



NPCA
CONSERVATION
AWARDS

2020 FEBRUARY 26

WEST NIAGARA AGRICULTURAL CENTRE AND FAIRGROUNDS



@NPCA_Ontario
#WeAreConservation





791

UNIQUE VOLUNTEERS

14,569

VOLUNTEER HOURS



WORKED WITH

80

COMMUNITY GROUPS
& ORGANIZATIONS



175

WILDLIFE BOXES
MONITORED



3008

YELLOW FISH ROAD™
PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS



#WEARECONSERVATION



WELCOME GREETING

On behalf of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, welcome to our annual evening of recognition for volunteers and partners. The Conservation Awards were created in 1991 to give thanks to the dedicated individuals and organizations who further conservation efforts in the Niagara Peninsula watershed.

Tonight, these awards not only give recognition, but also help bring awareness and build support for the environmental initiatives that made a difference in 2019. Thanks to the hard work of 791 unique volunteers and 80 community groups, a total of 14,569 hours was invested into improving the natural landscape of which we all live, grow and cherish.

As the new CAO of the NPCA, I believe this sends a clear message. That despite the challenges we have faced, together we continue to create the positive change that is needed to leave a greener future for our next generation and beyond.

We hope that you will take this time to grow your conservation network, find the leadership you're looking for, and be inspired by others who share the same commitment to nature. While the health of the Niagara Peninsula watershed is indeed a shared responsibility, we are eternally grateful to be your partner in conservation and look forward to celebrating more successes in 2020.

Yours in conservation,

Chandra Sharma
CAO, Secretary-Treasurer

NPCA Conservation Awards | February 26 | **#WEARECONSERVATION**



AWARDS OF MERIT

The Award of Merit recognizes significant achievements and contributions by an individual, group, and business to improve and restore our local environment for the benefit of all watershed residents.



KYLE JOUNT *YOUTH*

Kyle has been volunteering with the NPCA for two years, starting with the Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival. He was quickly moved into the Captain role with our team of volunteers at the inflatables station due to his leadership and responsibility. At the Ball's Fall Summer Adventure Camp, Kyle was a leader among his peers and went above and beyond to ensure our campers were having fun and being safe.



JOANNA PAUL *CONSERVATION*

Joanna did an internship with the NPCA in 2018 after graduating from the Niagara College Commercial Beekeeping program. Her experience in outdoor education and her passion for beekeeping and history were extremely valuable to the programming at Ball's Falls. In 2019, Joanna launched the Jr. Beekeepers program on a voluntary basis with much success. Joanna also volunteered with the NPCA in the delivery of our Heritage Day event, Christmas in the Country program, March Break Camp and the Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival.

Her knowledge and passion for native bee conservation and her gift for nature artwork have given her a unique blend of skills that she shares with others eagerly. In July 2020, Joanna will be travelling with two young beekeepers, one from Kawartha and one from her own Niagara Junior Beekeepers program, to Slovenia to represent Canada at the 11th annual International Meeting of Young Beekeepers.



JULIE BÉDARD *EDUCATION*

Mme Julie Bédard was nominated for the Award of Merit by one of her students at Sir Winston Churchill. She has been involved in assisting students in the preparation of NPCA's Niagara Envirothon for the last 8 years and her teams have had success at the Regional and Provincial level. She has mentored new teachers to take part of Envirothon and establish teams in their school. She also supports students in the Niagara Region Science and Engineering Fair where the students' project reflect improvements to the environment such as studying microplastics in our great lakes and other surrounding bodies of water.

Mme Bédard's classes have also participated in the Yellow Fish Road™ program to educate the public about protecting our creeks and streams from pollutants that end up in storm drains. Mme Bédard also brings her students to volunteer at the Niagara Children's Water Festival each year to support this important environmental and educational program. Julie hopes to be able to volunteer more of her time in a different capacity with the NPCA once she is retired!

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



Dominic “Mickey” DiFruscio

Dominic “Mickey” DiFruscio was a member of the NPCA Board of Directors from 1994 to 2019 and is a current 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 has brought forward initiatives including the St. Johns Pond Trout Season Opener and the Wild Game Dinner Fundraiser. He attended as many NPCA events as he could and was known for bringing gifts and food into the office for staff and his fellow Board members. His basil, milkweed plants and sweets were always appreciated by everyone who received them.

Mickey has donated hundreds of trees to the NPCA throughout the years and has been an advocate for the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators. In recent years, the NPCA Board approved the Mickey DiFruscio and Family Legacy Pollinator Project which sees pollinator gardens installed throughout the watershed in Mickey’s name.

