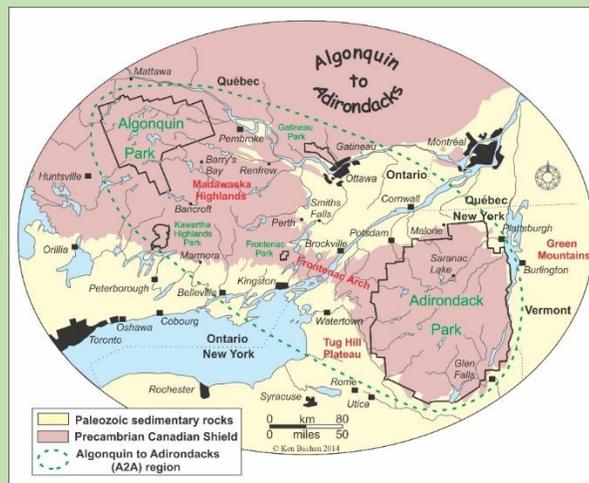




# A2A

Algonquin to  
Adirondacks  
Collaborative

## 2018 Annual Report



Our dream: a resilient, ecologically connected A2A region that sustains a full range of native wildlife and enhances people's quality of life for generations to come

<http://www.a2acollaborative.org/>



The Algonquin to Adirondacks (A2A) Collaborative was founded in 2000 as a regional organization dedicated to the protection of the last intact forested biological corridor across the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System in eastern North America.

The Algonquin to Adirondacks corridor is the most extensive, least degraded north-south corridor east of Lake Superior, connecting the Appalachian forests of the southeastern US to the vast boreal forests of the Canadian Shield. It provides a critical pathway through which species can move and disperse in response to habitat needs and climate change. The heart of the A2A Region also represents one of the most biodiverse areas of Eastern North America as northern and southern forest zones mix.

While the A2A corridor has many significant natural features and functions it is under threat and requires concerted effort to ensure that those features and functions persist for generations to come. Habitat loss and fragmentation threatens wildlife and ecological integrity on many fronts. For example, ecological connectivity in the A2A narrows through the Frontenac Arch, a “bottleneck” where major transportation corridors also present connectivity challenges. Development and population growth continues to present challenges as wetlands are lost and forests degraded. Finally, climate change is leading to greater pressure on species as ranges shift and exotic species flourish. Intact ecosystems to support resilient and diverse species populations, and the ability for species to move, are key adaptation mechanisms for the natural world as the climate continues to shift.

The Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative is committed to facing these challenges directly by working with our partners to protect this critical and spectacular landscape for generations to come.

***Our Vision: We envision a resilient, ecologically-interconnected landscape that sustains a full range of native wildlife and enhances people's quality of life for generations to come.***

***Our Mission: We connect lands and people across the Algonquin to Adirondacks region to conserve and enhance a critical corridor for ecological integrity and resilience in eastern North America.***



A2A makes a major contribution to conservation in the A2A Region by taking a landscape-wide view and looking for synergies and opportunities that build on the efforts of local groups and agencies. We use the individual pieces created at the local level to complete the conservation puzzle, a critical step in ensuring resilience and ecological integrity in the face of climate change and habitat loss.

This annual report summarizes our work in 2018 including our A2A Trail – A Pilgrimage for Nature, Road Ecology and Conservation Action Planning as well as our ongoing communication efforts and fund raising for our conservation activities.



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## **A2A Annual General Meeting 2019**

### **President's Message**



“A resilient, ecologically connected A2A region that sustains a full range of native wildlife and enhances people’s quality of life for generations to come”. That is the vision of the Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative and I’m so proud of A2A and of all of you who have worked so hard over the past year to help make that vision a reality. Thank you all for your efforts and for your support. I would especially like to acknowledge that the lands we work to protect, the lands we walk on and live our lives on, are lands for which indigenous peoples take responsibility and have done so for millennia. Their deep connection to this land continues to inspire and inform our work at A2A and those living throughout the region.

The past year has been chock-full of achievement for A2A. The A2A Trail continues apace with advancements on both sides of the Canada-US border. Building on the reconnaissance Trail hike in Autumn of 2017 we’ve been contacting and working with stakeholders and initiating the Kingston link project with funding from the Community Foundation of Kingston and area.

