

# Niagara Coastal Community Collaborative

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December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 5:30–8:30pm – Crystal Ridge Branch of the Fort Erie Public Library

## Attendees:

Clayton Nadeau  
June Chipp  
Rick Stockton  
Tim Seburn  
Olivia Groff  
Jim Merrick  
Nadine Litwin  
Amy Parks

Annie Michaud  
Gary Stemerding  
Leah Feor  
Jack Hellinga  
Brie Smalldon  
Ian Twyford  
Cheryl  
Schonewille  
Deanna Lindblad

Jody McKenna  
Julia Hatcher  
Luca Cargnelli

**New:**  
Helena Ciccone

**Guests:**  
Gabrielle Parent-Doliner  
(Swim Drink Fish Canada)

## Summary of Action Items:

- Group to continue brainstorming a new name for the website
- Continue exploring the possibility of a Swim Drink Fish Hub in Niagara with Gabi
- Julia to revise summary results from the Cladophora surveys
- Julia to send Niagara Navigator link to Gregory Ford
- Fund raising committee to pursue application with Land Care Niagara for Loblaw's Water Fund (Due Dec 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018)
- Brie to circulate FOFE report on the Kraft Drain

## Prioritizing Wetland Restoration Options:

Gregory Ford (Niagara College student in the ecosystem restoration program) volunteered to lead an exercise to compile and assess existing wetland data to prioritize areas for action. Gregory was not able to attend but sent an update:

- he has identified wetlands that fall within the Collaborative geography (Port Colborne to Fort Erie)
- data appears to be limited in the study area
- some information on birds and yellow perch spawning areas
- plans to separate the analysis and summation into three categories; wetlands to protect, those to restore, and those to monitor for additional data

The group suggested using the Niagara Navigator (NPCA website) to look at historic extent of wetlands.

## Update on Website Design:

Emery Scott is continuing work on the website. Suggestions for an appropriate domain name are requested.

## Swim Drink Fish Presentation and Discussion:

Gabrielle Parent-Doliner attended the meeting to share information on her organization, Swim Drink Fish, and her specific project, The Great Lakes Communities Recreational Waters Monitoring Initiative. Swim Drink Fish received 1.8 millions dollars in funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada to deliver a citizen science program that engaged the public on water quality in the Great Lakes. The goal of the citizen science project is supplement Public Health Unit beach monitoring with citizen monitoring. Details of the project can be found in attached slides.

- Gabi noted that the location for a Lake Erie hub has not yet been selected and would be interested in further engaging The Collaborative about the possibility of hosting a hub in Niagara.
- Members expressed support for the project, and offered a letter of support

### Funding Opportunities:

The group reviewed 3 funding proposal ideas that the fund raising committee have been working on. All require an individual or group to lead the application.

1. EcoAction: Due Dec.20th, 2018 – 100k over 2 years, 50% match
    - water quality, action focus, proposed projects for Waverly and Lorraine
  2. Loblaw Water Fund: Due Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – 25k over one year, 75% match
    - invasive species, habitat loss, habitat fragmentation
  3. Trillium Seed Funding: Due Jan 2019 – 75k over 1 year, no match
- build priorities, focus on engagement and outreach
- Land Care Niagara has agreed to put forth an application on the behalf of The Collaborative
  - Bert Miller Nature Club noted they would provide in-kind volunteer support
  - The group concluded that The Core Team should continue pursuing funding opportunities on behalf of the Collaborative where possible

### Cladophora Monitoring Preliminary Results:

The primary results of the Cladophora monitoring were compiled with the help of ECCC student Harman Sandu. The survey methodology was reviewed and the preliminary results were presented. Key findings included:

- All volunteers noted that 2018 summer had less Cladophora wash up than usual
- More Cladophora was observed suspended in the water than in the wet/dry portion of the beach
- Variability over the season was minimal at most beaches but was generally higher in early August
- Conditions appeared to have been most severe at Lorraine Bay and Cedar Bay. This may be due to observer bias, pictures have not yet been assessed

The data will be forwarded to ECCC scientist Dave Depew for further interpretation.

### Other Business:

- Jack Hallinga directed the group to a new drain management plan for the Wignell Drain in Port Colborne that is more environmentally minded which he hopes will set precedent for positive change in the area. (<http://portcolborne.ca/fileBin/library/Wignell%20Drain%20Baseline%20Report.pdf>)
- Brie provided an overview of a study her and FOFEC students conducted this summer at the Kraft Drain. Brie will circulate a digital copy of the report to the group.
- The group aimed to meet again in the new year