



NIAGARA PENINSULA
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



50
years

CELEBRATING
50 YEARS OF
CONSERVATION



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I am pleased to bring greetings as we celebrate our 50th year of incorporation. For 50 years, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority has worked diligently to preserve and protect Niagara's

precious water resources and endeavoured to ensure there are scenic, soothing places to go to stay connected with our roots in nature.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority was founded by a dedicated group of local individuals who paved the way for the establishment of the NPCA; centered on the basic principles of the preservation and improvement of our renewable natural resources – land, woods, waters, and wildlife. Representatives

studied the conservation needs of the peninsula, arranged tours within its boundaries, and held meetings to pass the necessary resolution to officially form a conservation authority. The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority was established on April 30, 1959.

Today, the NPCA is one of 36 conservation authorities in the province. Implementing a cooperative, team-driven approach, both within the NPCA and with our partners, the authority's main purpose has remained constant throughout its 50 years. Our mandate is the preservation of the natural environment and to protect water and land resources. We started from a grassroots perspective and that still permeates everything we do. While a great deal of our work is regulatory in nature, our interrelationship with the community is important. We collaborate with our member municipalities to deliver programs in a cost effective manner.



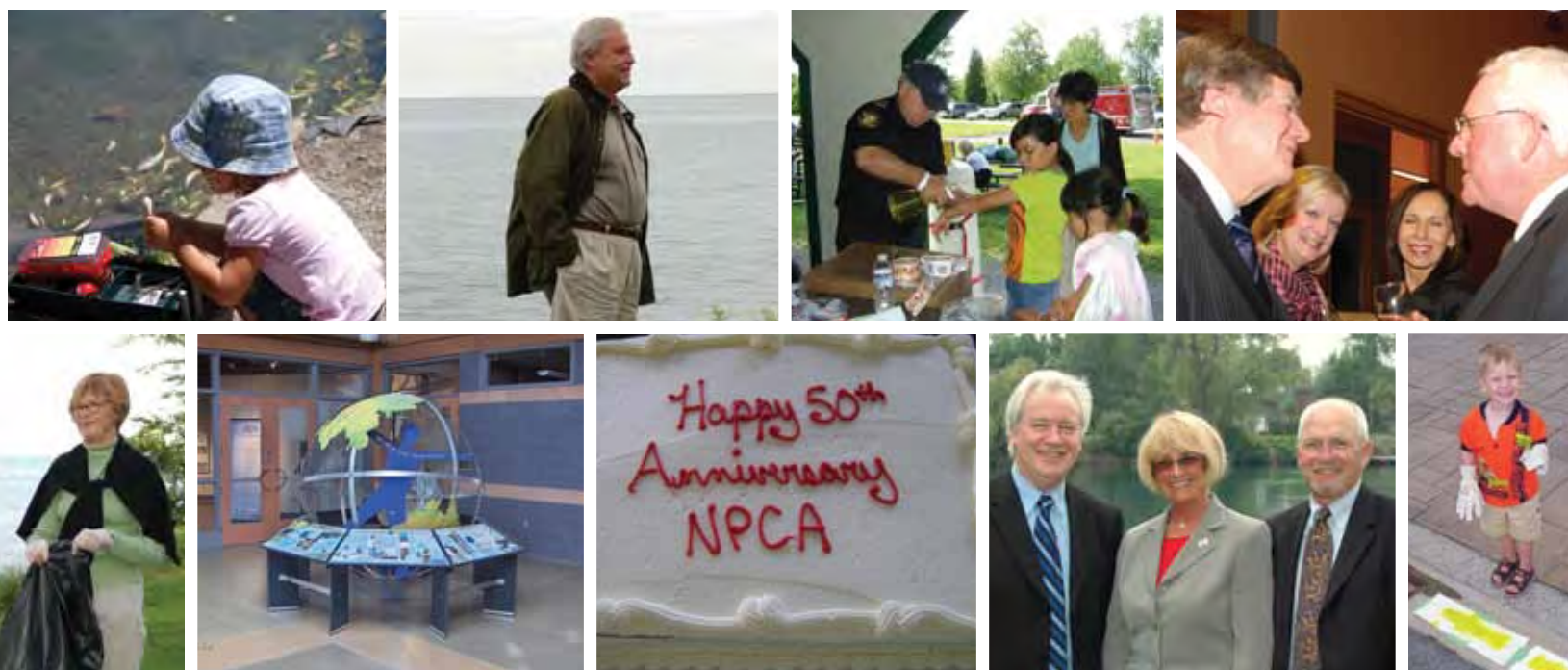
Many activities took place throughout the year to mark this special anniversary and these are highlighted in this report. One special project includes the Simply Tree-Mendous Challenge, which kicked off on April 30, 2009 with a ceremonial planting of the first 50 trees by our watershed Mayors, at Ball's Falls. The challenge is encouraging residents, groups, service clubs and businesses to plant 50,000 native trees across the watershed over a multi-year period. We look forward to the continued success of this initiative.

