



# Niagara Water Strategy

## Update and Action Plan

November 10, 2010

# NWS Overview

1. Introduction
2. NWS within Integrated Community Planning Department
3. Update on Past and Continued Actions
4. Building Partnerships
5. Goals for 2010 and Beyond

# Introduction

# Niagara's Watersheds: Study Area



# Strategy Partners

Cooperative efforts of main partners:

- Region of Niagara
- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
- Ministry of the Environment
- Area Municipalities
- Public Stakeholders



# What is the Water Strategy?

- Watershed-wide framework
- Multi-jurisdictional (6 Themes)
- Provides a guide for stakeholders on how to best manage human activities affecting ground and surface water resources
- Designed to integrate agency mandates into a streamlined and coordinated strategy

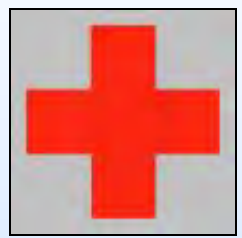


# What is the Water Strategy?

- The strategy is comprised of a set of prioritized actions that inherently consider all ongoing parallel initiatives by other stakeholders which work towards a common purpose of protecting, restoring, and managing water resources.

# 6 Central Themes

- Human Health



- Natural Environment



- Agriculture



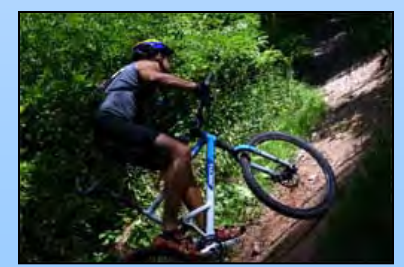
- Commerce



- Property Risk & Liability



- Recreation



# 1. Introduction

## Core Issues Relationship

**Drivers:**

#21 Land Use Changes

#16 Future Growth of Recreation Areas

#5 Climate Change

**Activities:**

# 9 Non-Point Source Contamination

#8 Point Source Contamination

Water Supply  
#18 Urban Use  
#19 Rural

#13 Transportation Emissions

#10 Livestock Farming

#12 Land Fill Industrial Leachate

#7 Septic System Malfunction

#15 Sediment & Erosion from Construction Sites

#3 Water Taking

**Receptors:**

#6 Shoreline/Stream Erosion

#20 Terrestrial / Aquatic Impacts

#4 Modified GW Recharge

#2 High Flows From Impervious Areas

# 3 Low Surface Water Levels

# 17 Beach Closures

#1 Flooding

**Regulation/ Education:**

#23 Promotion of Agricultural BMPs

#11 Lack of Groundwater Protection

#22 Lack of Monitoring Program /Data Management

#24 Watershed Public Awareness

#14 Disparity in Regulatory Controls & Development Policies

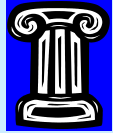
# 2. NWS within Integrated Community Planning Department

# Integrated Community Planning Department

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Integrated Community Planning Department supports effective decision-making based on meaningful engagement, research, planning and focused actions to deliver responsible public policy, resulting in good governance for Niagara

