



Our Mission: Fostering financial partnerships supporting watersheds.

Our Vision: Active community partnerships sustaining healthy watersheds.

MANDATE

Our Mandate:

Raising funds • Fostering partnerships • Providing funds • Acquiring conservation lands

- **RAISING FUNDS:** Develop successful fundraising events and obtain sponsorships, grants and donations to support programs and projects that protect and improve the habitat and forest cover of Ausable Bayfield watersheds and protect and improve the health of people and other living things in the watershed through projects that improve ecosystem health and recreation opportunities in nature.
- **FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS:** Seek, develop, and foster partnerships to support action for conservation programs that Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) or other conservation partners would not be able to achieve working alone.
- **PROVIDING FUNDS:** Review requests and recommend funding for activities and programs that fit the objectives in our project areas and achieve our mission and vision.
- **ACQUIRING CONSERVATION LANDS:** Acquire and retain land for conservation purposes; continue a land legacy; support stewardship; and conduct land management for benefits of protecting and improving forest cover, wetlands, water quality, and water quantity.

Approved by Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation Board of Directors on December 14, 2015.

This document updates the Mandate for Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation document (approved November 19, 2003) which replaced the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation Plan of Direction (adopted August 20, 1987).

Introduction

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation (ABCF) is a community organization and corporation with its own Board of Directors as set out in the *Province of Ontario Letters Patent* (June 1, 1974).

The ABCF is distinct from the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) but the Foundation shares with ABCA, the values of protecting water, soil, and living things as outlined in the community's *Conservation Strategy (The Path Forward: Your Community Conservation Strategy for Ausable Bayfield Watersheds – 2012)*. The Foundation works together with the conservation authority and the community to help foster partnerships and support action to improve watersheds for healthier communities and healthier people.

History

The ABCF is a registered charitable organization having received its charter on June 1, 1974. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority established the Foundation in order to fund and initiate a number of programs that support the community's mission and vision for the watershed. There are many needed conservation programs that ABCA and its other partners could not realize on their own without the help of the Foundation.

The ABCF has successfully supported conservation efforts by raising funds through events such as the Conservation Dinner and an annual golf tournament in partnership with Friends of the South Huron Trail. The Conservation Foundation also makes watershed improvements possible by supporting programs initiated by the community and seeking and applying for grants. Donors to the ABCF are eligible for a charitable gift receipt for income tax purposes.

In 1988 the Foundation established five commemorative woods sites across the watershed for family and friends to plant trees as a living memorial. A sign designates the site at the following conservation areas: Rock Glen; Parkhill Scenic Lookout; Morrison Dam; Klopp Tract; and Clinton. Memorial plaques are placed on the signboard. Special occasions can also be commemorated with this long-lasting natural tribute. Staff members of the ABCA are entrusted with planting the trees and caring for the commemorative woods sites.

