

Annual Report 2023



Kawartha Works
Community
Co-operative

2023 - A Constructive Year for KWCC

After eight busy years and the disruption of Covid, the KWCC board did a thorough strategy review early in the year. Some of our activities have changed substantially, and so has Kawartha Lakes. We went right back to a blank white board to consider vision, mission and values. Here is our newly articulated strategy:

Updated Strategy

KWCC Vision: A volunteer organization that can initiate activities or support initiatives of individuals and groups, to fill gaps and seize opportunities within our communities.

KWCC Mission: To improve the social infrastructure in Kawartha Lakes by building or facilitating co-operative partnerships to grow sustainable, not-for-profit initiatives with artistic, cultural, recreational, health, environmental, economic and social improvement aims.

Guiding Principles/Values:

1. The well-being of our rural communities is imperative.
2. Constant and inclusive listening and dialogue are the cornerstones of our success.
3. Co-operative sharing is our hallmark.
4. Advocacy for simplicity, and respect for community values and initiatives, underpin our goals and approach.

Based on this clarified foundation, several priorities were developed which we are calling our *current critical success factors*:

1. Develop a plan to communicate with stakeholders, interested parties and the community, to create awareness, inquiries, dialogue and participation.
2. Identify trends, gaps and opportunities.
3. Develop leadership and volunteer base.
4. Improve KWCC services.
5. Advocate government engagement.

Of course, our strategy and values all reflect the real activities, events, and improvements that



Child's play at Impact 32's Welcome Back Summer event.

make Fenelon Falls and Bobcaygeon such vibrant communities. In upcoming newsletters we will feature stories about our endeavours. For more details, you will find the strategy document on our website at kawarthacoop.ca.

Highlights of 2023

Impact 32

It was an exciting year for Impact 32's themed events, aimed at bolstering tourism and economic development, and generally bringing the Bobcaygeon community together for a good time. The already successful **Frost Fest** expanded from two days to four days across the Family Day weekend, and several businesses joined in with their own great activities.

Welcome Back Summer was added to the calendar in June, featuring family-focussed music, entertainment and outdoor games. Then, in October, a new Impact 32 event called **Harvest Haunt** extended Settler's Village's post-Covid return to the much loved Haunted



Early performance at the new amphitheatre.

Village, with activities in the daytime, including a pumpkin hunt, musicians, and fall food delights. In November, **Mingle & Jingle**, the original Impact 32 event, brought the activities that locals and visitors have come to enjoy and expect all around town.

The Grove Theatre

KWCC initiated The Grove Theatre in 2019 with construction of the splendid amphitheatre that has been the site of so much local excitement in the past few years. The Grove

Theatre has grown so quickly and become so popular that it needed a separate organization to support its continued development. Transition to a new not-for-profit organization began in January 2023, and the details of ongoing partnership — especially use of the amphitheatre — are still being developed. See the Grove Theatre website www.grovetheatre.ca to learn more about The Grove Theatre and their dazzling 2024 season.

Board of Directors

We are grateful for the contributions of Alvarado Adderley, Marylee Boston and Wayne Jolly in 2023. Each of them has since moved on to commitments and new adventures elsewhere. We were pleased to welcome new board members Denise Benning, Art Hornibrook, and John McEachen. Here is the current Board of Directors:



Jim Armstrong, Chair

Jim Armstrong is President of Kawartha Works Community Co-operative and has dedicated his time to spearheading and improving the community infrastructure that enabled the creation of The Grove Theatre and other initiatives. Jim is retired from a career in health care

management and consulting, developing and reorganizing services in hospitals and community clinics. He has been a community volunteer for many years with healthcare, recreation, cultural and social services.



John McEachen, Secretary

John is a retired operations executive after a successful career in the financial services industry. He is now co-owner of [A Wee Tree Farm](#) located just outside Fenelon Falls. This family farm is being shaped with a unique blend of farm business and community activity. John brings his desire to contribute during this unique period of population growth and community change. His strong planning and operational skills are a welcome addition to the Board.



Mike Barkwell (Treasurer)

Mike Barkwell is a long time volunteer in community activities and public affairs. He has extensive experience as a real estate agent in Fenelon Falls. Mike also has valuable management experience with Northern College, North Bay General Hospital, and the Workplace Safety & Insurance Board. Mike previously served three terms as the Vice-Chair of the Nipissing Board of Education.



Denise Benning, (Social Media)

Denise is an entrepreneur and owner of [The Subtle Shift](#), offering wellness sessions in her studio in the woods just outside of Bobcaygeon. A former manager of the Bobcaygeon Chamber of Commerce and a current member of Impact 32, Denise brings her passion for building community, her business experience, and 30 years of event management and marketing expertise to the Board. Fun fact: she competed in pairs figure skating in the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics!



Doug Hawe, (Communications)

Doug is a [local realtor](#), who has enjoyed connections with the Kawarthas his whole life. He is passionate about human sustainability and its role in supporting the well-being of communities. Doug brings valuable experience from a career focused on technology. His roles in marketing, communications, digital product development and design, and product management, forged skills in understanding people's requirements, and translating insights into practical digital solutions.



Art Hornibrook (Director)

Since retirement from a career in aluminum manufacturing leadership in North America and Asia, Art Hornibrook served on the Ross Memorial Board, including Chair; as President of the Kawartha Cycling Club; and has participated in infrastructure discussions regarding active transportation in the City of Kawartha Lakes. Art believes in the potential for our area to leverage and enhance existing assets, enabling our community to be active and environmentally sound into the future.



Maureen Lytle (Director)

Maureen Lytle is a former General Manager of [Kawartha Settlers' Village](#), a popular local tourist attraction in Bobcaygeon. She is a dedicated participant and supporter of community events and projects. Maureen is a long-term resident of the area and is committed to the growth of arts and culture in the region.



Carol Milroy (Director)

Carol has always focused on enriching experiences for people and their communities, creating safe and nurturing learning environments and opportunities that are equitable and accessible. She envisioned, created, and led the Lindsay Learning Centre initiative in the early 2000s and is currently active with the Fenelon Falls Museum, the Fenelon Falls Horticultural Society, Grannies for Grannies (Stephen Lewis Foundation), and Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG). Carol's creativity, enthusiasm, caring, and advocacy for fair treatment of all children are a tremendous asset for KWCC.

To become a member, or receive KWCC newsletters, please send your email and contact information (optional: your particular area of interest) to info@kawarthacoop.ca



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