

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



NIAGARA PENINSULA
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY

www.npca.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

BRUCE TIMMS



Bruce Timms, P.Eng
Chair, Board of Directors

As Chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board of Directors, it is an honour to present to you the 2014 Annual Report.

First and foremost, I would like to thank past NPCA Board Members who have demonstrated their commitment to the community and environment by serving on this board. Those members are:

- Mark Bagu, City of Port Colborne
- Tony Dalimonte, Haldimand County
- Dennis Dick, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Trevor Easton, Town of Grimsby
- Bart Maves, Niagara Falls
- Douglas Ransom, Town of Lincoln
- Barry Sharpe, City of Welland
- Robert Steckley, Town of Fort Erie
- Debbie Zimmerman, Town of Grimsby

In 2014, the NPCA acquired properties in Wainfleet, Lincoln, and Welland to the total of nearly 100 acres. 2014 also signified the final stage and complete transfer of ownership of St. Johns Conservation Area from the Jackman Foundation to the NPCA.

This past year brought forth many positive changes in the organization. With input from a variety of stakeholders, we developed the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan which was received positively by the public, member municipalities, and the board. Management and staff are working hard as we put this plan into action.

As we move forward with the implementation of the Strategic Plan, I am pleased to see the Board and staff have committed to remapping the entire Welland River Floodplain. Our commitment is to work with our stakeholders, and local landowners to better the overall health of our watershed. I am confident that it will be a positive and engaging process as we move forward with this important project.

Lastly, I am happy to see that the Community Liason Advisory Committee has been formed and fully appointed. We have a very knowledgeable, caring, and diverse group of people that have been providing valuable comments for the Board to consideration on important issues. We value their commitment to ensuring a healthy environment for years to come.



It is with great pleasure that I present the 2014 Annual Report of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA). The year represented a fundamental change in culture at the NPCA in alignment with the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan.

The NPCA is built on a foundation of passionate, dedicated, and professional employees. In 2014, we reorganized into three streamlined and highly-efficient departments: Watershed, Operations, and Corporate Services - Each comprised of experienced and talented management team and front-line staff.

The year started with focusing on five strategic and interconnected goals of:

1. Transform the Organizational Culture
2. Greater Accountability
3. Sustainable Infrastructure Management
4. Performance Improvement in Development Approval Process
5. Effective Policies and Priorities Framework

These five goals will position the NPCA to fulfill its legislated mandate and achieve our Mission "To manage our watershed's natural resources by balancing environmental, community and economic needs".

The success of the NPCA will be measured by its ability to focus on "balance". This is captured in the Vision statement of "Balancing conservation and sustainable development for future generations by engaging landowners, stakeholders, and communities through collaboration."

Although some decisions of the NPCA may not be popular, they will be made within the law and respecting the diverse views obtained from our collaborative efforts. Staff recommendations to the NPCA Board of Directors will be based on our Values:

- A sustainable balance between environmental conservation, economic growth, and agricultural prosperity.
- Clear and respectful communication
- Integrity, fairness and sensitivity to all impacted by our actions and decisions
- Creativity and innovation in service delivery to clients
- Transparency, accountability and quality in our services
- Pragmatic solution-oriented approaches to decision-making
- A respectful work environment and professional development

In 2013, the NPCA received feedback from the community that it was not operating in a manner that was meeting their needs. As a response, in 2014, the NPCA re-organized and adjusted to meet and exceed community expectations. We continue to move forward, stay focused, and implement our strategic plan.

Overall, a healthy environment equals healthy municipalities, and conversely, healthy municipalities equals a healthy environment.

MESSAGE FROM THE CAO/ SECRETARY TREASURER

CARMEN D'ANGELO



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. D'Angelo'.