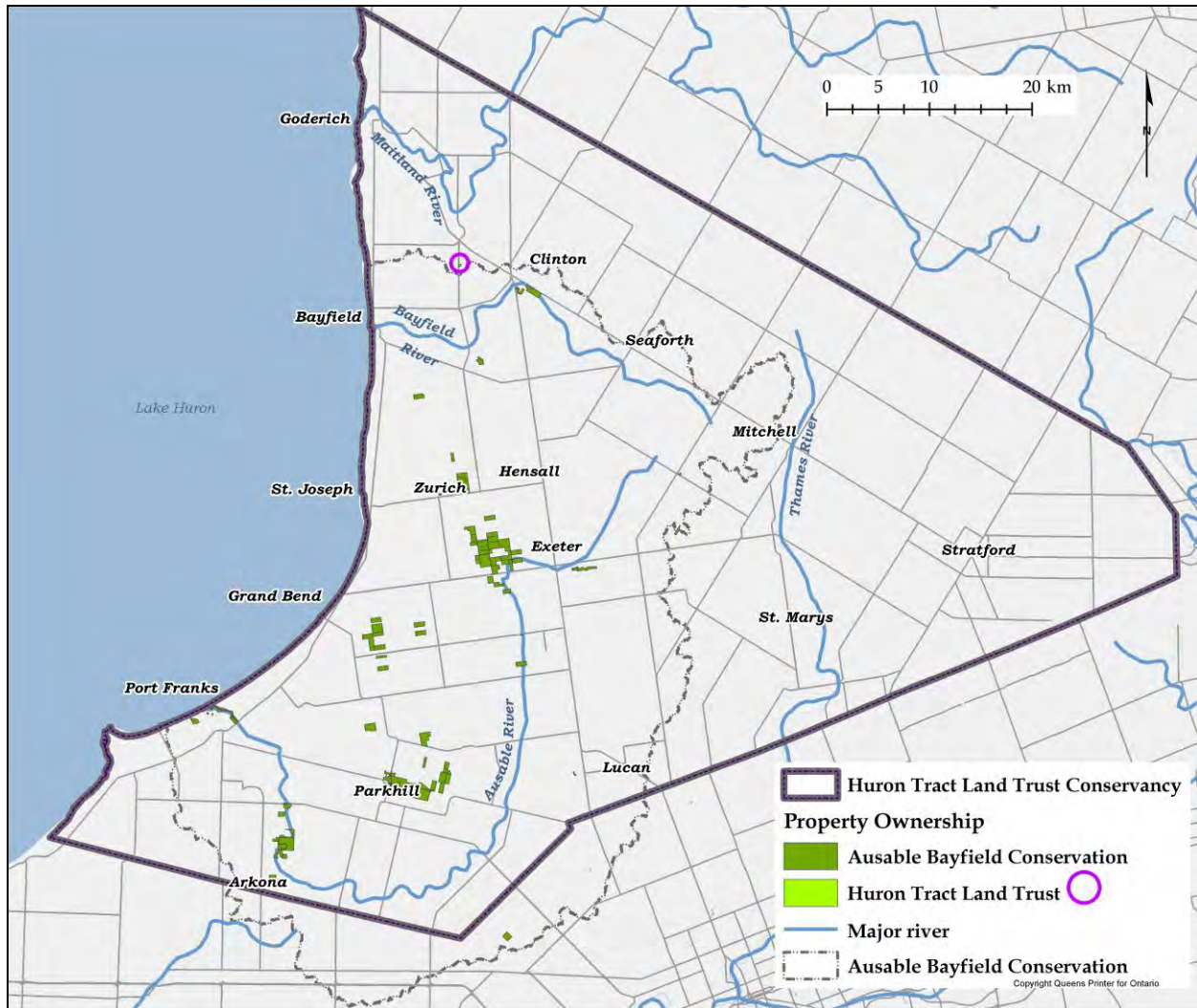
The ABCF created the Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy (HTLTC) in 2011. This gave donors another option to leave a local legacy through financial bequests and donations of land with natural, recreational, scenic, historical, or agricultural value. The Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy gets its name and geographic boundaries from the historic area of land purchased by the Canada Company.

The ABCF has developed and supported many successful programs to protect and improve the health of our watersheds. Please see the Appendices of this *Mandate* document for some of the completed and ongoing projects and partnerships.

Our past and future successes are only possible thanks to the generous and visionary contributions of our partners.

Map of Conservation Lands Owned by ABCF, HTLTC, or ABCA

These lands offer protection from development and the conservation of flood plains, forests, soils, water and wildlife for current and future generations. Conservation lands attract nature enthusiasts including photographers, bird watchers, hikers and runners, and more. These properties also offer a wide variety of wildlife habitat, forest and plant communities, and landforms to support a healthier ecological system.



Governance

Board of Directors

The affairs of the ABCF are managed by a board of nine (9) volunteer directors, all of whom are appointed by the ABCA for a period of two years, at which time they are eligible for re-appointment.

Location

The head office of the Foundation is the Administration Centre of Ausable Bayfield Conservation, located at 71108 Morrison Line, Rural Route 3, in the Municipality of South Huron, in the County of Huron, in the Province of Ontario. The location is at such a place as determined by the directors.

Administration

The ABCF works in close partnership with the ABCA to provide administration including correspondence, budgeting, and financial accounting. The ABCA also contributes staff time, as and when necessary, to assist the ABCF with the implementation of proposed plans.

Committees

The ABCF is able to achieve watershed improvement successes through ad hoc committees, struck as required.

Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy

Land trusts, also known as land conservancies, are charitable organizations that actively work to conserve land with natural, recreational, scenic, historical, or agricultural value. Land trusts accept donations and bequests of land and conservation agreements. In some cases, funds are raised to purchase environmentally significant properties. The land is then permanently protected to preserve its conservation, heritage, or agricultural values.

