

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH

Thursday, March 26, 2026

Market Hall Performing Arts
Centre, Peterborough



Trent Community
Research Centre

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 Provost's Welcome
- 4 Agenda
- 5 Project Descriptions
- 38 Note from TCRC Team
- 40 By The Numbers



WHAT IS COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH?

Community-based research brings together the knowledge and research needs of the community with the research expertise of Trent University faculty and students. Research questions come from a wide range of community groups and organizations including local municipalities, social service agencies, conservation authorities, private industry, and community interest groups.

Organizations submit project proposals to the Trent Community Research Centre (TCRC). Once projects have been reviewed by research staff, faculty and community experts, these opportunities are promoted to students and instructors. Centre staff work alongside faculty to support students in their work and help guide projects toward successful outcomes for both the local community and students.

The work involved and time commitment needed for project completion can vary greatly. Community-based research projects can be carried out as full or half-credit undergraduate courses, undergraduate or Master's thesis, major research paper, PhD dissertation, or as an assignment within a course. Projects can commence at the beginning of Fall, Winter, or Summer academic terms.

PROVOST'S WELCOME



Welcome to the 2026 Celebration of Community-Based Research!

Trent University has been supporting community-based research for over three decades. The Trent Community Research Centre has united Trent Students, Faculty, and Community Partners in the pursuit of knowledge, contributing to our region's continued social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being. Today's celebration acknowledges the outstanding work done through this year's collaborations.

Over the past year, the Trent Community Research Centre team has increased its presence and impact both on and off campus. Thanks to generous donor contributions and a partnership with the Business and Higher Education Roundtable (BHER), we have been able to support the completion of 70 community-based research (CBR) projects undertaken by over 180 students in collaboration with 41 community organizations, and 28 faculty across 17 programs.

In addition, we are pleased that our community-service learning (CSL) program has continued to grow, which sees undergraduate students volunteering in the community as part of their studies. Throughout the year, 514 students volunteered to support the work of 21 organizations from 9 courses supported by 7 faculty.

Our dynamic CBR and CSL programming through the Trent Community Research Centre, allow students to apply their academic learning in the context of a professional setting, while helping students gain practical experience and expand their professional network. These experiences prepare emerging Trent graduates for future careers while supporting community development.

Thank you to everyone for joining this year's celebration, and congratulations to all the students who completed research projects this year. Most of all, thank you to the community partners who provide these opportunities, and to the faculty who dedicate their time to mentorship for students in community-based research projects. These opportunities would not be possible without your commitment.

Mark Skinner

Dr. Mark Skinner
Provost & Vice President Academic

TODAY'S AGENDA

12:00 p.m. Research Poster Showcase

2:00 p.m. Welcome Remarks

2:15 p.m. Student Presentation & Final Awards

Presenters:

1. Esme Batchelor, #6436 – *“Oh, SNAP, so that’s how turtles survive the winter!”: Overwintering habitat requirements of Snapping Turtles*
2. Rio Flanagan, #6418 – *Exploring the Transition from a Harm-Reduction to a Treatment Model of Support in Ontario*
3. Stephen He, #6487 – *Understanding the Biological Mechanisms and Neuroscience of Neural Network Therapy’s Portable Pharmacy*
4. Emma Brouwer, #6412 – *Investigating the Role of Paramedicine in Sepsis Care*
5. Ellianna Wilson, #6427 – *Sexual Violence Prevention and Response: International and Domestic Student Perspectives*
6. Anna Hykawy, #6316 – *Behind the Helping Hand: Addressing Barriers to Volunteerism in Peterborough*

Award presentations

Provost Award for Academic Achievement

Community Impact Award

Growth Impact Award

Award for Community Commitment to Student Learning

Award for Faculty Leadership in Community-Based Research

Award for Commitment to Professional Learning and Partnership

Award for Innovative Poster Presentation

Award for Innovative Oral Presentation

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



#6411: Short Term Rental Business, Licensing— Community Impact and Benefit

City of Kawartha Lakes

The City of Kawartha Lakes regulates Short-Term Rentals (STRs), which are properties rented for 28 days or less, benefiting tourism, businesses, and providing affordable housing. However, communities worry about potential disruptions to neighbourhood dynamics. This project assesses if the benefits of STRs outweigh the drawbacks for community support.

Student Researcher: Caleb Khan

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Karen Pinto

#6287: Vendalite – Communicating the Carbon Impact of Devotional Candles



This project examined the carbon output associated with traditional petroleum-based devotional candles used in churches. Research findings were used to develop clear, accessible messaging highlighting the environmental differences between traditional and electronic candles.

Student Researcher: Tanvir Chowdhury

Faculty Supervisor: Rob Elkington

BIOLOGY

#6405: Perception and knowledge of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine among post-secondary students 18-30 years of age in the Peterborough and Kawartha Lakes region of Ontario.



Immunize Canada

This project explores the knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of post-secondary students aged 18 to 30 regarding HPV and the HPV vaccine to better understand local awareness and barriers to vaccination.

