

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



NIAGARA PENINSULA
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY

Building On The Strong Foundation Of 60 Years Of Conservation



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2019 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors are committed to serving the Niagara Peninsula watershed on behalf of their municipalities. They contribute their leadership and expertise to decisions that determine the policies and programs of the Conservation Authority.

Barbara Greenwood*
Bernie Corbett*
Bill Steele
Brad Clark
Brenda Johnson
Brian Heit*
Brian Wright
Bruce Mackenzie
Dave Bylsma (2019 Chair)
Deborah Coon-Petersen
Diana Huson (2019 Vice Chair)
Donna Cridland
Ed Smith
Gary Zalepa*
Jack Hellinga
James Stewart Beattie
Jeff Jordan*
John Ingrao
John Metcalfe
Ken Kawall
Kevin Gibson*
Leah Feor
Malcolm Woodhouse
Pat Chiocchio*
Rick Brady
Rob Shirton
Robert Foster
Tim Whalen*
Tom Insinna*
William Rapley
Dominic 'Mickey' DiFruscio
(Honourary)

* 2019 Interim Board Members

Message from the 2019 Chair and CAO

It was a distinct honour to lead our community-based watershed organization through a year of intense and significant transition. Blessed with an excellent Vice Chair, a dedicated Board of Directors comprised of both elected and citizen appointees, and exceptional staff, we are confident that changes made in 2019 set the stage for meaningful, future, integrated watershed management. The lifeblood of any organization is its staff and we cannot underestimate the importance of the working relationship between the Board and staff - both of whom brought value, strength and expertise to assist the NPCA with its transition.

We want to acknowledge and thank the Auditor General of Ontario for her thoughtful recommendations. The Authority's response to her report was swift, thorough and constant throughout the year.

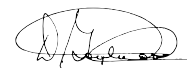
Our watershed municipalities, citizens, community groups, government partners, media and volunteers, provided unyielding assistance in crafting the Authority's change. Flagship events such as the 45th Annual Thanksgiving Festival and the Conservation Awards solidified that the Authority and community are working hand in hand. We thank you all for your

hard work in 2019 and are grateful for your continued support of NPCA. Conservation Ontario's leadership, guidance, and commitment to working on behalf of all 36 of Ontario's Conservation Authorities is saluted.

Finally, we congratulate the new Board Chair and Chief Administrative Officer and are positive that the Authority can ensure that this beautiful watershed is conserved, protected and restored for future generations.



Dave Bylsma
Board Chair



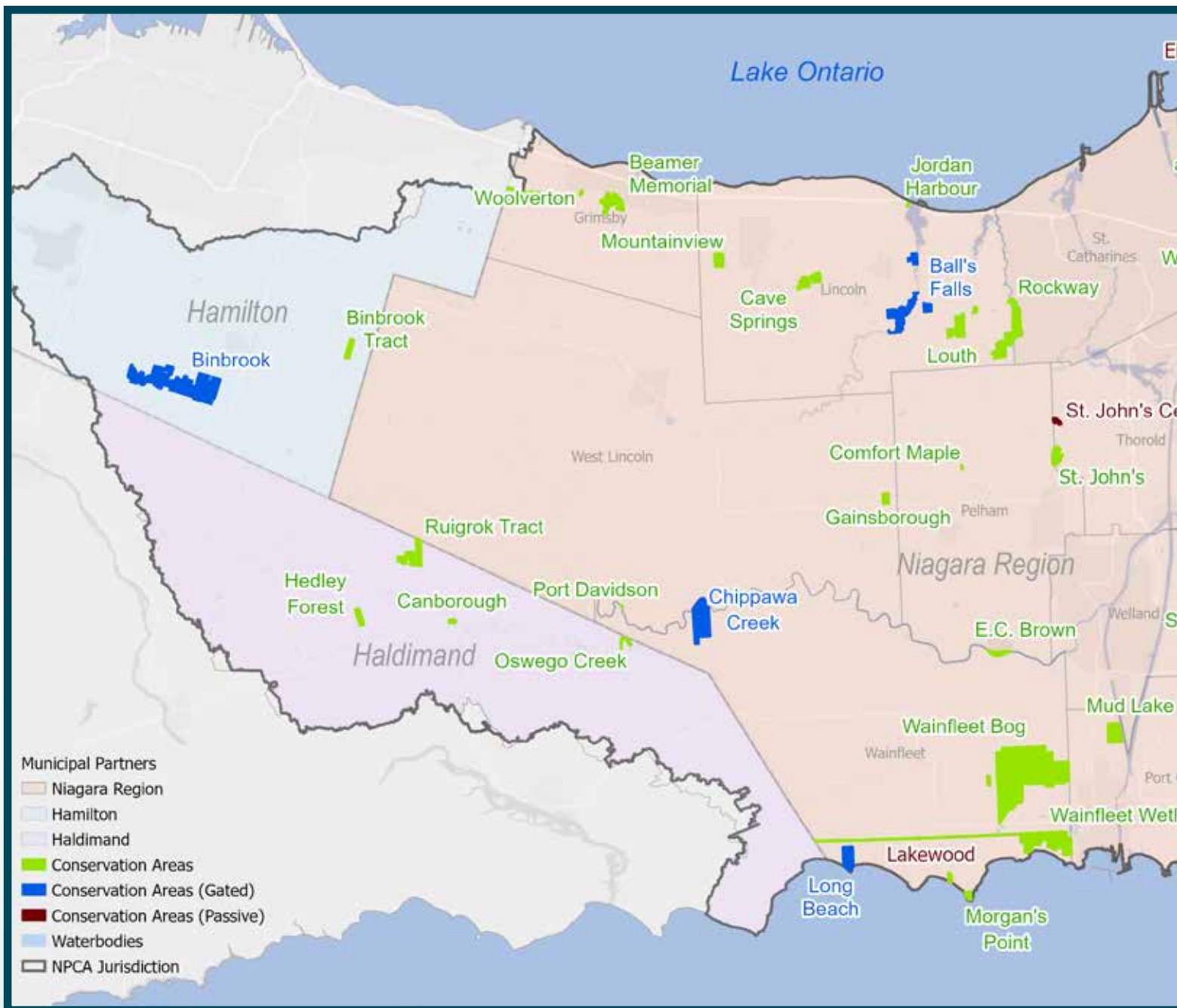
D. Gayle Wood
CAO
Secretary-Treasurer

Incoming CAO, Chandra Sharma



Chandra Sharma
2020 CAO
Secretary-Treasurer

In December 2019, the NPCA was pleased to announce the hiring of CAO Chandra Sharma. Ms Sharma is a Professional Planner with over 20 years of progressive leadership experience in strategy, governance, operations, and program development. Ms Sharma comes to NPCA from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.



About Us

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) is a community-based natural resource management agency that works to protect, enhance, and sustain healthy watersheds. With 60 years of experience, the NPCA offers watershed programs and services that focus on flood and hazard management, source water protection, species protection, ecosystem restoration, community stewardship, and land management.

The NPCA is one of 36 Conservation Authorities in the Province of Ontario. Managing 41 Conservation Areas within the Niagara Peninsula watershed, the NPCA owns lands that are held in public trust for recreation, heritage preservation, conservation, and education. These natural and shared greenspaces marry nature, culture and adventure to create limitless opportunities for discovery.

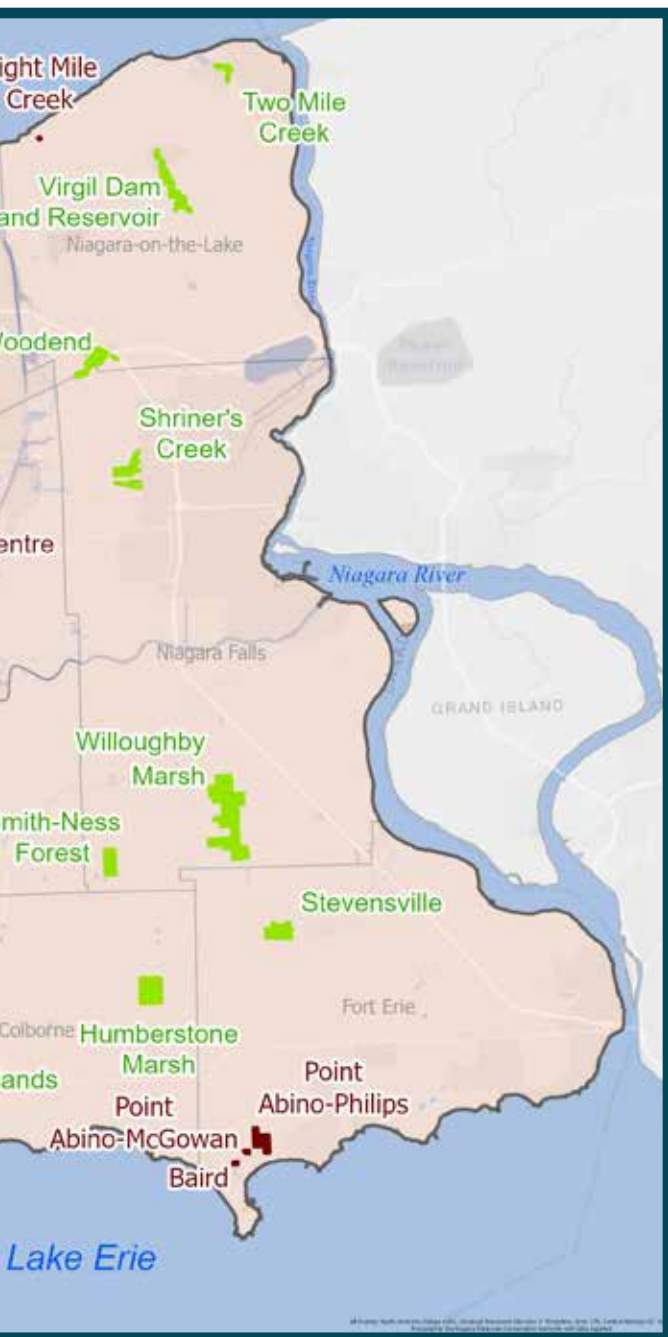
NPCA Mandate

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.