The ABCA selects the nine directors on the volunteer Board of Directors of the HTLTC for a two-year term. At the end of the two-year term, directors are eligible for reappointment.

Associate Membership

The ABCF considers, as Associate Members, those individuals or organizations who support the efforts of the ABCF and/or the ABCA. Associate members share their skills, knowledge, talents, contacts, equipment, and time for the betterment of the watershed environment (see ABCF Bylaw #4). Examples of Associate Membership include members of the Conservation Dinner Committee and Friends of the South Huron Trail volunteers.

Policy Framework

The priority of this Foundation is to undertake conservation projects in conjunction with the ABCA and other community partners. Financial donations towards these projects are eligible for charitable gift receipts as per Canada Revenue Agency guidelines. 'Planned Gifting' can also leave a lasting legacy through bequests, donating securities, naming a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, annuity, or an RRSP/RRIF. Donations to the ABCF are not used to reduce municipal levies contributed to the ABCA, but to enhance work that would not otherwise be possible.

Eligible Project Areas and Objectives

- **Accessible Facilities.** The Foundation supports the upgrading of facilities and equipment of the ABCA to serve the needs of individuals with mobility challenges.
- **Accessible Trails.** The Foundation financially supports the development of accessible trails, interpretive material and such improvements or structures that may increase the opportunities for nature appreciation by the public.
- **Wetlands and Natural Areas.** The Foundation supports the protection, improvement, restoration, and conservation of Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), important wetlands, and/or Carolinian forest areas. The Foundation supports the protection and improvement of forest cover and forest conditions on conservation lands and supporting reforestation projects by community groups and supporting landowners on reforestation and improved forest cover and forest conditions on their projects on their properties.
- **Conservation Area Improvements.** The Foundation sponsors the improvement of the conservation areas of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.
- **Commemorative Woods.** The Foundation supports Commemorative Woods established across the watershed as a way of remembering loved ones with living memorials and adding the nature and health benefits of trees.
- **Acquiring Conservation Lands.** The Foundation supports land acquisitions which complement existing conservation authority programs. The Foundation may use land sales and leases in order to enhance existing land holdings and protect such resources from disruptive activities.
- **Conservation Education.** The Foundation supports outdoor conservation education programs that are maintained for the benefit of school-age children and the community.

Appendix 1 – Synopsis of Current Programs and Projects

Fundraising and Grants

- **Conservation Dinner.** A community event of the Foundation and the Exeter Lions Club, with support of donors; patrons; volunteers; artists; service organizations; businesses; and ABCA staff. This gala charitable dinner and auction was started in 1990 and has raised close to \$1 million over more than a quarter of a century for conservation projects of the ABCF and the Exeter Lions Club. The net proceeds are split 50:50 between both organizations. The Exeter Lions Club agrees to commit a minimum of 60 per cent of its share towards the continuing development of the South Huron Trail.
- **South Huron Trail Golf Tournament.** Local volunteers started the golf tournament in 2005 and have raised more than \$40,000 by 2015 towards creation, maintenance and improvements of the MacNaughton-Morrison Section of the South Huron Trail. Community volunteers have continued to be vital to the tournament's success since Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation took over the reins from the tournament's founders. Thanks go to sponsors and donors who have made it possible for the tournament to support the health, social, environmental, and recreational benefits of the popular trail linking an urban area with nature.

Conservation Education

- **Junior Conservationist Program.** Each year the ABCF provides funding for the ABCA to hire a senior secondary school student as Junior Conservationist for an eight-week summer position (July and August). The Junior Conservationist assists the conservation education department as well as other departments of the ABCA. In this way the student is introduced to a variety of conservation-related activities which may help the student in selecting a post-secondary career path. A different Junior Conservationist is hired each year.
- **\$1 per Student.** The ABCF subsidizes all children participating in an ABCA conservation education program at \$1.00 per person, with a maximum set at \$5,000 per year.
- **Student Environmental Award.** The ABCF offers a \$1,000 award to a graduating secondary school student or university/college student enrolled in post-secondary studies in a conservation field (e.g., biology, ecology, geography, forestry, fish and wildlife, outdoor education, etc.).
- **Species-at-Risk Education.** Conservation education and healthy watersheds staff have delivered several programs that focus on the need to preserve and add habitat to protect our species at risk that play such unique and important roles in the balance and health of our watershed ecosystem. The ABCF provides funding in support of public awareness for watershed landowners and bussing costs for schools attending an education program.

