

# Niagara Coastal Community Collaborative

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June 18th, 2018, 5:30-7:00pm – Crystal Ridge Branch of the Fort Erie Public Library

## Attendees:

Rick Froese	Rick Stockton	Caron Anderson
Paul Collard	Cheryl Schonerille	Jody McKenna
Nadine Litwin	Tim Seburn	
Gary Stemerding	Sue Weidemann	
Amy Parks	Brie Smalldon	

## Summary of Action Items:

- Jody to set Cladophora Volunteer check-in call the second week of July

## Overview of Cladophora Citizen Science Summer Monitoring Program:

- 10 volunteers will be surveying their beach, once a week beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> week, and continuing until the fall.
- Cladophora field kit was demonstrated and discussed. (Includes 100m long tape measure, flags, site survey sheets, survey field guide-laminated, clip board and ID tags).
- Environment and Climate Change Canada and Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change will be supplementing the Citizen Science Monitoring, with in-lake monitoring of off-shore Cladophora growth and nearshore velocity and current direction which will correspond with Cladophora beach surveys
- A call will be set the second week of July to check-in with Cladophora volunteers.

## Funding Opportunities:

- The Ontario Trillium Fund's deadline for their Transform Grant closes in October. Work should begin on the proposal in early September, should the Environment Canada funding not come through. Niagara College agreed to take the lead on the funding proposal on behalf of The Collaborative once again.

## Student Hiring:

- Environment Canada Nearshore and Nutrient Teams are looking to partner on hiring a Niagara College Student, who would assist with the work of the Collaborative, and take on some of the coordinator responsibilities. Start date is to be confirmed, early September is the target.

## Species at Risk Monitoring:

- Niagara College interns at the OMNR met with Albert Garafalo and Olivia Groff to discuss improving landowner contact and involvement. They are developing an information package that will be ready in August
- Fowlers Toad Surveys have occurred 1-2 times per week over the last three weeks. Volunteers noted more hybrids (American Toad x Fowler Toad) being found, and Tim Seburn noted a difference in the location and the species of toads depending the average yearly climate (wet vs. dry spring).
- Monitoring will continue

## Municipal Meeting Update:

- May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Collaborative members met with representatives of each of the local municipalities (Fort Erie, Port Colborne, Wainfleet and the Region of Niagara) at the Crystal Ridge Branch of the Fort Erie Public Library
- Municipal staff saw the value of local knowledge and improved science to help municipalities improve decision making.
- Town staff could help do the “building” of The Collaborative–use of their expertise in getting grants and working through the municipal process for leveraging support
- Staff recommended waiting to go to Council until early in the New Year, once the new councillors have become acquainted with their new positions.
- **All municipal representatives saw the value in The Collaborative, and agreed in some form, to continue their involvement, which may include building their knowledge base on shoreline and ecosystem functioning, attending meetings, providing their data, targeted issue based discussions.**