

REPORT ON NIAGARA REGION MAPPING WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 7TH, 2014



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REPORT ON NIAGARA REGION MAPPING WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 7, 2014

HOSTED BY:

GREENING NIAGARA and CLIMATE'S SAKE (aka ACER/Association for Canadian Educational Resources)

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The funding of the ACER-Greening Niagara workshop from the Ontario Trillium Foundation is gratefully acknowledged.

INTRODUCTION:

On November 7, 2014, Climate's Sake (formerly, ACER, Association for Canadian Educational Resources) and Greening Niagara co-hosted the second Community Mapping Workshop in a series of three, supported by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Thirty-five participants from various organizations active in education, restoration and conservation of natural resources in the Niagara Peninsula, attended at the Fort Erie Conservation Clubhouse in Stevensville, Ontario. Representatives from the Niagara Region, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and First Nations also attended. A list of participants and their organizations is available on request to attendees. The Agenda is attached as Appendix 1.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the day was to bring together members of not-for-profit organizations and agencies that have been working on forest education, policy and restoration issues in the Niagara area. Building on the efforts of last year's participants, an effort was made to document, in more detail, the information on priority areas and to obtain local knowledge of changes to the landscape. We grouped participants into local teams to share their information, and to have it recorded by facilitators at each table. Participants had been selected for their extensive local knowledge and long-term relationship with their local area. Their task was to record their observations about how their area has changed over time and identify priorities in areas such as restoring the forest canopy and enhancing the resiliency of sensitive areas of the watershed.

WORKSHOP METHOD:

The day began with a welcome from local MPP, Wayne Gates who presented a plaque acknowledging the Ontario Trillium Foundation's grant to Climate's Sake/ACER. This was followed by around the room introductions and a series of short introductory remarks. Alice Casselman spoke on the importance of data for ecosystem understanding; Jane Hanlon reviewed the "Ten Steps" for enhancing the resiliency of municipalities, pointing out those that were relevant to the day's discussions for the Niagara Region. Each participant received a copy of the list. Jane also reviewed 'what we learned' from last year's Community Mapping Workshop and how we would proceed this year to refine our understanding of Niagara's issues.

Participants were directed to six different tables, one for each area to be covered. The areas were: **St. Catharines-Thorold; Port Colborne-Wainfleet- Welland; Greater Fort Erie-Crystal Beach; Niagara Falls-Chippawa; West Lincoln; Grimsby-Beamsville-Vineland**

Colour maps with a 1:10,000 scale, prepared by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, were distributed among the tables, based on the geographical area being discussed. Last year's maps, for the same areas, were provided for comparison and to avoid duplication of effort. Deanna Lindblad of the NPCA introduced the maps and how to relate the large scale maps to the overall map of the region. Participants wrote their observations on the maps, using arrows, circles and worded descriptions of what they have observed over the years or recently. A map of Niagara Region showing the areas (tiles) where maps were reviewed is featured in Appendix 3. In addition, facilitators took notes of the comments for each map consulted (Appendix 4).

After lunch, and before the local groups began their work, Don McIvor gave an 'ad hoc' overview of the weather and watershed processes that are in play across the Niagara Peninsula during extreme weather conditions, how this leads to flooding and infrastructure failure and pointed to data that needs to be taken into account in any risk assessment for the area. He also mentioned the potential liability for agencies should the public not be informed of data that has been gathered.

OUTCOMES:

Participants worked diligently on their maps through the rest of the morning and into the afternoon. There was an opportunity for the various group representatives to network with one another. The maps from last year's workshop were available for reference. The local groups were able to refine some of the recommendations from last year. For example, last year's priorities were stated generally as follows:

- Require bigger buffers from waterways, lakes etc.
- Require pervious surfaces on driveways, parking lots etc
- Use culverts instead of storm drains
- Create natural heritage systems with interconnected greenspace buffers
- Incentivize tree/shrub planting (natives only)
- Focus on creating a more resilient environment as global warming will have unpredictable consequences.

Greening Niagara continues to host follow up community discussions in 5 distinct areas to further develop detailed priorities. This year, specific priorities were identified for protection on Maps 13,15,16,21,22,23,25,26,27,32,33,34,35,40,41 and 42.

EVALUATION AND REFLECTION:

Based on the evaluations, the feedback indicated that the workshop was an unqualified success and that the participants would welcome workshops and training in 2015. Participants gained a greater understanding of the local issues and the people working to address them. As hosts, we experienced the energy and commitment of local participants and the potential for 'in the ground' projects to improve the local environment and the resilience of Niagara's infrastructure. The results of the evaluation are available on request.

