



Celebrating 20 Years of **Connecting Kids to Water Wisdom**

Case for
Support

Friends of Ecological and
Environmental Learning



For a generation, the Haliburton–Muskoka–Kawartha (HMK) Children’s Water Festival has transformed curiosity into commitment.

Through hands-on experiences, children discover the importance of water and develop the skills to protect it.

By engaging over 1,000 children annually across our region, we cultivate lifelong Water Heroes who are equipped to lead efforts to protect our watersheds and ecosystems for generations to come.




Our Mission and Impact

In 2026 we will:

Serve more than
800 children
through in-person
programming

Engage at least **300
more** through school-
based and community
programs

Engage **100 youth** in
leadership and
mentorship
capacities



Your support ensures this proven program continues to grow, empowering children with the knowledge and inspiration to safeguard life giving water.

Why Support the HMK Children's Water Festival?

Educational Excellence and Reach

Since 2005, the HMK Children's Water Festival has provided experiential, hands-on learning for elementary age students. Through engaging activities focused on water conservation, watershed protection, and sustainability, children develop critical knowledge and leadership skills.

Addressing the Urgent Need for Environmental Education

The climate crisis, pollution, and resource depletion are urgent challenges. Our festival programs equip children with actionable knowledge to tackle these issues and foster a deep connection to nature that translates into sustainable behaviours.

For example, the 'Up on the Watershed' activity station (pictured to the right) offers hands-on learning about the vital role of wetlands as natural "sponges" in our watersheds. Wetlands absorb excess surface water, reducing the risk of climate-related flooding. Protecting and restoring wetlands is essential not only for flood mitigation but also for addressing biodiversity loss and fostering climate resilience, helping to alleviate climate anxiety in young learners.



"The children's water festival gives me hope. Through fun, hands-on activities, kids learn about the countless possibilities of water and their responsibility to protect it."

—Scott Andres, Festival Volunteer

"I've seen how children develop an understanding of water's importance and our interdependence with nature. It's inspiring to watch them grow into Water Heroes."

—Dr. Joan Grant, Festival Volunteer

A Collaborative Community Initiative

Our festival is a grassroots effort, powered by:

- Over 200 dedicated volunteers annually
- Partnerships with conservation organizations, educators, and community leaders
- A mobile festival trailer that extends our reach to underserved communities

A Proven Model of Impact

Since its inception in 2005, the HMK Children's Water Festival has:

Reached over **18,000** children through annual programming

Inspired children to take action, from reducing waste to participating in local conservation efforts

Built strong **partnerships with 41** elementary schools, local organizations, and conservation groups

"What we learn to love as children, we protect as adults. This festival engages kids in water stewardship through sensory play—it's fun, and they remember."

—Stephanie Field, Chair,
Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning



Leadership That Makes a Difference

With a passionate and experienced team at the helm, the HMK Children's Water Festival continues to thrive, inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards.

Led by Kara Mitchell, B.Ed., an educator dedicated to hands-on learning, and a committed Steering Committee, the festival is backed by the Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning (FEEL), a registered charity ensuring strong governance.