### Guiding Principles



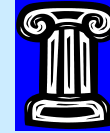
ECONOMIC  
STEWARDSHIP



ENVIRONMENTAL  
STEWARDSHIP



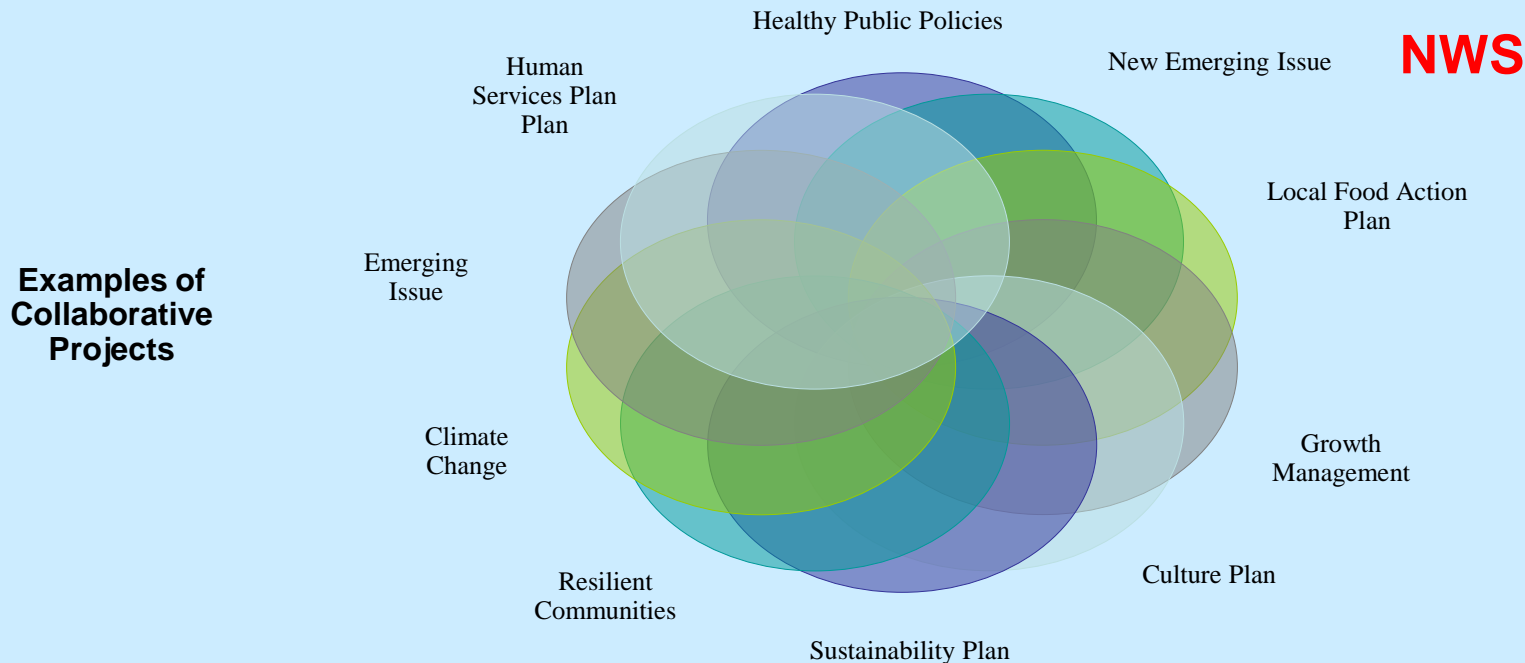
HEALTH & SOCIAL  
EQUITY



CULTURAL  
STEWARDSHIP

## FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICES

- STRONG COUNCIL RELATIONS
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- PROACTIVE COMMUNICATIONS
- RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE
- MEASUREMENT & FORECASTING
- PROJECT EVALUATION



# Key Changes to Niagara Water Strategy Project:

- Transfer to Integrated Community Planning from Water Wastewater
- Slight change of focus from engineering to planning policy source protection and bi-national agenda.
- Reduced budget - fewer potential projects
- Dedicated Project Manager
- Excellent project partners
- Opportunities for leveraging additional funds in 2011
- Exciting future and good team

# 3. Update on Past and Continuing Actions

## Action Highlights:

### Integrated Data Collection and Monitoring Program (study complete; implementation starts 2010)

- The purpose of this action was to develop a watershed-wide monitoring program, including a comprehensive set of data requirements, recommendations for geographic coverage and monitoring frequency, and consistent using appropriate standards and protocols.
- This action identified current monitoring programs, defined data and protocol gaps, established standards and protocols, and developed a prioritization plan for integrating existing and future monitoring efforts.

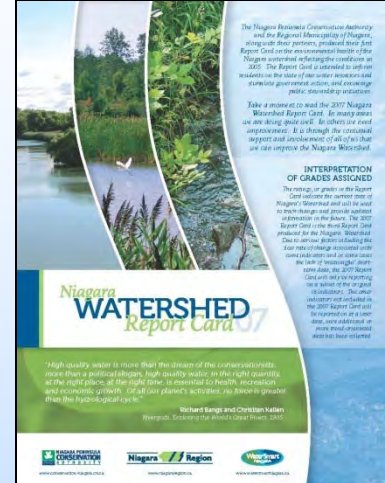


### 3. Update on Past and Continued Actions

# Action Highlights:

## Niagara Watershed Report Card (on-going)

- The Report Card was produced as a communication tool to help inform residents of how water resources are being affected in the Niagara watershed, to stimulate government action, and to encourage public stewardship initiatives in the watershed municipalities.
- The Niagara Watershed Report Card was distributed to over 250,000 homes across the Niagara Region and available the on-line.
- Different versions of the Report Card have been released in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Short version fall 2010.
- Revised full format 2011.



## Actions Highlights:

### Stormwater Management to address Beach Postings (on-going)

- Bacterial contamination at public beaches is a major health concern and ineffective stormwater management (e.g. CSOs) are known contributors to poor near-shore water quality, which results in beach postings.
- Request for Proposal was issued in 2008 with initial reports submitted in October 2009.
- Terms of Reference identified key aspects for study including:
  - characterize priority beaches with nearshore quality issues;
  - identify mitigating measures, and
  - identify long term program for improvements.
- Final report failed to address issues in a meaningful way.

# Action Highlights:

## Stormwater Management to address Beach Postings

### *New Direction:*

- To undertake a comprehensive beach inventory of all Niagara beaches and examine against established criteria.
- Identify sources of pollution and undertake in depth water quality testing (chemical) and objective DNA testing through EC Inland waters.
- Familiarize Niagara beach operators and staff with the objectives of the Blue Flag program.
- Build relationship between Public Health, Water Wastewater and individual beach operators aiming to increase the number of days beaches are open.
- Publish a detailed Beaches Report by the beginning of 2011.
- Aim for one or more Blue Flag candidate beaches in 2011.

# 4. Building Partnerships



# Watershed Partners:

- City of Niagara Falls
- City of Port Colborne
- City of St. Catharines
- City of Thorold
- City of Welland
- Town of Fort Erie
- Town of Grimsby
- Town of Lincoln
- Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Town of Pelham
- Township of Wainfleet
- Township of West Lincoln



## 4. Building Partnerships

# Watershed Stakeholders:

- Ministry of the Environment (MOE)
- Haldimand County
- City of Hamilton
- Niagara Escarpment Commission
- Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
- Environment Canada
- Niagara River RAP
- CCIW
- Local, provincial and national agriculture, environmental and recreational groups and associations (i.e. Friends of the Fort Erie Creek, Niagara North Federation of Agriculture, Lincoln Waterway Working Group)



# 5. Action Plan for 2010/2011



[www.watersmartniagara.ca](http://www.watersmartniagara.ca)