

# **Land Care Niagara**

## **2012/2013 Annual Work Plan**

**April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013**

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

**February 8, 2012**

### **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 2012-2013 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.

# 2012 - 2013 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013

## 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 and a Re-Leaf Niagara tree planting program. 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. Program consultant is Carla Carlson of Niagara Nature Tours.

**SEVENTH 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 60,000 trees/shrubs on 75 acres of land. Continue to fund the Future Fund. Investigate Sustain our Great Lakes community grant program (US) as future funder.

**NIAGARA ECO-INCLUSION.** When possible utilize groups and individuals that normally do not participate in hands-on environmental activities. These include seniors and individuals with disabilities whose work supports LCN's strategic direction and our Woodworking for Nature and Re-Leaf Niagara programs. Investigate other possible partnerships.

**HOOKED-ON-FISHING-NOT-ON-DRUGS® PROGRAM.** Continue this award-winning program in Niagara by supporting our major May kids fishing event and other small events 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. Develop a SAR mascot that can be used at LCN events and by other partners.

**RE-LEAF NIAGARA.** Install a fertilizer injector and widen the back entrance gate for future acquisition of a tree trailer. Utilize a Summer 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. Apply for a 3-year Trillium grant. Have 125 caliper trees and 450 smaller trees planted in the community from the nursery. Develop program to include fruit bearing plants for local community gardens.

**WOODWORKING FOR NATURE.** Continue to develop a new business model for the operation of the woodworking shop utilizing other partners. Upgrade shop if required under new MNR rules.

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

**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 5-year strategic plan 2013 – 2018 that complements 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. Review member's term of office and act accordingly.

**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 web page and add you-tube video links of major programs.

**Objective c 03: Volunteer Management.**

**RESOURCE LIBRARY.** Provide a resource library for council members that include self-help, "personal growth" type books and electronic media.

**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.** Apply for a 3-year Trillium Foundation Grant.