OVERALL CONCLUSION

The results of the mapping again demonstrated the depth of knowledge of participants and the value of capturing their information, some of which reflects observations over several decades. The fact that representation from local groups allowed participants to work in more depth on identifying priorities shows the commitment to the vision of protecting the watershed and restoring the canopy. With priorities having been set for several local areas, the table is set for discussions among the community and implementers/funders to come to consensus on the follow-up actions to be taken.

The funding for the *Climate's Sake-Greening Niagara* workshop from the Ontario Trillium Foundation is gratefully acknowledged.

APPENDIX 1-AGENDA

Regional Ecology Project (REP- Niagara)

Friday November 7, 2014

LOCATION: FORT ERIE CONSERVATION CLUBHOUSE,

2555 Ott Rd., Stevensville, ON, L0S 1S0

Coffee and Registration 9:30 am Workshop 10am-3pm

Community Mapping Workshop

Purpose: Building on last year's workshop, we will hear the report on our work and focus on issues of resiliency in Niagara Region along with identifying information gaps and how to fill them with local knowledge and mapped information.

The workshop will make use of maps produced by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority with a scale of 1:10,000. Participants will receive an orientation to the map layers and how to use the maps during the workshop.

Host: Greening Niagara, Jane Hanlon

Climate's Sake aka ACER: Alice Casselman

Associates: NRCA: Deanna Lindblad NRC: Allison Graszat LCN: Michelle Martin

Facilitator: Madelyn Webb

AGENDA:

9:30 Registration and Coffee

- 9: 50 am Official Launch of the Trillium Foundation Project. Guest: Yvonne Hopkins, volunteer with the Trillium Foundation and Wayne Gates, MPP for Niagara.
- 10: 10 am Around the room introductions and welcome.
- 10:20 The importance of data and ecosystem understanding. Alice Casselman, Climate's Sake
- 10:25 "Ten Steps" for enhancing the resiliency of the Niagara Region. Jane Hanlon, Executive Director, Greening Niagara
- 10:35 What we heard last year and what we saw from the mapping exercise. Jane Hanlon
- 10:40 How to work with the maps: Orientation to the maps and their content - Deanna Lindblad
- 11:00 Residents read the landscape. We rely on local expertise to help consolidate a perspective on the issues in our area.

Outcomes for today: Work in breakout groups (see below); complete the maps by putting your information on the maps in the form of notes. Identify information gaps and how to fill them. Context is the upcoming (2015) revision of 3 plans for the Greenbelt, Niagara Escarpment and the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Breakout Areas:

- **St. Catharines-Thorold**
- **Port Colborne-Wainfleet- Welland**
- **Greater Fort Erie-Crystal Beach**
- **Niagara Falls-Chippawa**
- **West Lincoln**
- **Grimsby, Beamsville, Vineland**

Working in pairs/groups from the same area:

- a. Review maps from last year and add relevant information.
- b. Add your information to new maps that have no comments.
- c. As a group identify what your region needs to improve its resiliency – see handout on the “10 things...” Reflect on how your area was impacted by recent events or how it handled emergencies may lend perspective to this exercise.
- d. Review the ‘check list’ to make sure you have included your name and relevant information on the map, required for future reference.
- e. Prepare to share the results of your discussions with the larger group

12: 30 Lunch at the tables

1: 00-3:00

Report back from groups on their findings. Identify priorities and areas of risk and resiliency.

Discussion topics (to be added to):

- 1. Data assembly required for the future. How does a comparison of conditions from previous years with those of today inform our understanding of areas where resiliency needs to improve?**
- 2. Link our work to future planning efforts e.g. Review of Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine and Greenbelt**
- 3. Call for volunteer organizations and individuals to work with Greening Niagara as a group to follow up with research on changes over time in the Niagara Region and to develop a proposal to continue our work.**

APPENDIX 2 - EVALUATION FORM

EVALUATION

Regional Ecology Project (REP- Niagara)

Friday November 7, 2014

LOCATION: FORT ERIE CONSERVATION CLUBHOUSE,

2555 Ott Rd., Stevensville, ON, L0S 1S0

Community Mapping Workshop

On a scale of 1-5, 1 being poor, 5 being excellent, please rate the various areas of the workshop by circling the relevant number.

1. Morning presentations

1 2 3 4 5

2. Comments:

3. Orientation to maps – instruction – Deanna Lindblad

1 2 3 4 5

4. Comments:

5. Working individually or in groups with maps

1 2 3 4 5

6. Comments:

7. Lunch and refreshments

1 2 3 4 5

8. Comments:

9. Afternoon presentations:

1 2 3 4 5

10. Comments:

11. Overall facilitation – Madelyn Webb

1 2 3 4 5

12. Afternoon discussion

1 2 3 4 5

13. Comments:

Please consider the following questions to assist us with planning:

14. Would you be interested to attend a workshop to learn more about climate change monitoring?

YES NO MAYBE

15. Would you be interested to attend a training workshop to be trained on assessing the risk to forests from climate change? YES NO MAYBE

Please use this space for any additional comments, suggestions or observations:

Please complete and hand in the Evaluation Form at the end of the day.

