

THE FUTURE FOR NATURE IN ONTARIO

An update on your values in action
protecting nature forever

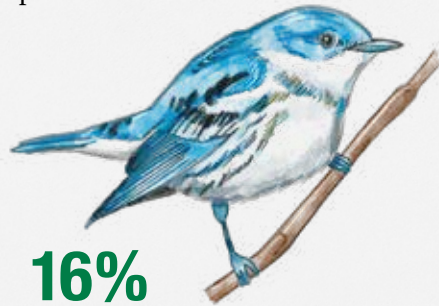




Gananoque Lake

THANK YOU for being a voice for nature!

Recently, Ontario Nature shared a survey with a group of loyal and long-term members to help us understand what environmental issues are most important to you, and your vision for the future of nature in Ontario. **Your input—and your experiences**—provide us valuable insights to inform our strategic plan and future conservation priorities.

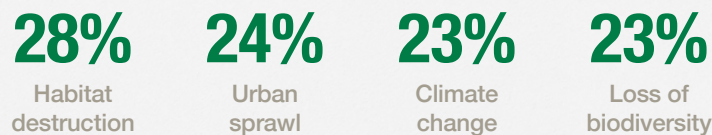


Here's what we heard from you!

Why do you support Ontario Nature?



What do you feel are the most crucial issues facing nature in Ontario in the next 5 years?



Mink Frog by Ryan Wolfe

What gives you hope for the future of nature?

“Growth in public awareness of climate change and how we can change our habits. Emergence and spirit of urban wildlife gardeners. Engagement of aboriginal communities.”

“There is always hope. As long as the demands for a healthy environment remain strong and loud to our governments, there is hope.”

“Nature’s own resilience.”

“My children and the collective strength, voice and support of community advocates.”

“The on-the-ground work people do in their communities to protect and restore habitat, and to galvanize others regarding the importance of biodiversity.”

“The growing number of nature supporters!”

“The many young people advocating for the future of nature.”

“Organizations like yours which look for solutions to the mounting problems with our natural environment and the species that live there.”

“A growing awareness of the importance of nature.”

You can still add your voice!

Do you have a story about your love of nature in Ontario?

“Right from my childhood I loved nature. Always wanted to explore and enjoy the beauty of it.”

“One summer’s evening while camping on a remote lake, I decided to just float in the early evening’s warm water. I looked up at the incredible star show, and felt peaceful and reflective. Minnows gently nibbled on my toes. Two loons called to each other periodically. Their haunting calls startled me. Close to the shoreline there were old, fallen trees and I was delighted to see otters poking their heads up between the logs, keeping a curious eye on me. I think of that evening so often, I’ve lost track. I’m very lucky to have experienced such beauty.”

“Simple. Being in the outdoors is health and happiness.”

“My favourite river to canoe is the Tatachicapika River near Timmons. You will fall in love with the beauty of Canada canoeing that river.”

“I deeply love our Ontario northern boreal forest. I have camped, canoed and foraged from Temagami to Cochrane and Sudbury to Thunder Bay. As long as my health and fitness allows, I will continue to explore from May to October.”

“Our family vacations were always at Point Pelee where my parents participated in fall raptor banding, and we had the best family times.”

“My husband and I are helping with the Breeding Bird Atlas. Some people go to church, I go to the woods for my peace and mental health.”

We would love to hear from you to add to the chorus of voices for nature in Ontario. Your personal information will always remain confidential. You can find our survey right online: ontarionature.org/survey

Youth Council visit Holland Marsh by Christine Ambrose

THE FUTURE FOR NATURE In Ontario: Our Plans, Priorities & Finances

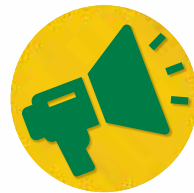
With the support of **Ontario Nature members like you**, our Board of Directors and staff establish strategic plans that help determine goals and strategies for nature conservation. This is part of our vision for nature that sustains us for future generations. And, critically, it is a way to confront climate change and halt biodiversity loss.



Here are our overarching goals:



Protect and restore nature to reverse the ongoing trend of biodiversity decline in Ontario.



Build grassroots capacity and a collective voice for nature conservation with the Nature Network.



Connect people with nature to help build a commitment to life-long stewardship and nature conservation.



Strengthen capacity to increase impact.

Strategies:

- **Focus** conservation efforts on protection of biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions
- **Work** with Indigenous partners and communities in the spirit and practice of reconciliation
- **Increase** political support for nature protection, leverage power of Nature Network and grassroots membership
- **Nurture** our robust corps of conservation volunteers on the Breeding Bird Atlas, through Nature Network groups, our Nature Guardians youth program and more
- **Advocate** for better laws and policies that protect the environment



Great Spangled Fritillary by Julianna Kosturik



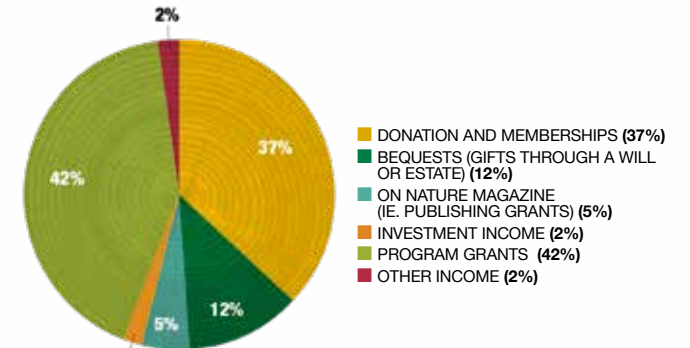
How we raise and spend our funds reflects our values as an organization.