As we reflect on the impact of local conservation efforts in our watershed, we pay tribute to the efforts of the many individual and business partners who have taken up the challenge of ensuring that we will have a healthier environment in which to work and play. We continue to take a proactive role in the conservation, restoration, development and wise use of our precious natural resources.

It has been my privilege to serve as Chairman and I look forward to the continued success of this authority. Thanks to our member municipalities, board members, staff, residents and the business community for their ongoing support. We are truly honoured to serve you. You are invited to take advantage of the exciting adventures that await you and your family on our conservation lands. There are unlimited opportunities for discovery, recreation and relaxation. These are truly lands that are spectacular by nature!



Douglas Ransom,
Chairman



MESSAGE FROM THE CAO/SECRETARY-TREASURER



It is my pleasure to share some highlights of the Conservation Authority's activities during 2009, in which we were able to celebrate our 50th year of conservation in the

Niagara watershed. In keeping with our grass-roots mandate, the NPCA continues to implement a number of programs that are both reactive and proactive; everything from regulations to planting trees in the ground.

The basic programs include: land management, which deals with properties, facilities, campgrounds, and natural areas; a water department, which encompasses various water management responsibilities and programs, including flood forecasting, maintenance of Authority owned dams, source water protection, watershed restoration and planning. Support activities include GIS; water quality monitoring; administration, community relations which includes public outreach and education and the Conservation Foundation, a charitable group that deals with fundraising.

We are the leading agency for water resource management locally. In the water management program, the Authority has evolved from being initially a regulatory agency that dealt with floodplains and land use to a more environmental agency that also undertakes a number of programs that are meant to improve the environment for our watershed residents. We are involved in a planning review and regulations regarding properties that are near a creek, wetland, valley, shoreline or other natural feature, and most recently the conservation tree cutting bylaw was transferred to the NPCA by the Niagara Region.

I'm pleased to acknowledge the ongoing support from our member municipalities over the years. Our Regional and local councils support what we do because I believe they see the value in investing in the environment. We need to make investments in our programs by continuing to educate and increase awareness of all residents to do their part to make our area a better place to live.

It took many years for environmental degradation to come to this point and it will take an equal amount of time to see improvements. While it may take an entire generation to see the impact of our efforts



today, I am encouraged that we are starting to turn things around. I believe that the work we are doing with the agricultural community is having a great impact on improving water quality on farms. Some of our projects include buffer strip projects between the crops and the creeks so the plowed land is farther from the creek, cattle fencing projects to keep cattle out of streams so they don't contaminate the creek and provide alternative water sources for them to drink. These projects are carried out on a voluntary basis; the farmers for the most part want to help out and appreciate our assistance. It's a win-win program for the farmer and the environment.

As we move forward, we want to focus additional effort on encouraging residents living in urbanized subdivisions to continue to be part of the environmental improvement process. Through ongoing outreach programs, we encourage our residents to embrace good stewardship practices such as not applying pesticides or washing down their driveways which can transport oils or other pollutants into creeks, rivers, and eventually the lakes. People sometimes don't realize that storm sewer flows in typical subdivisions are not treated like sanitary sewage, so whatever they do on their property will eventually discharge into a creek or lake. We are very fortunate to have two great fresh water lakes within about 25 kms of each other, something that is not duplicated anywhere on this planet and as such, we should

constantly strive to be better stewards of this unique and valuable resource.

Fifty years ago a small group of dedicated people came together to form the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority in order to ensure that our precious natural resources were protected for generations. I believe that such dedication continues to exist today. People are genuinely concerned about the environment and it is encouraging to see that our watershed residents understand and are willing to continue to make the necessary investments to ensure that we will be leaving a healthy legacy to future generations.

Collectively, we can make a big difference. There are a half million people in the watershed and if everyone did one little thing, even on a weekly basis, it would add up. Each of us has the power to make a positive impact on our environment.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the board, staff, residents and watershed partners for their support and ongoing efforts. We have accomplished so much together and we look forward to serving our watershed residents to the best of our ability.



Tony D'Amario
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



The activities of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority are governed by a Board of Directors comprised of 15 members appointed by the member municipalities. The Directors are committed to serving all communities on behalf of the watershed municipalities and contribute their leadership and expertise in decisions that determine the policies and programs of the Authority.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS SERVED ON THE BOARD IN 2009;

REGION OF NIAGARA

Douglas Ransom, Chairman
Town of Lincoln

Brian Baty, Vice-Chairman
Town of Pelham

Bob Bentley,
Town of Grimsby

Gary Burroughs,
Town of Niagara on the Lake

Barbara Butters,
City of Port Colborne

Damian Goulbourne,
City of Welland

Mickey DiFruscio,
City of Thorold

Barbara Greenwood,
City of Niagara Falls

Brian Heit,
City of St. Catharines

Barbara Henderson,
Township of Wainfleet

Norm Johnson,
Township of West Lincoln

Bob Steckley,
Town of Fort Erie

HALDIMAND COUNTY

Tony Dalimonte

CITY OF HAMILTON

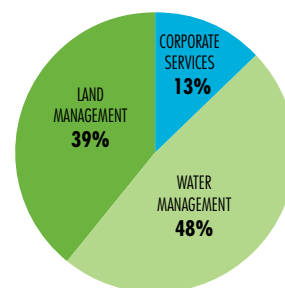
Carmen D'Angelo
Andy Fevez



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

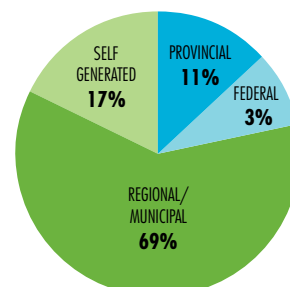
EXPENDITURES

Corporate Services	\$1,159,304	13%
Water Management	\$4,396,586	48%
Land Management	\$3,635,776	39%
TOTAL	\$9,191,666	100%