NPCA By The Numbers

520,000
Residents

242,900 ha
Watershed Jurisdiction

41
Conservation Areas

2,853 ha
NPCA Land Holdings

4
Flagship Properties

202
Local Waterways

2
Great Lakes

3
Funding Municipalities

21
Board Members

NPCA 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.



NIAGARA PENINSULA
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY

2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

Conservation Areas & Recreation

3,000+ visitors

At Binbrook Per Weekend (May To October)

16,539

Guests At Binbrook's
New Treetop Trekking Adventure Park

10,000

Mud Girl Participants

160

Weddings Hosted At Ball's Falls

New

Forest Playscape At Ball's Falls

30,000+

Thanksgiving Festival Attendees

97

Seasonal Campers At Chippawa Creek

125

Seasonal Campers At Long Beach

8.34%

Flagship Properties Shared Revenue Increase

Flood Management

20

Flood Bulletins
Issued

2

Severe Storm
Events Causing
Flooding, Erosion
And Damage



Community Engagement & Education

791

Active Volunteers

4

Award Of Merit
Recipients

205

Yellow Fish Road™
Program Participants

9,173 Kg

Waste Diverted At
Thanksgiving Festival

60,732

Trees, Plants & Native
Shrubs Planted

New

Get Involved NPCA
Online Engagement Portal

4,300

Children Engaged In
Outdoor Education

**Pathstone Mental Health
Mountainview
Natural Playground**

The NPCA funded the
planting of native trees
and shrubs and provided
in-kind environmental
workshops for children
6-12 years old

80

Community Groups
Engaged

Revitalized Restoration Program



25

Projects Completed



31.6 ha

Of Reforestation



8,191 m²

Of Riparian
Habitat Restoration



57,817

Trees Planted



2.37 ha

Of Wetland Created



1,019

Shrubs Planted

Watershed Management



176 Applications Received Under The Planning Act

16 Niagara Escarpment Commission Permit Applications Reviewed

172 Building Permit Clearances Received

102 Formal Property Letters Issued

11 Good Forestry Practices Permits Issued

3 Charges Laid Under The Forestry By-law

1 Forest By-law Conviction

119 Compliance Complaints Received

24 Notices Of Violation Issued

8 Violations Brought Back To Compliance

16 Violations Carried Into 2020

282 Work Permit Applications Issued

352 Planning / NEC Applications And Building Permit Reviews



The Comfort Maple Legacy Project
In partnership with the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture, this research project will help preserve the legacy of the Comfort Maple Tree. See page 27.

Ecological Work



12,828+

Raptors Of Various Species Were Counted At Beamer Memorial

5 Year

Environmental Monitoring Plan Implemented For Treetop Trekking At Binbrook

400

Hunting Permits Issued

2019 Partner Spotlight



- Birds Canada
- Brock University
- Canadian Wildlife Federation
- Carolinian Canada
- DSBN & NCDSB
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Haldimand Stewardship Council
- Land Care Niagara
- Niagara 2021 Canada Summer Games
- Niagara Coastal Community Collaborative
- Niagara College
- Niagara Peninsula Aspiring Global Geopark (Ohnia:kara)
- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation
- Niagara Region Metis Council
- Niagara Restoration Council
- Ontario Power Generation
- Pathstone Mental Health
- Pollinator Partners
- Trout Unlimited Canada - Niagara Chapter

3

Memorandums Of Agreement Signed—Ducks Unlimited Canada, Trout Unlimited Canada-Niagara Chapter, And Ontario Power Generation

100

Kilometres Of Updated Regulatory Floodplain Mapping For The Welland River

2

Beneficial Use Impairments Changed To 'Not Impaired' Through The Niagara River Remedial Action Plan Project

NEW

Source Protection Committee Chair Appointed By The M.O.E.C.P



In September 2018, the Auditor General of Ontario, Bonnie Lysyk, completed the 'Special Audit of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority', resulting in 24 recommendations for the organization, its municipal partners and the Province of Ontario.

In May 2019, Ms. Lysyk presented these recommendations at a special public meeting of the NPCA Board of Directors. The Conservation Authority has been in constant communication with the Office of the Auditor General and has worked diligently towards developing procedures, policies and best practices to address the list of recommendations. The Conservation Authority will continue to implement new processes and redefine its existing business practices to satisfy the recommendations.

The Office of the Auditor General will attend a Full Authority Board of Directors meeting in the fall of 2020, to assess the progress made since the Special Audit was published.

Out of the 24 recommendations, six rest with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The NPCA has worked with its umbrella organization, Conservation Ontario, to provide input into the Ministry's review to modernize conservation authority operations, to ensure conservation authority development permits focus on the protection of people and property.

- Auditor General Of Ontario Releases 'Special Audit Of The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority'
September 2018
- Restoration Program Re-Instituted
April 2019
- Board Of Directors Welcomes Auditor General Of Ontario To Full Authority Meeting
May 2019
- Workplace Harassment Policy Updated
June 2019
- NPCA Recruitment And Selection Policy Implemented
June 2019
- Ontario Power Generation - Memorandum Of Understanding Updated
June 2019
- Governance Training Program For Board Of Directors Implemented
August 2019
- Organizational Review Implemented Corporate Culture Initiative Drafted
August 2019
- Promotion Policy Updated
August 2019
- Performance Review Policy Updated
October 2019
- Board Code Of Conduct Policy Updated
November 2019
- Per Diem Policy Updated
November 2019
- Welland River Floodplain Mapping Completed
December 2019
- Whistleblower Policy Implemented
December 2019



NPCA staff at annual holiday party.

The past year focused on re-establishing internal trust and relationships in the organization. With a new CAO at the helm, all employees were given the opportunity to bring forward concerns and questions, and leadership listened. A focus was placed on open communication with employees while providing more frequent updates. As part of the Human Resources Plan, goals identified in 2019 included addressing recommendations within the 'Special Audit Of The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority', improved labour relations, including negotiation of a new Collective Agreement, policy updates, creating an action plan to address workplace concerns and implementing a performance management process to ensure that employees have the support they need to be successful. Overall, a focus on the largest resource the NPCA has — our staff.

In 2019, the NPCA made distinct improvements in building internal relationships with employees and the union. The organization was able to work collaboratively on various issues and successfully negotiated a fair collective agreement.

The NPCA has implemented a performance management process that will assist employees and their managers in setting goals, identifying training opportunities, rewarding and recognizing performance, and succession planning. Through key policy updates in the areas of Recruitment, Promotion, Workplace Harassment and implementation of a new Whistleblower Policy, the NPCA is meeting its objectives of providing a work environment that is fair and responsible and satisfies many of the recommendations from the Auditor General.

As the Conservation Authority moves into 2020, it will continue to listen to, and communicate with its employees. Through this work, the NPCA endeavors to build trust by implementing further initiatives to support the performance, growth and well-being of its invaluable team.

Accomplishments:

- Improved Labour Relations
- Addressed Workplace Concerns
- Supported Staff Success
- Improved Internal Communications and Re-established Trust
- Improved Corporate Culture

New and Improved Human Resource Policies:

- Recruitment
- Promotion
- Workplace Harassment
- Whistleblower Policy



Richardson Creek Valley and Wetland

The NPCA is dedicated to protecting and improving the health of our watersheds and keeping our communities safe from natural hazards. With 202 subwatersheds to monitor, the Conservation Authority has a strong role in the protection of our watercourses, valley lands and shorelines of the Welland River, Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, through its water and land management programs.

In 2019, the NPCA re-established its integrated watershed planning approach to adaptive local natural resource management. This consisted of integrating several existing programs such as restoration, water quality monitoring, flood watch, and planning and development. This approach focuses on the development and implementation of strategic long-range goals and objectives for the Niagara Peninsula watershed's overall health.

Integrated Watershed Management is the process of managing human activities and natural resources on a watershed basis.

An IWM Considers...



Integrated watershed management is a fundamental cycle of inventory, assessment, and management activities typically culminating in the development of a plan.

An Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) is a watershed strategy detailed in a guiding document for use by landowners, governments, planners, and all other stakeholders in a watershed. It sets out common goals and objectives for long-term management of land and water resources and guides efforts to maintain and enhance the watershed's natural heritage resources through complementary land acquisition, protection and restoration strategies. These are vital for the effective delivery of the Conservation Authority's mandate to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of local natural resources.



The NPCA Natural Area's Inventory was analyzed to assess how it functions as a natural heritage system across the landscape. This map illustrates the cumulative abundance of targeted ecological values within the natural heritage systems.

Nature for Niagara's Future

This project, which took place in 2012, provides a fundamental baseline of 'state of the watershed' information. It measured that the Niagara Peninsula currently achieves 56 per cent of what science recommends is the minimum required for the landscape to remain environmentally sustainable and resilient.

This integrated approach fills a previously identified gap in Authority associated services going back to 2011, when the NPCA last worked in partnership with the Region of Niagara through the former Niagara Water Strategy. The NPCA completed 12 plans for the Peninsula's 18 Watershed Planning Areas, compiled an initial Natural Areas Inventory, and subsequently assessed the existing natural heritage system remaining in the Niagara Peninsula watershed through a multi-stakeholder engagement process.

Open Data

Understanding the critical role of data and appropriate information in the development of relevant natural resources management recommendations, information management and geographic information services are key for integrated watershed planning. Data is the grist of the environmental and natural resources management mill as it becomes information and evolves through reflection and meaning into knowledge.

The NPCA completed a migration to ArcGIS Enterprise in 2019 for its GIS system, initiating a paradigm shift from traditional GIS professional data delivery to spatial information consumption by organizational subject matter experts and decision makers. This technology enables the deployment of web-based applications for real time field data collection using tablets and mobile applications. Appreciating the broader community value of the Conservation Authority's spatial data and its transparent delivery, this further supports content-specific built Web Applications for staff, stakeholders and the public, such as the launch of the NPCA GIS Open Data portal.



