



— NIAGARA PENINSULA —
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In 2021, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation built upon its tremendous success from 2020. We ended the year by partnering with the NPCA to host our first Ball's Fall Holiday Trail. It was truly a magical experience.

We continued to learn that people are craving the outdoors. This yearning blends well with our Foundation's mission to raise funds toward environmental endeavors that include increasing green space, improving water quality, restoring habitat, conducting environmental research, and providing education.

This past year brought many opportunities. First, we continued our Director's Donation Challenge, where the Boards of the Foundation, NPCA, Public Advisory Committee, and staff directors contributed to this fundraiser. A special thanks to NPCA Chair Brenda Johnson for generously donating her honorarium. I thank everyone for their participation. Second, the Foundation was excited to launch the Gallery Project Capital Campaign at Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation in 2021. This campaign represents an exciting journey to expand the gallery by offering an educational experience that will provide engaged, tactile, and experiential learning for people of all ages.

In addition, the Foundation continued selling Comfort Maple Pens, accepting donations for benches and boardwalks at conservation areas, and supporting 15 individuals with scholarships as they pursue their careers in environmental education.

We also had some sad farewells this year. We wish our Executive Coordinator, Andrea Crosby-DiCenso, well as she accepted a position with Women's Place of South Niagara. We also thank members Mary Sergenese and Gayle Wood for their years of service with the Foundation.

We thank our many donors, sponsors, and volunteers for their exceptional support during the year and look forward to a bright future.

Tom Insinna
NPCF Chair



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



TOM INSINNA
Chair



D. GAYLE WOOD
Vice-Chair & Secretary



MIKE BALSOM
Director



ROB FOSTER
Treasurer



DONNA CRIDLAND
Director



DOMINIC "MICKEY" DIFRUSCIO
Director



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

VISION

A leader in providing resources to support conservation work throughout the Niagara Peninsula watershed.

MISSION

It is our mission to raise funds towards environmental endeavors that include increasing green space, improving water quality, habitat restoration, environmental research and education and conservation programs and projects, including museum projects.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Strengthen organizational governance.
2. Become Niagara's environmental charity of choice.
3. Build strong community partnerships.
4. Continue with ongoing programs.
5. Development a fundraising strategy.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation (NPCF) is a registered charity founded on May 5, 1969.

Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, we fundraise in support of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) towards projects that aid in the conservation of our natural resources for present and future generations.

Donations to the Foundation help support conservation projects and programs that improve our water quality, increase green spaces, wetland and habitat restoration, and environmental research and education.

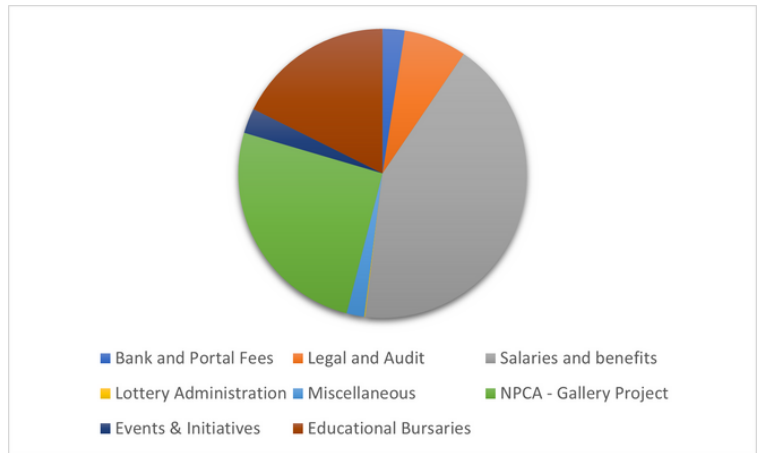
Donations can be made online at:
www.niagaraconservationfoundation.com