REVENUES

Provincial	\$1,207,896	11%
Federal	\$295,923	3%
Regional/Municipal	\$7,398,546	69%
Self-Generated	\$1,801,333	17%
TOTAL	\$10,703,698	100%



WATER MANAGEMENT

John Kukalis, Director, Water Management





WATER MANAGEMENT

PROGRAM HISTORY

- » Water Management is a major program for the NPCA. With over 138 local waterways, most of which are tributaries of the Welland River, the Authority has a strong role in the protection of our local watercourses, valley lands and shorelines through its water and related land management programs. The Authority is committed to working to protect our waterways and natural areas so they can continue to function as nature intended. The importance of managing local waterways and wetlands, river valleys and shorelines may not be apparent to all of us who reside in this area. These natural lands are a vital part of our life sustaining ecosystem which provides clean water, controls flooding and erosion along our creeks and provides our fish and wildlife species suitable habitat in which to live.
- » Uncontrolled filling of valley lands and wetlands from increasing development is a serious concern. The Authority enforces regulations to ensure that development and filling do not take place in sensitive areas. Permits are issued under our regulations allowing for accepted construction and alteration activities within rivers, floodplains and valleys.
- » In keeping with our mandate a secure flood warning system has been developed which provides municipalities and watershed residents with advanced storm and flood advisories along our rivers and Great Lake shorelines.
- » A 400-acre reservoir was constructed on the upper reaches of the Welland River to provide downstream benefits primarily to augment summer flow with added flood control benefits. Over 500 acres of land surrounding the lake have become the Binbrook Conservation Area. With the surge in residential development around the conservation area, Binbrook attracts thousands of visitors who enjoy the many amenities including the new spray pad, sandy beach and other recreational activities.
- » The Authority's efforts to identify pollution sources in the Binbrook reservoir resulted in a public effort to improve water quality. Local rural landowners fenced off areas and installed nose pumps to provide a water source for grazing cattle. Faulty septic systems were replaced with the cooperation of Hamilton Region Health Department resulting in a remarkable improvement in the water quality.
- » In 1999, the NPCA entered into a work sharing agreement with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to streamline the work permit process for watercourse alterations. The NPCA now acts as the local contact when stream works are proposed which may affect federal fish habitat issues. This positive partnership will ensure that today's generation will strive to leave the Welland River Watershed in an improved state for tomorrow's generation to enjoy.



Highlights of 2009 activities:

WATERSHED REGULATIONS:

Responsible for Administration of O.Reg 155/06, Flood Control Structures, Flow Monitoring, Flood Forecasting & Warning, Floodplain Mapping, and Capital flood or erosion control projects.

- » Review of 82 permit applications for works affecting wetlands, valley lands and waterways pursuant to Ontario Regulation 155/06; investigated 125 complaints related to the regulation. While the vast majority of violations were resolved out of court, 2009 saw the NPCA before the courts on 6 different matters related to the violation of Ont. Reg. 155/06; under agreement with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) staff reviewed & provided advice on 65 proposals under this agreement, including 26 municipal drain projects.
- » Issued 7 flood safety bulletins warning the public of high water conditions due to snow melts and heavy rain falls. Monitor watershed conditions on a daily basis via 12 stream gauge sites and 5 rain gauge stations and installed upgraded instrumentation and software to more accurately forecast and warn against potential flooding with real-time stream and rain gauge information posted on web site.
- » Completed floodplain mapping for Lyon's Creek, Tee Creek, Ussher's Creek, and Bayer's Creek (total 70 linear kilometers) as well as 15 individual locations in support of planning & enforcement activities.

- » Finalized Storm Water Management Policies and Guidelines document.

- » Upgraded dam control instrumentation and software, and installed a web cam in an effort to better manage reservoir levels at the Binbrook Reservoir/Dam.

WATERSHED PLANNING:

Responsible for Plan Review under the Regional MOU, Watershed Plan Preparation and the Natural Areas Inventory Project. Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Region, the local municipalities and the NPCA was fully implemented clarifying roles and responsibilities and a formalized pre consultation process.

Activities undertaken pursuant to our statutory responsibilities:

286 Building Permit Reviews; 20 Official Plan/Amendments; 1 Secondary Plan; 9 Subdivision/Condo Plans; 34 Site Plans; 40 Zoning By-Law Amendments; 31 Severance Applications; 48 Minor Variances; 20 Class Environmental Assessment Reviews and 29 Niagara Escarpment Commission Reviews.