2,211 Data Records Collected By Mobile Devices

- 1,150 Snow Survey Records
- 750 Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network Inspections
- 176 Water Well Level Readings
- 135 Hydrometric Network Station Inspections



Wetland Excavation Project in Wellandport

The NPCA launched a revitalized watershed restoration program that meets the Conservation Authority Act Mandate and recommendations from the Auditor General.

VISION: Fostering collaboration among partners in the watershed to protect and restore water quality and diverse habitats by completing projects that meet the long-term mandate of the NPCA. The following list indicates the three primary goals of the NPCA Restoration Program.



Improve water quality, forest cover and habitat



Monitor, assess and communicate the change of the conditions in the watershed



Enable innovative approaches, partnerships and solutions



Native tree seedlings that were part of a restoration project.



Program Objectives & Accomplishments



Repair relationships with historical partner organizations and local landowners to achieve common goals:

- Established Memorandums of Agreement with Ducks Unlimited Canada and Trout Unlimited Canada-Niagara Chapter.
- Maintained positive working relationships with Land Care Niagara, Haldimand Stewardship Council, Niagara Coastal Community Collaborative, Friends of One Mile Creek, Niagara Parks Commission, Friends of Malcomson Eco-Park, Grand River Conservation Authority and multiple municipalities.
- Connected with watershed landowners through multi-faceted outreach including media campaigns, workshop presentations, face-to-face property visits and collaboration on restoration projects.



Establish and refine the prioritization and targeting of restoration work as per the recommendations from the Auditor General:

- The Restoration Program Review Committee was created to help guide the goals of the Restoration Program and select projects for grant funding.
- An objective science-based evaluation system was established and published.
- New detailed mapping brought a higher level of precision to decision making process.



Successfully complete restoration projects to help improve water quality, forest cover and habitat in the watershed:

- Completed **25** projects with local partners and landowners.
- **8,191** m² of riparian habitat restoration to shade creeks and reduce erosion and sedimentation.
- **2.37** ha of wetland created to provide floodplain storage, habitat and improve water quality.
- **31.6** ha of reforestation to expand and connect existing forests.
- **57,817** trees planted.
- **1,019** shrubs planted.



A survey launched in 2019 aims to understand which fish people eat from the Niagara River.

Niagara River Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

In the late 1980s, the Niagara River was identified as one of 43 severely degraded locations in the Great Lakes, called Areas of Concern. As a result, both the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health called for the development of locally driven Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) to guide the efforts toward restoring water quality and ecosystem health at these locations. The Niagara River RAP is a partnership of all levels of governments (federal, provincial, municipal), First Nations, Metis Nations of Ontario, non-government organizations, scientists, citizens and the NPCA.

In 2019, the RAP partnership celebrated two official beneficial use impairment (BUI), status changes, a major accomplishment as it brings the Niagara River one step closer to delisting. The BUI were related to water quality and to the microscopic organisms that form the base of the food chain. The RAP Team initiated the development of a Delisting Strategy which began with a review of the goals and actions needed to address each ecosystem indicator. For example, to address fish consumption, the RAP initiated an online survey to better understand which types of fish people are eating from the Niagara River, and guide future monitoring and education efforts related to fish consumption. This effort, which resulted in more than 100 survey responses, included engagement with a First Nation community.

The RAP engages in outreach initiatives and provides information through its website, social media, and through support from a stakeholder implementation and public advisory committee.

The NPCA has been an active participant in the RAP since its inception. In 1999, the NPCA became the host organization responsible for coordinating the Niagara River RAP through a full-time staff person, with funding support from the federal and provincial governments.

Summary Of Accomplishments In 2019

- Two BUIs officially changed to 'Not Impaired'.
- Over 100 fish consumption surveys completed.
- Engaged 17 partner organizations/groups to guide and participate in various remediation activities.
- The Niagara Parks Commission worked on creating coastal wetland habitat in the Upper Niagara River.
- The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake completed studies to improve water quality at Queen's Royal Beach.
- Studies were initiated for monitoring a variety of wildlife species such as colonial waterbirds, snapping turtle eggs and others.

Looking Ahead To 2020

Partners continue to work together on remaining actions necessary to address challenges associated with five remaining BUIs:

- Fish consumption advisories.
- The degradation of fish and wildlife populations.
- Water quality concerns related to swimming.
- Contaminated sediment at one location in the watershed.
- Habitat loss.

In 2020, the RAP Team will be identifying its remaining actions and compiling the information into a Delisting Strategy to guide and support efforts toward delisting the Niagara River.



The NPCA collects surface water samples eight times a year on a monthly basis during ice-free periods from a network of 80 surface water sampling sites.

Water Quality Technician samples water at Twelve Mile Creek.



Water Resources staff collecting Snow Survey data.



The NPCA has completed seven projects under the Well Water Decommissioning Program which serves to seal off potential pathways for contaminants from entering the local groundwater.

A Key Role In Improving Water Quality

Since 2001, the NPCA has managed an extensive water quality monitoring program for the Niagara Peninsula watershed, which includes surface water from local watercourses and groundwater from significant aquifers.

The NPCA tests the water for numerous parameters, such as general chemistry, nutrients, metals and bacteria. The water chemistry program is operated in partnership with the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) and the Niagara Region. An important area of this in-depth monitoring program is assessing aquatic ecosystems using benthic macroinvertebrates as indicators of water quality.

Water Quality Monitoring Program Highlights

- Staff participated in two investigations of *E. coli* contamination:
 - Queens Royal Beach in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, with the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan. Based on the work of the investigation, the Town is moving forward on several initiatives to reduce *E. coli* loading to the Niagara River.
 - Binbrook Conservation Area in order to determine the cause of summer beach postings, which confirmed birds (gulls in particular) as the source of the contamination.
- Completion of annual monitoring and technical memo of perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) at Binbrook Conservation Area. Concentrations of PFCs were found to be below Health Canada drinking water guidelines.
- Geomorphological studies of five NPCA monitoring stations were undertaken using the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol. These are important studies for diagnosing potential stressors of water quality for each watershed.

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

Everyone has an important role to play in protecting fresh water and ensuring access to safe drinking water is available to all. Stopping contaminants from entering drinking water at its source is the first line of defense in the protection of the environment and human health.

The Clean Water Act, established in 2006, is part of a multi-barrier approach to ensure clean, safe and sustainable drinking water for Ontarians, by protecting sources of municipal drinking water such as lakes, rivers and well water. Under this legislation, the Drinking Water Source Protection Program was established by the Government of Ontario. This resulted in the development of science-based assessment reports and local source protection plans by multi-stakeholder source protection committees, supported by Source Protection Authorities.

The Source Protection Committee (SPC) meets quarterly, and is comprised of three citizen appointees, three municipal representatives (Niagara Region, Haldimand, Hamilton), and three business representatives for the Agriculture, Industrial, and Commercial sectors. The NPCA is the local Source Protection Authority. The SPC presents program updates to the Source Protection Authority several times a year.

2019 Program Highlights

- The Source Protection Committee welcomed a new Chair, Mr. Bill Hodgson, who was appointed by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.
- The Source Protection Committee continues to work on the updates to the Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report including proposed modifications to the DeCew Reservoir and Niagara Falls Water Treatment Plant.
- The 2018 Source Water Protection Annual Progress Report was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks which indicated that all actions and policies have been implemented.
- Five new 'Drinking Water Protection Zone' signs were installed in Thorold and around the vicinity of the DeCew Water Treatment Plant in St. Catharines.



Did You Know?

These provincially standard road signs mark locations where roads cross into zones where municipal drinking water sources are the most vulnerable to contamination. They are located across Ontario to raise awareness about drinking water sources.

When you see these signs posted, you should pay extra attention to land-use activities in these areas.

Water Resources Technician collects data from hydrometric network station.

Flood Outlook Statement

The Conservation Authority operates a secure flood warning system developed to warn residents who live in flood-prone areas. Through a network of rain gauges, stream gauges, and snow courses, staff monitor streamflow conditions year-round. Should a flood be imminent, bulletins are issued to municipalities and media, prompting appropriate actions to be taken by officials.

Flooding is a natural process. Despite efforts to reduce the risk to life and property in the Niagara Peninsula watershed, some flooding in developed and underdeveloped areas is inevitable.

- 20 flood bulletins issued.
- 12 of these flood bulletins warned residents of the potential for flooding from high water levels on Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.
- 2 severe storm events in November which caused damage related to flooding and erosion.



The NPCA was the first Conservation Authority in Ontario to implement the use of the Alertable App—a trustworthy and reliable emergency alert software platform used by local, regional and provincial officials to notify and inform the public of disasters and hazards. Through this app, the NPCA now has the ability to send flood advisories directly to residents of the watershed through mobile devices.

The NPCA Updated Over 100km of Regulatory Floodplain Mapping on the Main Branch of the Welland River

The NPCA fulfills its mandate by advocating and implementing programs that improve the quality of lands and waters within its jurisdiction. This work helps keep people and their property safe from flooding and erosion, provides for the management of conservation and hazard lands, and enhances the quality of life in the watershed by providing lands for regional recreation, heritage preservation and conservation education.

In 2015, the NPCA undertook an entirely new floodplain mapping exercise for the main branch of the Welland River, from the Binbrook Dam to the Niagara River. The goal of this mapping exercise was to engage the community and stakeholders in a process that would produce accurate and technically supported flood line mapping.

The consultation and engagement programs were designed to ensure that property owners were aware of any potential impact to their property through a series of four town hall sessions, as well as a robust marketing and outreach campaign. Input from property owners and the public was also incorporated into the technical process prior to the drafting of the floodplain maps. As a result of this exercise, the NPCA successfully completed floodplain mapping of 135km of the Welland River in 2019.

