



The Land Between

Cottage Country's Conservation Organization



Annual Report 2019-2020

The Living Ecotone

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY/CITIZEN SCIENCE

RESEARCH

EDUCATION- INTERACTIVE, PLACE
BASED AND INQUIRY

APPLIED COLLABORATIVE
CONSERVATION



Four Cornerstones

The Land Between remains dedicated to the four pillars or aspects of conservation. Beginning with research which includes Western Science and Traditional Knowledge; then to outreach which includes planning input, communications, networking, but also democratic inclusive community gatherings and Traditional Talking Circles, with the understanding that the people's sense of community is diminishing and yet that relationships form the integral capacity for all good outcomes and stewardship. Then to education with a strong focus on youth- on empowerment and inspiration in order to cultivate future leadership. Finally applied and cooperative conservation projects are a natural progression, but also getting people and communities involved in conservation actions ensures new learning and stewardship behaviours continue into the future. We feel that all actions are necessary to effectively change the paradigm and cultivate living and lively communities and bioregions. People learn by hearing, seeing and doing. Each avenue is complementary and necessary to affect knowledge and understanding, begetting informed decisions and new behaviors that will be sustained to support a living bioregion

7 Roads

The Land Between integrates as many focuses and teachings as possible within each project and program area, with the understanding that disciplines are not truly independent of one another; each affecting the other and each interrelated. While project will have a primary focus, in order for projects and impacts to have more meaning and completeness, multiple perspectives and understandings are always integrated, accommodated and attended to.



THE LAND BETWEEN



TLB's role in supporting Ontario during Climate Change

- Ecotone and mosaic- representative species from north and south, plus endemic food web– greater food web interactions and dynamic services
- Undulating landscape allowing for adaption in situ
- Reptiles: pest control- northern limit for ectotherms
- Many natural edges preventing the spread of invasives

One of 15 places recognized across Canada warranting protection due to its role in supporting biodiversity and ecosystem services



The Blue Lakes Project

An ecolabel for stewardship excellence. Blue Lakes is a rewarding voluntary program that is designed to create a platform to cultivate capacity for behaviour change through creating commonly shared goals amongst participants, facilitating shared expectations and social norms and expected behaviour. The project is designed to take the best of the Blue Flag Program and adapt it to lake habitats. The project is aligned with the social vernacular of the modern arena and therefore to best affect behaviour change and therefore sustain lake health today and for future generations. Achieving Blue Lake status has the potential to improve property values while preserving nature's gifts. It creates opportunities for each participant to have a meaningful impact and cultivate a caring community.

Blue lakes is an eco-label program that provides a template for action and education. It is a label and a portfolio of tools, resources, and activities that can be tailored to each lake's needs. The label also comes with access to real-time data for each participating lake.

2019 Projects



A three year Grow Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation was received to support the expansion of this collaborative program across the province, in order to make a provincial impact and to ensure that conservation systems to recover turtle populations were better planned and comprehensive.

The goal of the program is to recover turtle populations, the most imperiled species globally by creating systems and approaches that are planned, sustainable and impactful, and which enables kids and communities to directly participate in conservation through Citizen Science and recovery actions. Turtle Guardians program appeals to all ages and uses the turtle to inspire people to reconnect with nature, and creates a platform that allows everyone to be a turtle hero.



Community Engagement



The Turtle Guardians program involves 8 organizations from across the province, representing a pioneering effort in terms of dynamic and grassroots cooperation for a shared goal, within the environmental sector. The Land Between, Scales Nature Park the START program (Save Turtles at Risk Today), Georgian Bay Turtle Hospital, Ontario Nature, Toronto Zoo Adopt-a-Pond, Trillium Lakelands School Board, Curve Lake First Nation Cultural Centre, and EcoKare International. Two additional partners have joined including the Road Less Travelled Academy and Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve.