Here is a picture of our expenses and our revenue.

Year end February 28 2023

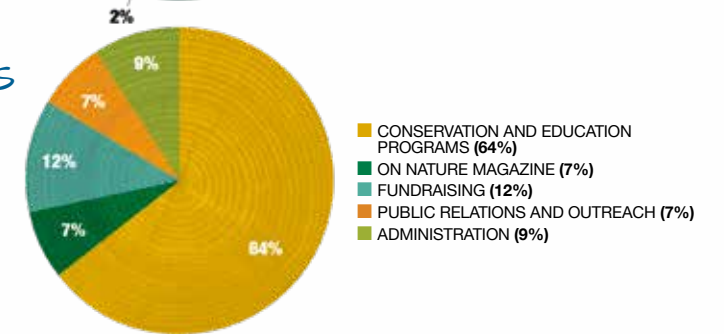
How we raise our funds

We value every single donation we receive at Ontario Nature. Here is a breakdown of how we raise our funds from caring nature lovers like you.



How we spend our funds

Our staff and volunteers work diligently to ensure that we spend our funds in ways that have the most impact for nature.



As you can see, bequests provide crucial funding every year. Your promise today means nature protections tomorrow.



Wetland tracking visit, Gabby with Foxsnake by Gabriella Zagorski

Our conservation and education programs break down further into programs you support, including:

- Boreal
- Protected Places
- Nature Reserves
- Endangered Species
- Community Science
- Nature Guardians Youth Program
- Greenway and Wetland Conservation



Youth Birding Hike Paletta Park by Jenna Quinn



Impact of Gifts in Wills

Gifts in Wills provide crucial funding for urgent priorities for nature.

When legacy gifts are realized, we are able to use those funds to protect more vital habitat, to advocate on behalf of nature, to invest in community science projects, youth engagement and more. Here I'm sharing just a couple of the stories I've heard from legacy donors and loved ones. It is a genuine pleasure and sincere privilege to connect with donors and their families about what matters most to them.

- Kirsten

Carolyn's Story

(from a note written to me by her sons)

"Our family appreciated your kind-hearted words about our mother. Your letter helped us to feel better. Our mother continues to amaze and inspire us — **we didn't previously know that she had been such an enthusiastic and active supporter of Ontario Nature for over 50 years. That's our Mum!!**

Mom had such a love for Ontario's natural beauty, and its power to uplift our souls! Since 6 years of age, she spent most of her summers at our family cottage. It felt like heaven on earth for Mom, and the natural beauty renewed her spirit. She also enjoyed numerous other outdoor activities in Ontario and around Canada, such as cross-country skiing, canoeing, camping, hiking in the mountains, walking along country roads, and so on. **Mom loved to be surrounded by nature's beauty wherever she was, and she wanted to encourage other people to share in this love of nature."**

Carolyn's gift was invested in our community science program, including projects like the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas. Her bequest helps us bring together thousands of nature lovers across the province to contribute to research project that will guide conservation practices for years to come.

Students pulling garlic mustard at our Lost Bay Nature Reserve



Carolyn



Jan and Brian

The Bornstein's Story

(in their own words)

"My wife Jan and I wanted to expose my kids to nature at an early age and we've been lucky to have a cottage in

Muskoka for 35 years. We feel very connected to the earth there. Every spring and fall we plant more native trees on our property in an effort to reforest it. **We want to do everything we can to help nature along.**

Jan and I have always involved our kids in decisions about giving to charities. Every year we sponsor youth to attend Ontario Nature's Youth Summit. It's a shared experience we're all proud of. We discussed our wills with our kids at length, and why we included a number of charities in our estate plans. **Giving is uplifting.**

I have trust in the organization. I see how they spend their donor's gifts and how they handle their finances. I believe they operate with integrity and transparency. We have faith that the organization will continue to be a voice for nature for years to come. **With our legacy gift, we are helping to ensure that Ontario Nature continues to do all the crucial work they're currently doing. It's an incredible legacy to leave."**



You are invited and encouraged to contact me anytime for a confidential conversation about how you can help protect nature with a gift in your Will. I also have a few helpful materials and resources I would be happy to share with you. I'm here to help!

- **Kirsten Dahl**, Director of Development
kirstend@ontarionature.org or 1-800-440-2366 ext. 235

Betty's Story (told by her daughter)

"Mom loved to be out in her garden! She enjoyed landscaping with wild plants, using collected seeds and cuttings and plants rescued from the path of development. In creating this garden, she was pleased to discover how many people stop to talk to gardeners. With two schools in the neighbourhood, many she talked with were children. She explained the big clump of leaves and sticks in her birch tree was a squirrel's winter nest to one observant child.

She was content with the natural pace of growth when growing plants and shrubs from seed and was always delighted when her redbud had buds of its own and her native yucca bloomed for the first time, twenty years after planting, I believe!

Mom and dad became members of the KW Field Naturalists around the time they were married, in 1952. This photo is from her last hike with the club on the Millrace Trail in St. Jacobs.

It's good to know that her love of the natural world will be nurtured in Ontario Nature's future work."

Betty's gift will be invested in Ontario Nature's educational programs, helping to inspire the next generation of conservationists.



Betty

Ontario
Nature 

*Look forward to
hearing from you!*

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ontarionature.org

Charitable Registration # 10737 8952 RR0001