



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

2011-2012



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 2011-2012. 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 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 this program, almost 1.2 million native trees and other native plants have been planted on over 1400 acres of land since its inception 14 years ago. In 2012 we plan on planting an additional 87,000 trees on 44 hectares of land.

We have also continued with Re-Leaf Niagara. This program was developed through strategic thinking to address local urban issues as well as the global issue of climate change. In 2011 we worked with our urban partners for the planting of 433 trees in Niagara's urban areas. LCN has also responded to the challenge of protecting and enhancing habitat of species that are threatened or endangered by increasing our involvement with local, provincial and federal species at risk programs.

It is through the generous support of our funding partners, including the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Trees Ontario Foundation, Canada – Ontario Agreement, Ontario Power Generation 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,



Stephen Prior
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:

Stephen Prior (Chair)
Environmental Project Manager

Jim Koolsbergen (Director)
Rural Landowner

Sheryl Stewart
Restaurant Manager

Brad Clements (Director)
Birder and retired YMCA CEO

Jane Hanlon
Executive Director for Climate Action Niagara

Amy Brunning
Rural Landowner and Heartland Forest Manager



Nadine Litwin
Environmental consultant and educator

Joe Montgomery
Economic Development Consultant

Greg Belmore,
Retired Lands Technician - Ministry of Natural Resources

Peter Randall
Rural Landowner and School Board Manager

Staff:

Michael Rose, Stewardship Coordinator

Project Consultants:

John Romain, Niagara Eco-Program

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 52,400 native trees/shrubs and 65,678 nuts on 34.8 hectares of land in 2011.

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

To ensure our waterways are healthy 4,300 metres of riparian habitat was created.

An additional 378 seedlings were distributed and planted for Species at Risk projects.



Program funding partners for 2011-2012 include:

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

NIAGARA ECO-INCLUSION PROGRAM

Unfortunately due to lack of funding, the sub-program that consisted of a volunteer work crew that was available year-round to assist groups with environmental activities ended in 2011. Because of this Council has been working with current partners and establishing new partnerships with the community to continue the good work this crew provided over the past 10 years.

Partnerships include a social agency that provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities, a Seniors Centre and two area Conservation Clubs. These organizations are assisting us with our Re-Leaf Niagara, Woodworking for Nature and Species at Risk programs.

LCN will continue to work with the community so that individuals from all sectors of the community have an opportunity to participate in making their community an environmentally better place to live.



Program partners include:

- Community Living – Welland Pelham;
- Beachcombers Senior Citizens Centre;
- Friends of Fort Erie’s Creeks;
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources;
- Port Colborne & District Conservation Club
- Robert Land Academy;
- Vineland Research and Innovation Centre;
- Trees Canada Foundation;
- TD-Canada Trust;
- Brock University

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 2011/2012 program are:

Hooked-On-Fishing-not-on-Drugs

Now in its 14 year, this annual event was moved from Mother's Day weekend to the last Sunday in May. In 2011; 575 youth and family members enjoyed a fun day that combined sport fishing, drug prevention and environmental conservation. LCN supports other local fishing events through our tackle share program.



Home School Outdoor Education

This year 326 home school students learned about the environment at various nature areas throughout Niagara. Program is for students that are private and home school educated and do not have access to the public funded outdoor study centres in the Region. In 2011 we implemented a new program that integrates our Re-Leaf Niagara tree planting program. Students help plant a tree in their community and learn the importance of trees in the urban environment.



Wood Working for Nature

This year 160 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 included beehives for the Niagara Beeway; community garden tool crib/benches and various SAR items structures.



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;
- Kids and Cops;
- 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.