Our Conservation Action Planning process advanced significantly thanks to the efforts of our Executive Director David Miller and to our planning contractor Megan Ihrig. This year we successfully initiated a local CAP in the Frontenac Arc Biosphere using A2A’s lens with funding from the Trillium Foundation. We are in the process of completing the research component of the Road Ecology Work and beginning Phase 2, identifying areas and approaches to mitigation, with help from the MacLean Foundation and the 1000 Islands National Park.

We have also been working on a more strategic communications strategy. The first phase of this included interviews with stakeholders to identify opportunities and challenges. We will be building on this in 2019 to create a more robust and coordinated strategy to expand reach and support for our partners.

The 2018-2019 year saw tremendous fundraising success for A2A, with leadership from the Laidlaw Foundation. We also had successful grant application for operating support from the Echo Foundation and we received a director’s grant from the Lawson Foundation. And the fundraising drive around our 2nd Annual A2A Gala saw amazing success as we exceeded our fundraising goal, putting us on strong financial footing for 2019. Special thanks again to Zoe Yanovsky of Chez Piggy for catering the event and to all the donors and sponsors who made the event happen including Hillier Winery, Casa Dea Winery, MacKinnon Brewing, and our venue sponsors – Claire Revoire, Fête and Bergeron Law.

Finally, we also had great success in our communications work. Our Road Ecology work was featured by Ontario Nature in the summer issue of their magazine. We look forward to expanding our outreach and communications in 2019 as we deliver on Conservation Action Planning, the A2A Trail, and Road Ecology.

In parting, thank you to our Board of Directors, our partners and to our many friends and supporters who have made the excellent work of A2A possible. And we are especially proud of the work that David Miller has accomplished in this his third year as Executive Director of A2A! We all owe David a tremendous thanks for his wonderful efforts.

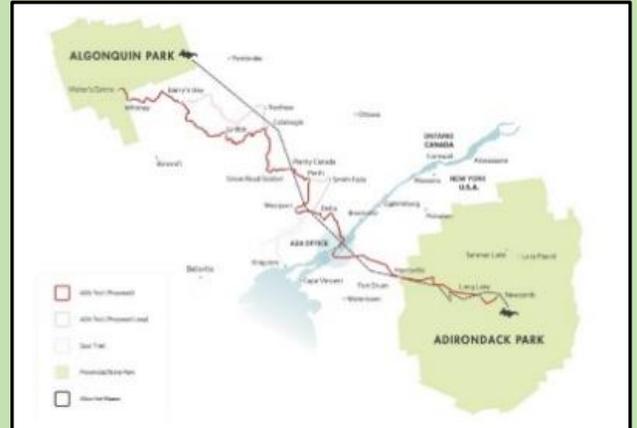
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Miller", on a white background.

# Trails Committee Report

**Committee members:** Emily Conger (Chair), Richard Grover (chair U.S. sub-committee), Nicole Wooten, David Miller, Richard Phillips, Wayne Terryberry, Elizabeth Vandenkerkhof, John Davis, Doug Munro

## Mandate:

- Connect travellers to the unique natural and cultural heritage of the A2A region through direct experience
- Protect critical ecosystems in A2A by fostering an understanding and appreciation for them among visitors and residents,
- Support the regional trail destination identity of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere,
- Support local businesses and livelihoods by attracting sustainable tourism,
- Build a sense of regional community through partnerships with local trail organizations, communities, businesses, and First Nations.



## 2018 Accomplishments

In 2018, A2A built upon the reconnaissance hike in 2017 that covered every kilometer of the trail by consolidating the results in our GIS trail map, and adjusting the route based on what we learned by actually hiking and biking the route. We used funding from Mountain Equipment Coop (MEC) to contact stakeholders – those who own and/or manage the trails we’re using on the Canadian side, municipalities and other stakeholders on the Canada Side to confirm support and continue to get information to help us create a governance model.



*A2A Trail GIS layer in Google Earth*



*Trail view outside Madawaska*

A major new initiative was started with the identification of a link between the A2A Trail – – A Pilgrimage for Nature – as it is mapped above and the City of Kingston that we’re calling the Kingston Loop. It will use the Rideau and Cataraqui Trails to take hikers/bikers through the heart of the Frontenac Arch and communities such as Sydenham and Chaffys Locks. In Spring 2019, a promotional hike event will be held in partnership with the Kingston Outdoor Adventure Club.