Student Researcher: Natalya Blanchard

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Kirk Hillsley

#6412: Strategies for Implementing Sepsis Guidelines within Paramedic Services



Dalhousie Department of Emergency Medicine, Division of Emergency Medical Services

This project reanalyzes existing transcripts with specific attention to the facilitators and barriers to implementing the surviving sepsis guidelines within Paramedic Services. This research will inform EMS organizations about promising practices to improve sepsis care.

Student Researcher: Emma Brouwer

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Amy Greer

#6423: Soil Health Analysis for Growing a Permaculture Food Forest



True Peace Toronto

The goal of this project is to analyze the nutrient content in the soil of True Peace Toronto's food forest. This project determines if nutrient deficiencies are the cause of the lack of productivity seen in fruit trees on the property, informing a plan for soil amendment to grow and produce better food and medicine.

Student Researcher: Shreema Satra

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Karen Thompson

#6279: Angler Harvest and Baseflow Effects on Brown Trout in Baxter Creek (MPFRA)



Freshwater Conservation Canada

This project assesses how recreational angling influences Brown Trout in the Zion Line reach of Baxter Creek within the Millbrook Provincial Fishing and Recreation Area (MPFRA) and whether interannual baseflow helps explain variation in Brown Trout abundance. All analyses will be delivered through a reproducible Snakemake + Docker data pipeline and summarized in a stakeholder-oriented interactive dashboard.

Student Researcher: Liam Atwood

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Quazi Rahman

#6488: Assessing the Accessibility of the Peterborough Transit Website



City of Peterborough

This project evaluates the accessibility and usability of the Peterborough Transit website for users with diverse abilities, focusing on everyday tasks such as trip planning and accessing service updates. The project identifies barriers and develops practical recommendations to improve access to public transit information.

Student Researchers: Tahsin Maklai, Tamanna Chauhan

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Alaa Alslaity

#6315: Le Voyageur Outdoor Products – Biological Assessments to Support the Need for a New Improved Insect Protection Garment



Le Voyageur Outdoor Products

Le Voyageur Outdoor Products has designed and manufactured a new, unique and highly effective insect protection garment called “The Tick Suit”. This project focuses on the collection of biological facts, such as tick, mosquito and blackfly anatomy and how their physical strengths and weaknesses can be countered and controlled by the features of the tick suit.

Student Researchers: Ellise Morgan, Emily Deck, Jack Bell, Kylie Moore

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Eric Sager

#6386: Understanding and Addressing Illegal Dumping: A Case Study of Ashburnham Memorial Park



Clean UP Peterborough & Ashburnham Memorial Stewardship Group

The purpose of this project is to understand the psychological and social factors that contribute to illegal dumping in small towns, using Ashburnham Memorial Park as a case study. By examining why individuals engage in this behaviour and exploring effective strategies used elsewhere to reduce illegal dumping, the project identifies practical, community-based solutions.

Student Researcher: Meghan Elliott

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Stephen Hill

#6431: Designing Landscapes for Water and Wildlife



Otonabee College

This project supports an ecological design initiative focused on enhancing biodiversity and managing seasonal water flow in a naturalized space on campus. Existing topographic features of the area were mapped to inform landscaping recommendations that support controlled seasonal flooding and create conditions that attract and sustain a diversity of native plant and animal species. The outcomes of the project will be used to guide future activities and updates in the study area, ensuring ongoing ecological improvement and habitat management.

Student Researcher: Natalie Caines

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Autumn Watkinson

#6436: Assessing Critical Wetland Needs for Overwintering Success for Snapping Turtles



The Land Between

This project assesses wetlands in Ontario's Highlands to determine their role in supporting the overwintering needs of snapping turtles, a species at risk. The project quantifies wetland basin availability on average across various "districts" and then evaluates their suitability for overwintering through remote sensing, to understand the average number of potential sites if adaptation to new areas is required due to wetland losses. The results provide critical insight into habitat requirements, and guide land-use planning, as well as policies to protect overwintering habitats.

Student Researcher: Esme Batchelor

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Tom Whillans

#6437: Trends in Turtle Populations in Ontario's Highlands



The Land Between

This project analyzes seven years of community-science turtle data collected by The Land Between and Turtle Guardians volunteers to assess population characteristics, age and sex ratios, and species trends along roadways in Ontario's Highlands. Over 4,000 observations, including environmental variables and road use patterns, were used to identify mortality hotspots and inform conservation priorities. Results will guide road management decisions, support mitigation strategies such as ecopassages, and provide practical insights to reduce turtle mortality while safeguarding species at risk.

Student Researcher: Karmin McDonald

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Tom Whillans

#6450: Temperate Forest Carbon Compass: Literature Review for Measurement and Practice



Trent University Sustainability Office

This project explores the vital role of forests in mitigating climate change. Research focused on surveying literature related to carbon storage and sequestration in temperate forests, including soil carbon dynamics and monitoring techniques. These findings inform future landscape management efforts, providing valuable experience in environmental research and policy.

