

Niagara Coastal Community Collaborative

Sept 26th, 6:00-8:30pm

Crystal Ridge Branch of the Fort Erie Public Library



Images from the Coastal Tour hosted by Albert Garafalo prior to the meeting

Attendees

Participants:

Beth Palma
Rick Froese
Erika Froese
Rick Stockton
Tim Seburn
Cherlene Vieira
Annie Michaud
Don Lubberts
Diane Stemerding

Nadine Litwik
Felix Barbetti
Bob Highcock
Jean Hempson
Marcia Caryln
Marie Janicke
June Chipp
Cheryl Schonewille

Organizing Team:

Local Champions:

Albert Garafalo
Cesar Moldonado
Environment and Climate Change

Canada:

Luca Cargnelli
Janette Anderson
Jody McKenna
Julia Hatcher
Pete Zuzek (Zuzek Inc.)

What we heard:

Concerns:

- Water quality problems due to drainage
- Hardening of the shoreline occurs to protect development without consideration of ecological impacts
- Invasive species threaten the area's biodiversity
- Grass roots groups are doing good work that could be more collaborative and integrated in order to achieve greater results
- Significant local data is available, but underutilized in decision making
- Getting local priorities recognized by higher levels of government is challenging

Possible solutions:

- Use a collaborative approach to help support and drive individual Grass Root initiatives
- Use success stories to garner local interest and support (e.g. ALUS-Alternative Land Use or Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation)
- Develop ways to incorporate local data sets in local decision making
- Use data to develop a baseline, understand local conditions, and drive appropriate actions
- Develop a Technical Team to provide science specific direction to the Community Collaborative
- Develop a common agenda for overall coastal management with support from government (all levels) and stakeholders

Next Steps:

- Reconvene as a group in 6 weeks
- Expand invitation to industry and additional ENGO's
- Develop a common agenda or goals for the coast, guided by all participants
- Form a Technical Team: discuss developing a baseline using local data

Supplementary Recommendations:

- In addition to the Technical Team, create an Advisory Team to provide process advice and guide the community collaborative through the development of a plan; using the community's coastal goals and the technical team's scientific advice.
- Membership in the Advisory Team would include local ENGOs, elected officials, municipal staff, and possibly senior levels of government

NEXT MEETING DATE:

NOVEMBER 7th, 6:00-8:30 at the Crystal Ridge Branch of the Fort Erie Public Library