Mickey’s legacy as a member of the NPCA Board of Directors will be remembered for many years to come. We thank him for his time, passion and generosity.

GROUPS



FRIENDS OF MALCOLMSON ECO-PARK

Malcolmson Eco-Park is a unique natural park located in north St. Catharines. The City of St. Catharines Council named the parkland after St. Catharines' native Mary Malcolmson who was instrumental in founding the first Canadian Girl Guide Troop in 1910. The community surrounding Mary Malcolmson Park turned down a 1989 park development proposal and instead proposed the park become a natural ecological park that would protect the Carolinian species that inhabited the park.

In 1992, the Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park were endorsed by the City of St. Catharines as the official stewards of the park. The Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park are a non-profit group of volunteers that have dedicated themselves to preserving and enhancing the park's resources. Natural areas in the Niagara Region have decreased significantly over the last few decades and natural areas such as Malcolmson Eco-Park have been invaluable for migrating bird species and home to many rare Carolinian species. This park also provides residents a

chance to connect with nature as they walk and cycle on the trails.

Over the last 15 years, the group of volunteers have removed tons of garbage, planted thousands of native wildflowers and trees, designed a trail network, enhanced park wetland areas, and provided environmental educational opportunities to local schools. Earth Day celebrations at Malcolmson Eco-Park are an annual tradition for the City of St. Catharines, where 150 volunteers and local politicians such as the Mayor, City and Regional Councillors, Provincial MPP and Federal MP have attended.



NIAGARA CHAPTER - TROUT UNLIMITED: LEADERSHIP



Trout Unlimited Canada (TUC) has been improving the lives and health of Canadians for more than 40 years. A leader in water and fisheries protection, TUC's renowned professional staff works with volunteers and partners to protect natural spaces and improve Canadian resources. Science-based and volunteer driven, TUC puts more work on the ground than any other national water conservation organization.

The Niagara Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada was formed in 2012 and has been committed to the restoration and preservation of cold-water habitat in the Niagara Region. The initial and primary

focus of the Chapter's efforts is the Twelve Mile Creek, the region's only cold-water watershed with an existing population of Brook Trout. The Creek runs from its headwaters near Fonthill, through the Short Hills Provincial Park, into Lake Ontario at Port Dalhousie, where it forms the famous Henley rowing course.

Trout Unlimited has been working closely with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and the Niagara College Environmental Programs, along with other interested organizations and landowners to restore the Creek and enhance its potential for trout habitat. Since its formation, the Chapter has carried out precise stream mapping, along with barrier removal, stream bank restoration, and landowner involvement as projects developed. Most recently, the launch of the Healthy Twelve Mile Creek program, in partnership with Niagara College, NPCA, Trillium Foundation, Friends of the Greenbelt, Green Corps, Niagara Restoration Council, Nature Conservancy of Canada and Enbridge, demonstrates their leadership in integrated watershed management and engaging the local community on how our cumulative activities impact this important watershed.

50+ HOURS

MADISON FIRTH

MEDINA JEFF-ZANNI

DOUG RANSOM

100+ HOURS

ANDY FEVEZ

KYLE JOUNG

HOWARD MCRAE

JOANNA PAUL

MARK PIWKOWSKI

INDIVIDUALS

Individual volunteers support the NPCA in many ways. They are ambassadors of our organization and are very valuable to our work. We are thankful that volunteers choose to spend their precious free time with us.

Whether it is helping with educational programs, property maintenance and stewardship, or special projects and ecological restoration, volunteers and partners make a tremendous impact and help improve our watershed. When individuals come together to work on projects and programs that are important to them, they encourage others to do the same.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND ECOLOGICAL MONITORING

MICHAEL BABIN

CALVIN BLEWITT

CHRISTA BOYD

DAVID CASTRO BAENA

VIKKI COGHILL

JENNIFER CULP

LIZA DELANEY

CAITLIN DEVRIES

MICKEY AND LIZ DIFRUSCIO

RYAN DUGUAY

VALENTINA ESCOBAR

KYLE FISHER

KEITH FOISEY

HEATHER FRANK

KYLE GIBSON
SARA HANDRIGAN
MEDINA JEFF-ZANNI
OLIVIA JOSE
SARA JOSE
DION KELLY
ALICIA LEE
HEIDI LEVITZKY
KECHEN LIU
STEVE MEGANNETY
KYLE MOLKOSKI
ELYSE PANICI
HOLLY PAWLOWSKY
JOHN AND MARY POTTER
MATTHEW BALIAN
RAMOS GUTIERREZ
MELAD RAZZOUK
STEVE AND DARA
RICHARDSON
EMILY SIMMONS
ADRIN WILLEMS
MARIANE VOCAL

