

Measure of Success:

Student eco-pledge for
action

...for generations to come



Community Programming

- Unique learning opportunities for children, youth and adults, enhancing participants' connections to the health of the Lake Simcoe watershed
- Camp delivery at Scanlon Creek
- Programming with select partners in support of seasonal events and camps
 - e.g. City of Barrie Winterfest, Town of East Gwillimbury Nature Day, Towns of Aurora and Newmarket summer camps



Spotlight – Therapy in the Woods

- Partnership with Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre
- Provides early learners with special needs and their families an opportunity to meet therapy goals while engaging in, and with, nature
- Nationally recognized leading health care practice



Achievements

In 2022, the Education team:

- Reopened the Nature Centre to field trips after a near two-year hiatus
- Achieved 14,180 student engagements
- Engaged with over 2,600 children, youth and adults through various in-person and virtual community programs



Challenges and Solutions

Challenges:

- COVID-19...
- Job action
- Delays in advancing the new Nature Centre
- Conservation Authorities Act changes



Solutions:

- Robust safety plans
- Innovative and adaptive programming
- Proactive building maintenance
- Revised fee schedule
- Successful RBC Tech for Nature grant application



Priorities for Future Growth and Sustainability

- Targeted expansion of school programming
 - Grades, subject areas
 - Maximizing seasonal capacity
- Growth in community programming
 - Camps - more spaces, more weeks
 - Early Years partnerships
- Land-based learning with Indigenous partners
- New program offerings related to climate change, flood risk and natural hazard education



Questions?

Thank you.