Work on a number of Watershed Plans continued for the following basins: Lake Erie North Shore Watershed; Beaverdams & Shriners Creek Watershed Plan; Central Welland River Watershed Plan; Upper Welland River Watershed Plan.



NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY:

- » The Natural Areas Inventory project was implemented over a four year period and was completed in 2009. The results confirm that the watershed supports a significant and rich diversity of natural features including significant habitats, geological formations, rare plants and animals, and important wildlife corridors. This up-to-date information will provide a scientifically-defensible baseline to be used in future planning decisions and policy development.
- » The project's success involved support from all levels of government, watershed landowners, nature clubs, local NGO's, volunteers and donors.

WATERSHED RESTORATION:

Responsible for implementing capital restoration projects identified in NPCA's Watershed Plans as well as Environmental Awareness Initiatives. This division is also the primary contact for RAP initiatives. Staff and volunteers completed over 100 watershed restoration projects.

- » **Niagara River Area of Concern (AOC) / Welland River:**
Restoration efforts focused on activities towards RAP delisting. Thirty projects which included 14 woodland habitat enhancements, 5 wetland, 6 riparian and 5 BMP's were carried out.

» Fort Erie Creeks:

Implemented five projects identified in the Watershed Plan including 2 riparian projects, 1 along the Niagara River in partnership with The Niagara Parks Commission, 2 woodland restoration projects and 1 fish by-pass.

» Twenty Mile Creek:

Ten projects were completed including 4 woodland habitat enhancements, 2 riparian, 1 livestock restriction, 1 shelterbelt and 2 BMP's.

» 15, 16, 18 Mile Creeks:

Fifteen projects were completed including 4 woodland restoration, 4 riparian, 3 wetland, 2 livestock fencing and 2 BMP's.

» Twelve Mile Creek:

Twelve projects were completed including 5 woodland habitat, 2 riparian, 2 wetland, and 3 BMP's.

» Niagara-on-the-Lake Creeks:

Ten projects were completed including 1 woodland habitat, 6 riparian buffers, 2 nutrient management and 1 BMP (grape pumice composter).

» General Restoration:

The NPCA also dedicates capital funds to complete site specific works watershed wide that are of importance from an environmental perspective but not yet identified through a completed watershed plan. Twenty four projects were completed including 6 woodland habitat, 4 wetland, 3 riparian, 2 shelterbelt, and 9 BMP's.



Restoration staff was instrumental in delivering a number of outreach programs including:

Yellow Fish Road: involved approx. 400 children in 6 municipalities resulting in 323 storm drains painted;
ECO School: in its fourth year, over 500 students participated representing 28 schools in 7 municipalities worked to create over 500m² of green space. Since its inception, the program students from 100 schools have helped created 2,000m² (21,200 ft²) of green space through the planting of over 24,000 wildflowers, 135 trees, and 360 shrubs.

Angler Diary/Derby and Fish Tagging: This program assists in the collection of data in the Welland River watershed and the Twelve Mile Creek. The project enjoys great success and is supported by the Welland River Keepers.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION:

Responsible for implementing the Provincial source water protection initiatives as well as, the NPCA's core water quality monitoring program and related special project initiatives. The following major initiatives were completed:

- » Tier One Water Budget to help forecast long term water trends and needs in the basin; Intake Protection Zones (IPZ) were finalized for intakes at 6 water treatment plants in Niagara based on dynamic lake models.

- » Threats Inventory, Issues Evaluation and Risk Assessments were prepared for the 6 water treatment plants in Niagara.
- » Work was completed in collaboration with staff from Niagara Region.
- » Water Quality projects included surface water quality sampling and testing at 68 stations located throughout the watershed for nutrients, metals, bacteria, suspended solids and general chemistry 8 times per year for a total of 544 samples; Groundwater Sampling & Testing at 13 of 15 PGMN Stations.
- » Groundwater is tested for nutrients, metals and bacteria in spring and fall for a total of 26 samples. Hourly groundwater levels are also recorded at all 15 PGMN stations; NPCA is the lead on the Welland River Eutrophication Study, as part of the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan;
- » Chemical and Biological Monitoring was completed at 20 Water Quality Stations throughout watershed. BioMAP sampling serves as a biological complement to more typical chemical parameter testing, and identifies the ecological health of the watercourse.
- » Staff generated BioMAP assessments were also completed for Hamilton Airport and the City of Hamilton's Glanbrook Landfill as part of the annual and biennial sampling agreements.



GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS SERVICES:

Primary responsibility is to provide technical expertise on database management and mapping, such as spatial analysis, digital mapping, geographic data creation, and custom application development. Key activities in 2009:

Regulations/Planning Review:

- » Develop base mapping for floodplain hydrologic and hydraulic modeling/analysis.
- » Installation of a server and development of applications for “real time” web based flood forecasting.

Corporate Services:

- » Migration of external web hosting services onto in house server to reduce costs.