Student Researchers: Keirah Thompson, Sarah Kilby

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Eric Sager



#6451: From Soil to Policy: Agricultural Carbon Sequestration and Accounting in Practice

Trent University Sustainability Office

This project focused on advancing sustainable agriculture and climate solutions. Carbon sequestration in cultivated soils, with an emphasis on regenerative and low-tillage practices, and exploration of the evolving science behind agricultural carbon accounting were researched. In-depth literature review on how farmland ecosystems store and reduce greenhouse gases, and how these benefits are measured was conducted. These findings will inform future landscape management at Trent, contributing to broader efforts to reduce carbon impacts.

*Student Researchers: Adam Wright, Kayla Homer
Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Eric Sager*

#6454: Beyond the Bin: Exploring Waste Diversion Strategies to Inform Opportunities in Selwyn Township



Township of Selwyn

Through the completion of a waste audit, Selwyn Township has identified several categories of waste that are not currently being diverted from landfill. This includes items like bulky plastics, textiles, carpet, and some construction and demolition waste. This project investigates best practices and opportunities that exist for municipalities to divert and recycle these materials.

*Student Researchers: Alexander Cunha, Lingbo Meng
Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Eric Sager*



#6457: An Assessment of the Stewardship Options for the Needler’s Mill Lands and former Community Arena in Millbrook, Township of Cavan-Monaghan

Township of Cavan-Monaghan

For the benefit of community residents and Council, this project provides “in perpetuity” stewardship options for the transformation of Millbrook’s historic Needler’s Mill area into a multi-use municipal park tentatively named Needler’s Common Town Square. Using case studies from Canada and the U.S., this project examines models of urban park stewardship led by not-for-profit groups.

Student Researchers: Amber Hurst, Jaden Hearn

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Eric Sager



#6458: Building the Foundation: Identifying Best Practices in Municipal Ecosystem Valuation

City of Peterborough

This project lays the foundation for the City of Peterborough’s wetland and waterways valuations, identifying municipal leaders across Canada and best practices for the valuation of wetlands and waterways. This includes current approaches and considerations for assessing the value of wetlands and waterways, with consideration of the costs needed to retain ecosystem function through the restoration of existing features and/or the creation of alternative features.

Student Researchers: Ben Rose, Owen Caron

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Eric Sager

#6461: Restoring Resilience – Growing Goodrich-Loomis



Lower Trent Conservation

This project determines what initial steps need to be taken by Lower Trent Conservation (LTC) to develop a solid plan to restore tallgrass prairie at Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area. Research included the planning, preparation, and public outreach components necessary for safe and successful prescribed burn operations.

Student Researchers: Cooper Pelchat, Grace Boyle, Solenne Bedard

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Eric Sager

#6469: Micro-recycling and Community Makerspaces: Assessing Feasibility and Circular Economy Opportunities for Peterborough



Clean Up Peterborough

This project examines the feasibility, benefits, and community opportunities associated with developing a micro-recycling hub and complementary makerspace on hard-to-recycle plastics in Peterborough. Best practices from across Canada and internationally were explored, assessing environmental and economic opportunities, and identifying how community-scale recycling and makerspaces can support circular economy goals. Findings support future planning, community engagement, and potential funding applications for Clean Up Peterborough as it expands its circular economy programming.

Student Researchers: Eryn Kostash, Myah Sandiland

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Eric Sager

#6470: Community Farmland Governance



Farms at Work

This project is an environmental scan of community farmland projects that provides baseline information needed by Farms at Work, a local agricultural charity. It will help to inform work in developing one or more Community Farms in the Peterborough region with the goal of improving access by new farmers to farmland, shared infrastructure and supportive educational opportunities.

*Student Researchers: Abbey Laurin, Katherine Gibson
Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Eric Sager*

#6473: How Winter Climate Change Shapes Lake Trout Survival



North Hastings Community Fish Hatchery

In this project, students examine how climate-driven changes in ice cover duration and winter water temperatures affect lake trout fry hatching, early feeding success, and survival, with particular attention to delayed spring productivity, oxygen stress, and shortened first growing seasons. Using the literature, students assessed whether altered ice and temperature regimes may be contributing to increased fry mortality in Hastings County and whether restoration interventions are warranted.

*Student Researchers: Abbey Dubecki, Evan Miller,
Laura-Jade Cohan, Mary Middleton
Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Eric Sager*



Land'escapes

#6476: Assessing Forage Fish Biodiversity

Land'escapes

Over the past two years, Land'escapes has collected survey data on forage fish populations around the park, but the data has not yet been fully utilized. This project examines this dataset to identify species composition, assess habitat suitability, and develop recommendations for habitat improvements. Additionally, the project includes refining survey protocols and suggesting enhancements for future monitoring efforts.