GLANBROOK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

BINBROOK CONSERVATION AREA

STEVEN BURGESS
MICHELLE FEVEZ
ANDY FEVEZ
JUDY GURMAN
ANDREW AND MARY
HALL
BRETT, BRENNAN AND
NOLAN HARRINGTON

WAYNE AND SHERRIE
INKSTER
DAVID KEILLER AND
CHRIS MCMILLAN
KEILLER
TOM AND JOAN KOTT
MARION LAING
DERRICK LANNIGAN
ALICIA AND BRAD LENOS
LINDA LIESKE
TERRIE MURZA
DAVIS MYSKO
PHIL, ANGELA AND EMILY
PICKLES
LOUISE REID
WILLIAM AND MILLIE
ROSS
ATMA SHIVBARRAN
LUCAS AND BEATRICE
SPIEGELAAR
CLIFF AND JEAN
ZIMMERMAN
ALEX ZIMMERMAN
MICHAEL ZIMMERMAN

BALL'S FALLS SPECIAL PROJECTS

HERBER CREWE
SCOTT FOSTER
HOWARD MCRAE
MARK PIWKOWSKI
DOUG RANSOM
BLAKE SPERANZINI

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND CAMPS

HANNAH BLANCHARD
SARA BYERS
SYLVAIN CAMPBELL
SARAH COWIE
NAIA CROWLEY
SYDNEY CROWLEY
ANDREW DEPETRIS
BEN DEPETRIS
JEAN DETENBECK
LUKAS DETTLINGER
RACHEL DOWNES
KENDRA EDWARDS
FRANK FOHR
GREG FORD
MARG GIERULA
KIRAN HAZRA
SAM JANJAC
TOWANNA JESS
KERISSA KENNEDY
MEGAN LALLI
MOLLY MACDONALD
KATIE MCCAULEY
BRADLEY MOORE
HEERAL PARIKH
KASHMIRA PARIKH
HAYDEN ROYER
MACKENZIE ROYER
ENNA SABIC

JOYCE SANKEY
CHANTAL SIMARD
DONNA SPERANZINI
MISHA TOMASCIK
TRIXIE WOOD
EMMA YOUNG

SPECIAL EVENTS

DESTINY ACTON
RON BAER
LARISSA BASSET
JULIE BAYZA
LISA BELL
MORGAN BULITZ
RONAN BURNS
NATHALY CASTRO
MICHAEL CERNICK
CAROLYN COSSITT
KIEFER CULLIFORD
DAVE DEDRICK
GRIFFIN DEN BASTAN
SOPHIE DIFILIPPO
CLAIRE GIBSON
WENDY GOODINGS
MARY JANE HALL
JULIA HENRY
MARCIE JACKLIN
CINDY JOUNG
KYLE JOUNG
DONGHWUI KIM

DARYL KLINGBEIL
MICHAEL MARTINO
MICAH MAUGHAN
EMMA O'BRIEN
BRIAN PEARSON
JACOB POIRIER
TIA PUCCI

LYNN SMITH
MADISON SMUKAVIC
LEO TRIGATTI
REESE TURNER
LAUREN VANDERLINGEN
MICHAEL VERKADE
ALEX WALLIS
DEBORAH YOUNG

NPCA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JOHN ARIENS
SAMANTHA BROUSSEAU
DENNIS DICK
ERIKA FURNEY
AUSTIN KIRKBY
HARRY KOROSIS
JACKIE OBLAK
DERRICK PONT
JOSEPH SCHONBERGER

MULTIPLE CATEGORY VOLUNTEERS

ALEXANDRA CHOMA
BRIANN DORIN
MADISON FIRTH
CAITLIN GARNER
DEVIN GARRAH
DOUGLAS MOLLISON
JOANNA PAUL
JAN PRUDDEN
MARTINA TEPAVCEVIC
TYLER THIESSAN
KATHLEEN TUNMER