• 196 People Attended Information Sessions In 2019

Haldimand County Lake Erie Shoreline Hazard Mapping and Risk Assessment

The NPCA is a partner in this study to develop consistent up-to-date hazard mapping across Conservation Authority jurisdictions within Haldimand County.

Binbrook Dam

A large maintenance project on the Binbrook Dam was undertaken to ensure that the facility remains in good working order and meets the four goals of the facility—to provide recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, flood control, and flow augmentation to the Welland River.

The project consisted of removing existing sealant that was loose or missing from five full contraction/expansion joints due to the action of flowing water and debris, and replacing it with new joint sealant.

A Seven-Year Floodplain Mapping Workplan

In the 2018 Special Audit of the NPCA, the Auditor General recommended; that the Conservation Authority assess the risk to communities around watercourses with no floodplain mapping; that it determines the time and cost for completing and updating floodplain maps; and schedules this work based upon risk assessment.

In 2019, the NPCA undertook a comprehensive review of the status of its floodplain mapping and recommended a seven-year workplan to address watercourses and associated tributaries with no floodplain mapping, as well as those that would require updates. This work will confirm the extent of potential flood hazards and help guide development in a comprehensive fashion.

- 2020 - Beaver Creek
West Lincoln
- 2021 - Big Forks Creek
Wainfleet
- 2022 - Draper's Creek
Welland
- 2022 - Coyle Creek
Pelham and Welland
- 2023 - Mill Race Creek
Wainfleet
- 2024 - Oswego Creek
Haldimand
- 2025 - Upper Welland River Tributaries
Hamilton, Haldimand, West Lincoln
- 2026 and Beyond - Update floodplain mapping
projects older than 20 years



Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch citizen scientist volunteers count raptors during the spring migration.

In 2019, the NPCA staff Ecologist conducted annual ecological resource inventories, including amphibian, turtle, snake and vegetation surveys, and species-at-risk monitoring at all conservation areas. Restoration of understorey plots at Woodend Conservation Area was completed to restore forest understorey, and a number of ecological monitoring and research programs were hosted across NPCA properties in partnership with community stakeholders. A five-year environmental monitoring plan was finalized for Treetop Trekking Zipline Adventure Park.

Observing Spring Migration at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area

The Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch is a volunteer community group that records migratory raptor species observed at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area annually, from mid-March through to early-May. 12,828 raptors of various species were counted at Beamer Memorial in 2019.

Monitoring Fish Population at Binbrook

Fishing derbies are held across a variety of NPCA Conservation Areas throughout the year. At Binbrook, the Annual Hard Water Derby allows the NPCA to collect information on the fish population in Lake Niapenco, assists in public education, and helps to enforce necessary park fishing policies and permitted activities.

Bat Species at Cave Springs

Bat species monitoring at Cave Springs Conservation Area gathered critical information to assess migration patterns along the Niagara Escarpment in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. This program will help to further understand the species, their seasonal site use, and critical habitat areas for future consideration in conservation area site management.

The Gypsy Moth

Annual gypsy moth monitoring continues at several NPCA sites, including Chippawa Creek, Comfort Maple, Hedley Forest, Ruigrok Tract, St. Johns, Smith-Ness, and Willoughby Marsh Conservation Areas. Sites of particular concern were Chippawa Creek and Ruigrok Tract, where egg masses were observed in early spring. As most properties demonstrated low-to-moderate risk of defoliation, NPCA staff Ecologist recommended no spray management through 2019.

Academic Partnerships

The NPCA engaged in a study of black-legged ticks at St. Johns Conservation Area with the University of Guelph. Additionally, Masters students from Brock University conducted studies of Eastern Garter Snakes within the peatland areas of the Wainfleet Bog and shared their findings on thermal habitat preferences.



Bat Acoustic Monitoring



Gypsy Moth egg masses



The NPCA is responsible for the review of planning applications affected by natural environmental hazards, while working in partnership with municipalities to further the conservation of natural resources.

The Conservation Authority enforces Ontario Regulation 155/06, a regulation intended to ensure that new developments (i.e. homes, additions, pools, etc.) are not impacted by flood and erosion associated with watercourses, ravines, and wetlands in order to conserve the natural environment. The primary role of the NPCA is to protect people and property from natural hazards, a role that is extremely important, especially since the impacts of climate change have resulted in a higher frequency of extreme weather events and higher lake levels.

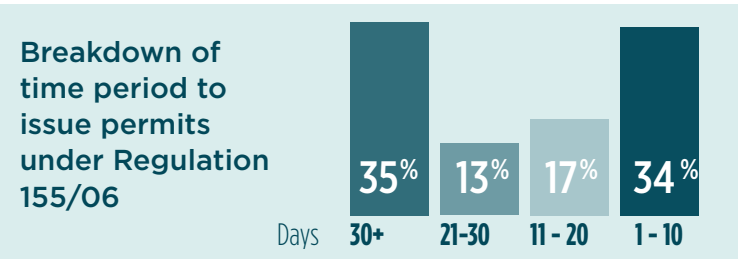
Ontario Regulation 155/06 requires individuals to obtain permission before undertaking development within an area regulated by the NPCA. The issuance of permits helps the NPCA ensure development activity in a Regulated Area is conducted in a manner that will not impact the environment negatively.

• 282 Work Permit Applications Processed

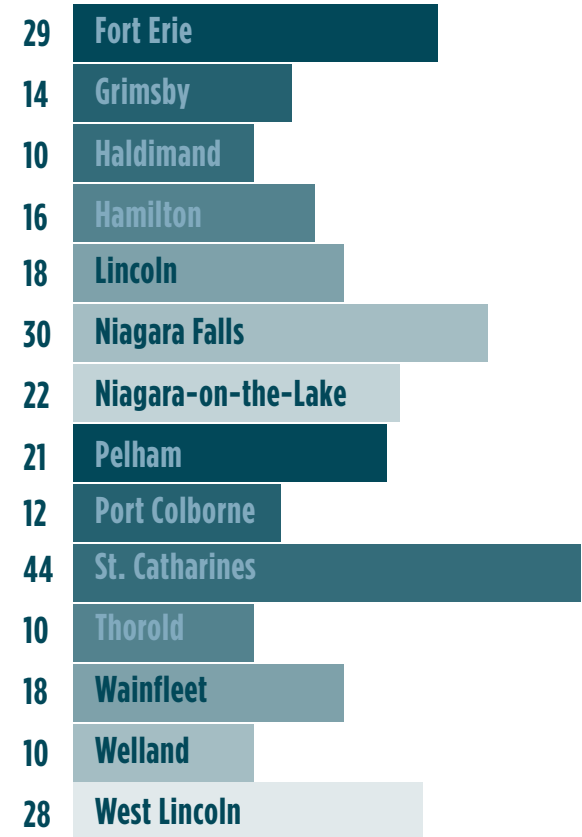
Planning Act Review

The NPCA is considered a commenting agency under the Planning Act. The Conservation Authority reviews applications such as Official Plan amendments, Zoning By-law amendments, Plans of Subdivision, Site Plans, Minor Variances and Consents, to ensure the applications are consistent with the Natural Hazards section of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) – Section 3.1 – and the NPCA’s Regulation.

• 176 Applications Received Under The Planning Act



Permits Issued per Municipality under Regulation 155/06 (282 Total)



Niagara Escarpment Development Permit Review

The Niagara Escarpment is an important natural feature in the Niagara Peninsula watershed. Land use within it is regulated by the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) through a Development Permit. The NPCA is circulated on these applications to provide comment, in much the same manner as for Planning Act applications to help ensure the long-term protection of the Niagara Escarpment.

• 16 NEC Development Permit Applications Reviewed

When Building Permits are obtained from a municipality in the watershed, the NPCA becomes involved if there are Regulated Areas on the property (a river or stream valley, Great Lakes and large inland lake shorelines, hazardous lands, watercourses, and wetlands). While these reviews do not always require a full NPCA Permit, particularly when the project is outside of a Regulated Area, the NPCA will instead issue a Building Permit Clearance. These are all important components of the overall Building Permit process and helps ensure property owners are undertaking work in a responsible manner in relation to natural hazards and wetlands.

• 172 Building Permit Clearances Received

Property Information letters

The NPCA responds to numerous basic property inquiries. These range from people interested in purchasing a new property with possible regulated areas, to those looking for more information about planning and permitting policies. Through this work, the NPCA is able to educate the public about the importance of avoiding natural hazards. In the case of the building industry, this process helps prospective developers avoid purchasing land that is not suitable for development.

• 102 Formal Property Letters Issued



Example of a dock renovation project.

Planning Reviews By Type

172	Building Permit Clearance
9	Clearance of Conditions
44	Consent
6	Draft Plan Approval Extension
6	Environmental Assessment
102	Formal Property Inquiry
52	Minor Variance
187	Municipal Preconsultation
26	Niagara Escarpment Development Permit
4	Official Plan Amendment
4	Other*
12	Plan of Subdivision
1	Secondary Plans
39	Site Plan Control
5	Vacant Land Condominium
13	Zoning By-law Amendment
682	TOTAL

*Planning reviews that do not fit into the above categories.

Planning Reviews By Municipality

76	Fort Erie
28	Grimsby
24	Haldimand
68	Hamilton
52	Lincoln
67	Niagara Falls
47	Niagara-on-the-Lake
45	Pelham
25	Port Colborne
52	St. Catharines
32	Thorold
54	Wainfleet
46	Welland
66	West Lincoln
682	TOTAL



Forests are a natural resource and provide environmental, social and economic benefits to the public. Through administering the Niagara Region Tree and Forest Conservation By-law, the NPCA ensures wood harvesting is conducted in a sustainable manner.

The NPCA handles the administering and enforcement of the Regional Municipality of Niagara Tree and Forest Conservation By-law. The By-law was introduced to conserve and improve woodlands in Niagara and ensures that when tree cutting occurs, it is carried out in accordance with Good Forestry Practices.