*Executive Director David Miller on the route outside of Kingston*



*Chaffeys Locks*



<http://www.a2acollaborative.org/a2a-trail.html>

**Goals for 2019:**

1. Complete next Generation of Trail Guide with GIS layers based on Recon Hike
2. Complete Kingston Link and hold hike Event
3. Develop Stakeholder governance models for each section
4. Fund and hire a new coordinator
5. Inaugural hike (funding and completion)
6. Continue to build partnerships and sponsors with ongoing outreach
7. Develop a passport divided by sections, with practical trekking information, points of interest and a list of businesses of interest to trekkers

## Science Committee

**Committee Members:** Tom Langen (co-chair), Ryan Danby (co-chair), Gary Bell, Ken Buchan, Glenn Johnson, Kate Cleary

### Mandate

To advance the conservation and connectivity of the A2A region's working landscape by providing research-based information to planning authorities, conservation groups, and A2A residents, while identifying the areas of focus for the A2A Collaborative.

### Introduction

The primary focus of the science committee in 2018 was planning for stage 2 of the Conservation Action Planning Initiative and planning for the State of the A2A research symposium, the first of what A2A is planning as a regular event.



The first Annual A2A Symposium – State of the A2A - will be held in Spring 2019 after extensive planning in starting in Fall 2018.

The conference will bring together researchers, policy makers, and citizens from both sides of the US-Canada border to inventory current knowledge about the state of ecological and social systems in the A2A region and identify future research priorities. Keynote speakers arranged include Roland Kays, John Davis, and Cathy Keddy.

### Conservation Action Planning Achievements

In 2018, the A2A obtained funding for Stage 2 of our Conservation Action Planning Program through a Trillium Foundation SEED Grant. Stage 2 will build on a successful 2016-2017 SEED grant project in which A2A developed a landscape-scale "lens" approach to applying the Conservation Action Planning (CAP) Framework within the Algonquin to Adirondack (A2A) corridor.

This stage will test the application through a local Conservation Action Plan in the Frontenac Arch Biosphere area using CAP workshop formats and Miradi software which provides a database, analytical capabilities and automatic report formats to support Conservation Action Planning.

Activities occur in 4 stages:

1. Confirming local CAP study area boundaries and stakeholders
2. Preliminary workshops to apply the A2A lens and stakeholder engagement models
3. Conduct Local Conservation Action Plan workshops that incorporate the landscape scale work from stage 2.
4. Report production with CAP priority actions and implementation strategy. This work will apply and test the feasibility of the landscape corridor scale A2A Cap lens and process as developed through



<http://www.a2acollaborative.org/conservation-action-planning.html>

## **Advocacy**

A2A continued to be active with advocacy activities and science comments in collaboration with partners including:

- Worked with Ontario Nature and other partners on a successful campaign objecting to proposed Provincial legislation that could have exempted commercial and industrial proposals from a range of environmental protections provided in the Planning Act and other legislation.
- Submitting comments objecting to the elimination of the Ontario Environmental Commissioner
- Provided input into the US Department of Environmental Conservation St. Lawrence Rock Ridge Management Unit Plan.
- Provided comments on changes to the Ontario Cormorant Hunting Regulations
- Support for efforts to increase protection for and recovery of the American Eel

## **Goals for 2019**

- 1) Enable Partner Organizations to access and use on line mapping resource.
- 2) Initiate local Conservation Action Plans with the A2A Lens
- 3) Establish ongoing information management and decision support system to capture resources and information as projects are completed.
- 4) Hold Science Symposium to review the State of the A2A
- 5) Build US side science support
- 6) Ensure that indigenous traditional knowledge and citizen science is embedded into A2A science.