Student Researchers: Aubrey Urbshott, Samuel Matukas

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Eric Sager



Land'escapes

#6477: Assessing Dissolved Oxygen as a Predictor of Aquatic Biodiversity

Land'escapes

Over the past two to three years, Land'escapes collected monthly dissolved oxygen data from six target lakes within the park, and we want to understand what this data reveals about lake conditions and the species they could potentially support. Currently, these lakes are dominated by thriving bass populations, with little diversity, likely influenced by decades of questionable stocking practices. This project explores whether these lakes were historically suited for a more diverse fish community or if bass dominance is a natural outcome.

Student Researchers: Elijah Luxbacher, Jade Holman

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Eric Sager

#6478: Understanding Rodenticide Use, Risk Perception, and Attitudes Toward Rodents and Wildlife in Ontario



Defend Them All

In partnership with Rodenticide Free Ontario, this project examines rodent management practices in Ontario, public understanding of rodenticide risks, and interest in humane, non-toxic, prevention-first alternatives. The study also explores attitudes toward rodents and levels of concern for non-target species such as companion animals and wildlife, including birds of prey. Findings inform public education, advocacy, and evidence-based outreach.

Student Researchers: Adelaide Quinn, Isabelle Mullen, Karmin McDonald

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Eric Sager

#6481: BrightField Spots in the City: Case Studies and Local Feasibility for a Solar Farm within Peterborough



4RG

This project explores how inner-city solar farms have been successfully developed in other communities, examining their impacts, success stories, and key lessons learned. Existing barriers to urban solar development were identified and analysis was completed as to what would be required to establish a similar project in Peterborough. This work involved developing case studies and exploring local policies, informing a possible future CBR project including interviews with key stakeholders.

Student Researchers: Brianne Rutherford, Ethan Pelletier, Nathan Gillespie

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Eric Sager

#6482: Job Transition and the Shift Off Fossil Fuels

The Energy Mix

This project focuses on the transition from jobs in fossil fuel-related industries to clean energy, specifically: the impact of job losses on communities, and the current skills development landscape for clean energy careers. The project compiles quantitative and qualitative data using research and community engagement methods, including policy and media reviews, data analysis, and community surveys. This project provides a unique opportunity to explore a key piece of Canada's economic and social transition to clean energy.

Student Researchers: Bronwyn Godden, Nira Uthayasangar, Shantacia Swaby, Vedanth Devadiga
Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Eric Sager



**#6310, 6500-6509: Green Communities Canada
– Best Practices for Engaging and Enabling
Community Stewardship for Green Infrastructure
Projects**



Since 2021, Green Communities Canada (GCC) has worked with over 30 community organizations across the country to advance green infrastructure projects. Students studying *Qualitative Methods in Geography and Environmental Studies* (GEOG 2510H) worked together to identify best practices for stewardship activities, including volunteer engagement, and monitoring and maintenance of green infrastructure sites promoting long-term sustainability.

Student Researchers:

6500: *Kaylina Bouwers, Liam Cumming, Alex Greer, Malaika Macoun, Keira Ritter, Heidi Springer*

6501: *Abby Stinson, Ebb Eynon, Shantal Howell, Dakota De Genova, Bradley McCutcheon*

6502/6504: *Alexandra Blakeney, Oliver Parratt, Juliane Deurbrouck, Jude Candfield, Peyton Greenwood, Riley MacLean, Sam Joseph, Sienna Spence*

6503: *Morgan Drew, Natasha Hall, Christine Chen, Alyssa Dicks, Breann McMurray, Andre Lazeron*

6506: *Zoe Aikman, Erin Doyle, Alex Fois, Denver Haycock, Adria Mcauley, Austin Burgess, Shayla Degraaff, MacEy Hopkins, Trinity Howden, Olaoluwa Oyekunle*

6508: *Vedanth Devadiga, Tyler McDonald, Olivia Di Maio, Levi Gaboury, Tanner Potts, Dallyn Rai*

6509: *Maya Atkinson, Thanaa Lakehal, Kaylee Truax, Sebastien Kriekle, Nina Sadlik*

6310: *Kendra Delaney, Brianna Dixon, Ava Patten, Isabelle Sturm, Jacob Keogh, Kara Boychuck*

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Tapan Dhar



#6491: The Effect of Nature Connectedness, Awe, and Mental Health on Pro-environmental Behaviour (PEB)

Trent University Sustainability Office

This project aims to improve understanding of the factors that promote pro-environmental behaviour (PEB). It includes a literature review examining the relationship between nature connectedness, awe, and mental health, and how these elements interact to encourage PEB. The findings have implications for shaping behaviours that support sustainability, conservation of green spaces, and climate change mitigation.

Student Researcher: Colin Doyle

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Stephanie Rutherford

6516, 6517, 6518: Investigating Food Insecurity Among Marginalized Students at Trent University

Trent University

Students are exploring barriers to food security for International and Indigenous students at Trent University through interviews and analysis of pre-existing data. Further, recommendations will be made based on best-practices used in other Canadian post-secondary institutions.