Source Water Protection:

- » Data collection and management for Assessment Report
- » Technical support for IPZ studies, including compilation of initial Drinking Water Threats Inventory.

Natural Areas Inventory:

- » Database development, management, and spatial integration of field survey data
- » Development and production of inventory maps for the final report

Watershed Plans:

- » Spatial analysis for watershed characterization
- » Cartographic map development for various plans

Restoration Projects:

- » Spatial analysis and mapping support for project design
- » Maintenance of Restoration Database

REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN:

2009 was the 10th year that NPCA has coordinated the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the joint federal-provincial program aimed at improving Great Lakes water quality.







PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

I am pleased to offer my sincere congratulations to the members of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

As you celebrate this milestone, you have the opportunity to reflect upon all of your accomplishments. For five decades, the NPCA has managed a complex watershed area, while working to set aside thousands of hectares for the preservation of wetlands and wildlife habitat in the Niagara area, including Long Beach, Willoughby Marsh, the Wainfleet Wetlands, Humberstone Marsh and Ball's Falls.

I commend everyone involved with this organization for your dedication to the maintenance, enhancement and retention of wilderness areas, as well as your commitment to providing exceptional outdoor recreational activities for the community.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, please accept my best wishes for a memorable day, and for every future success.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen Harper".



OTTAWA
2009



*On behalf of the Government of Ontario,
I am pleased to congratulate the members of the*

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

on the occasion of this organization's

Fiftieth Anniversary

*Over the years, the commitment of the members
of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority has helped to make your community
and our province a better place.*

*May the years ahead bring further accomplishments
and many more happy anniversaries.*

Legislative Building, Toronto
April 30, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dalton McGuinty".

**Dalton McGuinty
Premier**

Presented by: James Bradley, MPP
St. Catharines



THE NIAGARA REGION
CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION



presented to

*Niagara Peninsula Conservation
Authority*

with congratulations on

Your 50th Anniversary

Peter Partington, Chairman
Regional Municipality of Niagara

April 30, 2009





LAND MANAGEMENT

Darcy Baker, Director, Land Management



LAND MANAGEMENT

PROGRAM HISTORY

The early years focused on acquisition of land and water-related resources. Our current properties provide numerous and diverse opportunities including camping, hiking, fishing, boating, swimming, windsurfing, picnicking, bird watching and other recreational activities.

- » The first property acquired was Long Beach in 1961. Hosting over 100,000 visitors per year, Long Beach provides public access to Lake Erie, and offers a host of activities including camping and water recreation activities as well as picnicking and nature appreciation.
- » In 1964, 366 acres along the Welland River, now named Francis Goldring Chippawa Creek Conservation Area, was transformed from a derelict farm to a natural recreation area containing a thirty-acre lake, a mile and a half of riverfront, fishing, boating and outdoor activities.
- » We play a vital role in the preservation of wetlands including provincially significant landmarks such as Willoughby Marsh, Wainfleet Wetlands and Humberstone Marsh.
- » Beamer Memorial in Grimsby is well known for its vantage point to observe Hawk migration. Providing a picturesque view of the escarpment, trails, observation platforms and washroom facilities have been developed to enhance this beautiful conservation area.
- » St. Johns Conservation Area situated on the borders of Pelham and Thorold, provides an opportunity to fish in one of the only cold water fisheries in the Peninsula.
- » Ball's Falls, purchased in 1964, is the most popular conservation area and features Niagara's second largest cataract. Many original buildings including the Ball Family Homestead, and the Grist Mill provide a glimpse of our local industrial heritage. This site is now home to the new Centre for Conservation and the focus of many special events including the annual Thanksgiving Festival, which celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2009. With the recent addition of the Centre for Conservation, visitors have an opportunity to learn about the Authority's rich history and the many programs which have helped us accomplish so much in the last 50 years. The Centre for Conservation has been bestowed with numerous awards including LEED® Gold Certified Designation.
- » Outdoor educational programs at conservation areas such as Ball's Falls, St. Johns and Woodend complement our in school programs and enable students to learn through hands-on experience.
- » Since 1961, the NPCA has been preserving Canada's oldest living sugar maple tree. The Comfort Maple, located in the Town of Pelham is well over 500 years old.



- » Many capital improvement projects have taken place in the last decade including: a new nature trail at Virgil Conservation Area, the completion of the Twenty Valley Trail, and the purchase of 50 acres of adjacent land at Rockway Conservation Area.
- » In August 1997, the Wainfleet Bog was officially opened. In pre-settlement times, this bog occupied 12,000 acres, most of which was cleared and drained for agriculture and human settlement. Today, Wainfleet Bog includes approximately 3,000 acres and is recognized as a provincially significant wetland. The overall goal is the restoration of the bog's ecosystem.
- » In 2005 the Authority acquired Morgan's Point Conservation Area. This significant parcel of land located on the shores of Lake Erie in the Township of Wainfleet was publicly opened after undergoing significant restoration work. The project received financial support through a grant of \$75,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and other partners including the Wainfleet Lions Club. This site boasts a number of rare plant species among the dunes and beach, providing public access to Lake Erie. It plays an important role as a stopover for migrating birds and butterflies. A children's playground area was installed and the conservation area is now a popular spot allowing quiet enjoyment of the Lake Erie shoreline.