FINANCIALS

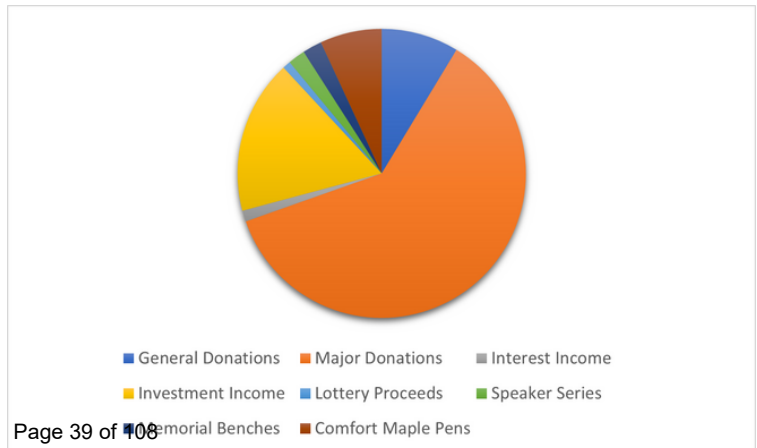
WHERE NPCF DOLLARS COME FROM

Interest Income \$ 566 1.23%	Investment Income \$ 7,941 17.24%
Comfort Maple Pens \$ 3,194 6.93%	General Donations \$ 3,999 8.68%
Lottery Proceeds \$ 413 0.90%	Memorial Benches \$ 1,000 2.17%
Speaker Series \$ 886 1.92%	Major Donations \$ 28,065 60.93%



WHAT NPCF DOLLARS SUPPORT

Lottery Administration \$ 61 0.09%	Salaries and Benefits \$ 28,805 42.40%
Miscellaneous \$ 1,344 1.98%	Legal and Audit \$ 4,788 7.05%
Bank and Portal Fees \$ 1,692 2.49%	Education Bursaries \$ 12,000 17.66%
Events & Initiatives \$ 1,902 3.44%	NPCA - Gallery Project \$ 17,342 25.53%





EDUCATION BURSARIES



2021 OVERVIEW

- 15 conservation education bursaries awarded
- Total Amount: \$12,000

Through initial support of the Fort Erie Conservation Women's Auxiliary, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation supported a Conservation Education Bursary program in 2021.



The bursary ranges from \$250.00 to \$1,000.00 to assist secondary school students in their education in a field relating to conservation, environment, forestry, natural resources, and/or fish & wildlife.

“We were pleased to choose 15 outstanding individuals from the municipalities of Fort Erie, Hamilton, Haldimand, Pelham, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Thorold, and Welland to receive the Conservation Education Bursary,” said NPCF Chair Tom Insinna. “The Committee and I were impressed by the recipients’ enthusiasm towards their studies and wish them luck with their future endeavours.”



COMFORT MAPLE PENS

The Comfort Maple Conservation Area conserves what is widely believed to be the oldest and finest sugar maple tree in Canada, estimated to be over 540 years old, and was designated a heritage tree in June 2000 under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Originally in an area of hardwood forest, the tree's size and shape suggest the forest was cleared when the tree was still young, likely for agricultural purposes. The 0.2-hectare area was land owned by the Crown and granted to Major Robert Secord in 1808. It was then sold by the Secord family to the Comfort family in 1816, and later entrusted to the NPCA on April 30, 1961 by Miss Edna Eleanor Comfort (Lease for 999 years), to conserve the 'old growth' tree for its historical and biological significance.

Over the years, NPCA arborists have collected the wood pruned annually for repair and health, and in 2015, the NPCF launched a fundraiser selling pens by turner Marv Ens of Fenwick, ON. Mr. Ens continues to make these hand-crafted pens to preserve and highlight the beauty and character of this magnificent tree. It is truly a "one of a kind" writing instrument.



2021 REVENUE

- 25 pens and two bowls were sold
- Total revenue: \$ 3,193.80

To purchase your own piece of Canadian heritage, please email foundation@npca.ca or online at niagaraconservationfoundation.com





COMFORT MAPLE TREE

IN THE NEWS:

10 UNIQUE THINGS TO DO IN NIAGARA FALLS

Reader's Digest - November 12, 2021

In a country symbolized by the maple leaf, the Comfort Maple is truly something special. Not only is this specimen of “acer saccharum” absolutely massive, standing 24.4 metres high, with a circumference of six metres; it’s also ancient, thought to be around 500 years old. Designated as a heritage tree, it’s widely regarded as the oldest living sugar maple in Canada, and actually predates the town of Pelham which grew up around it. Although it’s well worth a visit, you’ll have to search elsewhere for maple syrup—the vintage tree is protected as part of a conservation area and isn’t tapped for its sap.