NIAGARA COLLEGE BROADCASTING PROGRAM

JOSH BACVAR
BILL BOEHLEN
SAMUEL JEROME
COLIN MORTLEY
CLAYTON STEWART



RESTORATION PROGRAM PARTNERS

MIKE ASH

RICHARD BEACROFT

STEVE BRISTOL

NEIL AND MARGARET
COMFORT

MARK D'ILARIO

JOE FABJAN

SUSANNA AND MICHAEL
FERRARI

JEFF AND LILY HOFMAN

THOMAS KNIZAT

MICHAEL KOROLYK

WENDY AND GARY
KUENZEL

UTA AND KEVIN LAQUA

MICHELLE LOVEGROVE

BRANDON AND JENNIE
MARLATT

JEN AND ROB MCKAY

VERO MUNGRUE

MIKE AND ANITA
PENTLAND

ROGER PERRY

DEBORAH COON-
PETERSON AND
GLENN PETERSEN

REBECCA PROULX

WILLIAM MCMILLAN
AND CHERIE RILEY

JEREMY SMITH

ELIZABETH STEPHENS

COLIN VANSOELEN

MURIAL AND PETER
WHALLEY

TOM AND TERI
WHITWORTH



COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS & PARTNERS

The conservation movement in Ontario arose from the deep concern of private citizens for the environment. The development of the Conservation Authorities Act in 1946 is an example of how conservation clubs, naturalists, hunters and anglers pushed for change and were successful in their endeavours. One of the principles underlying the strength and success of this movement has been the emphasis on community initiative.

The NPCA is forever grateful for the community partnerships that are fundamental to the success of the work we do. We give thanks to the partners, community groups and organizations that have stood beside us throughout the years, and to the new partnerships that develop each year. When we work together, we achieve great results for our watershed, our community and for future generations!

"The conservation movement, from the very beginning, has been a movement of, by, and for the people of Ontario"
(Richardson, 1974).





