



PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

2018
Annual Report



NIAGARA PENINSULA
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY

ABOUT US

OUR WATERS

The NPCA manages the Niagara Peninsula watershed, with the purpose of keeping people and property safe from flooding and erosion.

Our watershed includes several bodies of interconnected waters that flow throughout Niagara and part of Hamilton and Haldimand County. NPCA implements programming aimed at improving water quality.

OUR LANDS

NPCA manages 42 Conservation Areas, including Ball's Falls, Binbrook, Long Beach, and Chippawa Creek. These lands are held in public trust for recreation, heritage preservation, conservation, and education.

The NPCA also reviews and regulates proposed developments, in and near natural hazards such as floodplains, streams, shorelines, valleys, and wetlands.

OUR LEGACY

We manage the Niagara Peninsula watershed and our conservation areas for this generation, and for all future generations.

OUR LIFE

Water and air are essential to biological life. It is everyone's responsibility to protect those resources.



TOGETHER, WE ACHIEVE MORE



KEY EVENTS



Binbrook Hard Water Derby
FEBRUARY

2018 Conservation Awards
FEBRUARY

Niagara Peninsula
Hawkwatch
MARCH

St. Johns Pond Opening
APRIL

Filming of Star Trek
Discovery at Ball's Falls CA
MAY

New FunSplash Sports Park
Opens at Binbrook CA
JUNE

Begin Planning of 2019
Biennial Tour
JULY

Binbrook Movie Night &
Ontario Bolerama at Long
Beach CA
AUGUST

2018 Education Programs
begin at Ball's Falls CA
SEPTEMBER

Ball's Falls
Thanksgiving Festival
OCTOBER

NPCA BY THE NUMBERS

520,000 942

Residents

Volunteers



NPCA
WATERSHED

2,911

Hectares

42

Conservation
Areas



NIAGARA PENINSULA
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY

ACCESSIBILITY



New accessible lookout platform
at Beamer Memorial Conservation
Area, unveiled at the 2018 Niagara
Peninsula Hawkwatch.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

8,548 Volunteer Hours

405 Yellow Fish Road
Program Participants

4,000 Trees & Native
Shrubs Planted

6,357 Children Engaged
in Outdoor Education

Worked with 61
Community Groups

5.2% Reduction in
2018 Budget

315 NPCA
PERMITS
ISSUED IN
2018

93 New Construction

62 Provincial, Municipal,
or Regional Work

B-

Health of NPCA after completing first ever 2014–2017 Strategic Plan.

Beginning the process of the 2018–2021 Strategic Plan.

4 STRATEGIC PLAN AREAS OF FOCUS

- Evidence-Based Watershed Resource Management
- Rebuild the Canopy Plant 1 Million Trees & 3 Million Native Plants
- Forging Corridors & Creating Parks 100-Year Land Plan
- Sustainable Asset Management & Meeting Public Demand for Park Services

3 2018-2021 STRATEGIC PLAN PROCESS

- Four Town Halls
 - 2 Online Engagement Sessions on GetInvolved. NPCA.ca
- More than 76,500 Niagara Peninsula Watershed residents engaged to provide feedback

2018-2021 STRATEGIC PLAN COMPLETED

2018 PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

General Motors St. Catharines

Google

Friends of One Mile Creek

Stratus Vineyards

DSBN & NCDSB

Niagara Chapter Trout Unlimited

Niagara College & Brock University

The Pen Centre

Niagara Regional Métis Council

Niagara Region Native Centre

Niagara Parks Commission

Welland River Keepers

Glanbrook Conservation Committee



Updated Source Protection Plan Submitted to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks

1 New Project Manager

Section 36 Amended Order received from Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks

2018-2021 STRATEGIC PLAN

More than 76,500 people throughout the Niagara Peninsula watershed were contacted to provide feedback on the Areas of Focus that would form the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan.

MANDATE

As prescribed by the Conservation Authorities Act:

To establish and undertake programs and services, on a watershed basis, to further the conservation, restoration, development, and management of natural resources; and

As prescribed by Provincial Regulations:
To protect people and property by regulating, and risk-mitigating development through reviewing and commenting on applications, issuing permits, and ensuring policy compliance within the appropriate legislative and regulatory framework.

MISSION

To implement our Conservation Authorities Act mandate by remaining a responsive, innovative, accountable and financially sustainable organization.

Our success in meeting our mission is dependent upon working in collaboration with our partners in conservation. Ensuring the future viability of the Niagara Peninsula watershed is a shared responsibility.