Appendix 3 – Map of Niagara Region showing numbered map tiles

[Niagara map tiles 2014-web.pdf](#)

APPENDIX 4 - Notes from Maps

Notes from Map Sheets 2014

Map Sheet: 1, OBM 17670047500

- Shallow area of Lake Erie
- Area that needs a tree inventory, especially Ash trees

Map Sheet: 2, OBM 17665047550

- Miller Creek

Map Sheet: 9, OBM 17660047450

- Six Mile Creek
- Drain: originally wetland, residents built, increased flooding, created drainage

Map Sheet: 11, OBM 17655047850

- Toxic waste site being released into Niagara River from Youngstown, NY. Proposal to be expanded by Chemical Waste Management, Inc. On a fault line.

Map Sheet: 13, OBM 17655047750

- Small restoration areas completed, need to be expanded
- Comment by Deanna L., Amy B., Joyce S.

Map Sheet: 14, OBM 17655047700

- Pollinator corridor establishing itself downstream of the falls since ceasing mowing
- Comment by Deanna L.

Map Sheet: 17, OBM 176550047550

- Spring flooding on Black Creek
- Comment by Jim S.

Map Sheet: 18, OBM 17655047500

- Beaver Creek drainage experiment (successful)
- Large area wind, drainage. Huge trees ripped off unstable soil or wind. Something damaging roots?
- Area to re-naturalize, decreased maintenance, slower water

Map Sheet: 19, OBM 17655047450

- Flood mitigation?

Map Sheet: 21, OBM 17650047900

- Department of National Defence. Harmony wants to create a nature park and historical park. Needs EA and species inventory. Significance for native community
- Bluffs have Bank Swallows at Niagara Shores Park. Asiatic Bittersweet is killing trees
- Comments by Lesley Sampson, Joyce Sankey and Joe Favro

Map Sheet: 22, OBM 17650047850

- Increase riparian buffer. Significant Wildlife Corridor
- Vineyards and agriculture is number one reason no reforestation. Plant windbreak to create corridors.
- Comments by Joyce S., Brad C., Lesley S., and Amy B.

Map Sheet: 23, OBM 17650047800

- Toxic waste buried in old Virgil landfill at headwaters of 4 Mile Creek (comment by Joe Favro)
- Potential for wildlife corridor if plantings can be done to connect current forest (Brad C., Joyce S.)
- Would be helpful to show restoration areas and updated with imagery (Tom Staton)
- Farm ponds for irrigation
- House development

Map Sheet: 24, OBM 17650047750

- Firemen's Park purchased by city and is protected. This area has some old growth trees (Butternut, Flowering Dogwood). Also Walker Greenspace and Walker Park
- Interior forest
- Mountain Road/Kalar to Garner Area west to Taylor Road losing to expansion of urban boundary and development
- Shriner's Creek C.A needs expanded protection along creek
- Comments by Joyce Sankey and Lesley Sampson

Map Sheet: 25, OBM 17650047700

- Needs buffers
- Fernwood Greenbriar swamp
- Edgewood Park, Greenbriar, wetland forest
- Beaver dams

Map Sheet: 26, OBM 17650047650

- City Bus maintenance centre (cleared)
- Phragmites
- Baden Powell PK, flying squirrel nest
- Greenbriar
- Ramsey Road forest needs to be purchased
- 2013-2014 area cleared with Bobolink in southwest corner
- Comments by Joyce S., Brad C., Lesley S., and Amy B.

Map Sheet: 27, OBM 17650047600

- Bobolink habitat
- Tee Creek
- Talk/info to farmer's for Bobolink habitat (bluebird boxes up for monitoring)
- Lyons CK, Am. Water Willow
- Comments by Joyce S., Brad C., Lesley S., and Amy B.

Map Sheet: 28, OBM 17650047550

- Opportunities for corridors and to create interior forests (Joyce S, Brad C.)
- Smith-ness CA, wonderful in this area
- Willoughby C.A.