Carmen D'Angelo, BSc, MPA
Chief Administrative Officer
Secretary Treasurer



2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fort Erie

Councillor Robert Steckley

Grimsby

Trevor Easton

Councillor Debbie Zimmerman

Haldimand

Councillor Tony Dalimonte

Hamilton

J. Stewart Beattie

Lincoln

Douglas Ransom

Niagara Falls

Councillor Bart Maves

Niagara-on-the-Lake

Councillor Dennis Dick

Pelham

Councillor Brian Baty

Port Colborne

Mark Bagu

St. Catharines

Councillor Bruce Timms (Chair)

Thorold

Dominic DiFruscio

Wainfleet

Mayor April Jeffs (Vice-Chair)

Welland

Mayor Barry Sharpe

West Lincoln

Mayor Douglas Joyner

2014 Land Acquisitions



Wainfleet Beach

Area: 6.2 Hectares

Identified in the 2007 Land Acquisition Plan, this property offers 519 linear feet of beachfront, as well as suitable habitat for Fowler's Toad.



Ball's Falls Addition

Area: 9.6 Hectares

This parcel is located to the south-east of existing Ball's Falls Conservation Area lands. NPCA has leased this property from the former owner for several years and is used for parking at the annual Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival.



Welland Property

Area: 18 Hectares

This property contains a portion of provincially significant wetland and is the first conservation area in the City of Welland.

what we do



Watershed Management

The Watershed Management Department is dedicated to monitoring, regulating, protecting and improving the health and safety of our watershed. The work of the Water Management Department generally applies to areas in or adjacent to waterways and their floodplains, wetlands, valley slopes, and the Great Lakes shorelines.

The Department is primarily responsible for Plan Review under the Regional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Niagara Region and administration of Ontario Regulation 155/06: Waterways, Valleylands and Wetlands Regulation. They are also responsible for a wide range of specialized technical support functions including flood control, water quality monitoring, and source water protection. Furthermore, the Watershed Management Department executes the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) through the joint Federal/Provincial program working to improve the water quality of the Niagara River

A Stewardship Division implements restoration projects identified in NPCA Watershed Plans, often through cost-sharing programs with landowners, that help to improve and maintain water quality and wildlife habitat throughout the watershed.

Operations

The Operations Department is responsible to acquiring and maintaining conservation areas throughout the watershed. Guided by the 2007 Land Acquisition Plan, the Operation Department seeks out targeted properties through sale, partnership, donation, or transfer in order to secure the health of the natural environment in the Niagara Peninsula.

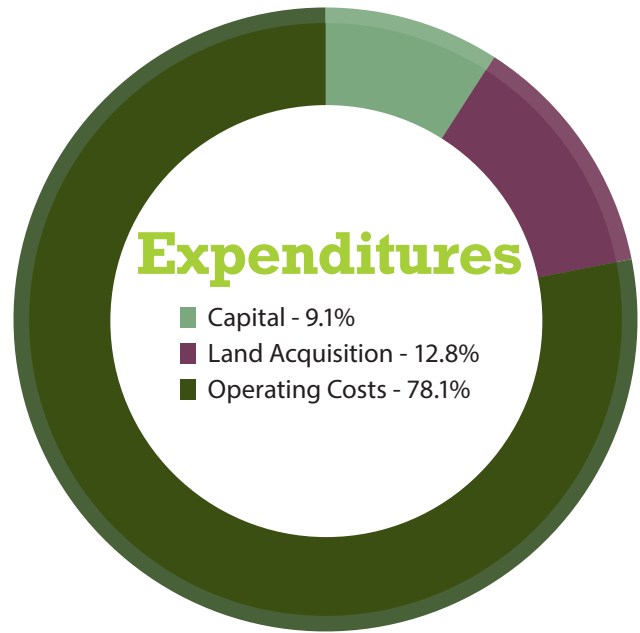
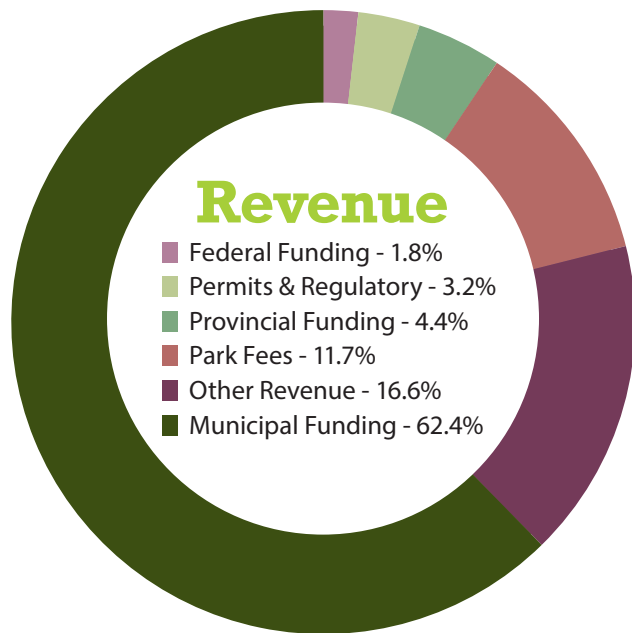
The Department maintains and enhances the NPCA's capital assets, and generates revenue through promotion of recreational activities at NPCA Conservation Areas.