- » In 2006, the NPCA in partnership with the Township of Wainfleet, the Waterfront Regeneration Trust and Trans Canada Trail opened a recreational trail along the former Grand Trunk Railway Corridor in the Township of Wainfleet. The 12 kilometre stretch of abandoned railway line is being managed as a wildlife corridor and multi-use trail. The trail, designed to ensure easy access for visitors with restricted mobility, was developed for walkers, cyclists, horseback riders and nature enthusiasts. The trail has been respectfully named the Gord Harry Conservation Trail in memory of the late Gord Harry, former staff member and Board Chairman.

Today, the Land Management program is responsible for the management, operation and programming at 37 properties, totaling more than 7,200 acres (2,920 ha). Land acquisitions help protect the natural heritage of the watershed, and others are acquired for their proximity to sensitive plant and wildlife. Others are maintained by the NPCA for recreational value such as camping and access to watercourses for canoeing and swimming.



Highlights of 2009 activities:

BALL'S FALLS

2009 was the first full year of operation of the Centre for Conservation at Ball's Falls. In addition to being a great venue for weddings and corporate events, the Centre is a hub of activity for a number of new programs. The Centre continues to accumulate awards for its sensitive stewardship activities towards the environment. Temporary exhibits included Canadian Feed Bag Quilts - Recycled Then and Now; The Niagara Heritage Collection-Historical Architecture of Niagara; The Ribbet Exhibit; The Real Decoy; We all Live Downstream; Hands on Nature and Every Day Attire.

New signage was installed at the highway and park entrance; Upgrades to the trails system to improve walking conditions and clearly identify trail routes were completed.

Department of Canadian Heritage approved grant for \$32,900 to assist with purchase of shelving for the artifact collections.

Staff partnered with the Town of Lincoln on the Communities in Bloom program. Judges visited a number of sites including Ball's Falls as part of their tour. The Town was awarded four blooms for their efforts.

4,500 students attended the 7th annual Niagara Children's Water Festival and over 3,000 people attended the special 50th anniversary public day.

The 35th Annual Thanksgiving Festival, a Niagara tradition had over 16,000 visitors. A mix of artisans, entertainers and food concessions were featured along with several wineries from the Twenty Valley Tourism Association who offered an opportunity for visitors to visit a sampling bar set up in the Centre for Conservation.

The annual Christmas in the Country program continues to delight visitors.

BEAMER MEMORIAL

Annual Good Friday Hawkwatch Open House was held on April 10th with approximately 1,000 people in attendance. Monitoring at the site continues in conjunction with the Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch Association. Over 17,500 birds were observed. This is the highest count achieved since monitoring began at the site in 1990.

BINBROOK

A successful Ice Fishing Derby was held in conjunction with the Glanbrook Conservation Committee and Fishing World. A 50th anniversary cake and warm cider helped to ward off the chilly day.

Binbrook Great Outdoor Community Event took place on May 30th and the Crappie Derby was held May 31st.

Membership Pass and day use sales surpassed targets.

New picnic pavilion with concession area and boat rental facilities was completed.



CHIPPAWA CREEK AND LONG BEACH

Water systems upgrades and drainage improvement projects were completed.

Chippawa Creek Bass Derby held on July 11th, an annual event which coincides with the License free family fishing weekend.

50th Anniversary NPCA reunion was held at Long Beach on July 25th.

Wet weather put a damper on the camping season.

Several cross-country track events were held at Chippawa Creek.

Capital projects were completed at Long Beach including major renovations at the comfort station in the north campground.

STEVENSVILLE

A new pedestrian bridge was installed at Stevensville C.A.

E.C. BROWN

Earth Day planting was held on April 22.

Water levels at the conservation area reached the 100 year flood line resulting in damage to the platforms. In the true spirit of conservation, staff was able to salvage the wood for re-use.

ROCKWAY

Work was completed to stabilize the trail and limit erosion on 1.6km of trails leading into the valley and connecting to the Bruce Trail. The historic salt well and surrounding features will be protected and a new trail route is being planned.

ST. JOHNS

50th Anniversary celebrations were included as part of the annual trout season opening day on April 25th. The Authority stocks the pond with Rainbow Trout. Upgrades to the trails and bridge were carried out.

WAINFLEET BOG

Six water table wells were replaced with larger ones to accept data loggers.

An educational display was created to increase understanding for the Massassauga Rattlesnakes and the bog ecosystem. "Fred" the rattle snake who died of natural causes has been preserved and now 'lives' at the Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation where his remains are regaling visitors about how snakes function, how to identify them, habitat needs and their relationships to other animals.

TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Trail improvements were undertaken at several conservation areas including Virgil, Rockway, Mud Lake, Wainfleet Wetlands, Woodend, Mountainview, Hedley Forest, Ruigrok Tract and E.C. Brown.

