



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

2009-2010



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 2009-2010. 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 million native trees and other native plants have been planted on over 1300 acres of land since its inception 12 years ago.

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. LCN has also responded 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, Canada – Ontario Agreement, the 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



**Erno Rossi**  
Rural Landowner and Author

**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



# NIAGARA NATURAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Since program inception we have planted over 1 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 62,975 native trees and shrubs on 31.6 hectares of land in 2009.

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, 13 previous project sites which had unacceptable stocking levels were in-filled with 24,559 seedlings in 2009.

An additional 2,700 seedlings were distributed and planted for Species at Risk projects and hand planting projects on smaller sites.



Program partners for 2009-2010 include:

- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources – Canada Ontario Agreement and the Community Fish and Wildlife Improvement Program;
- Ontario Power Generation;
- Ontario Tree Foundation;
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority;
- Niagara Parks Commission;
- 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 50,000 hours on environmental projects deemed necessary by the community. In 2009-2010 they provided 5,300 hours of in-kind service on 34 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, individuals with intellectual disabilities and youth including 17 to 21 year olds from the Federal Katimavik program.

In 2009-2010 the Eco-Crew assisted in most LCN programs such as Species at Risk, Woodworking for Nature and Hooked-on-Fishing-not-on-Drugs. They were instrumental in the expansion of our Re-Leaf Niagara pot-in-pot native tree nursery and assisting on 3 prescribe burns to help bring back Tall Grass Prairie habitat along the Niagara Parkway.



Program partners for 2009-2010 include:

- Ontario Trillium Foundation;
- Regional Municipality of Niagara;
- Community Living – Welland Pelham;
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources – Canada Ontario Agreement, Community Fish and Wildlife Involvement program and Species at Risk Stewardship program;
- Katimavik;
- Niagara Parks Commission;
- Robert Land Academy;
- Vineland Research and Innovation Centre;
- Trees Canada 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 2009/2010 program are:

## Hooked-On-Fishing-not-on-Drugs

Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> 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 181 home school students learned about the environment at Short Hills Provincial Park. In partnership with Niagara Nature Tours this 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.



## Wood Working for Nature

Working with biologists, volunteers, youth, seniors and landowners, 381 wildlife habitat structures were constructed and placed in the community. Many projects consist of producing habitat kits such as blue bird boxes and having youth assemble the kits as part of an earth day or youth organizational event. Once the kits are assembled they are provided to landowners who have suitable habitat. 135 structures produced supported local species at risk programs.



Partners in 2009/2010 include:

- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources;
- Robert Land Academy;
- Niagara Nature Tours;
- Port Colborne & District Conservation Club;
- Nelles Public School;
- St. Ann's Public School;
- Katimavik;
- Meridian Credit Union;
- Cops for Kids;
- Windmill Point Park;
- Niagara Regional Police.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

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# 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.

In 2009-10, program objectives were to communicate SAR habitat needs to landowners, decision makers and the general public through an expanded outreach and education program. Monitoring of species to improve our understanding of their ecology and habitat restoration projects continued to be a large part of the 2009-2010 program.



Program partners for 2009-2010 include:

- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources – Canada Ontario Agreement, the Community Fish and Wildlife Improvement Program and Species at Risk Stewardship program;
- Environment Canada Habitat Stewardship Program;
- Provincial Species at Risk Recovery Team members;
- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority;
- Niagara Parks Commission;
- Carolinian Canada;
- Haldimand and Area Stewardship Council;
- Katimavik;
- Toronto Zoo;
- Ontario Power Generation.

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY<sup>1</sup>

For the year ended March 31, 2010

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## REVENUES

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	\$	
Canada-Ontario Agreement		30,000
Community Fisheries & Wildlife Involvement Program		20,295
Ontario Stewardship		9,550
SAR Stewardship Fund		29,873
Other		25,000
Environment Canada - Habitat Stewardship Program		5,000
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority		11,236
Trees Ontario Foundation		71,255
Landowners		8,761
Trillium Foundation		56,000
Other		14,406
<b>Total revenues</b>		<b>281,376</b>

## PROGRAM EXPENSES

Eco-Program		71,302
Hooked-on-Fishing-not-on-Drugs		7,563
Niagara Natural Heritage Ecological Framework		100,508
Re-Leaf Niagara		24,768
Woodworking for Nature		11,676
Species at Risk		34,116
Other funded programs		5,292
<b>Total program expenses</b>		<b>255,225</b>

## GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Accounting and legal		2,987
Advertising, promotion and communications		2,272
Interest and Bank Charges		147
Office		8,388
Meetings including travel and entertainment		598
Miscellaneous		2,562
Vehicle		3,789
<b>Total general and administrative</b>		<b>20,743</b>

<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,408</b>
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Opening Balance – April 1, 2009    \$ 157,512

Ending Balance – March 31, 2010    \$ 162,920

## Notes to Financial Statement

<sup>1</sup> 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 Welland  
Climate Action Now  
Cogeco Communications Television  
Community Living Port Colborne  
Community Living Welland Pelham  
Ducks Unlimited  
Easter Seals Camp  
Eco-Action 2000  
Eco-Program Volunteers  
Edith Cavell Public School  
Environment Canada - HSP  
Erie Tracker Outfitters  
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  
Mainstream - I.E.N.A.C.T.  
Manotick Land Owner Resource Centre

Meridian Credit Union  
Natural Insect Control  
Nature Conservancy of Canada  
Niagara Cattleman  
Niagara College  
Niagara Escarpment Commission  
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