# Road Ecology Committee

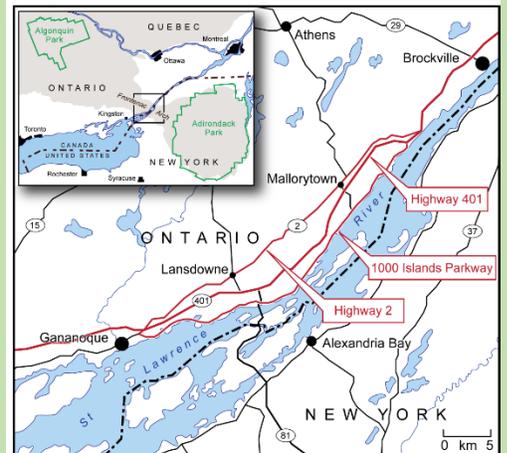
Cameron Smith (Chair) John Urquhart, Mandy Karch, Ryan Danby, Fred Scheuler, Josh Van Wieren

## Mandate:

To advance the conservation and connectivity of the A2A region's working landscape by researching, recommending, and communicating how to reduce the adverse fragmenting effects of roads and highways.

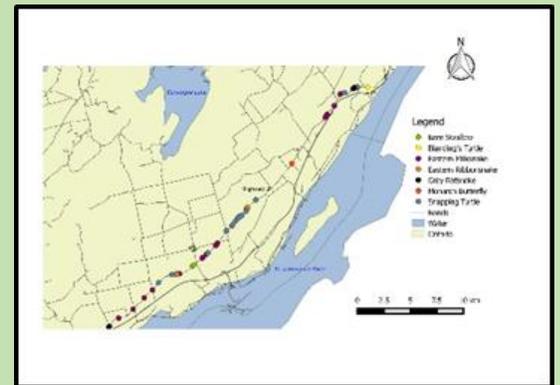
### The Immediate Problem

Three highways on the Canadian side of the St. Lawrence River pose an almost impregnable barrier to wildlife movement across the river, thereby blocking connectivity that otherwise would extend between Algonquin Park in the north and Adirondack Park in the south,



## 2018 Activity

Last year saw the completion of field research with the publication in February of a final report on Highways 401 and 2. That report, a previous report on Highway 401, and a report on the Thousand Islands Parkway represent seven years of research. Immediately after publishing last year's report we engaged in a successful fundraising initiative to raise the money needed to analyse the data in these reports and in reports by other agencies so that pathways for wildlife can be mapped extending from roughly 25 kilometres north of the St. Lawrence River, across the three highways, to the American side of the river.



During the summer the Ontario Ministry of Transportation installed fencing on the south side of Highway 401 at the most intense hotspot for snake and turtle mortality just east of the international bridge. We then raised funds to monitor the effectiveness of the fencing and began a monitoring program.

## 2018 Results

- Completed the final report on field research and began the process of analysing data and preparing mapping of wildlife pathways
- Raised the necessary funds to complete the mapping of pathways and to publish a report
- Reported on field research results to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (Highway 401), the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (Highway 2), and the St. Lawrence Parks Commission (Thousand Islands Parkway)

- Collaborated with the Thousand Islands National Park on the preliminary process of mapping since there is a possibility of locating pathways where the park owns land on the south side of Highway 401
- Received an interim report on a communications plan from a consultant and in conjunction with the executive director of A2A and the chair of the communications committee discussed the formation of final recommendations
- Following discussions with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation witnessed the erection of a kilometre of fencing on the south side of Highway 401, and established monitoring protocols with the ministry
- Began a three-year initiative to monitor the effectiveness of two different mesh sizes of fencing
- Raised the funds necessary to monitor the fencing



*Gillian Dagg head of MTO environment for Eastern Ontario, inspecting turtle fencing*

### **Priorities for 2019**

- Complete the mapping of pathways by the end of the summer and formulate recommendations
- In the light of pathways mapping and recommendations, determine the need for land acquisition and for remedial landscape alternations
- Based on conclusions for land acquisition and remedial landscape alterations, raise funding for their implementation
- Collaborate with partners in the United States to develop wildlife pathways to connect with pathways developed on the Canadian side of the St. Lawrence River
- In conjunction with the communications committee, complete the communications plan
- Fencing will be installed this summer by the Ministry of Transportation on the north side of Highway 401 opposite the fencing on the south side. The effectiveness of fencing on both sides of the highway will now be monitored
- Once a communications plan has been adopted by the A2A board, lobby responsible government bodies to implement the recommendations for wildlife pathways
- Continue to work closely with the Thousand Islands National Park on all aspects of this initiative
- Investigate possible land acquisitions for a wildlife pathway that crosses Highway 401 under the Gananoque River Bridge and proceeds down the Howe Island Ferry Road to the St. Lawrence River
- Develop future priorities

# COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

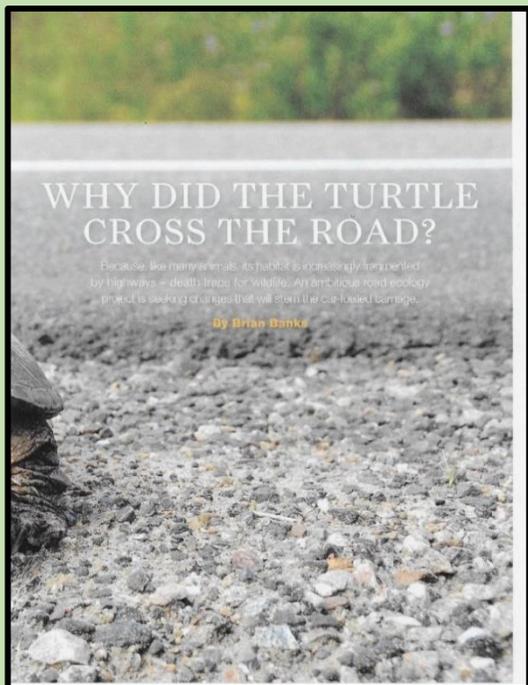
**Committee Members:** Emily Conger (Chair), David Miller, John Allport, Nicole Bird, Richard Deering, Lisa Erdle, Elizabeth Vandenberg

**Mandate:** To create and distribute content in a strategic manner to a variety of audiences; to increase the number of A2A's partners and individual members and provide service to them

2018 was a very active and successful year as A2A continued to expand its communication tools and reach.

## 2018 accomplishments

Completed Spring and Fall newsletters



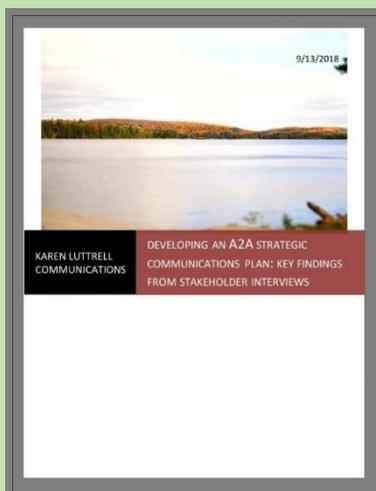
Continued to build on the progress with press and political exposure including:

A feature Article on ONnature Summer 2018 Magazine on the A2A Road Ecology work (Why did the Turtle Cross the Road?)

A Feature Article in the Winter 2018 Adirondack Explorer focussing on the A2A Trail – A Pilgrimage for Nature (Wildlife without borders)



Presentations/exhibits on A2A at the Save the River Conference, Nature on Tap, South Algonquin Township Council, Presentations by Clarkson University Students on the A2A at a Canadian Studies conference in Lake Placid, A2A presentation at a Carbon Offset workshop in Clayton with US stakeholders, trail presentation in Lyndhurst, A2A exhibit at Lake Links workshop



A2A also worked with Road Ecology Committee to engage a communication consultant and contract for a communication strategy linked to video work. Karen Luttrell Communications completed a scan of communication opportunities and challenges which included interviews with A2A stakeholders and analysis of communication messaging and approaches. This work will form the core of a communication strategy that will be developed in 2019 to expand the A2A reach and messaging among stakeholders and the A2A community.

## Goals for 2019

1. Produce initial video products (road ecology, trail, A2A overview)
2. Complete strategic communication strategy
3. Explore the opportunity and requirements for membership campaign and branding (ongoing)
4. Provide one-page communication guides for key projects (ongoing)
5. Widen A2A's social media profile
6. Publish Twice yearly newsletters
7. Continue making presentations as requested
8. Develop and initiate A2A recognition strategy (donors and stewards)
9. Expand partner communication and recruitment

## Funding and Finance Committee Report

**Members:** Alex French (Chair), Gary Bell, Emily Conger, Mike Kehoe, David Miller, Peter Milliken

**Mandate:** To advance the conservation and connectivity of the A2A region's working landscape by overseeing and assisting with fundraising to support A2A's activities, and managing, tracking and reporting on A2A's financial status.