- Turtle Walk
- Turtle Camp
- Turtle Guardian App
- Education/Curriculum
- Community/Citizen Science training
- Tunnel Assessors
- Road Researchers
- Wetland Watchers
- Nest Sitters
- Municipal extension coming in 2021



Community Nominated Priority Places- Highland Habitats

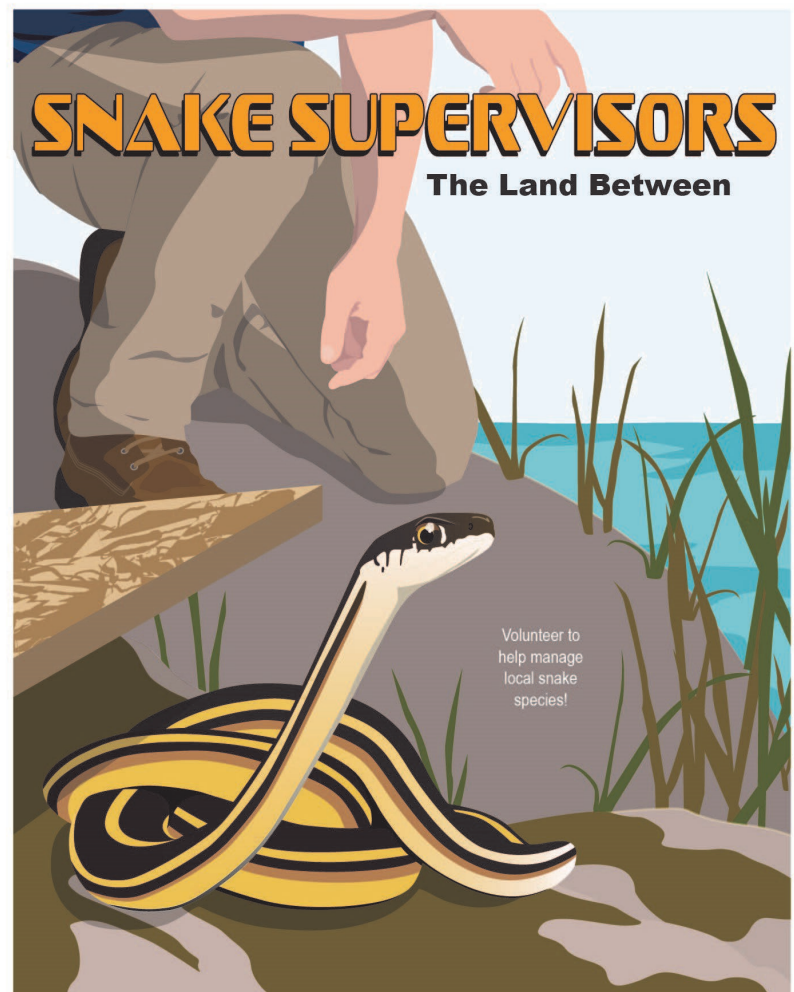
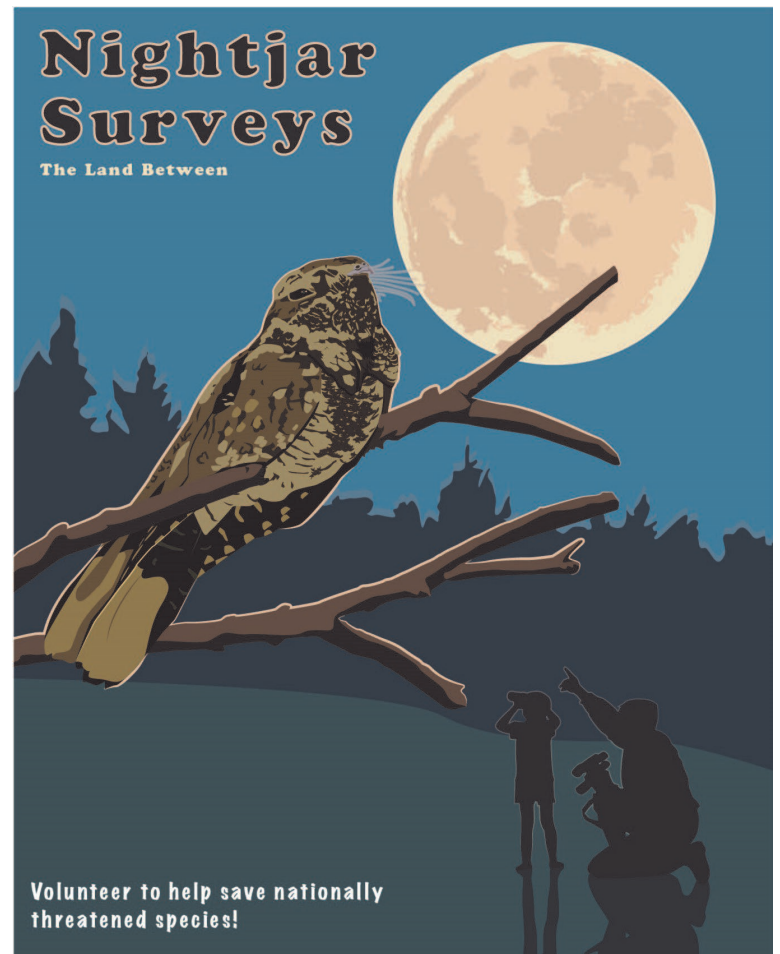
The region was chosen as one of 15 across Canada for its significance for Species at Risk and its importance in navigating Climate Change impacts.

