

# **Land Care Niagara**

## **2011/2012 Annual Work Plan**

**April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012**

**A non-profit land stewardship organization serving  
the  
Region of Niagara**

**May 1, 2011**

### **Forward**

Land Care Niagara (LCN) is part of a non-profit network that promotes wise land management. Directed by the Niagara Community Land Stewardship Council with support from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), Niagara is one of 50 communities across Ontario to have such a council. Council members are volunteers that firmly believe in the merits of responsible land management while respecting the rights of landowners to make decisions on their land. These community leaders represent the diverse values and activities associated with Niagara's land resources.

The mission of LCN, is to promote and enhance responsible land use practices and cooperation through:

- (1) Encouraging awareness of the range of values in the Community;
- (2) Minimizing conflicts through information and communication;
- (3) Educating and providing the best information on responsible management;
- (4) Creating partnerships between landowners/land users/agencies/government and interest groups.

To achieve this mission, LCN with assistance from local citizens and the OMNR, have prepared the 2011-2012 Annual Work Plan. This document is a flexible management tool that LCN uses to guide its activities throughout the year. The benefits of the Annual Work Plan include:

- Allows for continuity of action from one year to the next;
- Keeps everyone working towards the same goals;
- Informs program sponsors about LCN activities;
- Is a statement of intent between LCN and the OMNR to justify technical and financial assistance provided to LCN.

# 2011 - 2012 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012

## Goal A: Promote the sustained use of land, water, plant and animal resources.

### Objective a 01: Integrated sustainable land management through education.

**OUTDOOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.** Utilizing Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum guidelines provide an educational program within Short Hills Provincial Park. Target audience is Grade's 3 and 4 students from home schools and private schools that do not have access to outdoor educational programs like the large school boards. Offer new Re-Leaf program to participating schools. Program consultant is Carla Carlson of Niagara Nature Tours.

**SIXTH ANNUAL NIAGARA PENINSULA FOREST HEALTH REPORT.** With the Niagara Woodlot Association, host a workshop designed to inform rural landowners of Niagara about the current threats to our woodlots. This will include bringing in experts from the OMNR, CFIA and NPCA.

**OTHER WORKSHOPS.** With partners host 2 other workshops as opportunities arise. One Urban and one Species at Risk.

### Objective a 02: On-ground Stewardship Projects.

**NIAGARA'S NATURAL HERITAGE ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM.** Continue implementing framework with the planting of 76,000 trees/shrubs on 95 acres of land. Includes implementing riparian buffer strips in order to reduce nutrient and sediment loading of waterways. Assist NPC with 4 prescribe burns. Cost includes funding to the Future Fund.

**NIAGARA ECO-INCLUSION.** Develop new business model for this program that supports LCN's strategic direction and our Woodworking for Nature and Re-Leaf Niagara programs.

**HOOKED-ON-FISHING-NOT-ON-DRUGS® PROGRAM.** Continue this award-winning program in Niagara by supporting two major kids fishing events in Niagara and other small projects when available. Seek out new volunteers from local fishing clubs and sponsors of grab bag supplies.

**SPECIES AT RISK (SAR).** Support species at risk (such as the Spotted Turtle, Fowler's Toad, Black Rat, EMR, American Waterwillow) activities in Niagara that are researched based, educational and/or support private landowners. Utilize Eco-Inclusion program where appropriated. Meet objectives of funding partners. Upgrade SAR section of webpage.

**RE-LEAF NIAGARA.** Add trellis system to support nursery trees and continue with fence windbreak. Utilize a Niagara College Horticultural Student for the growing of the trees/plants to improve product quality. Maintain old and establish new partnerships and funding opportunities to establish Re-Leaf Niagara nursery as a self-sustaining social enterprise. Have 125 trees planted in the community from the nursery.

**WOODWORKING FOR NATURE.** Develop new business model for the operation of the woodworking shop under the Niagara Eco-Inclusion program.

**OTHER PROGRAMS.** Other funded programs as opportunities arise.

### Objective a 03: Client Recognition.

**CLIENT AWARD AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM.** Continue to sponsor the Envirothon scholarship grant in partnership with the local Envirothon committee.

**Goal B: Community Capacity Building, Assist Local Leaders to address Land Stewardship Issues.**

**Objective b 01: Participation on local Community Committees.** Provide in-kind and/or financial support to a minimum of five community groups.

**NIAGARA WOODLOT ASSOCIATION.** Support and assist in the organization's activities. Assist with the various workshops that the association develops. Sponsor a minimum of one major workshop per year.

**NIAGARA LAND TRUST.** Continue to support the growth of the land trust by working with the newly formed first board of directors.

**THE NIAGARA AREA OF CONCERN REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE.** Support this committee and their mission by providing technical support when required and the identification of common objective projects that we can assist with.

**Objective b 02: Increase networking with other provincial groups.**

**MEMBERSHIP IN OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS.** Become members of outside groups that normally have programs for private landowners.

**Goal C: Council Operations. Improve Council Operations and Organizational Capabilities.**

**Objective c 01: Develop and maintain Council activities through effective organizational strategies.**

**STRATEGIC PLAN.** Develop a new 3-year strategic plan based on the new OMNR-OS business model for incorporated councils..

**ANNUAL WORK PLAN, BUDGET AND REPORT.** Prepare the Annual Plan, Budget and Annual Report. Continuously review and update current plan.

**COUNCIL SIZE.** Maintain council size between 8 – 11 members. Recruit 3 new council members per year including one from the agricultural community

**Objective c 02: Improve Council internal and external communications.**

**COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING PLAN.** Develop action plan for the marketing of the “click and donate” initiative. Implement communication and marketing plan. Continue with the update of the “Enhancing Niagara Naturally” program brochure and web page.

**Objective c 03: Volunteer Management.**

**RESOURCE LIBRARY.** Provide a resource library for council members that include self-help, “personal growth” type books, tapes and videos.

**TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT.** T&D for each member utilizing dollars provided by Ontario Stewardship (OS). LCN events provided at no cost to members.

**Objective c 04: Financial Stability.**

**CORE-PROGRAM STABILITY.** Identified core programs annually and fully fund through operating budget.

**FUND RAISING COMMITTEE.** Market the “click and donate” on-line fund raising strategy. Coordinate activities with Communications & Marketing. Re-establish fundraising committee.

**NEW FUNDING SOURCES.** Approach 2 new suitable funding sources.

**RE-LEAF NIAGARA.** Establish marketing committee for this program.