



# **Society for Conservation Biology**

## **Toronto Chapter**



Invites You...  
To Learn how to Start a Chapter!

June 24, 2006



# Society for Conservation Biology

## Toronto Chapter



# A Chapter is Born!

- Introduction
- Toronto Chapter
- People
- Activities
- Critical Elements to Starting a Chapter
- Contact Information



# Society for Conservation Biology

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## Introduction

### Conservation Biology

- **Mission-oriented science** that focuses on ways to protect and restore biodiversity, or the diversity of life on Earth.
- The Society was formed to develop **sciences and techniques** for the protection, maintenance, and restoration of life.
- Operates regionally through over 20 Chapters worldwide.



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## **Introduction**

### **Greater Toronto Area**

- Financial and Cultural Centre of Canada
- Capital of Ontario
- On Lake Ontario, 2 hr from Buffalo, NY



## **Society for Conservation Biology** **Toronto Chapter**



### Toronto Chapter

- Provides a forum for exchange between conservation professionals, students and the public.
- Affiliated with University of Toronto.
- Created in April, 2004.



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## Our People

### Our Executive Board

- **Carissa Wong, President**
  - Program Officer, World Wildlife Fund
- **Susan Hall, Vice-President**
  - Consultant, Lura Consulting
- **Wendy Thomson, Conservation Chair**
  - Editor in Chief, ElectricGreen Environmental News



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### Past Executive

- Michelle Herzog, Conservation Chair
  - Manager, Gross Lab, University of Toronto
- Arthur Zastepa, Career Development Chair
  - University of Toronto

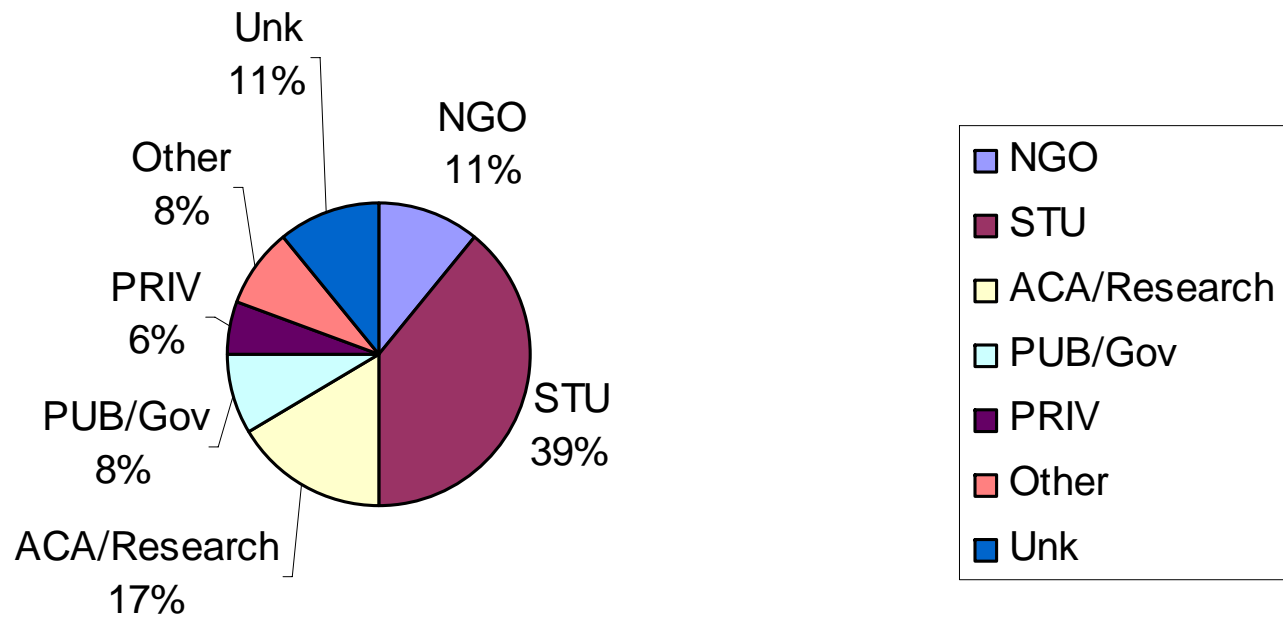


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## Our Members

Membership Break Down, July 2004







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## Our Mission

- Provide a live **forum for public awareness and continuity** in addressing regional conservation issues
- Advance **conservation literacy** and skills needed to conserve biodiversity
- Articulate **science-based public policy positions**



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### Our Activities

- Promote current conservation biology issues through our newsgroup
  - Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt Proposal
  - The Ontario Biodiversity Strategy
  - 'We Conserve' Initiative
- Backstage Zoo Tour with Director
- Annual Research Symposium



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# First Annual Research Symposium

*“Lessons and Successes  
for Biodiversity Conservation  
in the GTA and Southwestern Ontario”*

*Saturday, April 9th, 2005*



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# Critical Elements to Starting Chapter

- Identify a niche
- Be affiliated with a university
  - Students have the most time and energy
  - SCB is academic in nature
- Find the 'right' people
  - Dedicated: quality of volunteers, not quantity
  - Proactive: do what needs to be done



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### ‘Logistical’ Critical Elements

- Keep good recording system
- Watch finances; open bank account asap
- Find volunteer capacity via internships, coop placements
- Plan events well in advance
- Advertise activities: newsgroup, on campus, & throughout local enviro community



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### ‘Long Hall’ Critical Elements

- Connect with local enviro community
- Seek support of more experienced local NGOs, Chapters, and SCB Main
- Maintain regular communication with executive and members (even if just email updates)
- Be creative – have fun



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### Notes on Funding

- Volunteering has its rewards, but they are not financial!
- Symposium can earn money
- Don't be afraid to ask for corporate sponsorship – donated items
- Apply for grants
- Network – connections are critical



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### Contact Information

- Email: [scbtochapter@yahoo.com](mailto:scbtochapter@yahoo.com)
- Website:  
[www.zoo.utoronto.ca/scbto/SocietyforConservationBiology/index.htm](http://www.zoo.utoronto.ca/scbto/SocietyforConservationBiology/index.htm)
- Yahoo Group:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scbtochapter/>
- Parent Site: [www.conbio.org](http://www.conbio.org)





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Thank you !