

Land Care Niagara

2009/2010 Annual Work Plan **January 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010** A non-profit land stewardship organization serving the Region of Niagara

March 5, 2009

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 43 communities across Southern and Eastern 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 2009-2010 Annual Work Plan with an estimated budget of \$310,000. 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.

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2009-2010 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

The Annual Work Plan is the road map that directs the activities of LCN for the next year. A road map can lead an organization in many directions. Without a good sense of direction organizations can become lost, travel in circles or just stop. With a little planning an organization can build a good road map and with perseverance an organization uses their road map. Collectively, LCN sponsors, council members and staff arrive at their destination. Along the way we may decide to take another route but we know without a doubt our final destination.

Some other good reasons why we plan:

Improve performance of the organization;

To define the future;

To use available resources wisely;

To build teamwork and expertise;

Lower levels of conflict;

Accountability;

Program Review.

Adopted from the Wilder Foundation.

Organization of Work Plan

It is important to understand how this Annual Work Plan is organized.

Goals. LCN has established some broad goals that relate to the LCN Mission Statement

Objectives. Under each goal, are objectives. These are action items for the organization.

Projects and strategies. These are listed under each objective. Describes some specifics about each project, the funding sources and amounts, and the responsible Action Team¹.

Action. Lists what actions have taken or will be taken this year. Includes the date the action has or will begin and when the action is to be completed.

¹ **Action Team:** Community Leaders (Council and Others) along with stakeholders organize an Action Team to actively address community issues. Leaders with diverse backgrounds join together to collaborate. At least one common issue binds and Action Team together.

2009 - 2010 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

January 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010

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. Program consultant is Carla Carlson of Niagara Nature Tours.

FOURTH 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.

NIAGARA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – THE NPCA'S ENVIRONMENTAL ROLE IN NIAGARA. With the Niagara Woodlot Association and Niagara College host the NWA annual general meeting which will educate landowners on the vision of the NPCA in shaping the environmental future of Niagara.

OTHER WORKSHOPS. With partners host 2 other workshops as opportunities arise.

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 BMPs (e.g., 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.

4-MILE CREEK/FIREMAN'S PARK. With Friends of Fireman's Park, MNR Species at Risk team and other stakeholders continue with the implementation of restoration plans developed in 2005. Continue to acquire background information for management plan and continue to assist in the educational outreach program geared to park visitors.

NIAGARA ECO-INCLUSION. Implementation of the 3-year program under the conditions of the funding/partner agencies. Direct program so that it supports LCN's strategic direction and our funding partners. These include programs such as the NNHEF, water quality and species at risk. Develop the Woodworking for Nature and Re-Leaf Niagara program as social enterprises.

HOKED-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. Apply for OMNR-CFWIP funding by February 1, 2009 to assist in the program. Replenish grab bag supplies. Seek out new volunteers from local fishing clubs.

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

RE-LEAF NIAGARA. Finish nursery establishment to grow first crop. Continue work at Smith Street Cemetery as an example for future urban tree efforts and continue our work with Climate Action Now-Niagara. Start to establish new partnerships and funding opportunities to establish Re-Leaf Niagara program as a self-sustaining social enterprise in partnership with Community Living and expand to other areas of Niagara. Program includes expansion of nursery by 300 pots.

WOODWORKING FOR NATURE. Enhance program started through the Eco-Program that supports LCN's strategic direction, private landowners and our community partners. Work towards expanding program as a self-sustaining social enterprise. Continue to involve youth into the program and community members with intellectual disabilities. Develop new partnerships for delivery of program in the field. Re-locate workshop.

OTHER PROGRAMS. Other funded programs as opportunities arise.

Objective a 03: Client Recognition.

CLIENT AWARD AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM. Investigate a replacement for this program that was established with the now defunct Peter Drucker Innovation Award.

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

Objective b 01: Participation on local Community Committees. To provide in-kind and/or financial support to a minimum of five community groups. To assist in the establishment of new organizations that will help address local stewardship issues.

TD – CANADA TRUST FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT. Central Niagara Chapter representative.

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 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.

OFFICE RELOCATION. Costs related to move and renovations.

STRATEGIC PLAN. Review every November for development of the Year 2010/2011, Annual Work Plan. Tackle secondary objectives of plan when opportunities arise.

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 and have one member from the agricultural community. Acquire a local OMNR representative.

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. Update "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.

CHARITABLE STATUS. Establish a charitable foundation to support Land Niagara charitable activities or investigate partnering arrangements with the Niagara Community Foundation.