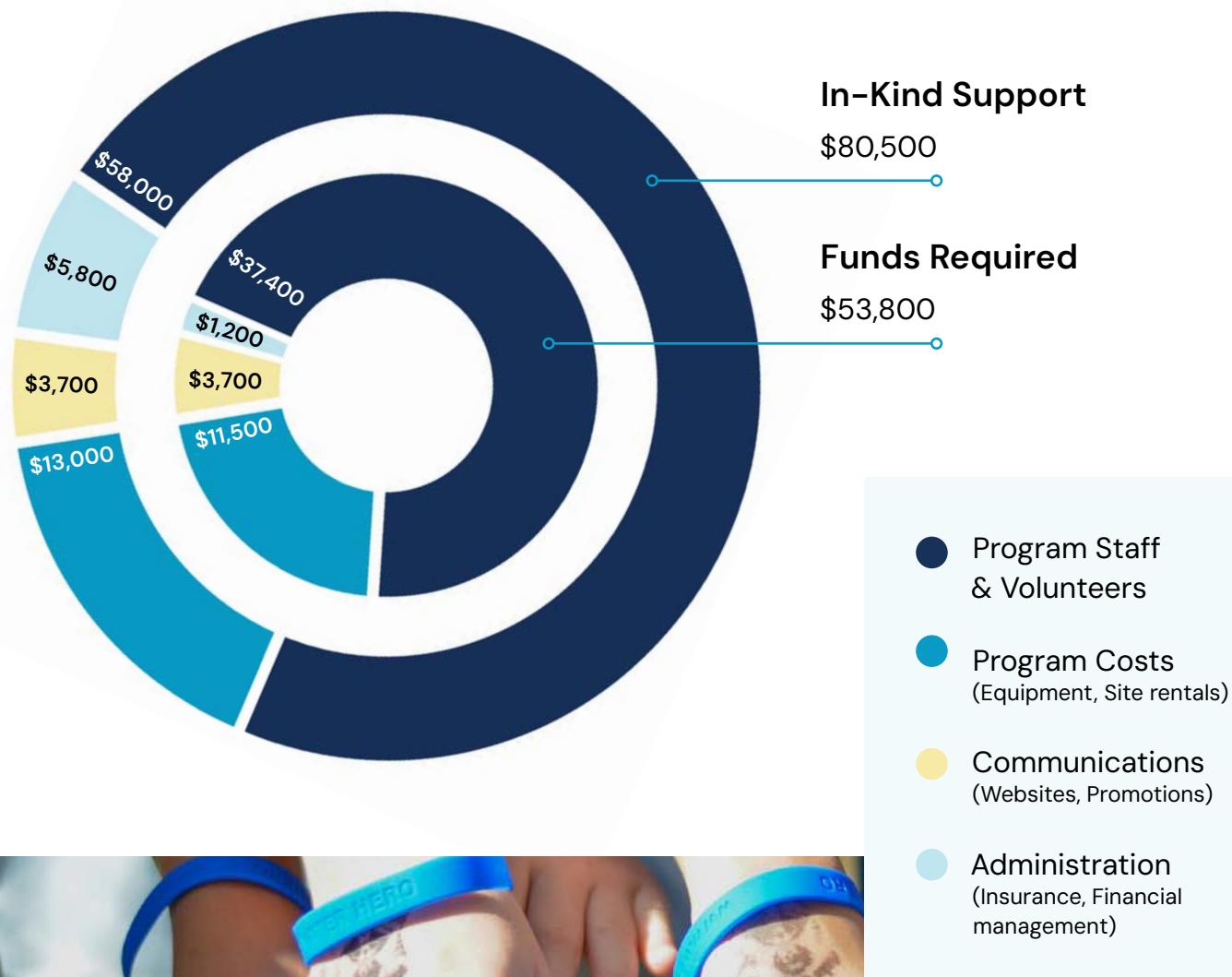
Each year, community, university and high school volunteers bring the festival to life, engaging children in immersive experiences that foster a lifelong commitment to protecting our watersheds. In particular, our longstanding relationship with Trent University has been a valuable partnership, bringing a strong leadership connection to our festival learnings.



When You Donate, We Educate

We need \$134,000 annually to run our impactful programming through both cash and in-kind community support. Here's a look at our financial picture.

Annual Budget Breakdown



Sponsorship Opportunities

Here's how you can impact the next generation. What level of Water Hero will you be?

Level	Recognition
Stream Sponsor (\$100-\$499)	→ Name in teacher, parent and volunteer packages and on website
River Sponsor (\$500-999)	→ Logo in information packages & newsletter and name on event signage → Mention in Social Media → (Inclusive of recognition – benefits above)
Lake Sponsor (\$1,000+)	→ Prominent logo placement and individual recognition on social media → (Inclusive of recognition benefits above)
Watershed Sponsor (\$4,000+)	→ Premiere logo placement on all materials and a corporate banner at the Fall Festival (supplied by corporation). → Mention in press releases → (Inclusive of recognition benefits above)

Charitable tax receipts are issued for donations of \$20 or more; business receipts for sponsorships of \$100 or more.



Looking Ahead: Sustainability and Growth

With your help, we aim to:

Expand outreach
to underserved
communities

Enhance educational
content to address
emerging environmental
challenges

Strengthen partnerships
to ensure long-term
sustainability



Join Us in Nurturing Water Heroes

Be part of the solution. Your support empowers the next generation of Water Heroes to safeguard life-giving water. When you donate, we educate.

About Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning

Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning (FEEL) has been a registered charity since 2003. Through our flagship program, the Children's Water Festival, and a native plant sale, we engage children, youth, and families in meaningful outdoor education.

Our Mission

To promote water stewardship for children, youth and the community by building awareness, understanding, and appreciation of watersheds through experiential education.

Land Acknowledgment

With respect and gratitude, the Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Children's Water Festival acknowledges that we educate within Williams and Robinson-Huron Treaties First Nations territories as well as the unceded territories of the Algonquin Nation who have all stewarded local watersheds since time immemorial.



Get in Touch

Support Us

Please write cheques to 'Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning' and mail to: P.O. Box 1292, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

E-transfers can be arranged by contacting:

Kara Mitchell, Festival Coordinator

info@hmkwaterfestival.ca | (705) 471-0272

[Donate Online](#)

Subscribe to Our Newsletter

Stay up to date with events, learn about ecology and participate in our community. We don't send too many emails and you can unsubscribe at any time.

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Contact & Get Involved

hmkwaterfestival.ca

info@hmkwaterfestival.ca

Charitable Registration Number:

86953-1343-RR 0001