Corporate Services

The Corporate Services Department combines finance, communications and marketing, charitable foundation, and geographic information services (GIS). The department assists the two other NPCA divisions in meeting the mandate of the Conservation Authorities Act. They also forge partnerships with community groups to foster goodwill and stewardship throughout the watershed. The GIS division provides mapping and oversees information technology services for the entire organization.



Financials



did you
know
that ?



NIAGARA PENINSULA
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY




























**2014
FAST FACTS**

361 
DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

OVER
7,000      
ACRES OF CONSERVATION LANDS

6      
FLOOD WARNINGS ISSUED

3    SEVERE
STORM
EVENTS

                                                                                           
980
TREES PLANTED AT
AREA SCHOOLS

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

Updates

- The Assessment Report was updated to include threats identified through event-based modeling, and transportation. The event-based modeling included potential fuel spill scenarios along the Welland Canal.
- The Report was approved by the Source Protection Committee (SPC) in October 2013, and by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) in November 2013.
- The Source Protection Plan (SPP) for Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area was updated to include the latest Assessment Report information in 2013.
- The SPP was approved by the SPC in October 2013, and then approved by the province in December 2013. The Niagara SPP was the second (out of 22) to be approved by the MOECC.
- While the SPP was approved in December 2013, it didn't 'come into effect' until Oct. 1, 2014. Today, all municipal planning decisions must conform to applicable policies within the SPP.

Who is affected?

Five municipalities in Niagara are required to implement SPP policies. They are; Niagara Region, City of Thorold, City of Welland, City of Port Colborne,

and the City of Niagara Falls. Municipal staff that may be affected include planners, chief building officials, and emergency response staff.

The municipalities have been working together to prepare for the implementation of the SPP.

Niagara Region is preparing proposed amendments to its Official Plan, and developing administrative processes along with the local municipalities to ensure the requirements of the SPP are met.

Once the Amendments to the Regional Official Plan are approved, the local municipalities will begin looking to make amendments to their Official Plans and By-Laws.

Niagara Region Public Works has designated staff as the Risk Management Official (RMO). The RMO will work with the above-noted municipalities and landowners to protect our municipal drinking water sources.

Some landowners that are located in vulnerable areas, in the Water Treatment Plant intakes, may be affected by the SPP. Municipal and conservation authority staff including the RMO have been working with these stakeholders to ensure our municipal drinking water sources remain safe.

Across the Province

The province has now approved 11 out of the 22 Source Protection Plans, and all of the plans for eastern Ontario, have now been approved.



Volunteer Spotlight

NPCA Honours over 180 Volunteers at the 2014 Conservation Achievement Awards

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority hosted over 180 volunteers, community group members, landowners, and stewards of the environment at the 2014 Conservation Achievement Awards held on Nov. 26 at Ball's Falls Conservation Area.

The event, now in its 23rd year, was established to recognize those who volunteer by contributing to the environmental conservation, restoration, development and management of our natural resources. The awards are intended both for those who volunteer to work directly with NPCA projects as well as residents who contribute to environmental projects within the watershed on their accord.

2014 Awards of Merit recipients:

- Gerry Beneteau (Friends of One Mile Creek)
- Patty Moss (monarch butterfly stewardship)
- Horizon Utilities (native species planting in hydro corridor along 12 Mile Creek)
- Roy Schofield (wetland development with Ducks Unlimited)
- Friends of Walker's Creek



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