Student Researchers:

6516: late Kenereh, Sisi Velasquez, Stephanie Wiatr, Kenneth Korash, Sarah Adjei, Julia McGillis

6517: Brandon Eby, Mutsa Danzvara, Jonathan Naylor, Vanessa Clarke, Zachary Boven, Michael Eckert

6518: Carwyn Holland, Cinthia Hernandez, Kevin Asihene, Mikayla Smith

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Tapan Dhar



FORENSIC SCIENCE

#6399: Exploring the Viability of a Cash-First Food Bank Model in Kawartha Lakes

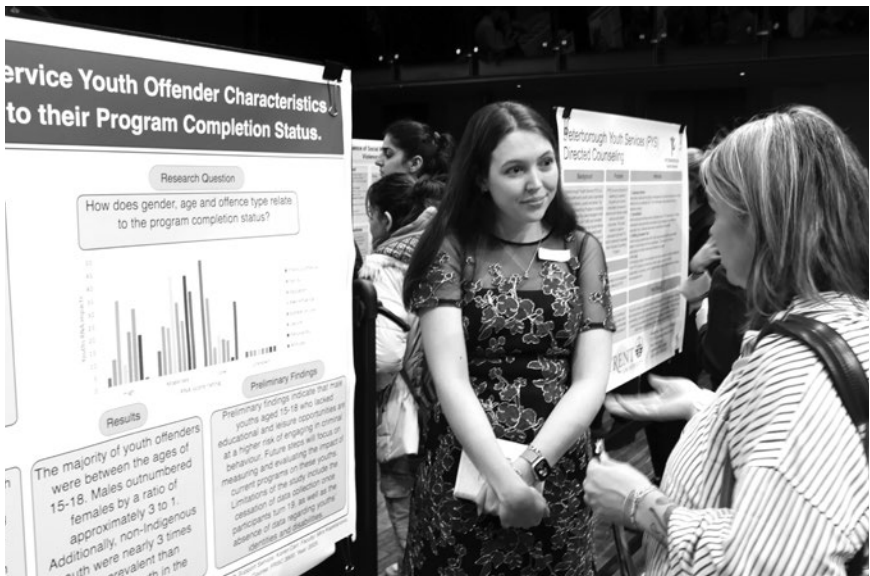


Kawartha Lakes Food Source

This project examines the shift in some regions, such as Canada's West Coast, from non-perishable food donations to cash contributions for food banks. It assesses whether a cash-first model – designed to improve access to healthier food – could work in the City of Kawartha Lakes. The study analyzes local donation patterns, operational capacity, and community attitudes to identify needed infrastructure, outreach, and policy changes.

Student Researcher: Caity McConnell

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Mira Kapetanovic





#6402: Deterring Sexual Crimes

Elizabeth Fry Society

Deterring sexual crimes requires a multifaceted approach, yet few community programs support individuals experiencing harmful sexual thoughts or urges. This project addresses that gap through a literature review of prevention models, risk factors, and recidivism, and interviews with service providers. Findings inform developing an online psychoeducational program to help individuals better understand and manage underlying psychological drivers.

Student Researcher: Emily Haefling

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Mira Kapetanovic

#6404: “Why NOT Policing”? Understanding Barriers to Recruitment of Service-Driven Youth



Barrie Police Service

Despite the continued need for community-minded individuals in policing, many young people drawn to helping professions such as social work, nursing, or mental health are choosing careers outside law enforcement. This project explores why service-oriented youth are not considering policing as a career path. It examines perceptions, misperceptions, and structural barriers to inform data-driven recruitment strategies.

Student Researcher: Matthew Makaroff

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Mira Kapetanovic

#6417: Addressing Stigma: Barriers to Housing and Re-entry for Justice-Involved Individuals



Human Service and Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC)

This project explores how stigma related to housing insecurity and interactions with the justice system affects individuals' ability to access stable housing and reintegrate into the community. It identifies key sources of stigma from landlords, employers, service providers, and the public to inform practical reintegration initiatives in the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge (HKPR) region and identify evidence-based resources to reduce barriers and identify practical reintegration initiatives.

Student Researcher: Kayla Cira

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Mira Kapetanovic

#6418: Shifting Models of Support – Exploring the Transition from CTS to HART in HKPR



Human Service and Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC)

This project examines perceptions of Ontario's shift from Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) to the Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub model. Through interviews and surveys with service providers, it explores anticipated benefits, challenges, and service impacts. The study compares harm-reduction approaches and evaluates access gaps in the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge (HKPR) region, offering recommendations to improve support models for community wellbeing.

Student Researcher: Rio Flanagan

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Mira Kapetanovic

#6419: A Regional and National Review of Alternatives to Criminal Charges



Human Service and Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC)

This project explores the growing use of Pre-Charge Diversion and police-led aversion practices as alternatives to traditional legal processes. Focusing on the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge (HKPR) region, it examines how officers determine diversion suitability and design restorative outcomes. The study reviews diversion models across Canada to identify best practices that promote community safety, reduce recidivism, and support vulnerable populations.