- 11 Good Forestry Practices Permits Issued
- 3 Charges Laid Under The By-Law
- 1 Conviction

Restoring The Environment Through Positive Enforcement And Compliance

The enforcement of NPCA regulations plays a pivotal role in the protection and conservation of wetlands, shorelines, and escarpment areas found within the Niagara Peninsula watershed.

Compliance and Enforcement officers are given authority from the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 155/06. These officers inspect and report on various files approved by the NPCA through its permitting process, with the objective of protecting life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion.

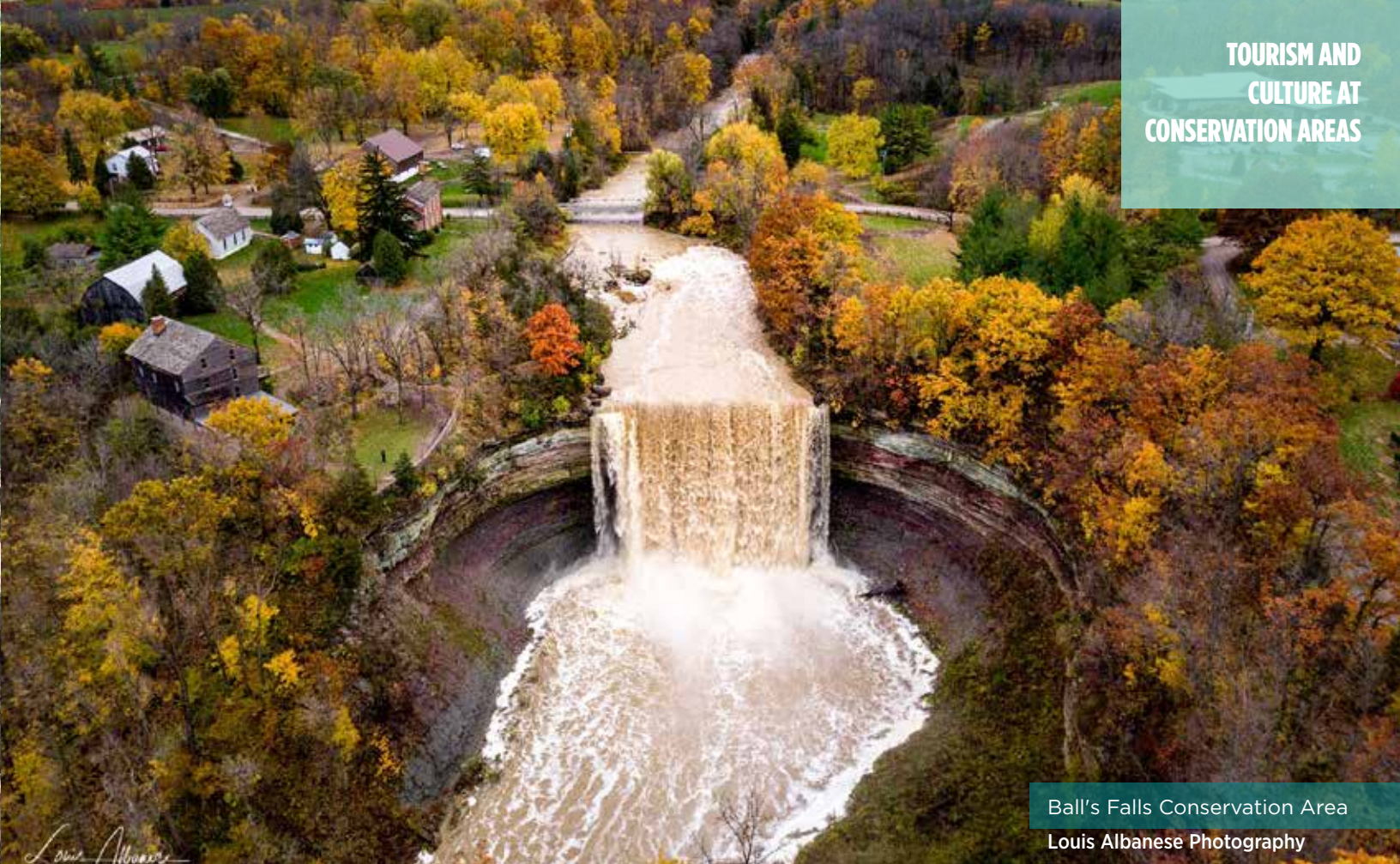
When complaints of possible violations are received, staff visit and review the property and related activity to determine if the work is in violation of the Conservation

Authorities Act. In many cases, the activity is not a violation, and in others, staff can provide the appropriate corrective measures to bring the work into compliance and avoid further proceedings. This provides an opportunity to educate property owners of the presence of natural hazards and wetlands and the importance of ensuring development and site alteration is undertaken in an appropriate manner.

In instances where work has been done without the permission of the Conservation Authority, officers will notify the proponent of the violation through a Notice of Violation and may lay charges if the matter is not resolved. This differs from another legal power that can immediately stop the activity, known as a 'stop work order'.

When an owner does not respond to the Notice of Violation, or progress towards voluntary compliance is moving too slowly, the NPCA may proceed to formally charge a property owner under the Conservation Authorities Act. This involves appearing in Court and can be a costly process involving time and money for both parties. Resolving a violation through voluntary compliance is considered to be a more beneficial approach.

- 119 Complaints Received
- 24 Notices Of Violation Issued
- 8 Violations Brought Back To Compliance
- 16 Violations Carried Into 2020



Ball's Falls Conservation Area
Louis Albanese Photography

The NPCA manages 41 Conservation Areas, held in public trust for recreation, heritage preservation, conservation, and education. These natural and shared greenspaces marry nature, culture and adventure to create limitless opportunities for discovery.

Ball's Falls Conservation Area

The park is utilized daily from April to October for a variety of programs and services, including educational programming and camps, special events, corporate facility rentals, wedding ceremonies and receptions, as well as specially permitted camping groups, tours and passive recreation.

In 2019, projects throughout the site included the design and installation of new interpretive signage at the heritage village to enhance passive tourism and historical relevance of the site, new admission booths, and a new access onto Ball's Falls property from Seventh Avenue. All of these contributed greatly to the overall experience of the Conservation Area, as well as the success of the 45th Annual Thanksgiving Festival.

Ball's Falls Conservation Area is a signature award-winning wedding location within Niagara. The Big Barn continues to be a major draw for couples every wedding season. Considerable improvements and updates were made to venues and historical buildings, to support an increase in facility bookings through 2021.

- 160 Weddings Hosted At Ball's Falls
- 38 Special & Corporate Event Bookings

Binbrook Conservation Area

The NPCA welcomed Treetop Trekking Adventure Park and Treewalk Village to Binbrook with much anticipation and success. Treetop Trekking joins FunSplash Sports Park inflatable waterpark, Boarder Pass Cable Wakeboarding, and watercraft rentals as premium attractions at the park.

- 16,539 Guests Visited Treetop Trekking Adventure Park
- 10,000 Visitors - 2nd Annual Mud Girl Race At Binbrook



Binbrook Conservation Area



Long Beach Conservation Area

Chippawa Creek and Long Beach Conservation Area Campgrounds

The two NPCA campgrounds, Chippawa Creek in Wellandport, and Long Beach in Wainfleet, initiated their 2019 camping season on May 17. Despite starting the season with unfavourable weather, it proved to be a strong year for both conservation areas.

- **Chippawa Creek Hosted 97 Seasonal Campers Resulting In A 4% Revenue Increase**
- **Long Beach Hosted 125 Seasonal Campers Resulting In A 11% Revenue Increase**



Chippawa Creek Conservation Area

On Saturday, July 13, Chippawa Creek held the 6th annual Douglas E. Elliot Bass Fishing Derby for 115 participants including both adults and children. Over the course of the event, 40 bass were caught and weighed, with the largest fish weighing just over 1.36 Kg (3 lbs).

At Long Beach, the 9th annual Bolerama weekend was a huge success and served as the 19th annual gathering of the Ontario Bolerama group, showcasing their light-weight molded fiberglass camping trailer style to visitors from across Canada and the United States.

Returning Seasonal Campers were surveyed on their camping experience for the first time at the end of the season, with 53 responses submitted.

Almost 85 per cent of participants responded that they are very likely to return to the campgrounds as seasonal campers. The results of these surveys will be used to continue to improve park services and amenities and demonstrate the efforts made by the organization to support and sustain positive camper experiences.

The NPCA looks ahead into 2020 with the goal of continuing to deliver high-quality programs and services to communities and guests within our beautiful, diverse and ecologically rich conservation areas.

- **Shared Revenue Increase Of 8.34% In 2019 Through NPCA's 4 Flagship Properties**



New Forest Playscape at
Ball's Falls Conservation Area

Educators at the NPCA work throughout the year to plan, develop and deliver educational programming, camps and projects primarily at Ball's Falls Conservation Area, and across the watershed. Local tourism and awareness activities within the region of Niagara were supported through daily historical tours and guided hikes from Victoria Day through to Labour Day.

• 4,300+ Students Engaged In Outdoor Education

Outdoor Adventure Day Camps

The NPCA's team of educators delivered several different day camps to children 5-12 years of age, as well as opportunities for youth to become Junior Leaders within a day camp environment. This year proved to be very successful for PD, March Break, and Summer Adventure Day camps as momentum and awareness of these programs continues to increase.

- 47 March Break Campers (record attendance)
- 24 to 32 Summer Adventure Campers Weekly

Overnight Outdoor Adventure Program at Ball's Falls

Another successful year of the overnight camping and outdoor education program was delivered for the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN). Developed in collaboration with their outdoor education coordinator, the program was first delivered in spring 2018 to immerse intermediate students (grades 6-8) in an outdoor, environmental experience.

- 532 Students Camped Overnight
- 400 Students Scheduled In 2020

Ball's Falls Forest Playscape

Thanks to funding from the Niagara Regional Chair Outdoor Education Fund, fall of 2019 marked the completion of the Forest Playscape at Ball's Falls Conservation Area. This will provide for a safe, experiential forest-based play and learning opportunity within an educational program setting.