The program focuses on recovery actions for 57 Species at Risk found locally, and for conservation of their habitats.

Mapping for suitable habitats for species has been complete, including a conservation blueprint for landowner contact. Related is a new service for private landowners to assess their habitat health and provide advice and assistance to them in managing and stewarding their properties for the benefit of nature and biodiversity. 5 pilot sites representing 800 acres were completed.

Species at Risk Recovery

- An overarching Conservation Strategy for the region has been complete including a map of all parties and partners that are advancing species recovery in the region. These serve as templates for action and for partnerships.
- A focus on Citizen Science to facilitate Behaviour-change and skill-development was launched. 10 programs are available and accessible online and training is provided.
- Wolf Talking Circles between biologists and harvesters were held to gain a clearer understanding of the issues related to prey-biomass such as with beaver as they relate to the hybrid canid species. Much healing between these disparate parties has occurred and a report will be provided in 2021 which clarifies the threats to the species.
- Community/Citizen Science programs have been developed to provide individuals with skills and knowledge. This approach is shown to increase nature-connectedness and build enduring capacity for enduring kinship and respect for nature. This translates into advocacy for nature and better overall management within communities. Benefits also include more knowledge and data for scientists enabling adaptive and appropriate management at scales.
- Modeling of suitable habitat for grassland birds, as the fastest declining species, has been complete to attempt to provide baseline priorities. Research into bird migration and insect biomass for Nightjars will be launched with the support of Motus towers, and in-situ sampling across various grassland areas and anthropogenic influenced habitats.



Reconciliation in Action- Facilitating restoration towards greater reconciliation potential

- The Land Between charity, with the support of a Band Council Resolution from Curve Lake First Nation, and with two inspiring young Indigenous Coordinators, launched research into Traditional Aaniishinaabeg Governance towards the making of an Indigenous Land Trust for Ontario.
- Draft bylaws, articles, and principles have been completed. A list of possible policies has been proposed.
- Introduction packages have been made, with questionnaires for feedback have been distributed to Knowledge Holders within the Kettle and Stoney Point First Nations and the Williams Treaty First Nations.
- Now the project can expand to other parts of Ontario and engage with Nations across the province.



2019 Projects



In 2019, 8 workshops were delivered reaching 110 landowners, who took home custom designs to improve and re-naturalize their shorelines. Three large demonstration projects were designed and planted across the highlands to inspire other landowners to participate. Organizations including Abbey Gardens, Lake Associations, and Kawartha Lake Stewards attended to learn from the experts.

A grant from Great Lakes Conservation Fund supported the ever-popular Design Your Own Shoreline Garden workshops and re-naturalization program. The program involved key projects and new partners including with Watersheds Canada and the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association.