### 2018 Accomplishments

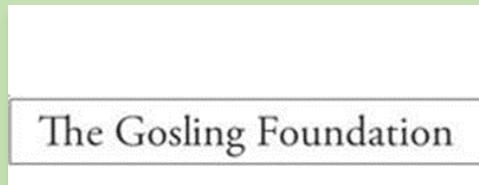
2018 was a very successful year in terms of developing a more sustainable funding model. New foundation partners came on board with the Laidlaw Foundation (thanks to all the Laidlaw Family members who contributed) and the Lawson Foundation, as well as a second installment of core funding from the Echo foundation.

A2A was also able to obtain funding to support the next stage of our core projects including Conservation Action Planning (Trillium Foundation), the A2A Trail (Community Foundation of Kingston and Area), and Road Ecology (MacLean Foundation, 1000 Islands Nation Park).

A2A held the 2<sup>nd</sup> A2A Gala at Fete in Kingston with wine from Hillier Estates, Beer from Mackinnon Brothers, and music from Spencer Evans. 60 A2A supporters had a wonderful evening celebrating A2A and participating in a live auction with special auctioneer Roger James.



## A2A Sponsors/Grantees in 2018



**McLean Foundation**

**Lawson Foundation**

**Laidlaw Foundation**



Other 2018 work included:

- Completing formal financial review of 2014-2017 finances
- Supporting successful project grant applications to the Kingston Community Foundation, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the second stage of the Conservation Action Planning Project.
- Tracked budgets, funds and financial transactions
- Reported financial matters to the board
- Advised the Board on fundraising matters
- Continued to identify and maintain a list of existing and potential sponsors and funders

## Goals for 2019

- 1) Refresh Fund Raising Plan
- 2) Fund and hire a part time outreach/communications position
- 3) Apply to 10 foundations for core funding: 5 in Canada, 5 in US
- 4) Get 501c3 status
- 5) Evaluate Membership giving strategy/options
- 6) Realize \$12,000 in private donations / memberships
- 7) Plan fund raising event
- 8) Ongoing support for project funding applications
- 9) 100% of board engaged in the culture of philanthropy
- 10) Apply for reconciliation funding

## A2A Board of Directors - 2018

**Emily Conger:** B.Sc., Upper Canada District Board of Education, consultant and teacher (Ret.) Past President Gananoque River Waterways Association, Communications Consultant. Emily moved to the A2A area in 1970, and became keenly interested in conserving the area's wildlife. She has been working on environmental and sustainability issues since the 1970s, and has worked over the years with a variety of organizations.

**Peter Milliken:** Fellow of Queen's University School of Policy Studies. The Honourable Peter Milliken served as speaker of the House under several governments. Since retiring, he has become involved in numerous community and charitable works, with a focus on Conservation. Peter also sits on the Board of the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

**Ken Buchan:** Ph.D. Geophysics, Board member of Ontario Rivers Alliance and Quetico Foundation, and a Past President of Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Ottawa Valley Chapter. He helped develop the original A2A Conservation Initiative in the 1990's.

**Kate Cleary:** Kate earned her masters in Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology in 2010 from Colorado State University and her PhD in Fish and Wildlife Sciences in 2016 from the University of Idaho. Her research focused on evaluating the impacts of agriculture on biodiversity in topical biological corridor systems. She is currently on faculty at St. Lawrence University.

**John Davis:** John is executive director of The Rewilding Institute and editor of Rewilding Earth. He also serves as volunteer land steward in Split Rock Wildway for Eddy Foundation, securing Wildlands linking Lake Champlain with Adirondack High Peaks. He is the author or editor of many publications on wildlands conservation, including BIG, WILD AND CONNECTED: Scouting and Eastern Wildway from Florida to Quebec.

**Gary Bell:** Ph.D., Biologist, Conservation Planner, land securement specialist, Program Manager – Eastern Ontario, Nature Conservancy of Canada. His current work is focused on the A2A Region where he has completed conservation planning for the Frontenac Arch and has negotiated the purchase of over 4,000 acres of priority conservation lands.

