

SUMMER - 2020

# LAND CARE NIAGARA

Official Newsletter

## Message from the Stewardship Director

**Dear Landowners, Volunteers, and Friends,**

We would like to thank everyone for another great spring season!

Enclosed in this e-newsletter is an update of what has unfolded over the last few months. Land Care Niagara as an organization has experienced a few changes such as welcoming two new Environmental Technicians, and new board members to the team! In addition to these changes LCN has created new partnerships with organizations and members in the community, engaged new landowners and connected with the citizens and youth of Niagara. This was possible as Land Care Niagara attended and participated in many great events and programs over the fall and winter months.

Land Care Niagara understands that these are difficult times but remain committed to enhancing Niagara naturally as we navigate through this pandemic together. We welcome you to follow along with us as we prepare and implement our core programs such as the Rural Tree Planting program and providing landowners of Niagara with trees from our very own tree nursery. Please share this e-newsletter with friends and family and stay tuned on our social media platforms for all LCN news and updates!

The Land Care Niagara Council and Staff would like to take this time as an opportunity to say thank you, take care and wish you the very best over the summer of 2020!

Warmest wishes,

Barry Porter



## This issue:

**Message from the Stewardship Director**

PAGE 01

**Welcome New Members**

PAGE 02

**Tick Awareness**

PAGE 04

**Project Updates**

PAGE 05

**Announcements, Events, and Updates**

PAGE 07



# Welcome New Members

We are very excited to welcome new board members to our organization this season!

## Calvin Blewitt



Calvin was born and raised in Hamilton. He studied Environmental Studies and History at Redeemer University, and most recently completed the Ecosystem Restoration program at Niagara College in 2019. After completing his degree, Calvin interned at a non-profit in Kenya studying the effects of deforestation on agricultural land. He has a passion for sustainable development in the developing world, as well as freshwater fisheries management. Currently, Calvin is volunteering at a number of different non-profits in the area. In his spare time, Calvin enjoys fishing, hiking, and mountain biking. Calvin hopes to use his skills to serve Land Care Niagara and the surrounding community.

## World Environment Day June 05 2020

World Environment Day has been celebrated annually since 1974 with the purpose of calling upon governments, businesses, celebrities, and citizens to take action towards a pressing environmental issue. This year, World Environment Day 2020 promoted the theme of **biodiversity** as it demonstrates the interconnectedness between humans and the ecosystem.

Did you know that the more diverse an ecosystem is, the more difficult it is for a single pathogen to dominate and spread rapidly? Human driven impacts including deforestation, land-use changes, and invasive species have altered the natural protection that we receive from the environment. This means that pathogens - including zoonotic diseases such as coronaviruses - are more likely to spread!

This World Environment Day, we were encouraged to act **#ForNature** and promote activities that protect biodiversity. Consider promoting biodiversity in your backyard by planting native vegetation, hanging bat boxes and bird houses, and preventing the spread of invasive species by cleaning, draining, and drying watercrafts.





# Welcome New Members

## Shyanne Matone

Shyanne moved to the Niagara Region three years ago and currently resides in Grimsby. A recent graduate from Carleton University's Bachelor of Global and International Studies Program, Shyanne plans to attend Niagara College in the Fall of 2020 to pursue a graduate certificate in Environmental Management and Assessment.



During her time in Ottawa, Shyanne sat on the CUSA Sustainability Advisory Council at Carleton University and volunteered with a local non-profit, Ecology Ottawa, on various campaigns. She also participated in Ecology Ottawa's Youth Climate Ambassadors Program, which involved working within the community to combat urban sprawl and the potential expansion of the urban boundary in the city's New Official Plan. Now back in the Niagara Region, Shyanne is eager to continue pursuing her passion for environmental stewardship and sustainability with Land Care Niagara.



## Stopping the Spread of Invasive Species

The summer is an excellent time to boat, fish, dive, and participate in water sports, but did you know that aquatic invasive species are often unintentionally spread as a result of these activities?

Aquatic invasive species are organisms that cause ecological harm when introduced to an environment where it is not native. These species have the ability to reduce biodiversity, alter habitats, and may cause extinction of native flora and fauna through competition for resources.

Recreational boating can transport invasive species, especially invertebrates, as they tend to attach themselves to submerged components of the vessel and travel to new communities where they can fall off or dislodge and potentially become invasive. After a boating trip, make sure to follow the instructions of the **Clean, Drain, Dry Campaign**.

- First, inspect the vessel and all of its attachments including the motor, anchor, and other equipment for invasive species and remove and dispose of them in the garbage away from the water.
- Next, clean all boating components with fresh water or spray thoroughly with pure vinegar when the boat is docked on land. When possible, allow the boat to dry completely before entering a new body of water.
- The same steps can be applied to fishing, diving, and other water sports equipment.

Land Care Niagara wants you to enjoy a safe and happy summer and remind you to Clean, Drain, and Dry your aquatic equipment to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species!



