



Greening the Toronto Region

2023/2024



Toronto and Region
Conservation
Foundation





The past two years have been a time of restoration and regrowth at Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation. Many programs and services returned stronger than ever with uninterrupted, in-person activities. We were so thrilled to see our generous supporters again, in person – back together in nature.

During this time, we built physical connections to restore our communities and bring people and nature together. With construction completed on The Meadowway's Military Trail to Neilson Avenue and Morningside Avenue trail connection, more communities than ever can enjoy The Meadowway's 16 kilometres of urban greenspace.

We also built social connections, as the Butterfly Festival returned to Tommy Thompson Park after a 3-year hiatus, bringing over 1,000 butterfly lovers together to learn and have fun.

Finally, we built connections for nature, with projects like The Meadowway and Tommy Thompson Park's wetland restoration creating vital habitat connections to increase biodiversity and promote healthy habitats for plants and animals in our region

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to build on the momentum of our successes in trail construction, habitat restoration, community development, and environmental stewardship. Working with the support of our donors, corporate partners, and government and community stakeholders, Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation is committed to funding the vital work of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority as we all work together to build a greener Toronto region.



Patricia Koval

Pat Koval

Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation,
Chair

LAND

As the population within our region continues to grow, how we manage and use our natural spaces will become increasingly important to the health of both the environment and our communities.



TOTAL IMPACT: \$4,586,603

Building new trails to connect our communities.

The Meadoway

The Meadoway Project broke new ground in 2023 thanks to the ongoing support of the Weston Family Foundation. In late October, TRCA was proud to host the grand opening of a new **2 km** trail connection spanning from Military Trail to Neilson Avenue. The new trail is surrounded by **16 ha** of meadow habitat and features a new pedestrian bridge, an elevated boardwalk over a significant wetland, and a scenic switchback showcasing the beauty of the surrounding valley. In 2024, a second **650m** trail connection was completed from Military Trail to Morningside Avenue.

Mapping Forest Carbon Sequestration

With the generous support of the 452 Foundation, TRCA is mapping carbon storage and sequestration in forests across the Greater Toronto Region to conserve these natural resources and help maintain their role as carbon sinks. Findings will be shared with the public, municipal stakeholders and other decision-makers across the sector to protect our forests and help mitigate climate change for a greener future.

COMMUNITY

Complex environmental issues extend beyond our region, and we cannot face them alone. Now more than ever we need the collaboration of a community of advocates that can champion our shared conservation priorities in the face of competing pressures. TRCA is committed to working with communities to plant the seeds of environmental action and protect our next generation.



TOTAL IMPACT: \$213,313

Educating our youth on the importance of nature.

Tommy Thompson Park Butterfly Festival

TRCA staff revived the Butterfly Festival in 2023 after a 3-year hiatus. Over **1,300** visitors enjoyed games, tours of pollinator habitat, and a Monarch parade! The Community Monarch Monitoring Program also trained **15** volunteers in Monarch biology, assisting **80** participants in observing **87** eggs, **86** caterpillars, and **93** adult Monarchs in **2,960** milkweed stems.

Girls Can Too

With support from **23** female professionals, the Girls Can Too program engaged **119** girls in trades-based programs to enhance infrastructure and biodiversity at **3** TRCA parks and **1** participating public school. Together, program participants restored **500 m²** of riparian and wetland habitat, painted **1** mural, and assembled **3** cabins, **3** planter boxes, **1** seating structure and **6** turtle nesting boxes.

Boyd Archaeological Field School

Over the past 50 years, the Boyd Archaeological Field School has instructed almost **1,500** students from around the world! Students have excavated **3,800 m²** of archaeological sites – that's about the area of two NHL hockey rinks – and participated in hands-on learning, including crafting stone tools, baskets and pottery using traditional Indigenous methods.

ENGAGEMENT

Long-term sustainability across our jurisdiction requires industries, businesses, communities and individuals to take action in expanding awareness and involvement in sustainable practices. Businesses are natural community leaders, reinforcing the importance that industry engagement with conservation is critical to making lasting change.