Student Researcher: Rylin Wormington

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Mira Kapetanovic

#6420: Developing an Evaluation Framework for the Outreach LINK Program



One City Peterborough

The Outreach LINK program provides case management and peer-led support to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Peterborough, focusing on those underserved by existing services. This project supports the development of an evaluation framework to assess program effectiveness. Working with staff and clients, it identifies meaningful outcomes, evaluation tools, and key performance indicators to guide future program evaluation.

Student Researcher: Abby Auger

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Mira Kapetanovic

#6425: Neurodivergence in the Criminal Legal System



John Howard Society of Ontario

This project examines how ADHD, autism, and other forms of neurodivergence intersect with involvement in the criminal legal system, focusing on pathways to incarceration and barriers to equitable treatment. The goal is to inform policy and practice that promote fair treatment, reduce recidivism, and better support individuals with neurodivergence.

Student Researcher: Alex Hanlan

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Mira Kapetanovic

#6426: Acquired & Traumatic Brain Injury in the Criminal Legal System



John Howard Society of Ontario

This project explores intersections between acquired brain injury (ABI), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and involvement in the criminal legal system. It examines how cognitive and behavioural effects contribute to justice system contact. The study identifies gaps in supports, informs policy development, and promotes rehabilitative approaches to reduce incarceration and improve outcomes for individuals with brain injuries.

Student Researcher: Kayley Thomas

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Mira Kapetanovic



#6427: Sexual Violence Prevention and Response: International and Domestic Student Perspectives

Consent at Trent

This project builds on a previous community-based research project exploring student perceptions of sexual and gender-based violence in pop culture, social media, and social norms. It examines differences between international and domestic post-secondary students, identifying gaps in understanding and support systems to improve education, prevention, and awareness within diverse student communities.

Student Researcher: Ellianna Wilson

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Mira Kapetanovic

GEOGRAPHY



#6515: Street-Level Urbanism - Heritage, Decay, and Public Space on Simcoe Street

City of Peterborough

This project examines how urban planning, heritage preservation, and building conditions shape public space along Simcoe Street in downtown Peterborough. Through field observations, photography, and a review of planning documents completed in partnership with the City of Peterborough, the project compares policy intentions with the current streetscape. It is one of several community-based research (CBR) projects completed in partnership with Lindsay Stroud (Transportation Demand Management Planner, City of Peterborough) as part of Urban and Regional Planning (GEOG 3711) with Prof. Roger Picton.

Student Researcher: Keegan Quart

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Roger Picton

#6381: Understanding Barriers to Healthcare Access for Immigrants, Refugees and other Newcomers in Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton and Their Impact on Health Outcomes



Kawartha Lakes Haliburton
Ontario Health Team

Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Ontario Health Team

As part of our equity mandate, KLH OHT sought to better understand the experiences and health trajectories of immigrants, refugees, and newcomers in our rural region. This project aims to explore those barriers and their impact on health outcomes.

Student Researcher: Success Odia

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Ellen Buck-McFadyen

#6398: Understanding Food Bank Demand and Supply Trends in Kawartha Lakes



Kawartha Lakes Food Source

This project analyzes data from Kawartha Lakes Food Source (KLFS) to inform future initiatives, fundraising, and advocacy efforts, as well as support strategic planning for the organization's growth and sustainability. The study examines trends in food bank demand and donations in the City of Kawartha Lakes, highlighting the unique challenges rural food banks face, including limited access to large corporate donors. Findings provide evidence-based insights to guide resource planning, fundraising, and advocacy to better support food-insecure residents in the region.

Student Researcher: Stevie Lanigan

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Kelly McGuire & Dr. May Chazan

HISTORY

#6446: Remembering British Home Children in Manvers Township



Manvers Historical Society

Between the 1860s and 1930s, more than 100,000 British children were sent to Canada by organizations such as Barnardo's, Fegan Homes, and Middlemore Homes. This research examines British Home Children placed in Manvers Township, now part of City of Kawartha Lakes, using archival census, ship, and home records to verify children's identities and histories.

Student Researchers: Alyssa Dormiedy, Bobby Muir, Piper Glenn

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Chris Dummitt



#6359: Understanding Job Satisfaction Among Child Care Educators Throughout Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton



City of Kawartha Lakes

The purpose of this study is to gain a deeper understanding of job satisfaction among child care educators working in licenced child care centers within the City of Kawartha Lakes and County of Haliburton. The results of this study will assist the City of Kawartha Lakes Children's Services department in developing solutions and strategies aimed at building and strengthening the local child care and early years workforce.

Student Researcher: Sonya Hill

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Naomi Nichols

MATH

#6487: A Comparative Analysis of Neural Network Therapy

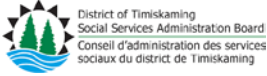


Canadian Family Health Counselling

This project focuses on the Portable Pharmacy exercise within Neural Network Therapy®, exploring how guided nutritional education may support mental health and well-being. It examines how food choices may influence neurotransmitter regulation and symptom management, emphasizing community health engagement. The study reviews existing research and data to evaluate the exercise's potential therapeutic contribution.