Map Sheet: 29, OBM 17650047500

- Some nice contiguous forest and existing corridors

Map Sheet: 31, OBM 17645047850

- Most growers in N.O.T.L use roundup type herbicide to control orchard and roadside weeds. With all the under drains much herbicide and pesticide gets flushed into ditches and streams after rainfall.
- NOTL Hydro contracts out roadside tree trimmers to lowest bidder in spring during nesting times for birds, etc.
- Favro farm, naturalized
- Niagara Shores Conservation Area, Virgil Dam have been gated limiting public access
- Townline ditch is "cleaned", all vegetation chopped back along creek. Under draining tiles in farmland cause changes in water level. Banks are severely cropped, all creatures washed to lake because banks of creek have no vegetation. Drainage causes "flushes" with fertilizer, etc. into lake.
- Comments by Joe Favro and Betty Clark

Map Sheet: 32, OBM 17645047800

- All drains built for dealing with farm runoff and to provide irrigation during the growing season. Could be better maintained to create habitat. Additional comment that is illegible.
- Comments by Joe Favros
- Along the canal they cut all the vegetation down between Locks 2 and 3

Map Sheet: 34, OBM 17645047700

- Areas circled on map but no description or names

Map Sheet: 36, OBM 17645047600

- Areas circled on map but no description or names

Map Sheet: 37, OBM 17645047550

- Edison, solar panels

Map Sheet: 38, OBM 17645047500

- Areas circled on map but no description or names

Map Sheet: 39, OBM 17645047450

- Area harvested in 2014 due to EAB, replanted understory (Allison Graszat)

Map Sheet: 40, OBM 17640047850

- Area circled that needs buffering and planting with trees and shrubs. Develop linkages between these areas. Slow down water flow upstream of Walkers Creek.
- Comment by Jane H.

Map Sheet: 41, OBM 17640047800

- Increase buffer zones and add trees and shrubs
- Create linkages
- Native shrubs- no maintenance- along highway corridor
- Comments by Jane Hanlon

Map Sheet: 42, OBM 17640047750

- Areas circled on map but no description, signed by Jane H.

Map Sheet: 43, OBM 17640047700

- Areas circled on map but no description or names

Map Sheet: 44, OBM 17640047650

- Line 10 tar sands pipeline crossing
- East Fonthill Development
- No road, protect
- Tree path
- Endangered species and headwaters

Map Sheet: 45, OBM 17640047600

- Towpath
- Woodland ¼ cut in 2010
- Atlas Landfill
- Wastewater treatment plant

Map Sheet: 46, OBM 17640047550

- Bees
- Petroleum development
- Flatwater Centre
- Landfill

Map Sheet: 47, OBM 17640047500

- Green Ash
- SAR, partial development
- Forest under threat of development

Map Sheet: 48, OBM 17640047450

- Areas circled on map but no description or names

Map Sheet: 49, OBM 17635047800

- Areas circled on map but no description or names

Map Sheet: 50, OBM 17635047750

- Areas circled on map but no description or names

Map Sheet: 52

- Major flooding and erosion during heavy rains
- Enbridge and TransCanada pumping station (natural gas)
- Woodlands harvested due to EAB 2014, to be replanted 2015 with 4300 seedlings (Allison Graszat)
- Enbridge Line 10
- 12 Mile Creek headwaters and cold water fisheries
- Runoff fertilizers
- New housing
- Quarries
- Golf course, water and pesticides

Map Sheet: 53

- 3 ha to be harvested 2015 due to EAB and 900 seedlings planted (Allison Graszat)

Map Sheet: 54

- Lots of streambank erosion along Welland River here and upstream. Would benefit from buffering and cessation of reversed flow from OPG
- NPCA floodplain restoration project
- Niagara central airport
- NPCA property

Map Sheet: 55

- PSW

Map Sheet: 56

- Circled wooded areas that should be purchased

Map Sheet: 60

- Pen Lakes Golf Course
- Harvested due to EAB, replanted with 4000 seedlings (Allison Graszat)

Map Sheet: 63, OBM 17630047500

- 28 hectares harvested 2014 due to EAB, 4000+ seedlings (Allison Graszat)

Map Sheet: 69, OBM 17625047600

- Wood frog, November 6, 2014
- Harvested in 2014 due to EAB. Replanted with 1000+ seedlings (Allison Graszat)

Map Sheet: 82

- 40 Mile Creek, Hawk Watch just west of creek. Wildlife corridor north to Lake Ontario
- North end of wildlife corridor made into natural area in 1990's
- Marina expanded in 1990's
- Farm fields turned into subdivisions
- Grimsby Beach old Methodist summer camp, many refurbished cottages
- 1990's Baker's Road treatment plant
- Lakeview PS 1956
- Area with first houses built in early 1960's, filled by 1970's
- Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School 1960's
- Gary King's house 1960-1985
- Abundance of migratory birds, 1990's tree cover increased
- Cliff erosion
- Abandoned grape vineyard 1960-1990's

Map Sheet: 89

- Department of National Defence rifle range since about WWII
- New subdivision since 2013
- Radio towers 1980's
- Place Polonaise Polish Community Centre 1970's, recently sold

Map Sheet: 90

- Wooded area owned by Jay Irish "Save the Forest"
- 1990's water treatment plant
- Private homes 1990's