TOTAL IMPACT: \$194,340

We're looking after where you live.

TRCF's flagship Look After Where You Live corporate engagement and team-building program worked with **64** different corporate partners in 2023 and 2024 to host **90** events across **16** GTA sites, with **2,459** total participants!

Corporate partners including KPMG, MLSE, Citibank, Enbridge, Molson Coors and many more participated in environmental restoration and clean-up programs. These programs included native pollinator plantings, tree and shrub plantings, invasive species removal, conservation clean-ups and other stewardship activities at sites including The Meadoway, Tommy Thompson Park, Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, Claireville Conservation Area, and Oak Ridge Corridor Conservation Reserve.

In 2023 and 2024, Look After Where You Live participants removed **14,959 lbs** of litter, restored **131,644 m²** of greenspace and planted **2,824** trees and shrubs.



WATER



Climate change is increasing the frequency and impacts of storms, leading to a rise in flooding and erosion, and creating lasting impacts on our shared water resources. The pressure on the health of our aquatic ecosystems, our drinking water supply, and the safety and well-being of the surrounding communities requires a coordinated response that both increases the capacity and quality of our waterbodies.



TOTAL IMPACT: \$39,010

Healthy wetlands welcome diverse wildlife.

Tommy Thompson Park staff leveraged corporate donations to build on the successes of the Tommy Thompson Park Phragmites Management Strategy.

1,125 native emergent aquatic plants were installed at Tommy Thompson Park to improve wetland biodiversity, with support from Lundin Mining Corporation. These native plants enhanced **140 m²** of wetland to support the fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects who call the park home.

Coupled with ongoing management of invasive phragmites across **7 ha** of wetland and the natural regeneration of native aquatic plants, these plantings will increase the overall ecological function of the Tommy Thompson Park wetlands.

With your support, Tommy Thompson Park continues to be a globally recognized haven for migratory birds and species at risk.





The Meadoway

Bringing Nature to the City.

With the generous support of the Weston Family Foundation, TRCA made giant strides towards bringing nature to the city in Scarborough, continuing our transformation of an unused hydro corridor into a beautiful urban greenspace and meadowland.

In 2024:

- TRCA staff conducted adaptive management of **151 ha** of native meadow and mown buffer areas.
- Two new **2 km** and **650 m** sections of multi-use trail connections were completed at Military Trail to Neilson Avenue and Military Trail and Morningside Avenue.
- Over **2,000** students and teachers were educated through hands-on activities, field trips and conservation initiatives.



Weston Family
Foundation

With the support of our generous donors, we will continue to improve the Meadoway in 2025 and beyond, adding vital public realm improvements including accessible custom furnishings and further expanding public engagement and education opportunities.

Thank you to all of our donors and supporters.

