



E N H A N C I N G



N I A G A R A



N A T U R A L L Y



Annual Report

2010-2011



LAND CARE NIAGARA

*People working together to advance
stewardship on private land.*

A program of the Niagara Community Land Stewardship Council

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Stewardship Council of Land Care Niagara (LCN), I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2010-2011. LCN is a non-profit community based organization that provides information and natural resource stewardship services to the citizens of Niagara. By working together with property owners and our community partners we enhance and improve Niagara's natural environment through educational outreach, training initiatives and on the ground resource stewardship initiatives.

As you read this year's annual report you realize core programs such as the Niagara Natural Heritage Ecological tree planting program and the volunteer based Eco-Inclusion program continue to reflect the LCN vision of "creating a healthy and sustainable rural and urban environment, consisting of citizens who are knowledgeable and active in land resource management". Under these two programs, over 1.2 million native trees and other native plants have been planted on over 1300 acres of land since its inception 13 years ago.

We have also continued with Re-Leaf Niagara, a program to mitigate climate change through increasing our urban canopy. This year we moved our office to be located at our Re-Leaf Nursery site. LCN continues to respond to the challenge of protecting and enhancing habitat of species that are threatened or endangered by increasing our involvement yearly with local, provincial and federal species at risk partners.

It is through the generous support of our funding partners, including the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment Canada, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Trees Ontario, Regional Municipality of Niagara, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and private donors to name a few, that we continue to be able to take great strides in enhancing Niagara's natural environment.

I sincerely thank our dedicated staff and volunteer members of the LCN Council for their active participation. I anticipate that next year will add to our successes and be another successful year for LCN and our partners as we together continue to "enhance Niagara naturally".

Sincerely,

Graeme Ross
Chair



LAND CARE NIAGARA

*People working together to advance
stewardship on Niagara's landscape*

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LAND CARE NIAGARA

WHO WE ARE & LEADERSHIP

Land Care Niagara (LCN) is committed to creating a healthy and sustainable rural and urban environment, consisting of citizens who are knowledgeable and active in natural resource management.

LCN consists of a Stewardship Council of community volunteers in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources – Ontario Stewardship. These volunteers direct a program that reflects the diverse values the citizens of Niagara place on their environment. Niagara is one of 46 communities across Ontario to have such a program.

The following people served on the Stewardship council in the past year:

Graeme Ross (Chair)
Farmer and Business Consultant

Sheryl Stewart (Director)
Marketing Consultant

Brad Clements (Director)
Birder and retired YMCA CEO

Jane Hanlon
Executive Director for Climate Action Niagara

Jim Koolsbergen
Rural Landowner



Nadine Litwin
Environmental consultant and educator

Joe Montgomery
Economic Development Consultant

Greg Belmore,
Retired Lands Technician - Ministry of Natural Resources

Staff:

Michael Rose, Stewardship Coordinator

Project Consultants:

John Romain, Niagara Eco-Program

Amy Brant, Species at Risk

Katharine Yagi, Species at Risk



NIAGARA NATURAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Since program inception we have planted over 1.2 million native trees and shrubs to protect and enhance Niagara's resources. With the assistance of landowners, various funding sources and other environmental groups we were able to mechanically plant 69,600 native trees and shrubs on 34.8 hectares of land in 2010.

Program focus is to increase forest interior by increasing the size of our existing woodlots and reconnecting our fragmented natural areas.

To ensure plantation success to a mature stage, 72 hectares of previous project sites with unacceptable stocking levels were in-filled with 14,800 seedlings and 12,000 nuts.

An additional 1,800 seedlings were distributed and planted for Species at Risk projects and hand planting projects on smaller sites.



Program funding partners for 2010-2011 include:

- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources;
- Ontario Power Generation;
- Trees Ontario;
- Ontario Trillium Foundation;
- Regional Municipality of Niagara;
- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority;
- Niagara Parks Commission;
- Niagara Restoration Council;
- Niagara Land Owners.

NIAGARA ECO-INCLUSION PROGRAM

This program consists of a volunteer work crew that is available year-round to assist groups in environmental activities. Since inception the crew has contributed over 56,000 hours on environmental projects deemed necessary by the community. This year they provided 5,625 hours of service on 56 projects.

In 2009 LCN in partnership with the Region of Niagara and Community Living received funding for two years to continue this important community program. The work crew consists of individuals on social assistance who want to acquire meaningful job enhancement skills and individuals with intellectual disabilities.

This year the Eco-Crew assisted in most LCN programs such as Species at Risk, Woodworking for Nature, Hooked-on-Fishing-not-on-Drugs and was instrumental in the operating of our Re-Leaf Niagara pot-in-pot native tree nursery. They assisted with 1 prescribe burn and grew native plants to help restore habitat along the Niagara Parkway.