2018 WATERSHED REPORT CARD

The 2018 Niagara Peninsula Watershed Report Card was completed and submitted to Conservation Ontario. Watershed Report Cards provide a baseline that can inform the focus of our work and are published every five years.

Our watershed received the following grades:

B | GROUND WATER
QUALITY

D | SURFACE WATER
QUALITY

D | FOREST CONDITIONS

B | WETLAND COVER

The NPCA monitors daily water levels at 15 stream gauge stations, and collects climatic data at 15 climate stations. Routine maintenance, calibration, and inspections at all 30 installations is done as part of the NPCA's routine flood forecasting and warning duties.

In 2018, we completed routine monitoring at all 80 water quality monitoring stations. This monitoring was performed monthly from March until November and samples are being analyzed for general chemistry, nutrients, metals, and bacteria. For 2018, NPCA processed 59 water quality data requests from other governmental agencies, consultants, and academic institutions.



ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

In 2018, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority had the privilege of partnering with many organizations, community groups, conservation and garden clubs, and educational institutions among many others.

In an effort to share the responsibility of the health of the Niagara Peninsula watershed, we continue to proactively seek partners within our community to ensure its resiliency.

In addition to previously highlighted partners and projects, in 2018 the NPCA engaged with:

- * Niagara College: Bio Blitz
- * Great Lakes Christian High School – Community Service Day
- * Greater Fort Erie Secondary School
- * Friends of Walker's Creek
- * Hospice Niagara
- * Maple Leaves Forever
- * Port Colborne Horticulture Society
- * Friends of One Mile Creek

- * Herman Miller
- * Scouts Canada
- * Town of Pelham
- * Infrastructure Ontario Sustainability Fair
- * Beacon Christian School
- * City of Niagara Falls - Parks in the City Committee
- * Ohnia:kara Aspiring Global Geopark
- * Bird Studies Canada
- * Ridgeway and District Garden Club
- * McKay Public School
- * Urban Forest Innovations
- * Sustainable Hamilton Burlington
- * The Printing House
- * Kids Out Fishing

These partnerships would not have been possible without the efforts and commitment of 942 volunteers, who gave of their time, resources, and incredible talent for a total of 8,548 hours.

Together, we can achieve more.



EDUCATION & RECREATION

Through 2018, the NPCA continued to be a leader in children's programming and outdoor, interactive and experiential education.

This past year saw the addition of a new overnight education program and relationship with the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN), sold-out day camps, and record attendance in educational programs.

The recent addition of a second programming team member has allowed for further development of programs and program leadership going into 2019.

6,357
CHILDREN ENGAGED IN
OUTDOOR EDUCATION
& RECREATION



OUR CONSERVATION AREAS

BALL'S FALLS CONSERVATION AREA:

The 44th Annual Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival attracted more than 25,000 guests from across Ontario and engaged a total of 125 volunteers, contributing more than 1,600 hours. Despite the rain and cooler temperatures, the Festival saw record attendance on Friday and Monday.

Ball's Falls had the privilege of hosting the film crew for Star Trek Discovery, as they were on site filming for various future episodes.

Facility Rentals saw a revenue increase of 16 per cent.

CHIPPAWA CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

Ninety-five seasonal campers enjoyed the area in the summer of 2018. Demand for seasonal campsites continues to increase steadily.

While in season, staff hosted various events for campers including the seasonal campers' BBQ, Annual Memorial Bass Derby, Canada Day Parade, Christmas in July, and Summer Carnival.

ST. JOHNS CONSERVATION AREA

The ceremonial first cast was once again initiated by NPCA Board Member Mickey Difruscio to mark the beginning of 2018 trout season.

BINBROOK CONSERVATION AREA

With the opening of FunSplash Sports Park, the number of park visitors increased by 50 per cent and revenue increased by 58 per cent in comparison to 2017. Binbrook is the ideal summer destination for families, with Boarder Pass Wakeboarding and Staycation Rentals also providing unique park experiences.

May of 2019 will welcome Treetop Trekking, a great addition to the recreational services and programs offered at the Conservation Area.

Binbrook also hosted Mud Girl, which drew 10,000 visitors on the first weekend in June.

LONG BEACH CONSERVATION AREA

One hundred and twenty-two seasonal campers enjoyed their summer at the Conservation Area. Demand for more seasonal campsites continues to increase every year.

Staff hosted various events including the annual seasonal campers' BBQ, Christmas in July, and Halloween in September.

#DISCOVERNPCA



@NPCA_ONTARIO



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