\$4 MILLION +

- Weston Family Foundation
-

\$50,000 to \$100,000

- Estate of Kenneth A. Smeet
 - The Bedolfe Foundation
-

\$10,000 to \$49,999

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\$5,000 to \$9,999

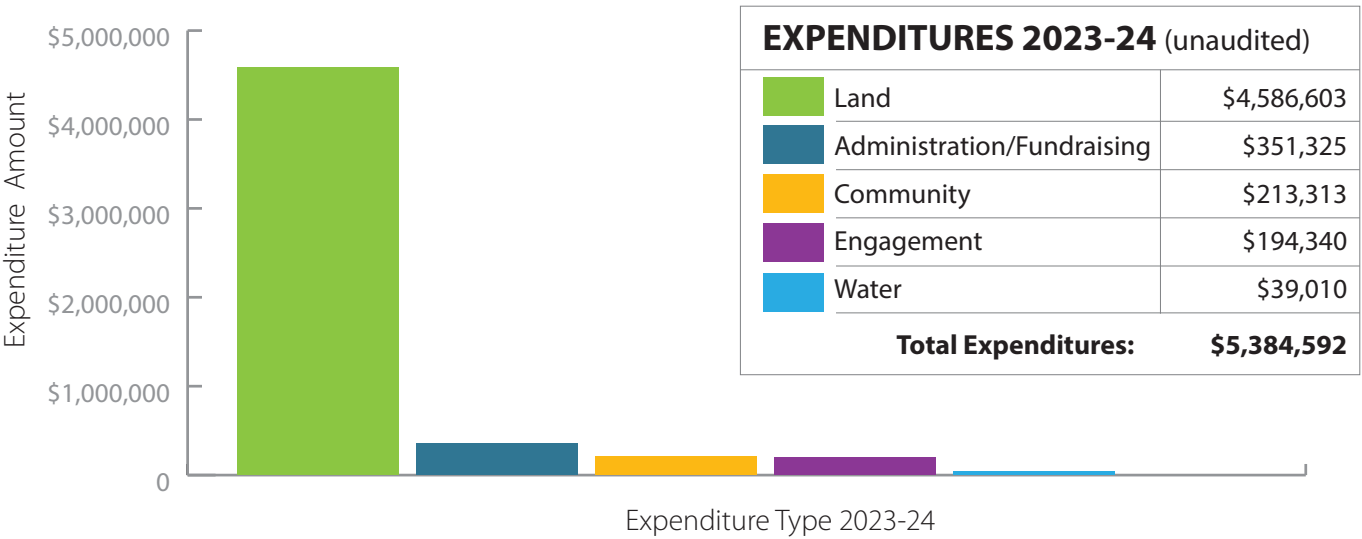
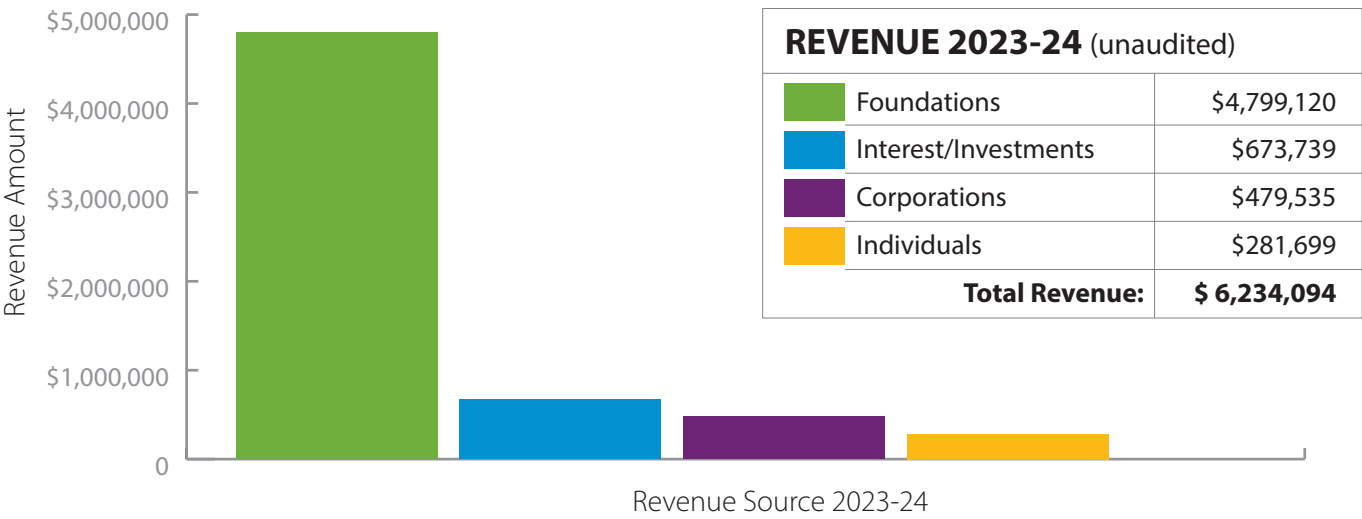
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- Unilever Canada
- Westlake Royal Building Products
- Wonderbrands

We also thank the generous donors who gave anonymously and at other contribution levels.

Pillars of Impact and Source of Funds



Your donations directly supported vital environmental and community initiatives, making a difference for people and wildlife in our region.

Audited financials to be published pending completion of TRCF’s annual financial audit (May 2025).



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