GYPSY MOTH PROGRAM

Staff did a full assessment for gypsy moth at several conservation areas including Chippawa Creek, Ruigrok Tract, St. Johns, Hedley Forest, Comfort Maple, Smith-Ness and Willoughby Marsh. Both Smith-Ness and St. Johns were sprayed to reduce the potential effects of gypsy moth damage with minimal defoliation results.

THE FOLLOWING STAFF SERVED THE AUTHORITY IN 2009

Corporate Services

Tony D'Amario, P.ENG
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Mary Stack
Director, Communications

Cathy Kaufmann
Accounting Administrator

Tami McGowan
Accounts Clerk

Elizabeth Best
Coordinator, Niagara Children's
Water Festival

Loretta Sawatzky
Administrative Assistant,
Corporate Services

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation

Terry McDougall
Executive Director

Water Management

John Kukalis, C.E.T.
Director, Water Management

Diane Bois
Administrative Assistant Operations

Suzanne McInnes, MCIP, RPP
Coordinator, Watershed Planning

Paul Bond
Senior Watershed Planner

Jessica Button
Watershed Planner

Lindsay Earl
Watershed Planner

Sarah Mastroianni
Watershed Planner

Lee-Ann Hamilton
Planning Biologist

Tara Metzger
Watershed Planning Specialist

Rhonneke Van Riezen, P.GEO.
Watershed Planning Technician

Ryan Kitchen
Watershed Planning Technician

Deanna Lindblad
Project Coordinator,
Natural Areas Inventory

Albert Garofalo
Natural Areas Inventory Technician

Barry Porter
Natural Areas Inventory Technician

Tom Staton
Natural Areas Inventory Technician

Steve Miller, P.ENG
Coordinator, Watershed Regulation

Tim MacGillivray
Regulations Officer

Guangli Zhang
Water Resources Technician

Lisa Moreira
Water Management Technician

Ian Barrett
Aquatic Biologist

Brian Wright, MBA, P.ENG
Coordinator, Source Water Protection

Jayne Campbell, P.ENG
Hydrogeologist/Engineer

Annie Michaud, P.ENG
Water Quality Specialist

Joshua Diamond
Water Quality Technician

Andrea Larson
Water Quality Technician

Debbie Gullett
Administrative Assistant,
Source Water Protection

Jocelyn Baker
Coordinator, Watershed Restoration

Rob Diermair
Restoration Project Lead

Steve Gillis
Restoration Project Lead

Allison Graszat
Restoration Project Lead

Kelly Jamieson
Restoration Project Lead

Kerry Royer
Restoration Program Assistant

Alison Thomson
Restoration Program Assistant

Brianne Wilson
Restoration Project Lead

Geoff Verkade
Coordinator, GIS

Piper Mckinnon
GIS Technician

Jeff Lee
GIS Technician

Valerie Cromie
Coordinator, Remedial Action Plan

Land Management

Darcy Baker
Director, Land Management

Kim Frohlich
Ecologist

Kathy Smith, OALA, CSLA
Conservation Planner

Dan Drennan, RPF
Registered Professional Forester

Jeff Vlasman
Forestry Technician

Dave Drobitch
Superintendent, Long Beach &
Chippawa Creek C.A.'s

Brian Frith
Assistant Superintendent,
Chippawa Creek C.A.

Rob Kuret
Assistant Superintendent,
Chippawa Creek C.A.

Mike Boyko
Labourer, Chippawa Creek C.A.

Moriah Harry
Labourer, Chippawa Creek C.A.

Jim Dunn
Assistant Superintendent,
Long Beach C.A.

Nathaniel Devos
Labourer, Chippawa Creek C.A.

Jim Douglas
Superintendent, Binbrook C.A.

Bob Hayslip
Labourer, Binbrook C.A.

Michel Germain
Superintendent, Central Workshop

Rob Shoalts
Labourer, Central Workshop

Jason DiMarco
Labourer, Central Workshop

Darryl Kaine
Labourer, Central Workshop

Dan Kaine
Superintendent, Ball's Falls C. A.

Chris Hayward
Curator, Ball's Falls

Angela Wallace
Heritage Program Assistant,
Ball's Falls C.A.

Jill Walters-Klamer
Heritage Program Assistant,
Ball's Falls C.A.

Henry Parker
Custodian, Centre for Conservation

Andrea Wilson
Program Assistant,
Centre for Conservation

Nicci Hingley
Administrative Assistant,
Centre for Conservation



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mary Stack, Director, Communications



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

In 1960, the Board made a commitment to implement programs that would provide residents with information and opportunities that support conservation efforts. With over 36 conservation areas under the ownership/management of the NPCA, we continue to engage in a variety of community volunteer and outreach opportunities.

Today, the Authority's outreach events and programs range from curriculum linked school programs such as the Niagara Children's Water Festival and the Eco School Naturalization Program, to partnership arrangements such as the Yellow Fish Road program. The Authority has sponsored the Niagara Region Science and Engineering Fair for over 25 years, awarding prizes to students for projects which exemplify their commitment to the environment.