Additional Activities and Outreach

- Blue Fish Radio podcast
- Kawartha Cottage Magazine feature article
- Cottage Life Magazine feature article
- Our COO awarded the Canadian Wildlife Federation's Roland Michener Prize for Excellence in Wildlife Research and Conservation



Partnerships



- Great support for the Youth Employment Strategy Program of the Federal Government which allowed us to build capacity.
- New supporters: Environment Canada and Climate Change
- Featured partners:
 - Trillium Lakelands District School Board
 - Trent University- Graham Raby- Fisheries
 - University Ontario Institute of Technology
- New partners or extended roles of heritage partners:
 - Scales Nature Park
 - Georgian Bay Turtle Hospital
 - Canadian Wildlife Federation
 - Wildlife Preservation Canada
 - Ontario Fur Managers Federation
 - Ontario Headwaters Institute
 - Sacred Water Circle
 - Watersheds Canada
 - Muskoka Watershed Council
 - Lake associations (NORKLA, Wollaston, Skeleton, Sunshine, and more!)
 - Kawartha Lakes Stewards

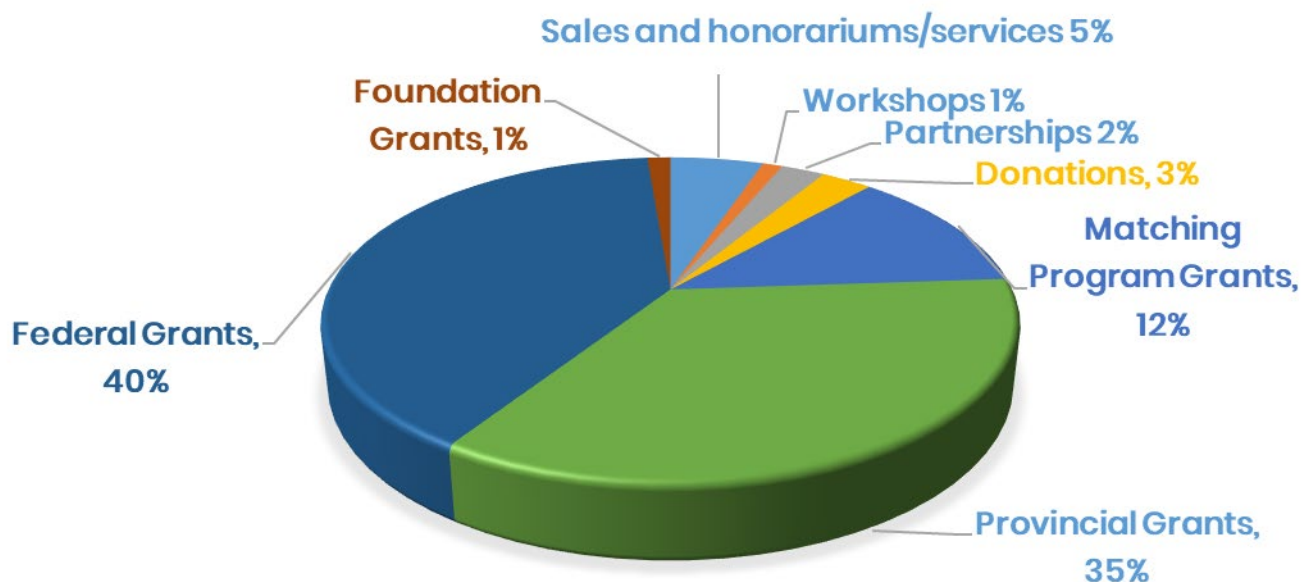


Financial Accounting

INCOME

Source	Amount	Percentage
Sales and honorariums/services	\$ 32,780.00	\$ 0.05
Workshops	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 0.01
Partnerships	\$ 15,494.00	\$ 0.02
Donations	\$ 17,902.00	\$ 0.03
Matching Program Grants	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 0.12
Provincial Grants	\$ 223,000.00	\$ 0.35
Federal Grants	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 0.40
Foundation Grants	\$ 8,125.00	\$ 0.01
	\$ 632,301.00	\$ 1.00