THE COMFORT MAPLE TREE HAS BEEN FEATURED BY:

Bee Sweet Nature Company
 CBC
 Daily Hive Vancouver
 In Search of Sarah
 kids.kiddle.co

Mississauga.com
 Narcity
 Niagara This Week
 Trees Charlotte
 Voice of Pelham





DIRECTORS DONATION

The Directors' Donation Challenge was a new initiative launched in 2020. Foundation Member Dominic "Mickey" DiFruscio, started this call to action. He encouraged every Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation and Conservation Authority Board Member to donate to protect greenspace and enhance environmental education.

Foundation Chair Tom Insinna and Conservation Authority Chair Brenda Johnson led the campaign. Board Members, Staff Directors, and the Authority's Public Advisory Committee rose to the challenge to raise over \$5,000 for this initiative.

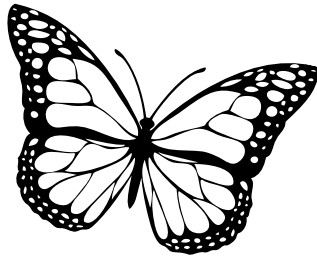
Chair Johnson donated her second honorarium, and it is the fourth time she has contributed financially to conservation efforts while serving on the NPCA Board of Directors. Chair Johnson says, "We must all lead by example and remember that every donation, no matter how big or small, will help improve the watershed we call home."

"The importance of protecting greenspaces has never been more prominent in the minds of the watershed community," says NPCF Board Chair Tom Insinna. "Through the support of our community and individuals like Chair Johnson, we can continue to protect our important natural resources for present and future generations."





DOMINIC "MICKEY" DIFRUSCIO



Long Live the Monarch Butterfly.

DOMINIC "MICKEY" DIFRUSCIO

Mr. Dominic DiFruscio, Mickey, as he was known by his friends and colleagues, had a lifelong love of nature as an avid hunter and fisherman. He began his tenure with the NPCA in 1993, and attended countless community events and public meetings in those years as an ambassador for conservation work.

Mickey always led by example, ready to roll up his sleeves and get his hands dirty to grow his famous milkweed plants in his home greenhouse every year. He donated these plants, the host plant for the iconic and majestic Monarch Butterfly, to restoration projects undertaken by NPCA throughout the watershed.

In 2017, the NPCA Board of Directors approved the Mickey DiFruscio and Family Legacy Pollinator Project, which aimed to see the installations of two pollinator gardens each year in Mickey's honour. All Mickey DiFruscio and Family Legacy Pollinator Gardens contain only native species of plants that serve as either host or nectar sources for native pollinator species.





IN MEMORIAM 1927-2022

Mickey served on the NPCA Board of Directors for 25 years as the City of Thorold's citizen representative and was an Honorary Lifetime Member due to his dedication and commitment to conservation. Being the true advocate that he was, he was a strong believer in the work of the NPCA and NPCF and was always willing and happy to support.

There are currently eight Mickey Gardens in eight different municipalities, with a total of 12,000 wildflowers and 1,600 m2 of gardens created in his name. These were installed with the support of hundreds of volunteers and local community groups, and two more gardens are planned for 2022.





THANK YOU

On behalf of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Board of Directors, we wish to extend a sincere thank you to all our donors, corporate sponsors, partners, and volunteers.

Your generous support of our organization allows us to continue providing resources to conservation projects across the Niagara watershed that benefit all residents in the community for present and future generations.

CORPORATE SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA)

Peninsula Field Naturalists

Art and Val Fleming Fund

Aviva

Northland Power

Ontario Power Generation

Small Scale Farms

Rice Road Greenhouse

Gauld Nurseries

Niagara Nurseries

Evergreen Acres Christmas Tree Farm



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