Student Researcher: Stephen He

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. David Reigert



#6439-6441 & 6498: Improving Paramedic Service Delivery Through KPI Tracking

District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board (DTSSAB)

Improving Paramedic Service Delivery Through KPI Tracking at the District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board (DTSSAB) these projects aimed to improve evidence-informed decision-making by leveraging data and analytics to enhance the delivery of paramedic services in the district. The work helped identify gaps in current data and guided the development of tools to support more effective decisions. A key goal was to examine how other small paramedic services track a range of key performance indicators (KPIs) and to draw insights for improving local KPI tracking practices.

Student Researchers:

6439: Ali Ahad Mansur, Michael Acquah, Mohammed Mubarik, Nurea Meherin, Obakore Obukohwo

6440: Pedro Marin, Rizwana Ferdous, Shiru Fan, Swakhar Ghosh, Yan Wang

6441: Adenike Logo, Hemanth Prakash Gnanaprakasam, Irene Gorni, Talal Shakeel, Tien Tieu

6498: Layee Kamara, Yuqin Ye

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Rob Elkington

MEDIA STUDIES



#6314: Le Voyageur Outdoor Products – Market Analysis of a New Insect Protection Garment

Le Voyageur Outdoor Products

Le Voyageur has designed and manufactured a new, unique and highly effective insect protection garment called “The Tick Suit”. This project features comprehensive market analysis of the potential marketability of this suit to assist the inventor and his manufacturing team in determining the best path moving forward for website design, and advertisement to specific target corporations, universities, militaries, government bodies etc.

Student Researchers: Israel Orukpe, Farzana Laila, Nyeeb Imtiaj

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Rob Elkington

POLICING & COMMUNITY WELLBEING

#6453: Understanding Youth Drug Use: A Literature review of consumption methods and supervised services



Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy

This project is a literature review examining youth drug use, with a focus on preferred consumption methods and supervised consumption services. It explores barriers young people face in accessing harm reduction supports. The study addresses gaps in youth-specific harm reduction knowledge to inform policy and improve services for young people.

Student Researchers: Jeevika Selvakumar, Kaleb Solomon, Mishaal Walji, Olivia Stone, Tesfaya Kameka

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Nick Cristiano



#6475: Migratory Homelessness Literature Review

Back Door Mission

It is well understood that some individuals experiencing homelessness migrate between geographic areas, services, and cities. However, the extent and reasons for this movement are not well quantified. This project is based on a literature review of migratory homelessness, focusing on prevalence, frequency, and underlying factors driving mobility patterns among people experiencing homelessness.

Student Researchers: Aidan Booker, Gerald Manansala, Hope Carrol, Sarah Hickey

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Nick Cristiano

POLITICAL STUDIES

#6460: Engaging Young Voters: A Literature Review on Youth Electoral Participation in City of Peterborough

City of Peterborough

This project reviews research on youth voter turnout in Canada to understand the participation gap among younger voters. Turnout among ages 18–24 is significantly lower than older groups, with possible declining trends. The study identifies evidence-based strategies to increase youth participation in the October 26, 2026 municipal election, supporting local governments, educators, and community organizations.

Student Researcher: Jonathan Forbes

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Devin Penner

PHILOSOPHY



#6403: Identification and Dissemination of Research-Engaged Teaching Materials in Support of SIM-Related International Education

Trent School of Business

This project identifies teaching resources (videos, activities, demonstrations, guides) relevant for the teaching of social issues in business and management. This includes teaching in the following areas: individual ethical decision-making; leadership ethics; ethics in corporate governance; organizational level ethics; ethics of capitalism(s); and sustainability and regenerative business. The work will be disseminated to professors of business and management in business schools around the world.

Student Researcher: Kasonde Mutale

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Sheldene Simola

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

#6396: Supporting Farmland Access in the Kawarthas



Kawartha Land Trust

This project gauges the perspectives and interests of agricultural landowners in alternative land tenure models in the Peterborough and Kawartha Lakes Region. The following were explored: perceptions of risks and challenges to farmland affordability, anticipated changes to the rural landscape, and reactions to a proposed alternative land tenure model. As well, the values-based conditions under which landowners would be willing to participate in such a model were examined

Student Researcher: Erika Inglis

Faculty Supervisors: Dr. Karen Thompson & Dr. Daniel Amoak

#6283: Peterborough Youth Services (PYS) Community Support Team (CST) Program Evaluation



Peterborough Youth Services

Over the past 3 years, many of the Peterborough Youth Services (PYS) Child Youth Mental Health (CYMH) programs, services and processes have undergone comprehensive program reviews resulting in the introduction of new services and interventions, greater clarity of language and process definitions, program/ service descriptions, as well as other new tools. This project evaluates the Community Support Team (CST) program, which provides community-based services to moderate to high-risk youth.