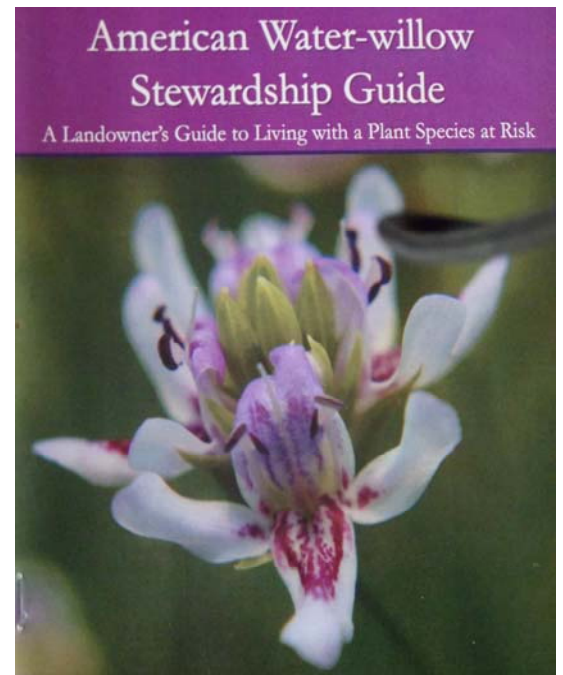
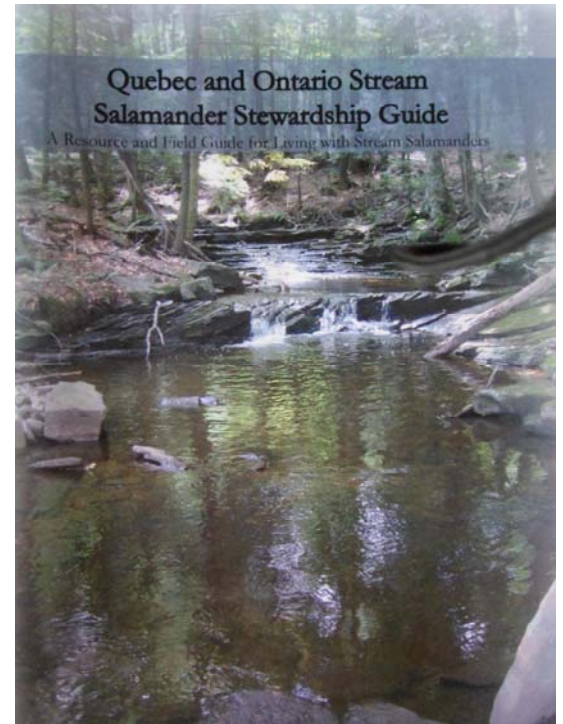
Since 2001 Land Care Niagara has been providing assistance to the local Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources biologist and her team of technicians to undertake research, habitat restoration and community outreach educational programs on a number of species at risk in Niagara. Among these species are: 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 outreach and educational programs and the monitoring of species to improve our understanding of their ecology continued to be a large part of the program. In 2011-2012 we assisted in the production of the American Water-willow Stewardship guide; the Quebec and Ontario Stream Salamander Stewardship guide and various wildlife crossing signs.



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;
- Toronto Zoo;
- Local Municipalities;
- Ontario Power Generation.



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY¹

For the year ended March 31, 2012

REVENUES

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	\$	
Canada-Ontario Agreement		43,000
Community Fisheries & Wildlife Involvement Program		21,546
Ontario Stewardship		10,000
Other		22,500
Region of Niagara		588
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority		20,500
Trees Ontario Foundation		59,370
Landowners		7,329
Ontario Power Generation		6,700
Other		702
Total revenues		192,235

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Eco-Program		9,478
Hooked-on-Fishing-not-on-Drugs		3,688
Niagara Natural Heritage Ecological Framework		93,785
Re-Leaf Niagara		20,925
Woodworking for Nature		12,332
Species at Risk		26,853
Envirothon		2,000
Home school Outdoor Education		4,030
Other funded programs		6,325
Total program expenses		179,416

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Accounting and legal		4,290
Advertising, promotion and communications		3,808
Interest and Bank Charges		135
Office		716
Meetings including travel and entertainment		1,199
Miscellaneous		360
Vehicle		10,164
Total general and administrative		20,672

Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses	\$	(7,853)
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Opening Balance – April 1, 2011 \$ 158,540

Ending Balance – March 31, 2012 \$ 150,687

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
Beachcombers Senior Centre
Beekeepers Association of Niagara
Beeline Signs
Berkley
Bert Miller Nature Club
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
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
Great Lakes Clean-up Fund
Greater Niagara Circle Route
Green Communities Association
Gro-Bark
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
L3K Foundation
Lincoln Garden Club
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 Horticultural Club
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 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
Scouts Canada
Shell Canada
Smith Street Cemetery
Society for Ecological Restoration
St. Catharines Game & Fish
St. Catharines Horticultural Society
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