The program is focused on free-form play, creativity, problem-solving, team-based thinking and physical activity, all while immersed in a forest area. The playscape includes a cedar split rail fence and feature system, loose-parts for creative play, and natural materials for shelter and fort-building activities. A co-op student from the Brock University Recreation and Leisure Studies program performed an analysis of flow and interactivity within the Forest Playscape. This analysis supported the development of a risk management plan for organized activities and programs within the playscape.



Educational Staff teaches Survival Skills Camp



“The conservation movement, from the very beginning, has been a movement of, by, and for the people of Ontario”.
-Richardson, 1974

For the NPCA, community engagement means connecting people with conservation, through inspired action and learning, volunteerism, and improved collaboration with community partners. The NPCA believes that this work should be meaningful and inclusive, fostering long-term relationships with the residents of the Niagara Peninsula watershed.

The NPCA’s engagement strategies aim to improve the overall understanding of the role of conservation authorities as leaders in watershed resource management, to encourage and empower individuals and partners to get involved in protecting precious natural resources and biodiversity.

Get Involved Engagement Portal

As the NPCA works to engage the people of the watershed, it strives to provide a safe space for collaborative group work, ensure accessibility to information, and provide equal access to programs. Online engagement tools are an essential step into the modernization of the NPCA’s approach to engagement, partnerships and trust-building.

The Get Involved online space allows for broader access to information, while enabling residents to participate in decision making for important exercises like policy reviews and flood plain mapping consultation processes. It drives inclusive, transparent and measurable community engagement processes that empower collaborative learning, discussion and debate. To engage and access new project announcements, join the movement by registering at Getinvolved.npca.ca

Public Advisory Committee (PAC)

The NPCA Public Advisory Committee plays an important role in community engagement and communication with watershed residents. This year, the NPCA filled vacancies for two new membership positions – a First Nations representative and a 2nd agricultural representative, in order to ensure representation from these distinct communities.

Supporting Municipal Environmental Advisory Committees

The NPCA works proactively with area municipalities to further common goals and collaborate on important projects in the community. In 2019, the NPCA helped garner support from the Port Colborne Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) to help the local Scouts group plant trees for Camp HonDayLahQuah’s Camp Day event, in Port Colborne.

Supporting The Source Water Protection Program Through Yellow Fish Road™

The Source Protection Plan outlines two specific policies for NPCA Outreach and Education, specifically two Intake Protection Zones located in Port Colborne and Niagara Falls. The NPCA has been the local coordinator for Yellow Fish Road™ since 2006.

Every year, NPCA staff and Yellow Fish Road™ volunteers paint yellow fish symbols with the words ‘Rainwater Only’ adjacent to storm drains and distribute fish-shaped brochures to nearby households as a reminder that anything that enters the local storm drain system ends up in their water. In 2019, a total of 308 storm drains were painted and over 770 door hangers were delivered to local homes.

Pathstone Mental Health - Mountainview Natural Playground and Garden

The Fourth Avenue, St. Catharines location now features an interactive outdoor space to allow for 'Full Sensory Experience/Enhancement therapy', where children, caregivers, therapists and families can work together towards recovery. The NPCA chose 'Nature is Health' as the theme for outreach in 2019, supported by recent studies that connects the environment to physical and mental well-being. Phase one of the partnership saw the NPCA fund the planting of various native trees and shrubs, and in phase two, the NPCA ran an in-kind 'Back to Nature' series consisting of free, environmentally-focused public workshops geared towards children 6-12 years of age.

The Comfort Maple Legacy Project

Over the years, there have been several NPCA propagation initiatives that successfully collected seed, and planted seedlings at various conservation areas.

In 2019, a partnership between Niagara Parks School of Horticulture and the NPCA, saw the completion of the final phase of a research project dedicated to the preservation of the Comfort Maple. A new method called 'Air Layering' was utilized to ensure 100 per cent propagated plant material from the maternal tree. This technique is known for being gentle on old growth trees, and helps to grow rooted seedlings high up in the tree's canopy, reducing the risk of pathogens compared to other propagation methods. Thanks to the Niagara Parks Commission and educators and students from the School of Horticulture Diploma Program, this important legacy project will help ensure the Comfort Maple will live on for future generations.

Niagara Children's Water Festival

As a founding member, the NPCA continues to be an important partner of the Niagara Region in support of the annual Niagara Children's Water Festival. More than 30 NPCA staff volunteered in roles that included hands-on demonstrations, interactive activities, assisting with daily registration, welcoming committees and maintaining the grounds. Over 3,624 students were educated on the importance of water and the environment.

Niagara Envirothon

With support from various partners, the Niagara Envirothon program celebrated its 12th year. The competition took place in May at Brock University. The winning team was Blessed Trinity from Grimsby, followed closely by two teams from Sir Winston Churchill taking 2nd and 3rd place. Blessed Trinity then represented Niagara at the provincial Ontario Envirothon where they received an honourable mention for their overall scores.

Niagara Peninsula Aspiring Global Geopark Designation (Ohnia:kara)

The NPCA continues to work with the Niagara Peninsula Aspiring Global Geopark to move the UNESCO designation forward. If Niagara is successful in obtaining the designation in 2021, it would be one of only a handful in existence in Canada.

Memorandum Of Understanding With Ontario Power Generation (OPG)

In response to a recommendation from the Auditor General's report, the NPCA and OPG updated and finalized a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in June 2019. This MOU will guide the spending of the remaining funds (\$1,262,342.00) into projects specifically to restore, improve and benefit the Welland River watershed or as approved by OPG. As per the agreement, the funds must be utilized by June 1, 2027, when the partnership will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the initial funding announcement of \$3,000,000 generously made by OPG on June 1, 2007. Meetings are held quarterly.

Memorandum Of Agreement With Trout Unlimited Canada-Niagara Chapter

The NPCA and the Niagara Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada (TUC) signed a historical Memorandum of Agreement, solidifying a partnership based on the mutual goal of undertaking conservation projects that will benefit the overall health of the Twelve Mile Creek watershed. The agreement outlines how the Healthy Twelve Mile Creek initiative will collaborate efforts in this highly sensitive watershed. The NPCA's revitalized restoration program endeavors to support a robust local community of practice in ecological restoration.

Carolinian Canada: 'Protected Areas' And 'In The Zone' Workshops

Since 1984, Carolinian Canada Coalition has been a leading ecoregional group in Canada, bringing together thousands of people who care for the unique habitat network within the Carolinian Life Zone. The NPCA has partnered with Carolinian Canada and the WWF to advance a collaborative conservation strategy for healthy ecosystems in the Niagara Peninsula watershed.

After the NPCA hosted two workshops, 'In The Zone' and 'Protected Areas', the initiative saw the addition of 95 native plant garden registrations by members of the public across Niagara.



Map provided by Carolinian Canada showing 95 native plant gardens registered to the 'In The Zone' program throughout Niagara.



#WEARECONSERVATION

The NPCA engaged volunteers in a diversity of opportunities including ecological monitoring, special projects, community outreach and stewardship, and educational programs. Volunteers at Ball's Falls Conservation Area worked to build three new ticket booths, two for the Thanksgiving Festival and one for use out at Binbrook Conservation Area.

This small group of volunteers also worked tirelessly to install the new forest playscape at Ball's Falls, scheduled to open in 2020. The support of volunteer groups like the Glanbrook Conservation Committee and the Lincoln Garden Club and Horticultural Society, help keep NPCA Conservation Areas looking beautiful, while improving wildlife habitat and water quality. From bluebird box monitoring, event logistics, and enhancing educational programs and camps, volunteers are critical to the success of the work of the NPCA.

- 791 Volunteers
- 14,569 Hours
- 80 Community Groups
- 175 Wildlife Boxes Monitored By Volunteers
- 308 Storm Drains Painted
- 1,805 Program Participants (1,600 From Water Festival)
- 722 Yellow Fish Road™ Hangers Distributed
- 9,173 Kg Of Waste Diverted By The Eco-Defenders At The 45th Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival

NPCA Conservation Awards

The annual NPCA Conservation Awards ceremony was held on February 27, 2019 at Club Castropignano, in Port Robinson. The event was well-attended by volunteers, partners and guests, ready for an evening featuring unique stories told by various NPCA volunteers and community partners, whose effort and dedication is incredibly important to the future of our watershed.

In addition to the volunteer awards, the evening featured another prestigious acknowledgment—the Award of Merit. This award is bestowed on an individual, group, or business, that has contributed voluntarily to enhancing the health of the watershed and restoring the local environment for the benefit of all residents.

Award of Merit Recipients

Youth Award:

Sebastian Carter

Individual Award:

Darren Platakis

Group Award:

Hamilton Naturalists' Club

Organization Award:

GM St. Catharines Propulsion Plant

**A HEARTFELT THANK
YOU TO DOMINIC
‘MICKEY’ DIFRUSCIO**



Dominic “Mickey” DiFrusco served on the NPCA Board of Directors from 1994 to 2019, and is a current board member of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation. As a proud representative of the City of Thorold, he has always been an advocate for water, nature and conservation.

Mickey was responsible for bringing forward many successful initiatives, the St. Johns Pond Trout Season Opener and the NPCF Wild Game Dinner Fundraiser to name a few.

Over the years, he has donated hundreds of native plants and trees to the NPCA and various community plantings. He has always been a stalwart advocate for pollinator species, including his beloved Monarch Butterfly. Recently, the NPCA Board of Directors approved the “Mickey DiFrusco and Family Legacy Pollinator Project” which sees pollinator gardens installed throughout the watershed. Mickey was honoured at his final meeting, marking 25 years of service, on December 18, 2019. NPCA Board Chair, Dave Bylsma, presented him with a plaque, a framed photograph, a sign denoting his home as a stopping point on the Monarch Butterfly migration route, and a Lifetime Pass to the NPCA Conservation Areas.