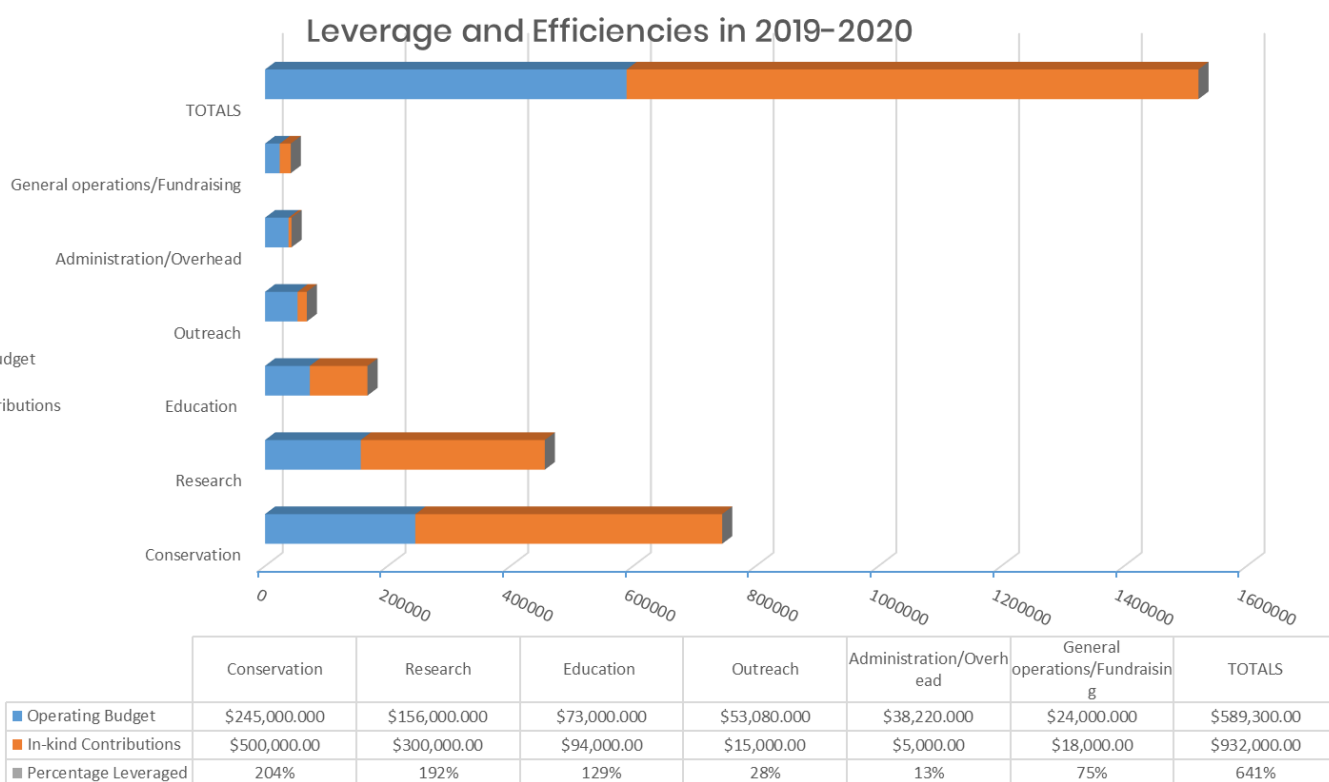
SOURCES OF INCOME 2019-2020



Financial Accounting

LEVERAGE

Expenses	Operating Budget	In-kind Contributions	Percentage Leveraged
Conservation	\$ 245,000.000	\$ 500,000.00	204%
Research	\$ 156,000.000	\$ 300,000.00	192%
Education	\$ 73,000.000	\$ 94,000.00	129%
Outreach	\$ 53,080.000	\$ 15,000.00	28%
Administration/Overhead	\$ 38,220.000	\$ 5,000.00	13%
General operations/Fundraising	\$ 24,000.000	\$ 18,000.00	75%
TOTALS	\$ 589,300.00	\$ 932,000.00	641%