Community Conservation Projects

- **Commemorative Woods.** Working in harmony with funeral directors of the area, and through an agreement with the ABCA, the Foundation has established commemorative planting areas throughout the watershed. Tree groves have long been recognized by family and friends as living memorials of the deceased and also provide scenic green belts. Commemorative plantings also provide a lasting reminder of occasions such as wedding anniversaries, birthdays or other events where a natural tribute is appropriate. Memorial services are held at the sites with the assistance of local funeral directors.

The Klopp Commemorative Woods is an excellent example of cooperation between groups. The ABCA purchased 100 acres of land located between Zurich and Hensall from Bert and Clara Klopp in 1953 and 50 adjoining acres in 1986. In 1999, the idea of developing the property into a commemorative woods area was initiated and interested members of the Klopp family and the Foundation contributed to the project. Through this financial support, the parking lot, Commemorative Woods, and Pioneer Trail were established. The Commemorative Arboretum and Garden are sponsored by J .M. McBeath Funeral Home and the London Central Lions Club make donations to commemorate worthy members by placing plaques on their sign east of the parking lot. The development of this commemorative woods and trail system will continue for years to come and provide visitors with a quiet area to relax and reflect.

At the time of this document's update, Ausable Bayfield Commemorative Woods are located at:

- Clinton Conservation Area – Clinton
 - Klopp Tract Commemorative Woods— between Zurich and Hensall
 - Rock Glen Conservation Area – Arkona
 - Morrison Dam Conservation Area – Exeter
 - Parkhill Scenic Lookout Conservation Area – Parkhill
- **Fishing Derby.** The Foundation continues to support, with the Exeter Lions Club, the annual Fishing Derby at Morrison Dam in May. Local anglers of all ages get a chance to catch rainbow trout stocked in Morrison Reservoir (Morrison Lake).
 - **Lake Smith.** The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation supports efforts to restore the Lake Smith area as an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest.
 - **South Huron Trail – MacNaughton-Morrison Section and Morrison Dam Conservation Area Sections.** The MacNaughton-Morrison Section of the South Huron Trail was jointly sponsored in 2003 by the Exeter Lions Club, the Exeter Community Development Fund, the Municipality of South Huron, ABCA, and ABCF, with the co-operation of local landowners. The project has created a multi-use (walking; hiking; bicycling; cross-country skiing) trail that links the trail from MacNaughton Park in Exeter with the trail through Morrison Dam Conservation Area east of Exeter. More than half a million dollars has been raised in the community to create and maintain the trail, which is a community success story. Continued fundraising is needed to support maintenance.

- **Pedestrian Bridge.** The Foundation is now working towards the creation of a new pedestrian bridge downstream of Morrison Dam. The bridge will provide trail users with a safer alternative to walking along Morrison Line across the roadway bridge. The proposed pedestrian bridge will be suitable for pedestrians, cyclists, strollers, wheelchairs, the South Huron Trail Mobile (for people with limited mobility) and winter visitors. The new pedestrian bridge would include boardwalks at both ends and links to the existing trails. The completion of this project could enhance use of the trail for decades.
- **South Huron Trail Mobile.** Donors have made it possible to purchase and maintain this electric Trail Mobile with enhancements. Volunteer drivers take up to five passengers along the trail. This makes the trail accessible for people with limited mobility. The creation of this unique Trail Mobile grew out of the work of the Friends of the South Huron Trail.

Land Acquisition

- **Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy.** Land donations and custodianship. The HTLTC received its first donation of land, the Mayhew Tract, in 2015. The Mayhew Tract is located about two kilometres south of Holmesville, on the northeast corner of Tower Line Road and Parr Line. It is just north of the watershed divide between the Bayfield River and Maitland River. The ten-acre (four-hectare) Mayhew Tract property is entirely forested. Most of the trees are lowland hardwood (for example, Silver Maple and Aspen) and there are also some conifers near the west side of the property. There is an intermittent drain on the property. The forest helps to store water through the year and recharge the groundwater table. This is one of the benefits to this nature area along with habitat.
- **Wetlands and Natural Areas.** Wetlands have been proven to be economically, hydrologically, ecologically, and socially valuable to Ontario. Among their many important features, wetlands store large amounts of water during flooding periods and slowly release water during times of drought. They filter water in creeks, rivers and lakes; and support many varieties of plants and animals. The ABCF assisted in the purchase of the Dinsmore Management Area in Hay Swamp and two wetland properties in Port Franks. To date a large percentage of Ontario's original wetlands have been destroyed by draining, filling, dredging, and land clearing projects. More wetland losses are occurring yearly, especially in southwestern Ontario where land is so agriculturally fertile and urbanization is expanding daily. In the ABCA watershed, Carolinian species of trees and plants are at the extreme northern limit of their range. They create unique biotic communities in the rare locations where they appear. Therefore there is an urgent need for the protection of wetlands and Carolinian forests.

