



# QUARTERLY REPORT Q4 • 2018

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# CONTENTS

- Welcome .....3
- Mandate & Mission.....4
- About us.....5
- Q4 Highlights .....6
- Relationships & Community.....8
- Getting Social.....9
- Managing Our Watershed .....10
- Our Waters.....11
- Our Lands.....12
- Our Life .....13

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**Welcome to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Quarterly Report.**  
**This report offers an update to the people in the Niagara Peninsula watershed, our funders, and our stakeholders as to what has been happening at NPCA.**

**As laid out in our Strategic Plan, we are making a concerted effort to be more transparent and hope that these reports are helpful in your understanding of our work.**



## 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:**

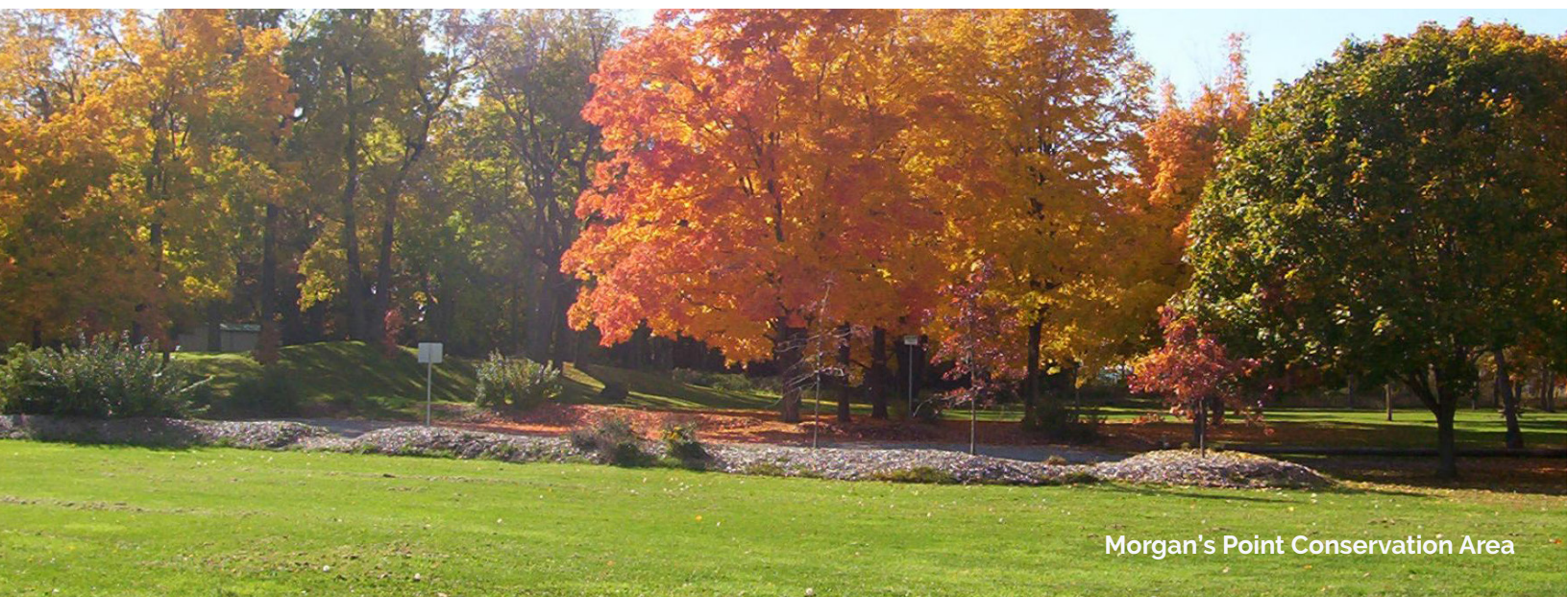
To protect people and property by regulating, and risk-mitigating development through reviewing and commenting on applications, issuing permits, and ensuring policy compliance within the appropriate legislative and regulatory framework.

## 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.





Morgan's Point Conservation Area

# 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 parts of Hamilton and Haldimand County. NPCA also implements programming aimed at improving water quality.

## **Our Lands**

NPCA manages its 41 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 when that development is occurring on land that contains features such as slopes, valleys, wetlands, etc.

