



When my wife and I decided to move from Banff Alberta for her to take a new job in Toronto, I was very excited for her and this next chapter of our life, but was admittedly sad to be leaving the natural beauty of Banff.

Well, that was four years ago and wow, since then, I have learned a lot about the great natural areas, outdoor beauty, and recreational opportunities that exist in the GTA.

As empty nesters, we bought a condominium in Pickering on Frenchman's Bay on the shore of Lake Ontario. As an avid cyclist, I was thrilled with our location. I could hop on a trail, cycle along the waterfront, through Durham and pretty much all the greater Toronto area. Yes, I missed Banff, but I was loving our new home and some of the incredible natural places I saw from the seat of my bike.

I was retired, my wife was working a very busy job, and I was looking for a way to give back to my new community. Through a number of connections and meetings, I volunteered to serve on the Board of The Living City Foundation, supporting the work of Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA). Moving to the role of vice chair, and now chair, I learned firsthand, the incredible work that TRCA does. In fact, if you live or work in the GTA, I'll guarantee that you have benefitted from their incredible work.

**"While TRCA works exclusively in the Greater Toronto Area, it is one of the largest environmental organizations in Canada and certainly the most impactful in our community."**

- Have you been to any of our conservation areas, campgrounds, walking, hiking, or biking trails?
- Have you seen the urban wild and incredible birding opportunities at Tommy Thompson Park?
- Have you spent a quiet moment at the Weston Family Quarry Garden at the Brickworks?
- Have you travelled through time at Black Creek Pioneer Village?
- Have you had an excited child come home and tell you about their field trip to a conservation area, or the Watershed on Wheels visitor who came to their classroom?
- Have you learned about sustainable energy at the Kortright Centre, attended the maple syrup festival or simply enjoyed a picnic.

None of these things would be possible without the work of TRCA and support from generous donors to The Living City Foundation. While much of TRCA's funding comes from our partner municipalities, many programs and additions rely on the support of our donors.

This year, in 2016, we've seen some amazing support and funded some really interesting and exciting projects. Of course, given how critically important the work of TRCA is, we want to continue supporting these environmental experts and the work that is being done in our own backyard. We can only do that with your help.

It's my hope that you will continue your support and help us to positively impact the GTA landscape. Please join me for one last surge of support in 2016.

Sincerely, and with my thanks,

**John Allard**  
Chair, The Living City Foundation