Appendix 2 – Chronology of Projects

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation has, since its inception in 1974, supported many valuable programs and projects for the benefit of local watersheds.

Some projects have been completed while some other programs and projects continue as they still serve a need.

Conservation Education and Community Projects

- Published *Search for the Secret Fossil* by Jean Wright (1980)
- Hibbert Source Management Area Waterfowl Pond (1982)
- Parkhill Conservation Area Wildlife Pond and Viewing Facility constructed to complement White Pine Woods outdoor education area (1984)
- Morrison Dam Conservation Area Fitness Trail (1984)
- Morrison Dam Reservoir stocked with Rainbow Trout for annual Fishing Derby in partnership with Exeter Lions Club (1985 to present)
- Installation of Museum and Information Centre entranceway sign at Rock Glen Conservation Area (1986)
- Sylvan Conservation Education Program at Camp Sylvan outdoor education supplies – rain ponchos, boots, and stream table (1987)
- Utility vehicle for Rock Glen Conservation Area Superintendent (1988)
- *Wheels to Nature* created a network of accessible trails at Rock Glen Conservation Area in partnership with Arkona Lions Club (1989)
- Published *River and the Rocks* By Jean D. Wright (1989)
- Established five Commemorative Woods sites (1989)
- Accessible Fishing Dock at Morrison Dam Conservation Area (1991)
- Established partnership for Clinton Commemorative Woods with Box & Smith Funeral Home (1994 - 2000)
- Established partnership at Morrison Dam Commemorative Woods with Dinney Funeral Home (1994 - 2004)
- Accessible privies installed at Morrison Dam and Rock Glen Conservation Areas (1992)
- Design preparation for a trail system at Joany's Woods (1995)
- Pavilion at Port Franks Conservation Area (1995)
- Established partnership with M. Box & Son Funeral Home for a Commemorative Woods site in Parkhill (1999 to present)
- Established Klopp Commemorative Woods and partnership with J.M. McBeath Funeral Home (2000 to present)
- Published *Sylvan History Book* – memories of Camp Sylvan (2003)
- Community Partner in MacNaughton-Morrison Trail \$400,000 fundraising campaign (2004)
- Established partnership at Morrison Dam Commemorative Woods with Haskett Funeral Homes (2005 to present)
- Gord Strang Memorial Golf Tournament (2006-2010)

- Accessible playground equipment at Rock Glen Conservation Area (2007)
- Boardwalk repairs at Morrison Dam Conservation Area (2007)
- Morrison Dam Fishing Dock (2010)
- South Huron Trail Golf Tournament (2011 to present)
- Bannockburn Conservation Area Boardwalk improvements (2011)
- Rock Glen Conservation Area Trail upgrades (2011)
- Woodland Reflection Shelter at Morrison Dam Commemorative Woods (2012)
- Rock Glen Conservation Area Stairway upgrades (2013)
- MacNaughton-Morrison Section of the South Huron Trail resurfacing (2014)
- Linfield Wildlife Area Parking Lot (2014)

Fundraising and Grants

Fundraising Projects

- 'White Wonder' limited edition artwork by Tammy Laye (1991)
- Conservation Dinner in partnership with OFAH (1990), Exeter Lions Club (1991 to present)
- Established Sylvan Trust Fund (1996)
- Car Raffle (1997) in partnership with Huron Country Playhouse
- Cash is King Raffle (1998) in partnership with Huron Country Playhouse
- Earth Day Bottle Drive in partnership with LCBO outlets across Ontario (2000)
- Canoe Raffle in partnership with Ailsa Craig Lions Club (2009)
- Woodland Reflection Shelter – Collector2Collector Art Auction (2011)

