

SUMMER/FALL - 2021

LAND CARE NIAGARA

Official Newsletter

Welcome Executive Director

We are very excited to welcome Michelle Martin, as our new Executive Director at Land Care Niagara!

Michelle was born in Scotland and moved to Canada as she had a keen interest in Canadian ecology and wildlife. Michelle was the Stewardship Manager of Land Care Niagara from 2013-2015, and a management biologist for Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks from 2015 to 2021.

This previous experience with the organization made her very passionate about the mission of Land Care Niagara and she has been actively involved with Land Care Niagara for nearly 10 years. Michelle has a Bachelor of Science degree with honors from the University of Glasgow in Scotland and a Masters of Science degree in Biology from Laurentian University as well as business experience as an entrepreneur and business owner.

She is always striving to advocate for the natural environment and has dedicated much of her professional and personal time to helping Ontario's Species at Risk. Michelle is extremely excited about this new opportunity with LCN and feels very driven to facilitate great collaborative projects, to make positive changes in Niagara's community and Environment.



THIS ISSUE

Welcome: Executive Director

PAGE 1

Welcome New Members

PAGE 2

National Forests Week

PAGE 3

SAR Bats and Gray
Ratsnake Project
Updates

PAGE 4 - 5

Bat Walk Events

PAGE 6

Tree Planting Event

PAGE 7

Announcements,
Events, and Updates

PAGE 8

Welcome New Members

We are very excited to welcome Jason Henry to our Board of Directors!



Jason Henry, M.Sc.

Jason attended Trent University, graduating with a Bachelor of Environmental Science, followed by a Master's degree in Environmental and Life Science. His research during his Master's focused on the impacts of pollution on Irish grassland herbaceous species, studying relationships between soil characteristics and grassland biodiversity. Currently, Jason is working at the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre as a Senior Research Technician where he specializes in green infrastructure use in the urban environment. Jason has a strong passion for increasing the tree canopy cover in Ontario and a growing interest in storm-water management and its impact on future urban and suburban development. In his spare time, Jason enjoys gardening with his wife and taking his son Blake and puppy Nox out for walks. Jason is excited to join Land Care Niagara as a Council Member.

Leave Leaves Alone!

Tips for fall yard maintenance

The leaves have started to fall again and many of us have found our lawns covered in the colours of autumn. Yet pretty soon, we will be pulling out our blowers and rakes and those leaf covered lawns will turn to curbsides lined with brown paper bags. What many of us don't know is just how important these leaves can be, not only for our lawns but for the environment. This fall, LCN is asking the community to leave leaves alone! Over the winter months, fallen leaves can help shield smaller wildlife such as chipmunks from the cold, and may also provide an important source of shelter for overwintering insects. Moreover, leaves can also act as a fantastic natural fertilizer for our lawns and gardens! For example, mulching leaves can help improve soil structure and water retention, and mulch mowing helps encourage healthier lawns as it allows grass roots to penetrate deeper into the soil! Ultimately, these are just a few of the benefits that leaves provide – if you want to learn more, please visit <https://www.leaveleavesalone.org/>

Happy mulching!



National Forests Week

SEPTEMBER 19-25 2021

This year's theme:

Our forests - continually giving

Each year National Forest Week (NFW) is celebrated across Canada. NFW was originally established in 1920 as Forest Fire Prevention Week to encourage greater public awareness of Canada's forests. In 1967 it was renamed, National Forest Week, to encompass the many and varied human and environmental aspects of Canada's forest resources.

NFW challenges Canadians to learn more about their forest heritage and support greater recognition of this valuable resource. Forests are fundamental to our economy, culture, traditions, history, and to our future. Communities, families, and individuals depend on forests for their livelihood and way of life. Forests offer a variety of products, social, cultural and health benefits, as well as provide critical ecological functions.

This year Land Care Niagara celebrated National Forests Week with a Releaf Nursery Workshop and Tree Giveaway. Congratulations to our tree giveaway winner, Michael Babin, we hope that you enjoy your Kentucky Coffee Tree!

