

# *Naturally Niagara*

Newsletter of the Niagara Chapter, Trout Unlimited Canada

## Chair's Message

We approach the end of 2019, a remarkable year for the Niagara Chapter of TUC. With help from Greenbelt and Trillium Foundations we were able to complete many new restoration projects that promise important and positive future impacts on the aquatic health of Twelve Mile Creek. Our Chapter continues to grow in both the number and scope of activities, volunteer involvement, partnerships and effectiveness. We can attribute this progression to the perfect meshing of expertise, energy and effort from a multi talented board with everyone pitching in and doing their part so well. Not to forget also the superb support we have received from TUC National.

Our goal for next year will be to try (as all NGOs do) to come up with a formula that will sustain this effort for years to come. We will start with a governance review to ensure that we stay aligned with our mission and that we can avoid burn-out at the board level and maintain our energy and innovation. Anyone who wants to get more involved in 2020, now is the time to raise your hand. All welcome.

### Landowner Seminar

All are welcome to attend this informative seminar on stream restoration best practices. **Nov. 21 at Lookout Golf Club, 209 Tice Rd., Pelham, from 5:30 to 7:30.** Please fill out the free registration at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) or at our Facebook page.

### Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting that was postponed from September is now scheduled for Jan. 16, 2020. This meeting will be very important to the future of our Chapter, and will address some of the issues mentioned in Dennis' Chair's message above. Please mark the date and plan to attend. **Jan. 16, 5:30 pm Fonhill Legion, Hwy 20, Fonhill.**





## HEALTHY TWELVE MILE CREEK

It's been a busy few months for Healthy Twelve Mile Creek (HTMC) manager Megan Lalli and her crew of volunteers. Six properties were selected for riparian planting and over 80 volunteers showed up to plant native trees, shrubs, and grasses along the stream edge. Landowners participated enthusiastically, assisting with the planting and welcoming the volunteers. The SEED grant from the Trillium Foundation ran out at the end of September, and Megan is preparing a final report on the project. Meanwhile, we have received a grant from the Greenbelt Foundation to continue the work, and are hopeful we will qualify for a Trillium GROW grant that will expand the program.

## Healing Waters VII

Our seventh annual Healing Waters Program was one of our most successful, despite our first experience of bad weather for the event. On day one, the ten participants were welcomed to the Fonthill Legion (Branch 613) for an evening of great food, and an introduction to fly tying and fly fishing.

On day two, they met at Doug Leavens' pond and practiced casting before spreading out with their coaches to fish for bass and panfish on the fly. While we experienced drizzle and showers, the soldiers were reluctant to leave the pond for lunch back at the Legion. After an informative and enjoyable tour and tasting at Featherstone Winery, they returned to the Legion for another excellent meal, courtesy of Toni and her crew of Legion volunteers, and received a box of flies tied by Brenda Clarke, and rods and reels donated by Bass Pro. Fly tying rounded out the evening.

Day three took the soldiers to Caledon Mountain Trout Club where they were lavishly welcomed and spent the day fly fishing for the club's large rainbow and Brook trout, stopping only for a gourmet lunch.

Thanks to Fonthill Legion for generous sponsorship, and to Bass Pro, Brenda Clarke, Tim Horton's, Caledon Mountain Trout Club, and our crew of volunteer coaches.



## Short Hills Park

Under the direction of Ian Smith, our Projects Manager and resident fluvial geomorphologist, work was completed on a major restoration project in Short Hills Park. Near the confluence of the main branch of Twelve Mile Creek and the Terrace Creek tributary, very unstable banks had led to damaging erosion and silting. Ian, with our partners from the Niagara Restoration Council (NRC) and contractor Mike Ashford, installed cross vanes and live retaining walls to mitigate the erosion and produce a healthy riffle/pool structure. Tonnes of riverstone and pea gravel were placed to provide spawning potential. Within a few days, fish were already present in the new habitat. This was an enormous project, and congratulations are due to Ian and his crew for completing it on time and on budget! This work represents the completion of our grant from the DFO in partnership with NRC that produced the wing deflectors and stabilized slump completed last year.



## Flies and Flights II

Jeremy Garrett has taken the lead on our Flies and Flights Program, working with Kame and Kettle Beer Works in Fonthill to bring together fly tiers and wannabe fly tiers in a convivial atmosphere. Enthusiastic fly tiers and learners from as far away as Hamilton came to be tutored by Gary Kosinsky and Paul Furminger. Several enthusiastic beginners were shown the basics and seemed likely to pursue the craft. SAIL of Burlington provided a complete tying kit, a sling bag, and duffle bag as door prizes for participants. Jeremy is planning another Flies and Flights afternoon for late January or early February.



## Balls Falls Thanksgiving Festival

Jeremy also organized our display at the NPCA Thanksgiving Festival and was supported by Gary Kosinsky (shown recruiting a very keen young fly fisher), Dennis Edell, and Brian Green. This outreach activity always generates interest in our work. We're hoping some of that interest results in memberships, but the exposure to the community is valuable whether or not memberships result.



## Upcoming Events

**Landowner Stewardship Workshop: Nov. 21 at 5:30 pm Lookout Golf Club** Featuring speakers Harry Reinders and Ian Smith, on practical steps for a healthier stream. Open to all, but aimed at landowners with frontage on the Twelve, this will be an informative workshop to outline what landowners can do, and how we can help, to create a Healthy Twelve Mile Creek. Register at Eventbrite.com or through our Facebook page.

**Presentation to Hamilton Naturalists: Dec. 9 at 7 pm Royal Botanical Gardens** A summary of our eight years of projects and events. Brian Green will bring the HNC up to date on our activities in the headwaters of the Twelve for this important group who own key property on the Effingham Branch.

**TUC Niagara Annual General Meeting: January 16, 2020 at 5:30 pm** This will be an especially important General Meeting to determine the future direction of the Chapter. 5:30 pm at Fonthill Legion (Branch 613), 141 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill

### Naturally Niagara

Newsletter Editor: Brian Green

Contributions to future newsletters are welcome.

Address all questions and suggestions for Newsletter items, photos, ideas to [tucniagara@gmail.com](mailto:tucniagara@gmail.com)

**Check us out on Facebook: Niagara Chapter, TUC**

**We're also on Instagram and Twitter**

[www.tucniagara.com](http://www.tucniagara.com)



### Niagara Chapter,

### Trout Unlimited Canada

Chair: Dennis Edell

Vice Chair: Valerie Grabove

Treasurer: Brian Custers

Secretary: Brian Green

Projects Chair: Ian Smith

Membership: Jeremy Garrett

At Large: Al Unwin, Donna Cridland, Eric Augustino, Deanna Lindblad

Metler Ponds: Doug Leavens

Outreach: Gary Kosinsky, Paul Furminger

Healthy Twelve MC: Megan Lalli