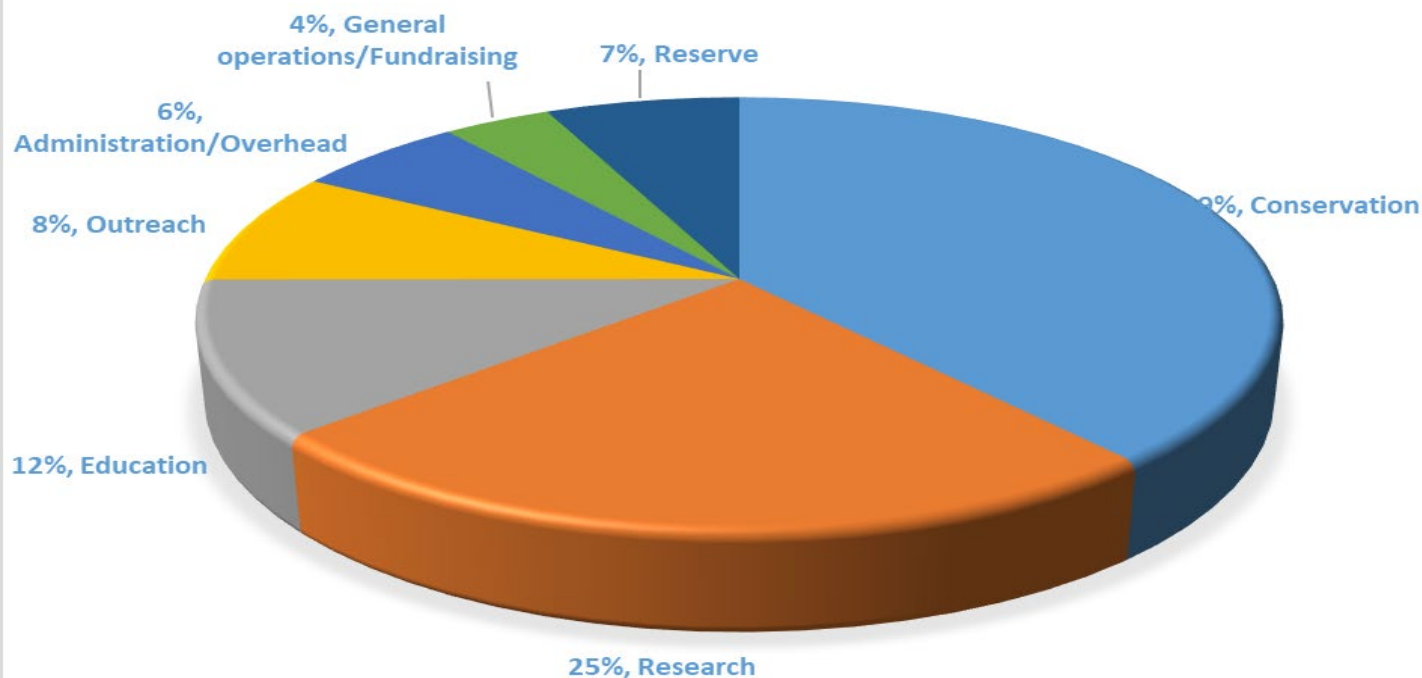


Financial Accounting

EXPENDITURES

Breakdown operations	Total in Grants	Percentage
Conservation	\$ 245,000.000	39%
Research	\$ 156,000.000	25%
Education	\$ 73,000.000	12%
Outreach	\$ 53,080.000	8%
Administration/Overhead	\$ 38,220.000	6%
General operations/Fundraising	\$ 24,000.000	4%
Reserve	\$ 43,000.000	7%
Total	\$ 632,300.000	100%

OPERATIONS PROFILE 2019-2020



The Road Ahead

A close-up, low-angle shot of a person's lower legs and feet. They are wearing maroon-colored trousers and tan, lace-up work boots. The person is stepping through a shallow puddle on a wet, dark surface, likely a road or path. Two large, dynamic splashes of water are visible, one on each side of the boots, with water droplets frozen in mid-air. The background is a blurred landscape with green foliage and a cloudy sky, suggesting an outdoor, possibly rural or mountainous, setting.

Behavior Change and Cultivating Community