# Community News

## Tick Awareness



Ticks are around all year, but are more active when it's warm out. It is important to be extra aware when hiking into heavily vegetated or forested areas and take all precautions to prevent tick bites. Tick awareness is important as they can transmit Lyme Disease. Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that is caused by the transmission of the bacterium *Borrelia mayonii* from an infected tick. Early symptoms of Lyme disease usually appear between 3 and 30 days after a bite, and include fatigue, fever, headache, chills, muscle and joint pain and a distinct rash often resembling a bullseye pattern. If treated early with a few weeks of antibiotics, Lyme disease can be resolved. If left untreated, Lyme disease can spread to other areas of the body and lead to issues in the nervous system and the development of arthritis.

Black-legged deer ticks were previously known to be the only tick that carried the bacteria responsible for Lyme disease, and although these ticks are still the most common carriers, it is now understood that other tick species may also have the ability to carry and transmit the bacteria to humans. Therefore, all tick bites should be treated and monitored the same. Not all ticks carry the bacterium, so not every bite will lead to an infection. Aside from Lyme disease, ticks can carry other diseases as well, including Tularemia, Babesiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted fever and more.



## Tick Prevention 101

- Wear long sleeved shirts, long pants, and enclosed shoes that are light in colour for easier detection of ticks. Tuck your pants into your socks to minimize skin exposure.
- During the summer when it gets really hot and dry, ticks head for shade cover in moist, brushy forested, and grassy areas to avoid drying out. Try to stay on designated trails and avoid heavily vegetated areas when going on a walk or hike.
- Use bug repellent that contains "DEET".
- When you get home, have someone check you over for ticks. Change out of your clothes quickly and throw them in the dryer for at least 10 minutes on high, then wash as normal. Have a shower to rinse off any ticks that may still be on you, and check to see if any are embedded.
- If you have a tick, quickly and safely remove it using a tick key or other tick removal tool, or fine needle tipped tweezers. The only way to safely remove a tick is by pulling it straight out. Make sure to grab the tick at the base and pull firmly to make sure the entire tick is removed. The tick can be placed in a crush proof container and sent to a local health department or online at [etick.ca](http://etick.ca) for identification and to help track tick populations.
- Symptoms of disease should be monitored and if any are present, it is important to go to the doctor as soon as possible to get treated!





## PROJECT UPDATES: RE-LEAF TREE NURSERY

Land Care Niagara's Re-Leaf Tree Nursery has seen many updates this summer 2020 season.

The polyhouse which contains our nursery equipment and supplies has received a new canopy. The irrigation system has been inspected for loose fittings and missing fixtures and is back to providing our trees with water from Lake Ontario. Trees were moved into aisles and the weeds that had moved in during late spring were removed. While weeding the nursery, we spotted some seedlings growing between the young trees! They have been transplanted to pots and are ready to be integrated into the nursery system. As for our robin's egg nest, no chicks have hatched yet but the mother robin is often seen perched on our fence or flying around the nursery.

There are several trees that are becoming too large for our nursery to house and are ready to find their forever home! If you or someone you know are interested in supporting our mission towards enhancing Niagara naturally and increasing urban canopy please contact us by phone at **905-348-LAND (5263)**, or by email at **info@landcareniagara.com** for more information about receiving a tree from our nursery.

The nursery continues to grow and house healthy, beautiful trees to this day and Land Care Niagara is committed to keeping the nursery growing.





# Project Updates: Rural Tree Planting Program

We had a very successful tree planting season for 2020! Thanks to our partnerships with Forests Ontario and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, along with nine amazing landowners who participated in our Rural Tree Planting Program this year, we were able to plant 31,100 trees over 26 acres of land. Species planted were all native to the local region and taken from the appropriate seed zone, and included red oak, silver maple, red-silver maple hybrid, swamp white oak, bur oak, black walnut, hybrid poplar, white spruce, and white pine,. Our program will help increase native canopy cover across the Niagara region and have long lasting impacts on native biodiversity and the health of the environment.

Over the next few months we will be returning to sites that were previously planted throughout Niagara to conduct survival assessments. This is to ensure that the survival rate of the trees planted is at an acceptable level and to infill and provide care to trees where necessary. We will also be preparing for the upcoming 2021 planting season! If you are a landowner interested in in being a part of the tree planting program visit the Forests Ontario website or contact us at **info@landcareniagara.com** for more information.







## **Announcements - Events - Updates**

### **New Summer Students**

We'd like to thank Canada Summer Jobs and Eco Canada for granting us the hire of two Environmental Technicians this summer. Their assistance will go a long way to helping Land Care Niagara grow and implement projects across Niagara. Welcome Harper Schmalz and Emily Simmons to the team!



### **Instagram**

Land Care Niagara is now active on Instagram! Follow us to keep up with all the projects we have going on, play tree trivia, and get acquainted with nature in the Niagara region!

### **We want to hear from you!**

Is there something you would like to see featured on our social media pages or in our newsletters? If so reach out to us via email at [info@landcareniagara.com](mailto:info@landcareniagara.com) or send us a message on any of our social media platforms!

## **CONTACT US**