Program partners include:

- Ontario Trillium Foundation;
- Regional Municipality of Niagara;
- Community Living – Welland Pelham;
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources;
- Niagara Parks Commission;
- Ontario Power Generation;
- Robert Land Academy;
- Vineland Research and Innovation Centre;
- Trees Canada Foundation;
- Niagara Community Foundation.

YOUTH PROGRAMS AND EDUCATION

Educating youth and providing them with quality outdoor environmental experiences is a high priority for Land Care Niagara. Highlights of the 2010/2011 program are:

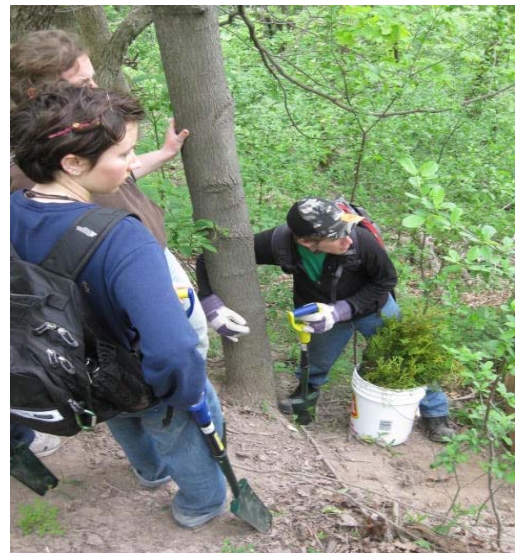
Hooked-On-Fishing-not-on-Drugs

Now in its 13th year, this annual Mother's Day event sees more than 1200 youth and family members enjoy a fun weekend that combines sport fishing, drug prevention, environmental conservation, and the bringing of families closer together. Some past youth participants are now volunteers, helping others enjoy the experience. LCN also coordinates other youth fishing days and supports other community fishing events by loaning out fishing equipment through tackle share.



Home School Outdoor Education

This year 123 home school students learned about the environment at Short Hills Provincial Park and along the Twenty Valley Beaver Pond Trail. Program was developed for students that are private and home school educated and do not have access to the public funded outdoor study centres in the Region. With Niagara Nature Tours, we have developed a new program for 2011 that integrates our Re-Leaf Niagara program.



Wood Working for Nature

This year 391 structures were constructed and placed in the community. Most projects consist of producing habitat kits such as blue bird boxes and having youth assemble the kits as part of a youth event. Once the kits are assembled they are provided to landowners who have suitable habitat. Other projects include composters, native garden planters and SAR items.



Partners include:

- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources;
- Robert Land Academy;
- Niagara Nature Tours;
- Port Colborne & District Conservation Club;
- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority;
- Local Scout groups;
- Cops for Kids;
- Windmill Point Park;
- Niagara Regional Police;
- Local landowners.

SPECIES AT RISK

Any plant or animal threatened by or vulnerable to extinction is a species at risk. Niagara is home to an amazing diversity of wild plants and animals, each with unique features that help ensure survival. Each species contributes to the overall balance of life and the disappearance of a species upsets this balance in ways we do not fully understand. The best course of action is to prevent any species from becoming at risk of extinction.

Since 2001 Land Care Niagara has been providing assistance to the local Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources biologist and her team of technicians to undertake research, habitat restoration and community outreach educational programs on a number of species at risk in Niagara. Among these species are: Spotted Turtle; Fowler's Toad; Dusky Salamander; Eastern Grey Snake; Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake; Hop Tree and others.

Communicating SAR habitat needs to landowners, decision makers and the general public through an expanded outreach and education program and the monitoring of species to improve our understanding of their ecology and habitat restoration projects continued to be a large part of the program. In 2010 we planted 1200 Hoptrees and 1000 other native species to help restore SAR habitats.



Program partners include:

- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources;
- Environment Canada Habitat Stewardship Program;
- Provincial Species at Risk Recovery Team members;
- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority;
- Niagara Parks Commission;
- Local Nature Clubs and Landowner Associations;
- Haldimand and Area Stewardship Council;
- Trees Canada;
- Toronto Zoo;
- Regional Niagara;
- Ontario Power Generation.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY¹

For the year ended March 31, 2011

REVENUES

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	\$	
Community Fisheries & Wildlife Involvement Program		16,491
Ontario Stewardship		9,550
COA		15,329
Other		37,550
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority		30,159
Trees Ontario Foundation		69,460
Landowners		9,011
Region of Niagara		10,866
Trillium Foundation		50,000
Other		9,366
Total revenues		257,782

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Eco-Program		72,458
Home School Outdoor Education		2,170
Hooked-on-Fishing-not-on-Drugs		2,192
Niagara Natural Heritage Ecological Framework		92,446
Re-Leaf Niagara		24,444
Woodworking for Nature		3,714
Species at Risk		24,170
Fish Survey Boat		15,975
Other funded programs		7,082
Total program expenses		244,651

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Accounting and legal		3,750
Advertising, promotion and communications		3,785
Interest and Bank Charges		268
Office		5,309
Meetings including travel and entertainment		1,162
Miscellaneous		501
Vehicle		2,736
Total general and administrative		17,511
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses	\$	(4,380)

Opening Balance – April 1, 2010 \$ 162,920

Ending Balance – March 31, 2011 \$ 158,540

Notes to Financial Statement

¹ Financial Statements are not yet approved by corporation's management or yet reviewed by the accounting firm of R.K. Shaver Chartered Accountant. New statement will be posted after the review and approved by the corporation.