Successful Grant Applications by ABCF

- Grand Bend Community Foundation (2007)
- London Community Foundation – Tallgrass Prairie Restoration (2008)
- Ontario Trillium Foundation (2009 -10)
- Freshwater Futures (2010)
- Shell Canada Environment Fund (2010)
- Environment Canada ECO Action Community Funding (2010 - 11)
- Royal Bank Canada RBC Blue Water Project Funding (2010 - 11)
- Municipality of South Huron – Community Fund (2012 - 14)
- TD Friends of Environment (2011-12)
- Gosling Foundation (2012)
- Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund – (2013-16)

Appendix 3 – Conservation Lands

List of properties acquired by ABCF, ABCA and HTLTC through purchase or donation:

Adams-Klopp Tract	Johnson Management Area
Ausable Cut Conservation Area	L. Lake Management Area
Bannockburn Conservation Area	Linfield Wildlife Area
Chapman Tract	Lucan Conservation Area
Clinton Conservation Area	Mayhew Tract
Crediton Conservation Area	Morrison Dam Conservation Area
Daynard Forest	Mystery Falls Management Area
Devil's Elbow Management Area	Parkhill Conservation Area
Dinsmore Management Area	Rock Glen Conservation Area
Doherty Tract	Sadler/Brebner Tracts
Hay Swamp Properties	Stephen Wildlife Management Area
Hibbert Source Management Areas	Zurich Conservation Area

Appendix 4 – Partners

The Foundation will continue to seek and build upon partnerships for undertaking projects that benefit the watershed environment.

Ailsa Craig Lions Club	Gilpin Funeral Homes (Parkhill Chapel)
Arkona Lions Club	Grand Bend Community Foundation
Bayfield River Valley Trail Association	Haskett Funeral Homes (Exeter & Lucan)
Clinton Lions Club	J.M.McBeath Funeral Homes (Zurich & Hensall)
Conservation Dinner Committee	Ontario Land Trust Alliance
Exeter Lions Club	Rotary Club of Grand Bend
Friends of the South Huron Trail	

While we have tried to create a list that is as complete as possible, there may be some valuable partners that have been missed in this list. A complete list of current partners, for internal use, is maintained and updated by staff.

Appendix 5 – Board of Directors

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation Board of Directors, at the time of the approval of the Mandate document is:

Bob Radtke, Chair

Dave Crockett

Anne Melady, Vice Chair

Roger Lewington

Gerry Cook

Tom Prout

Peter Darbishire

David McClure

Bev Brown, Treasurer

Bob Norris

Judith Parker, Secretary

Sharon Pavkeje, ABCF Assistant

Brian Horner, ABCA General Manager and Secretary-Treasurer

Appendix 6 – Objects of the Letters Patent

The objects of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation, as described in the *Province of Ontario Letters Patent incorporating the Foundation*, are to:

- a) Aid the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority in the cultivation and enhancement of conservation in the Province of Ontario by serving as permanent custodian of the endowment funds of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority; and
- b) Do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects and in particular, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing and subject to *The Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act* and *The Charitable Gifts Act*:
 1. To solicit, acquire, accept or receive gifts, donations, bequests or subscriptions of money or other real or personal property whether they be unconditional or subject to special conditions provided any special conditions are not inconsistent with the above objects;
 2. To hold, manage, improve, develop, exchange, lease, sell, turn to account or otherwise deal with the real or personal property from time to time held by the Corporation and to retain any real or personal property in the form in which it may be received by the Corporation for such length of time as the Corporation may determine;
 3. To invest and deal with the moneys of the Corporation in such manner as the Corporation may from time to time determine; provided, however, that such moneys may be invested only in investments of a kind authorized by law for the investment of trust funds;
 4. To use the income of the Corporation in such manner as the board of directors may from time to time determine for:
 - (i) the payment of the purchase price of pioneer articles acquired by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority,

- (ii) the payment of costs of acquisition of such articles including the payment of commissions, the costs of transporting, cleaning, repairing, restoring and moving such articles and all costs incidental thereto,
 - (iii) education work in all phases of conservation;
 - (iv) research on conservation projects; and
 - (v) the purchase of lands and buildings or structures with a conservation use;
5. To enter into and carry out agreements, contracts and undertakings;
 6. To demand, receive, sue for the recovery and compel the payment of all sums of money that become due and payable to the Corporation and generally to sue and be sued; and
 7. To employ and pay such assistants, clerks, agents, representatives and employees and to procure, equip, and maintain such office and other facilities and to incur such operational expenses as may be considered necessary.