**Mike Kehoe:** CPA, CMA, Coppo and Company, Toronto, ON, Consultant – Practice Management. Mike is a program manager specializing in organizational transformation and governance. He has a Bachelor of Computer Science degree from Concordia University and is a Chartered Professional Accountant, Certified Management Accountant (CPA, CMA). Mike has served on various not for profit organizations and has a keen interest in conservation.

**Alex French:** MSc. Environmental Policy, Sustainability Coordinator, Clarkson University. – is a conservation and sustainability advocate from Potsdam New York. Alex is currently the sustainability coordinator at Clarkson University.

**Paul Tuck:** is currently a litigation attorney at Hancock Estabrook LLP working in environmental and commercial law. He has a JD from Vermont Law School and a BA in Ethics and religious Studies from Arizona State, Paul has grown up in and around nature and has previously been involved in supporting efforts to conserve public land.

**David Miller, M.Sc. ,RPP, Executive Director:** David has a Planning Degree from Waterloo and a M.Sc. from UBC and has spent much of his working life as an environmental planner for municipalities and Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

**Resigned in 2018 – Lee Willbanks, former Executive Director of Save the River.**

# Financials

## ALGONQUIN TO ADIRONDACKS COLLABORATIVE

### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018 (unaudited)

	2018	2017	Variance
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Donation - Non-Charitable	\$ 2,006.72	\$ 946.28	\$ 1,060.44
Donations - Charitable	51,498.62	10,999.73	40,498.89
Grant - Foundation	22,095.92	104,720.92	(82,625.00)
Grant - Government	34,574.34	43,580.92	(9,006.58)
Grant - Partner	-	732.99	
Memberships	2,403.21	2,910.49	(507.28)
Fundraising and Events	8,750.38	4,448.03	4,302.35
Other	-	131.56	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 121,329.19</b>	<b>\$ 168,470.92</b>	<b>\$ (47,141.73)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Accounting/Legal	6,714.55	1,113.58	5,600.97
Contractors	26,999.36	78,612.75	(51,613.39)
Events & Hospitality	2,349.38	3,097.41	(748.03)
Wages	46,759.14	42,596.66	4,162.48
Fees and Dues	1,358.17	2,857.68	(1,499.51)
Printing	1,324.36	2,844.56	(1,520.20)
Postage	189.45	343.43	(153.98)
Tools & Equipment	-	259.28	(259.28)
Workshop Expenses	-	1,519.13	(1,519.13)
Insurance	860.28	935.28	(75.00)
Office & Admin <sup>(1)</sup>	1,166.91	2,391.11	(1,224.20)
Rent	3,065.00	3,000.00	65.00
Travel	4,304.51	8,761.73	(4,457.22)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 95,091.11</b>	<b>\$ 148,332.60</b>	<b>\$ (53,241.49)</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 26,238.08</b>	<b>\$ 20,138.32</b>	<b>\$ 6,099.76</b>

Notes: (1) Office & Admin:

Conference Calls	710.30	695.06	
Bank Charges	55.21	167.69	
Supplies	89.67	736.81	
Admin	311.73	791.55	
<b>Total Office &amp; Admin</b>	<b>\$ 1,166.91</b>	<b>2,391.11</b>	

**ALGONQUIN TO ADIRONDACKS COLLABORATIVE**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2018  
(unaudited)**

**ASSETS**

	2018	2017	Variance
<b>CURRENT</b>			
Cash and Short Term Deposits	\$ 140,311.96	\$ 86,898.58	\$ 53,413.38
Sundry Receivables	1,122.53	6,367.71	(5,245.18)
	<u>\$ 141,434.49</u>	<u>\$ 93,266.29</u>	<u>\$ 48,168.20</u>

**LIABILITIES**

<b>CURRENT</b>			
Accounts Payable	3,481.57	15,808.14	(12,326.57)
Deferred Contributions	53,169.23	18,912.54	34,256.69
<b>LONG TERM</b>	-	-	-
	<u>\$ 56,650.80</u>	<u>\$ 34,720.68</u>	<u>\$ 21,930.12</u>

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

<b>BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	58,545.61	38,407.29	20,138.32
<b>EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	26,238.08	20,138.32	6,099.76
<b>BALANCE, END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 84,783.69</u>	<u>\$ 58,545.61</u>	<u>\$ 26,238.08</u>