OUR PARTNERS

Since inception, Land Care Niagara has partnered with over 160 groups to advance land and water stewardship in the Region of Niagara. **THANK YOU** to all the partners and volunteers we have had the pleasure to work with over the years.

Audubon Society
Bartram Reforestation
Beekeepers Association of Niagara
Beeline Signs
Bert Miller Nature Club
Bert Murphy Environmental Education
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Niagara
Bradshaw Park Committee
Breast Cancer Research & Education Fund
Brock University
Canada-Ontario Agreement
Canadian Chestnut Council
Canadian Peregrine Falcon Foundation
Canadian Tire
Local Niagara School Boards
Cave Springs Conservation Area
Centre for Community Life & Leadership
Chestnut Recovery Team
Children's Discovery Centre
Chuck's Pro Tackle
Citizen's Environmental Watch
City of Niagara Falls
City of Welland
Climate Action Niagara
Cogeco Communications Television
Community Living Port Colborne
Community Living Welland Pelham
District 9 Horticultural Society
Ducks Unlimited
Eco-Action 2000
Eco-Program Volunteers
Edith Cavell Public School
Environment Canada - HSP
Envirothon Committee
Evergreen Foundation
Fleming College
Forest Gene Conservation Association
Fort Erie Rail to Trail
Fortis
Friends of Fort Erie's Creek
Friends of Four Mile Creek
Friends of Twelve Mile Creek
Friends of Malcomson Park
Friends of Short Hills
Future Fisherman's Foundation
Grand River Conservation Authority
Great Lakes Clean-up Fund
Greater Niagara Circle Route
Green Communities Association
Habitat Haldimand
Haldimand & Area Woodlot
Owners' Association
Haldimand Stewardship Council
Heartland Forest
Highview Farms
Human Resources Canada
Independent Fruit Producers
Jackman Foundation
Jacob Beam Public School
Katimavik
Kid's, Cops and Canadian Tire
Lake Erie LaMp
Lincoln Waterways Working Group
Local Libraries
Manotick Land Owner Resource Centre

Meridian Credit Union
Natural Insect Control
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Niagara Cattleman
Niagara College
Niagara Community Foundation
Niagara Falls Nature Club
Niagara Healthy Environmental Organization
Niagara Home Schools
Niagara Hunting and Fishing Club
Niagara Land Trust
Niagara Nature Tours
Niagara North Federation of Agriculture
Niagara Parks Commission
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
Niagara Peninsula Fruit & Vegetable Growers
Niagara Regional Police Association
Niagara River Restoration Council
Niagara Shorthills Christian Ministry
Niagara South Federation of Agriculture
Niagara Sustainability Network
Niagara Woodlot Association
One Mile Creek Landowner Association
Ontario Barn Owl Recovery Team
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters
Ontario Forestry Association
Ontario Healthy Communities
Ontario Heritage Foundation
Ont. Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Ont. Ministry of Community & Social Services
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Ontario Power Generation
Ontario Public Interest Group
Ontario Soil & Crop
Ontario Special Olympics
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Ontario Wildlife Foundation
Ontario Woodlot Association
Other Partners of Lead Partners
Other Provincial Stewardship Councils
Owl Foundation
Parks Canada and Parks Ontario
Pelham Hills G&CC
Pheasants Forever

Port Colborne Community Living
Pt. Colborne & District Conservation Club
Private Land Owners
Provincial Land Stewardship Specialists
Regional Municipality of Niagara
Ridley College
Robert Land Academy
Royal Botanical Gardens
Scotia Bank
Scouts Canada
Shell Canada
Smith Street Cemetery
Society for Ecological Restoration
St. Catharines Game & Fish
St. Johns Centre
St. Johns Outdoor Studies Centre
Stamford Centre Volunteer Firefighter's
Sugarloaf Marina
Sustainable Niagara
Teresa Neighbourhood Park
TD Canada Trust - Friends of the Environment
The St. Catharines Standard
The Times News
Toronto Zoo
Town of Fort Erie
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Township of Wainfleet
Trees Canada
Trees Ontario Foundation
Trees Unlimited
University of Guelph
Vineland Research and Innovation Centre
Wainfleet Nations in Bloom Committee
Wainfleet Sparks and Brownies
Walker Creeks Landowner Association
Walker Industries
Welland River Keepers
Wetland Habitat Fund
Whitemeadow Farms
Wildflower Meadows
Wildlife Habitat Canada
Windmill Point Park
YMCA of Niagara
Yoga by Sarah