## **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 life, as such it is everyone's responsibility to protect it.





Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival

# Q4 HIGHLIGHTS

1	New Website	3	Watershed Condition Statements
23	New Weddings Booked	23	Water Stations Monitored
25,000	Guests at Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival	35	Ball's Falls Wedding & Special Events Providers
2,437	Volunteer Hours	2	Filming projects at NPCA Conservation Areas
11	Nominations received for 2018 Conservation Award of Merit	1,084	Students engaged in outdoor education & recreation
		119	Hunting Permits issued

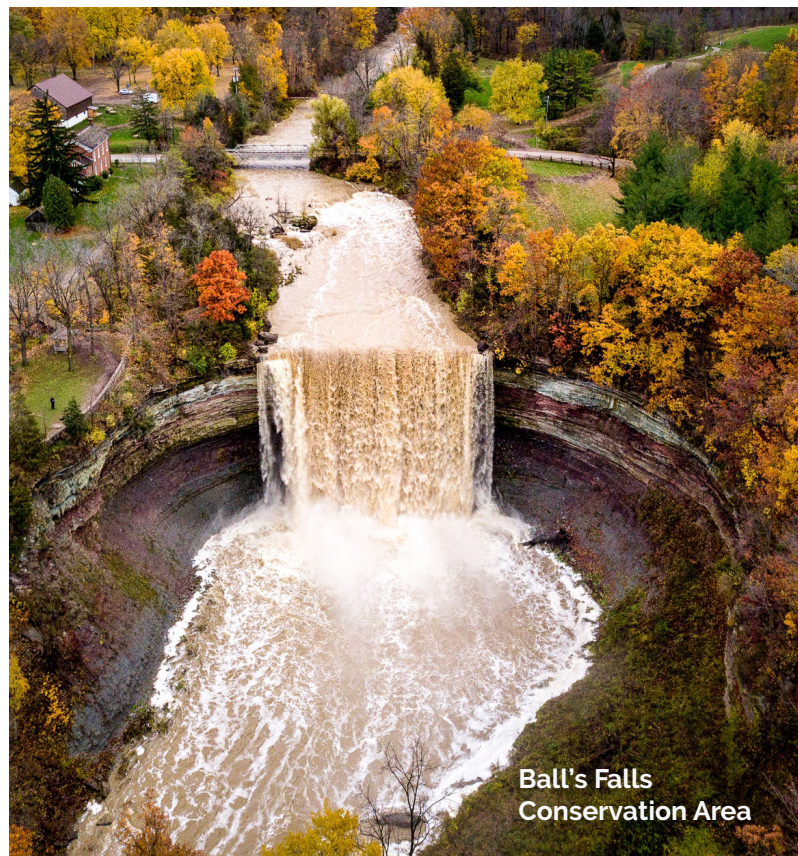




Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area



Soldier On- Canadian Armed Forces



Ball's Falls  
Conservation Area



Christmas in the Country Program





Smith Ness Conservation Area

# BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS & ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

The NPCA continued to support numerous events and initiatives in partnership with organizations such as Niagara Chapter Trout Unlimited and Conservation Ontario among others. We continue to proactively seek partners within our communities, to work together to improve our watershed.

Various teams within the organization participated in the Indigenous Awareness training by Indigenous Awareness Canada. Consisting of approximately 20 on-line hours, the training is designed for those interacting with Indigenous governments, businesses, and communities.

## **CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES BIENNIAL TOUR**

Planning is well underway, as the NPCA prepares to host conservation partners from across Ontario on September 22-25, 2019.

Conservation Authorities will have the opportunity to join a comprehensive tour showcasing more than a dozen Conservation Areas and the integral partners who have come together to ensure the quality and resiliency of the Niagara Peninsula watershed.

## **In this quarter, we also engaged with:**

- » Niagara Chapter Trout Unlimited- Soldier On by Canadian Armed Forces Transition Group
- » Conservation Ontario for Indigenous Engagement Workshop
- » Welland River Keepers
- » 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





Cave Springs Conservation Area

## GETTING SOCIAL



**Facebook**  
**Likes: 6,078**  
(increase of 1,066)

**Facebook**  
**Followers: 6,088**  
(increase of 1,260)

**Ball's Falls Facebook**  
**Likes: 2,321**  
(increase of 520)

**Ball's Falls Facebook**  
**Followers: 2,300**  
(increase of 533)

**Binbrook Facebook**  
**Likes: 3,374**  
(increase of 2,344)

**Binbrook Facebook**  
**Followers: 3,513**  
(increase of 2,474)



**Twitter Followers: 3,341**  
(increase of 241)



**Instagram Followers: 528**  
(increase of 280)

## A NEW LOOK

In late November, the NPCA launched a new website with a more user-oriented approach. Conservation Areas and lifestyle are front and centre in the new design, with early metrics showing website performance has increased significantly. The website continues to be fine-tuned as content is customized and updated to meet organizational needs.





Twelve Mile Creek

# MANAGING OUR WATERSHED

## Planning & Development

During the fourth quarter, the Watershed Department reviewed:

- » 18 Planning/NEC Applications
- » 30 Building Permits
- » 84 NPCA Work Permits
- » 21 Property Information Requests
- » 15 Pre-consultation proposals

Staff also responded to various inquiries from the public and local municipalities, as well as attended weekly consultation meetings with the local municipalities and conducted various site inspections.