PAUL PHILPOTT & TERRI BULMAN
1st North Grimsby Scouts

KEVIN WHITE
20th Welland Scouting

RACHEL WILLARD
Acquired Brain Injury Program

MARY CHEDUMBARUM-RAMASAMY
Aviva Gives Back

TIFFANY GURNEY
Bass Pro Shop

ALBERT KOK
Beacon Christian School

VANESSA FAIRBANK
Beamsville District Secondary School

DEB SHERK
Bert Miller Nature Club

DAVE HUNT
Blackheath-Binbrook Lions Club

GABE DIADEMO
Blessed Trinity

ERICA DAVIDSON
Brain Injury Community Re-Entry Niagara

LIZ KIRK AND QUINN VOS
Brock University

JENNY MACKNIGHT
Canada Games - Niagara 2021

DAVID DEROCOCCO
Canadian Wildlife Federation

KORAL WYSOCKI
Carolinian Canada

JULIE ARSENAULT-HOWICK
Central Public School

JESSICA BLANCHARD
City of Niagara Falls

JEFF GUARASCI
City of Niagara Falls - Communities in Bloom

MARK GREEN
City of St. Catharines

DAWN DIFRANCESCO
Denis Morris Catholic School

COLLEEN FAST
District School Board of Niagara - Walker Living Campus

JEFF KRETE
Ducks Unlimited Canada

DAVID HART-DYKE
Earth Day Hamilton-Burlington

KEN CAIRNS
E.L. Crossley Secondary School

JANE GADSBY
Eco-Defenders

JIM ESTABROOKS AND MIKE JACKSON
Fishing World Outdoor Centre

KENT RATCLIFFE
Fonthill Scouting

ILYSE NORTON
Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park

KLARA YOUNG-CHIN
Friends of One Mile Creek

DELLA TROJAN
Friends of Walker's Creek

GAVIN COMAN AND DERIC COOLMAN
General Motors St. Catharines

HANNAH MILLER
Giant FM

BRETT HARRINGTON AND ANDY FEVEZ
Glanbrook Conservation Committee

EARL CLINT
Great Lakes Christian High School

WINONA DROUIN
Haldimand Stewardship Council

CHRIS MOTHERWELL
Hamilton Naturalists' Club

LIZ AYOUNG-CHEE
Homeschool Friends

GLENN HERDY
Kids Out Fishing

BARRY PORTER
Land Care Niagara

MELINDA RAMSAY
Likety Spit Fibre Farm

ANGELA CALIXTO
Lincoln Garden Club

YANETH LONDONO
Links for Greener Learning

**SYLVAIN CAMPBELL AND
KELLY TONELLATO**
Ministry of Environment,
Conservation and Parks

REG TUFFORD
Niagara Antique Power
Association

MARCIE JACKLIN
Niagara Birding
Conservation and Tourism
Collaborative

LISA ETIENNE
Niagara Bruce Trail Club

BRIAN KON
Niagara Catholic District
School Board

**KELSEY DICK AND
MARCO MAGAZENNI**
Niagara Catholic District
School Board - St. Katari

DENNIS EDELL
Niagara Chapter - Trout
Unlimited Canada

GREGARY FORD
Niagara Coastal
Community Collaborative

BILL BOEHLEN
Niagara College
Broadcasting: Radio, T.V.
& Film

AMBER SCHMUCKER
Niagara College Office of
Sustainability

AMANDA MCCLOY
Niagara Falls Girl Guides

KERRY KENNEDY
Niagara Falls Nature Club

**FRAN GILES AND ANNA
CHANDLER**
Niagara Handweavers and
Spinners Guild

**COREY BURANT AND
NATHAN WHEELER**
Niagara Parks Commission

SANDY DARLING
Niagara Peninsula
Hawkwatch

**DERRICK PONT AND
BRIAN KON**
Niagara Region Métis
Council

VANESSA AYKROYD
Niagara Region Planning
and Development Services

ASHLEY NORTHCOTTE
Niagara Region Waste
Management

**JANET ROSE AND
RACHEL BENI**
Niagara Region Water and
Wastewater

ALLISON GRASZAT
Niagara Restoration
Council

TOM BALL
Niagara Woodcarvers

NATALIE PULLAR
Notre Dame Catholic
Secondary School

DARREN PLATAKIS
Ohnia:kara Aspiring Global
Geopark

JENNIFER GROSSI
Ontario Power Generation

KIM ROSSI
Pathstone Mental Health

BOB HIGHCOCK
Peninsula Field Naturalists

RENEE DELANEY
Pollinator Partners

KATHY MCQUIRE
Port Colborne
Conservation Club

BETH PALMA
Port Colborne
Environmental Advisory
Committee

NATALIE GREEN
Remedial Action Plan

DEBBIE EGGLETON
Ridgeway and District
Garden Club

STAN SAMMY
Royal Astronomical
Society of Canada

JULIE BÉDARD
Sir Winston Churchill

DAVID GIBSON
Skyhunters

RENEE DELANEY
Small Scale Farms

**MARIA
BELLANTINO-PERCO**
Source Water Protection
Committee

LYNDA REINHART
St. James and St. Brendan
Anglican Church

DEREK DIAS
TD Tree Days

ERIN BROWN
Terra Team Blessed Trinity
Secondary School

VANNA YOU
Town of Lincoln

JAMIE MEREWETHER
Walker Industries



NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

MARV ENS

LAURA THOMAS

Artistic Director of
WomEnchant Chorus and Drummers

Founded in 1969, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation (NPCF) is a registered charity, dedicated to raising funds that aid in the conservation of our natural environment for present & future generations. When you donate to the Foundation (NPCF), you help support conservation projects and programs that contribute to improving our water quality, increasing green spaces, wetland and habitat restoration, and environmental research and education. For more info please visit niagaraconservationfoundation.com

The NPCF is currently seeking citizen members for a new board to be in place by Summer 2020. Please note, as per the Bylaws, the NPCA is allotted two representatives on the board of the Foundation.

The following members are the current NPCF Board of Directors:

CHAIR Tom Insinna
(Citizen, Fort Erie)

VICE CHAIR Robert Foster
(NPCA Representative)

BOARD MEMBER Chandra Sharma
(CAO, NPCA Representative)

BOARD MEMBER Gayle Wood (Citizen,
Niagara-on-the-Lake)

BOARD MEMBER Mickey Difruscio
(Citizen, Thorold)





7,624

CHILDREN EDUCATED



2.37

HECTARES OF
WETLANDS
CREATED



57,817

TREES
PLANTED



78

ACRES
REFORESTED



ECO-DEFENDERS
VOLUNTEERS DIVERTED

9,173

KILOGRAMS OF WASTE
FROM THE LANDFILL

***WE THANK THE NPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT***

BRENDA JOHNSON CHAIR
BRUCE MACKENZIE VICE CHAIR
BILL STEELE
BRAD CLARK
BRIAN WRIGHT
DAVE BYLSMA
DEBORAH COON-PETERSEN
DIANA HUSON
DONNA CRIDLAND
ED SMITH
JACK HELLINGA
JAMES STEWART BEATTIE
JOHN INGRAO
JOHN METCALFE
KEN KAWALL
LEAH FEOR
MALCOLM WOODHOUSE
RICK BRADY
ROB SHIRTON
ROBERT FOSTER
WILLIAM RAPLEY



**NIAGARA PENINSULA
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY**

**250 Thorold Road, 3rd Floor, Welland, ON L3C 3W2
905.788.3135**



The mark of
responsible forestry