For more information about National Forest Week please visit www.cif-ifc.org/national-forest-week/ or check out #NationalForestWeek on social media platforms.



Above: Giveaway winner Michael Babin.



Above: LCN Volunteers Paige Schoenwolf, Elyse Panici & Alexis Wilbee at the Releaf Nursery Event.

Species-at-Risk Bat & Gray Ratsnake Project

Over the last few months, we have been conducting the research portion of our Species-at-risk project for endangered bats! We have had an amazing turnout of volunteers who dedicated many of their evenings to assist with collecting acoustic and observational data for bats in Niagara.



Staff and volunteers surveyed every night from August 23 to the end of October at four different sites to determine if bats are using these areas for overwintering habitat. All data collected will be sent to Toby Thorne at the Toronto Zoo for analysis. We are looking forward to seeing the results this Winter! Check out our Instagram page ([@LandCareNiagara](#)) to see videos of some of the bats we saw flying around!



Species-at-Risk Bat & Gray Ratsnake Project

We are so excited to have partnered with Niagara College students in the Ecosystem Restoration Program to conduct this research! The students will be monitoring one of our candidate locations as part of their graduate studies. They will be providing us with their data for our project. We had a great time setting up equipment, and monitoring bats in person using handheld ultrasonic devices to collect additional data at the site.



LCN Wildlife Technician, Emily Simmons, and Ecosystem Restoration students working together to set up acoustic monitoring equipment at one of our candidate sites



LCN Executive Director Michelle Martin with Ecosystem Restoration Students

NEW!

Our Ontario Bat Pamphlet is finished and available on our website.

This pamphlet has information about all 8 Ontario bat species including all 4 Species-at-Risk and some of the threats to these species. Take a sneak peak!

Graphic Designer: Brandi Wick.



Bat Walk Events!

We had a blast this Summer hosting night time bat walks with adults and youth groups throughout Niagara! We heard and saw lots of bats foraging above us and were able to capture a glimpse of a few different species! A big thank you to everyone who joined us for the fun!



Tree Planting Event

Tree Planting Event with the City of Niagara Falls

Land Care Niagara participated in a tree-planting event with the City of Niagara Falls and donated 30 trees at cost. During this planting event, volunteers planted rows of native tree species such as Hackberry, Red Maple, White Pine, and Eastern Redbud as part of ongoing efforts to expand the city's urban canopy with 170 new trees. This work was made possible through a partnership with Tree Canada, a national tree-planting charity, and the CN Eco-Connexions From the Ground Up initiative. The city received a \$25,000 grant for that. More information regarding this event can be found in an article by Niagara This Week (link below).

<https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/10484895--living-legacy-trees-planted-along-millennium-trail-expand-urban-canopy/>



Photo: Volunteers Paige Schoenwolf, Katja Odegaard and Emily Simmons helped out at a tree planting event along the Lions Legacy Pathway section of the Millennium Trail in Niagara Falls. *(Credit: Paul Forsyth/Metroland taken from the link above)*



Announcements - Events - Updates

LCN T-Shirts Available!

We are excited to announce the launch of our Land Care Niagara Shop!

Visit landcareniagara.bigcartel.com to purchase our 2021 T-shirts.

Proceeds from T-shirts sales will be used as a fundraising initiative, with all funds being used to support the continued delivery of our programs.



RESTORE NIAGARA NATURALLY

Extremely soft, comfortable tees. Your purchase will help restore Niagara's environment



COLOUR & FIT



DESIGN



Canadian Made,
sustainable bamboo
/organic cotton shirts.



Support local business: T-
shirts designed and created
by Presstime Design in
Niagara.



Slim fit and true to
size. Pre shrunk.

\$35

Proceeds will support our important work (see our website for
more info)



Top left: Logo on center of T-shirts

Bottom Left: Board member Alexa and her
boyfriend Taylor wearing their new LCN shirts.