## Compliance & Enforcement

- » 35 Complaints received
- » 27 Complaints resolved, 8 remaining
- » 11 Notices of Violation issued

## Source Water Protection

Key milestones of the Source Protection program activities included:

- » Hiring of new Project Manager
- » Source Protection Plan updates by Committee in November
- » Assistance to Niagara Region with future updates to Welland water treatment plant intake protection zones
- » Receipt of Section 36 Source Protection Plan Update Order from MECP
- » Completion of 6-month program progress





Ball's Falls Conservation Area

# OUR WATERS

## Water Quality

NPCA Staff completed routine monitoring at all 80 quality monitoring stations, analyzing general chemistry, nutrients, metals, and bacteria.

Other highlights include:

- » Fall biological monitoring at 23 stations, including Hamilton International Airport and the Glanbrook Landfill
- » Nine projects completed under the Well Water Decommissioning Program

## Flood Control

Staff continued to monitor daily water levels at our 15 stream gauge stations, climatic data at our 15 climate stations, and undertake routine maintenance, calibration, and inspections at all 30 installations, as part of the NPCA's routine Flood Forecasting and Warning duties.

Other highlights include:

- » 2 Watershed Condition Statements issued, warning residents of potential for flooding

- » The start of bi-monthly snow surveys from November to May. This data is of value for estimating the spring-runoff and the potential for flooding

## Niagara River Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

Staff coordinated and led activities of the RAP project with many local partners, to restore and protect water quality and ecosystem health in the Niagara River, including the following highlights:

- » Facilitated and attended meetings related to storm sewer investigations to improve water quality at Queen's Royal Beach in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
- » Initiated the technical expert review for how to assess the status of the fish populations and fish habitat in the Niagara River
- » Expanded Indigenous engagement in the RAP by facilitating discussions to begin collaborating on a fish consumption survey
- » Fostered community involvement and interest by delivering guest lectures, attending local events, and creating outreach materials





Comfort Maple Conservation Area

# OUR LANDS

## Ball's Falls Conservation Area

The 44th Annual Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival saw another successful year attracting more than 25,000 guests over four days.

Ball's Falls Conservation Area continues to be one of the leading wedding venue destinations in the Niagara Region, and a leader in children's programming and outdoor, interactive, and experiential education.

Various educational programming sessions were held, including:

- » Fall Harvest Program
- » Water Quality and Human Impacts on the Environment
- » Interpretive Hike with Brock University's Recreation and Leisure Department

The annual Christmas in the Country program welcomed 17 local school groups, including Early Year classrooms for the first time.

## Chippawa Creek Conservation Area

Eighty-five seasonal campers are confirmed for 2019 season. The demand for seasonal campsites continue to increase steadily over the past 4 years.

## Binbrook Conservation Area

The NPCA has worked closely with Treetop Trekking Adventure Park to begin construction on the new 2019 venture that is scheduled to open in May 2019. Treetop Trekking is a great addition to the recreational services and programs offered at the Conservation Area, also consisting of FunSplash Sports Park, Boarder Pass Wakeboarding, and Staycation Rentals.

Preliminary planning for the upcoming Annual Hard Water Crappie Derby has begun as the event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, February 2, 2019.

## Long Beach Conservation Area

One hundred and ten seasonal campers are confirmed for the 2019 season. The demand for seasonal campsites continues to increase every year.



# OUR LIFE

## ECOLOGICAL ACTIVITY

### **Binbrook Conservation Area**

NPCA staff drafted an environmental monitoring plan for the upcoming Treetop Trekking, as required by the Environmental Impact Study and City of Hamilton policies.

This monitoring work will be completed by NPCA Ecologist each year and data will be submitted in years 1, 3, and 5 of the activity's operation.

### **Cave Springs Conservation Area**

Bat monitoring continued from May to November. The monitors were removed, with data to be analyzed for species, seasonal information, and critical habitat information.

### **Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area**

Water well data is part of the on-going monitoring for the purpose of site restoration. New wells and data loggers will be installed by Spring 2019 to minimize access to the more limited areas, from monthly to every 3-6 months.

### **Woodend Conservation Area**

Staff are diligently working to restore the forest understory as it has been impacted with the loss of saplings, shrub, and herbaceous layers at the site.

### **Other Conservation Area Ecological Activity:**

- » 119 NPCA Hunting Permits issued
- » Updated hunting policies and brochures for 2019 hunting season
- » NPCA Waterfowl Hunting Program ended November 30 at Mud Lake and December 8 at Binbrook
- » 5 saplings planted at NPCA properties, as part of the endangered species Red Mulberry recovery







#DISCOVER**NPCA**





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