Mickey’s dedicated work as a citizen, and a long-standing NPCA volunteer, was recognized with the 2019 Lifetime Achievement - Award of Merit at the Conservation Awards on February 27, 2020. Mickey received a standing ovation from 370+ staff and volunteers in gratitude of his time, passion and dedication to conservation.



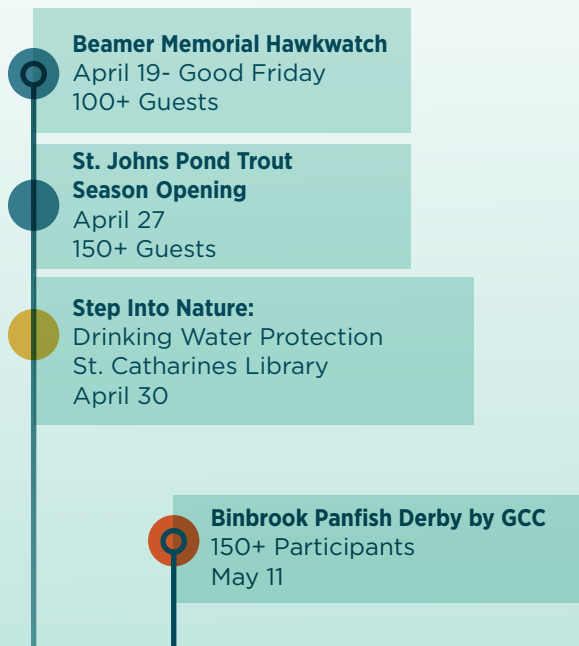
“Long Live The Monarch Butterfly!”

- Dominic “Mickey” DiFrusco

EVENTS IN 2019

In 2019, the NPCA established new partnerships with local libraries and horticulture clubs. Staff presented in an effort to educate the public about drinking water protection, the important work of the organization, and biodiversity and habitat creation such as pollinator gardens.

The following timeline demonstrates a variety of events held throughout the year, including those hosted by the NPCA, community partners, and third-party providers at Conservation Areas.