The annual Conservation Achievement Awards recognizes the efforts of the volunteers who work directly on Authority projects, as well as, community members whose contributions to conservation efforts are evident in their daily lives. The ongoing success of this program is evident in the number of individuals, businesses and service groups who consciously make an effort to practice environmental stewardship. Volunteers range in age from youth to seniors.

We collaborate with watershed agencies by participating on varied committees.

In 2009 staff served on the Boundary Waters Treaty Centennial Planning Committee, The Boundary Waters Treaty 1909 is recognized internationally for its significant vision of cooperation to ensure that this precious shared natural resource continues to be managed with respect. On June 13, 2009, guests witnessed a renewal of this commitment in a special ceremony which took place on the Rainbow Bridge. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State delivered the keynote address and reaffirmed the continued importance of the treaty.

Many special events took place throughout 2009 in celebration of the Authority's 50th Anniversary. Board and staff members had a wonderful opportunity to network with the numerous visitors who attended these events. On October 30, over 150 guests joined together to celebrate the Authority's accomplishments at the Forks and Corks Gala held at Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation. Guests were treated to a special performance created for the event by the 'Lamplighters. Cave Spring Cellars generously created 2 commemorative 50th anniversary wines, proceeds of which will support ongoing Authority projects.

The Authority received congratulatory letters and plaques from our member municipalities, provincial and federal governments and community partners.

A low-angle photograph of sunflowers against a clear blue sky. In the upper left, a single sunflower head is in full bloom, facing the camera. Below it and to the right, a much larger sunflower head is shown, with its yellow petals drooping downwards. The dark brown, textured seed head of this larger flower is prominent. Several large, green, serrated leaves are visible, some in the foreground and others further back, partially obscuring the stems. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Terry McDougall, Executive Director



NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION



The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation is a registered charity

dedicated to raising funds for the preservation and rehabilitation of our natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations. It exists to raise support and funding for important environmental projects of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. Often, these projects are not eligible for traditional government funding, or other funding is not sufficient or available.

Since its humble beginnings in 1969 and with the support of many individuals, businesses and organizations, more than \$4 million has been raised for local conservation efforts.

Donations to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation have been directed toward major projects and programs such as:

- » Acquiring artifacts for Ball's Falls Conservation Area (1969 – present). Thousands of people of all ages have gained a better understanding of this region's history by viewing these period treasures;

- » Supporting the acquisition of 16 acres of escarpment property at Woodend Conservation Area in Niagara-on-the-Lake and assisting with improvements to the former homestead to be used as a conservation education centre (1984);
- » Supporting the construction of two fishing piers (1988 & 1990) and a hard surface pathway and boardwalk (1992) for anglers interested in fishing for rainbow trout at the popular pond at St. Johns Conservation Area in Thorold;
- » Providing funds to build two lookout platforms (1989) and to reconstruct a portion of the natural trail and a new observation platform (1993) at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area.
- » Building a fishing pier at Chippawa Creek Conservation Area for day-use visitors (1990). The Foundation has been committed to improving trail access around Dils Lake for all visitors who wish to discover Niagara's finest conservation areas and facilities (1994 & 1995);



“ To live a pure unselfish life, one must count nothing as one’s own in the midst of abundance.” Buddha

- » Establishing an education bursary (1991) which provides an annual scholarship to secondary students pursuing post-secondary education in the field(s) of conservation, environment, forestry, natural resources and/or wildlife studies;
- » Constructing information kiosks at Beamer Memorial (1991), Stevensville (1992) and Woodend (1993) Conservation Areas to increase visitor awareness of features and conservation plans for the sites;
- » Establishing a commemorative forest program at Virgil, Woodend, Cave Springs, Ball’s Falls and Beamer Conservation Areas to provide opportunities for families and friends to purchase trees to be planted in memory of a loved one or in recognition of a special event;
- » Restoring the health of the majestic Comfort Maple tree located in North Pelham (1994). This 500 year old maple was deteriorating from lightning damage and is now expected to live for many years to come;
- » Acquiring and taking the necessary steps to preserve the Wainfleet Bog (1997 – 1998), the largest undisturbed peatland community in southwestern Ontario.
- » Supporting the construction of the Twenty Valley Trail, a recreational trail network designed to link Ball’s Falls Conservation Area with the historic village of Jordan, the beauty of the Bruce Trail and the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail (1998-2001).
- » Assisting the efforts of the Welland River Restoration Project to restore the largest and most stressed watershed within the jurisdictional area of the Authority. Specific projects have included fish barrier remediation, wetland restoration and habitat restoration and protection (1999-2007).
- » Supporting the efforts to restore and preserve the fragile and sensitive sand dune environment in Morgan’s Point Conservation Area in Wainfleet (2005).
- » Assisting in the efforts to acquire funds for the construction of the Centre for Conservation at Ball’s Falls Conservation Area (2006-2009).
- » Supporting the NPCA’s 50th anniversary initiative to open the ‘new’ Jordan Harbour Conservation Area and provide public access to this site which is fondly remembered by many locals as the former Campbell’s Marina (2010).



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world;
indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead



50
years

CELEBRATING
50 YEARS OF
CONSERVATION



50
years

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