Student Researcher: Abigail Moffatt

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Beth Torrens

#6316: Addressing Barriers to Volunteerism in Peterborough



Volunteer Peterborough

Volunteer Peterborough aims to bring together dedicated community members and organizations seeking volunteer supports. To better attract and serve both volunteers and organizations, a greater understanding of why people do, or do not, volunteer was required. This project helped identify barriers that may deter or prevent someone from volunteering, as well as identifying possible solutions to alleviate barriers.

Student Researcher: Anna Hykawy

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Deborah White



Peterborough Domestic Abuse Network
Working Together to Promote Healthy Relationships

#6430: Public Opinion Survey on Domestic Violence

Peterborough Domestic Abuse Network (PDAN)

This project addresses Recommendation 24 from the Renfrew Coroner's Inquest by conducting an annual public opinion survey within Peterborough City and County. The survey gathered demographic information, including residence location, and used standardized questions to assess public attitudes toward domestic violence/intimate partner violence. The findings will inform the revision and strengthening of public education materials, incorporating feedback from communities, experts, and international best practices

Student Researcher: Cloie Hanlon

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Stephanie Ehret



AWARDS

Award for Innovative Poster Presentation

Presented to the student(s) who have demonstrated highly effective communication and presentation skills in the design of their research poster. Judges looked for high standards of design and information presentation, effective and imaginative use of space, and communication of research process and results.

Award for Innovative Oral Presentation

Presented to the student(s) who have demonstrated highly effective communication and presentation skills in the design of their oral presentation. Judges looked for high standards of design and information presentation, effective and imaginative use of space, and communication of research process and results.

Provost Award for Academic Achievement

Awarded to the project that best demonstrates rigorous community-based research practices to produce results of particularly high academic merit.

Community Impact Award

Presented to the project that shows clear engagement with community needs and interests and illustrates the principles of a community-first approach to research work, creating the potential for significant impact within the community.

Growth Impact Award

Presented to a Faculty Supervisor whose commitment to Community-Based Research and/or Community-Service Learning contributed to expansions of the program, new opportunities for students, and higher capacity for community partnerships. Their collaborations with the Trent Community Research Centre exemplify responsiveness to community interests, student achievement, and expansion of personal and professional horizons.

Award for Community Commitment to Student Learning

Presented to a community partner for their commitment to meaningful student learning and their support in bringing academic studies to life.

Award for Faculty Leadership in Community-Based Research

Presented to a Faculty Supervisor who has demonstrated a commitment to Community-Based Research and the support of student achievement.

Award for Commitment to Professional Learning and Partnership

Presented to a student (or group of students) who exemplified dedication, creative thinking and problem-solving, and professionalism throughout the completion of their Community-Based Research project, helping to strengthen partnerships within and outside of the University.



Award Recipients from the 2024 Celebration of Research

A NOTE FROM THE TCRC TEAM



Ryan Sisson, Manager
Community + Workplace
Partnerships

As another academic year nears its close, our team is honoured to reflect on the year's collaborations and the immense impact that community-based research partnerships have had in our community. We are all grateful for the opportunity to foster connections between the organizations doing amazing work in our communities and the dedicated students and faculty who harness their expertise to support capacity and innovation. This work would not be possible without the contributions of our many supporters.



Brittany Finigan, Project
Coordinator

To our students, thank you for your commitment, your passion, and your willingness to try something new. Having worked closely with you throughout the year, we are always inspired by your creativity, determination, and willingness to learn. As you look to the future, we all wish you success and happiness in whatever you pursue.



Malaura Lucas, Project
Coordinator

To our community partners, thank you for your trust, patience, and flexibility. In collaborating through community-based research, you place faith in a partnership that allows you to expand your impact while offering students a unique professional opportunity. We hope that these partnerships have yielded valuable insights and meaningful solutions that will support your work. We look forward to many more future collaborations.



Sarah Khaki, Project
Coordinator

To our faculty supervisors, thank you for your time, expertise, and commitment to student success and community development. This program would not be possible without you. We are grateful for your guidance and look forward to continuing our relationships in the future.

Finally, thank you to the Trent University leaders who make this important work possible, and who have allowed us to grow our team, projects, and partnerships.



Matthew Walmsley,
Project Coordinator

Once again, thank you all for your unwavering support for the TCRC. Your belief in our mission fuels our determination to make a positive impact on our communities. We are profoundly grateful for your partnership and look forward to the journey ahead, knowing that together, we can achieve great things.



Carolyn Mount, Project
Coordinator

The TCRC Team



*For Community-Based Research,
this year we worked with...*

41 host organizations | completing **70**
community-based
research projects

by **180**
students

across **17**
programs

supported by **28**
faculty

*This year we offered Community-Service
Learning opportunities to...*

514
students

across **9**
courses

supported by **7**
faculty

with **21** organizations



Scan for more
information