February

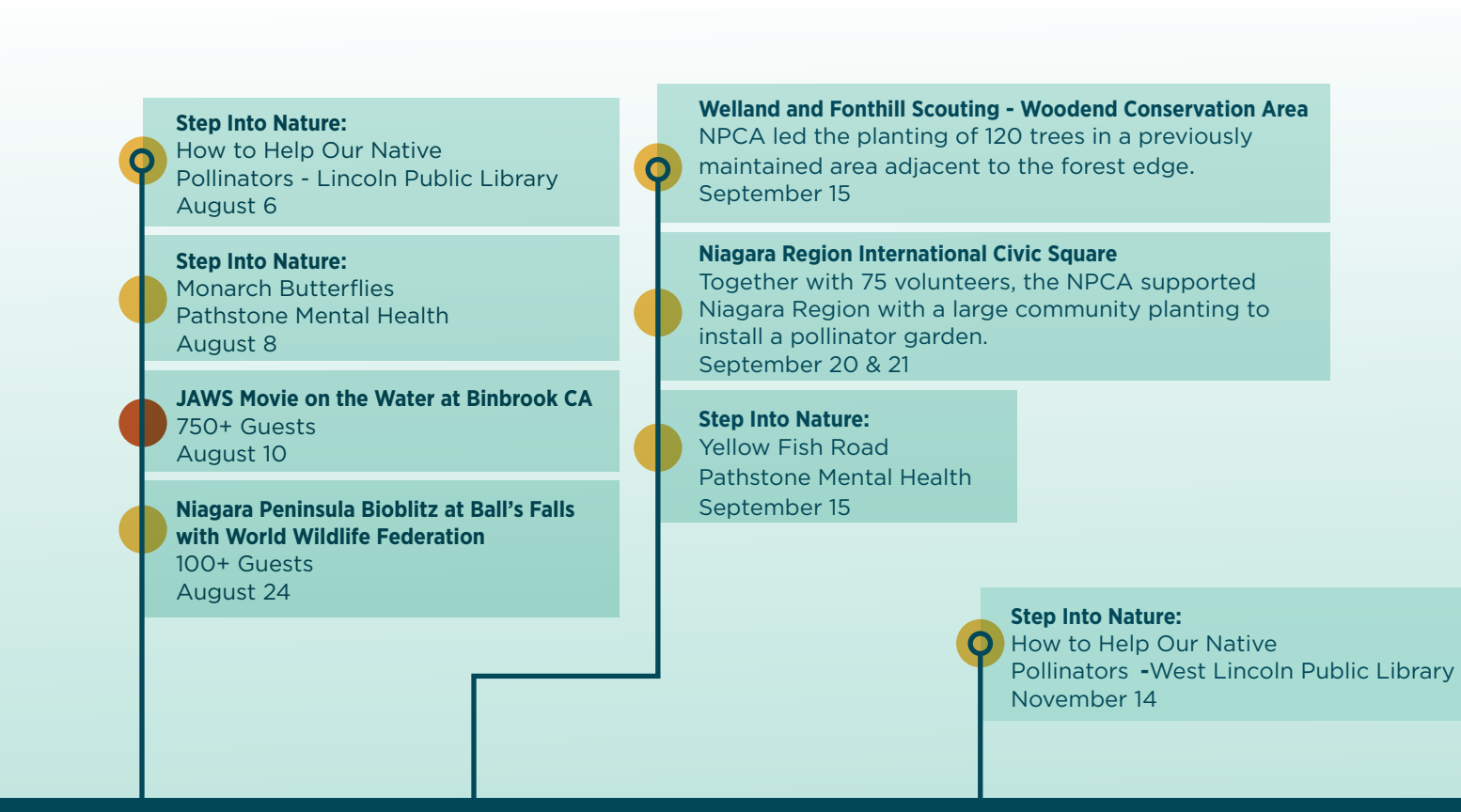
March

April

May June



-  Community Event
-  Third-Party Partner Event
-  NPCA Event

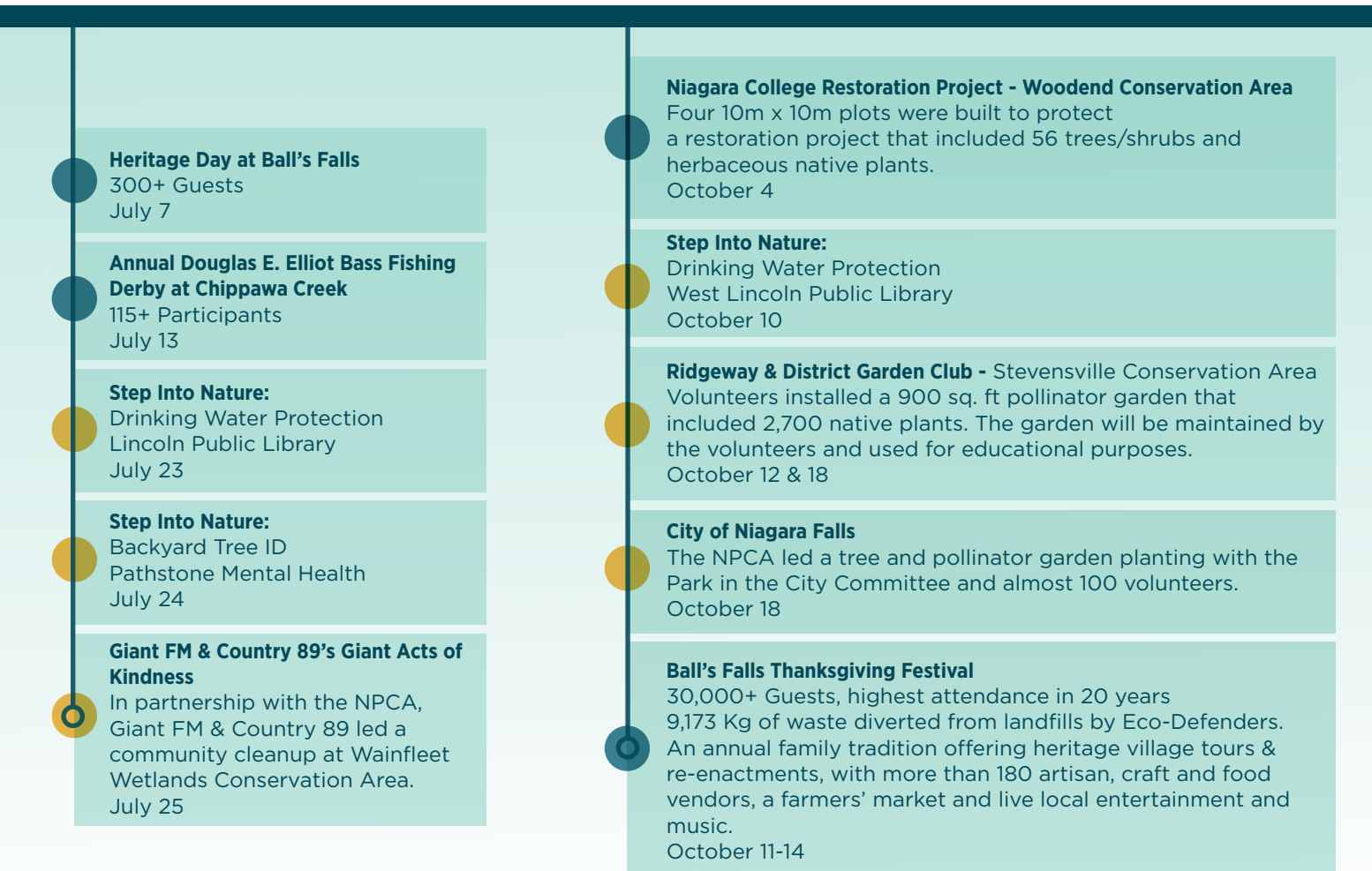


July August

September

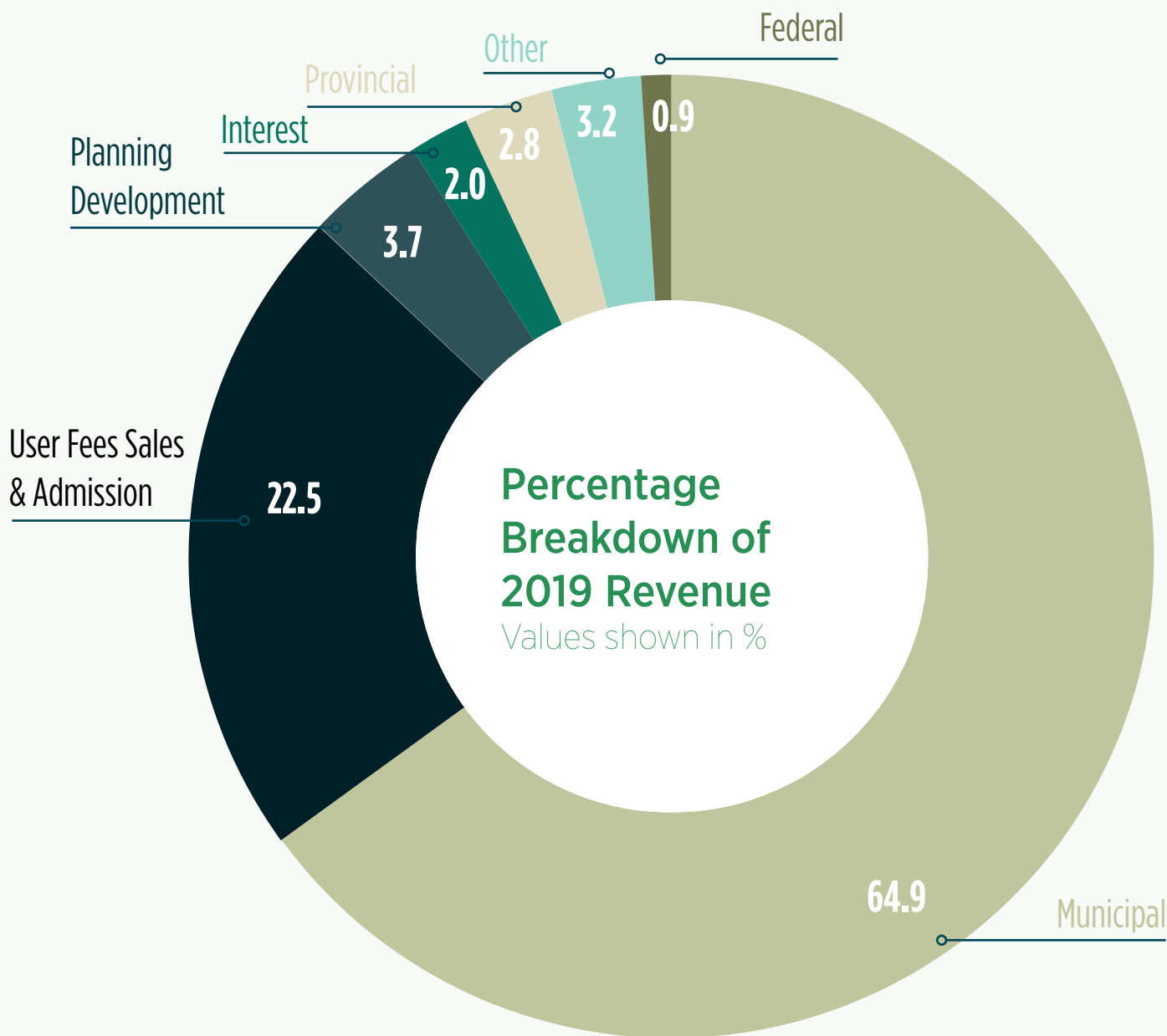
October

November



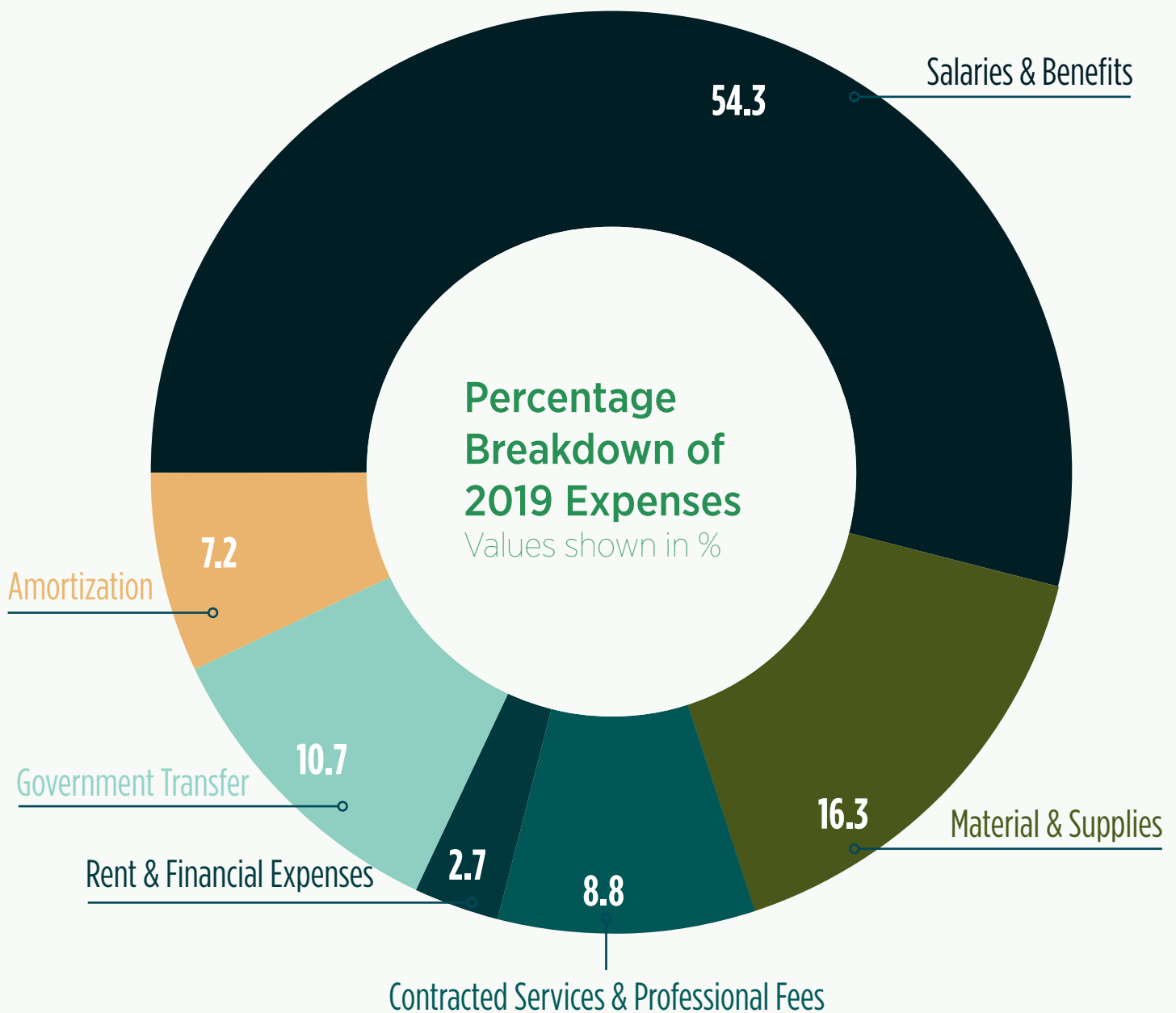
2019 Revenues

The graph below illustrates that in 2019, NPCA's operating revenues originated in two streams—government and self-generated. The municipal levy represents 65 per cent of the total funding envelope. NPCA generated revenues, including fee for service activity, user fees and admissions, contributed 22.5 per cent or \$2.84 million to gross revenues, with the net position in this portfolio representing a reduction of the municipal levy required to support operations.



2019 Expenses

The chart below illustrates the breakdown by expense object for disbursements required to support operations. In keeping with historical trends, labour costs and materials and supplies represent the largest share of operating expenses (70.6 per cent). The 10.7 per cent or \$1.284 million government transfer is the result of an approved reserve payout transaction which occurred in 2019.





Message From The Chair

2019 marked the 50th anniversary of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation (NPCF). Finishing my first full year as Chair, I am excited to report that we have regained momentum in achieving our mission, vision and objectives.

As we look to 2020, I want to thank our outgoing Chair, Mr. Brian Baty, and Foundation Coordinator, Andrea DiCenso, for their dedication to the NPCF and the work they completed to move the organization forward. 2019 saw a new Board of Directors lead the Foundation. We approved our revised Strategic Plan 2020-2022: A Commitment to Conservation, with new goals for the next two years. We committed to expanding our Board of Directors with citizen representation, strengthening our governance, and focusing on a new fundraising strategy.

I am excited about our future. With passionate Directors, assistance from NPCA staff, and exceptional donors, I am confident that we will realize our mission to raise funds for the health and prosperity of our shared Niagara Peninsula watershed.

Tom Insinna
Board Chair
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation



— NIAGARA PENINSULA —
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Founded on May 5, 1969, the NPCF is a registered charity dedicated to raising funds that aid in the conservation of our natural resources for present and future generations. In 2019, it celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, we raise funds to support the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

When you donate to the Foundation, you help support conservation projects and programs that contribute to improving our water quality, protecting and increasing our green spaces, restoring wetlands and habitats, promoting environmental education for youth, and conducting environmental research.

You can help support the work of the Foundation by making a donation online:
www.niagaraconservationfoundation.com

2019 NPCF Board of Directors

Brian Baty
Chair (Jan- April)

Tom Insinna
Chair (April -Present)

Robert Foster
Vice Chair (NPCA Representative)

D. Gayle Wood
NPCA CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

**Dominic "Mickey"
DiFruscio**
Director





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AUTHORITY

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