

Land Care Niagara

2007 Annual Work Plan

January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007

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

March 12, 2007

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 40 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 this 2007 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.

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2007 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.

2007 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007

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

Objective a 01: Demonstrate integrated sustainable land management.

LATHROP PROPERTY. With the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and other community partners continue to finalize the management plan for the property that can be used to demonstrate sustainable land management practices. Monitor the land activities at the Lathrop Property for the Nature Conservancy while plan is being developed. Help implement plan utilizing Eco-program and acquire funding to off-set any costs. Implement educational program for property through consultants or other partners for Grade's 3 – 4. Partnership review is required with NCC this year.

Leadership: Coordinator with sub-committee

Date: Ongoing

Cost: \$2,000

SECOND 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 and CFIA.

Leadership: Coordinator; Niagara Woodlot Association

Date: January 16, 2007

Cost: \$1,200

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

Leadership: Coordinator and partners

Date: December 31, 2007

Cost: \$1,300

Objective a 02: On-ground Stewardship Projects.

NIAGARA'S NATURAL HERITAGE ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM. Continue implementing framework with the planting of a minimum of 85,000 trees/other plants with various partners. Includes implementing riparian BMPs (e.g., buffer strips) in order to reduce nutrient and sediment loading of waterways. Continue to fund raise for future years and add data layers to original map layer when opportunities arise.

Leadership: Coordinator and "Enhancing Niagara Naturally" partners.

Date: December 31, 2007

Cost: \$40,000 (this includes funding allocated for Niagara Eco-program)

4-MILE CREEK/FIREMAN'S PARK. With Friends of Fireman's Park and other stakeholders continue with the implementation of restoration plans developed in 2005. Build and install boardwalks along sensitive trail areas.

Leadership: Coordinator and Stakeholders

Date: Ongoing

Cost: \$3,000

NIAGARA ECO-PROGRAM. Implement 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. Continue to find alternative funding sources and purchase new Van.

Leadership: Coordinator, Regional Caseworker and John Romain, Crew Leader

Date: Ongoing

Cost: \$ 65,000

WHITE PINE SEED ORCHARD. Provide on-ground support for partners who manage the Pw seed orchard. Ensure a sustainable seed supply for Niagara restoration programs.

Leadership: Coordinator, Eco-Crew, District Forester, Haldimand Stewardship Coordinator

Date: Ongoing

Cost: Unknown, dollars from Eco-Program budget and other partners.

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. Apply for OMNR-CFWIP funding by February 1, 2007 to assist in the program. Replenish grab bag supplies.

Leadership: Hooked-on-Fishing-not-on-Drugs Committee

Date: Mother's Day weekend, Fall event and other event dates

Cost: \$5,000

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

Leadership: Coordinator with various community partners

Date: Ongoing

Costs: \$190,000 (includes funding allocated for Niagara Eco-Program)

RE-LEAF NIAGARA. Continue funding efforts to develop and establish an urban native tree and SAR tree nursery. Continue work at Smith Street Cemetery as an example for future urban tree efforts.

Leadership: New Committee to be established

Date: December 31, 2007

Cost: \$6,000 per 100 growing units

WOODWORKING FOR NATURE. Enhance program started through the Eco-Program that supports LCN's strategic direction, private landowners and our community partners. Investigate expanding program as a cost recovery program for the eco-program. Continue to involve youth into the program.

Leadership: Stewardship Coordinator

Date: Ongoing

Cost: \$5,000

Objective a 03: Client Recognition.

CLIENT AWARD AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM. Continue and improve the Award and Recognition Process for clients who demonstrate a stewardship ethic that promotes the LCN Mission Statement. Provide support to overall program delivered by the Niagara Centre of Community Leadership.

Leadership: Administrative Committee in partnership with the Niagara Centre of Community Leadership and Peter Drucker Foundation.

Date: Ongoing

Cost: \$750

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 FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT. Central Niagara Chapter representative.

Leadership: Steve Prior and Coordinator

Date: Ongoing

Cost: None

THE NIAGARA CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP. Participate as an advisor, representing the volunteer environmental sector.

Leadership: Coordinator

Date: Ongoing

Cost: None

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.

Leadership: Coordinator

Date: Ongoing

Cost: \$1,250.00

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WATER QUALITY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE. Technical advisor to their landowner incentive programs.

Leadership: Coordinator or Council Member

Date: Ongoing

Cost: None

GROWING A LAND TRUST IN NIAGARA. Continue to support the growth of the land trust by working with the founding committee that was established in 2005.

Leadership: Coordinator working with Land Trust Steering Committee

Date: Ongoing

Cost: Unknown, could support a specific item through NCF endowment program

Objective b 02: Increase networking with other provincial groups.

MEMBERSHIP IN OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS. Become members of provincial groups that normally have programs for private landowners (i.e., F.O.N., Society for Ecological Restoration), to connect these programs with landowners in Niagara.

Leadership: Coordinator

Date: Ongoing

Cost: \$250.00

ONTARIO STEWARDSHIP RANGER PROGRAM. Provide leadership and work experience for 5 stewardship days. Conditional on Haldimand Stewardship Council receiving a Stewardship Ranger Crew.

Leadership: Haldimand and Niagara Coordinators, MNR--Vineland Office

Date: Summer 2007

Cost: None – MNR funded through area office

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

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

STRATEGIC PLAN. Review every November for development of the Year 2007, Annual Work Plan. Tackle secondary objectives of plan when opportunities arise.

Leadership: Business Plan Committee

Date: November

Cost: None

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

Leadership: Business Plan Committee

Date: Annual plan and budget by March 31, 2007 and Annual report by June 30, 2007.

Cost: \$500.00

COUNCIL SIZE. Maintain council size to at least 10 - 12 members. Recruit 3 new council members per year and have one representative from the agricultural community.

Leadership: Coordinator and Administrative Committee

Date: September 31, 2007

Cost: \$300.00

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.

Leadership: Coordinator and Communications Committee

Date: December 31, 2007

Cost: \$8,750 (utilize NCF endowment funding) – See fund raising committee

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.

Leadership: Administrative Committee

Date: Ongoing

Cost: \$250.00

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

Leadership: Administrative Committee

Date: On-going

Cost: \$350 per council member over two years

Objective c 04: Financial Stability.

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

Leadership: Coordinator and Council

Date: March 31, 2007

Cost: Unknown

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

Leadership: Coordinator, Fund-raising committee.

Date: Ongoing

Cost: utilize Communications & Marketing funding from NCF endowment

NEW FUNDING SOURCES. Approach 5 new suitable funding sources.

Leadership: Coordinator

Date: Dec. 31, 2007

Cost: Unknown

CHARITABLE STATUS. Establish a charitable foundation to support Land Niagara charitable activities.

Leadership: Coordinator and Council

Date: unknown

Cost: \$ 1,000