

Summer
2010

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ReNU Niagara
Office
Niagara University

Main Address
PO Box 185
Niagara Falls, NY
14305

Phone: 716.205.0289
Fax: 716.205.0288

Office Address:
1117 Michigan Avenue
Niagara Falls, NY
14305

Visit Us Online!
www.niagara.edu/renu



(Left: Painted “tree” rain barrel designed by MLK Service Day: Paint the Rain student volunteers
Right: Community volunteers hard at work during the Highland Community Clean Up in April 2010)

**Market:
Get Your Veggies
Here!**

Are you interested in local, healthy and affordable produce? We are patiently waiting for our vegetables, fruit, and herbs to arrive, and our first market day is planned for Wednesday, July 28th. The market will continue Wednesday evenings in August as well from 6 to 7 pm. Produce will be sold on site at the Henry J. Kalfas Magnet School (1800 Beech Ave, Niagara Falls, NY). All proceeds go right back into this fabulous garden for purchase of seeds, tools, and other gardening supplies!

**2010 HCV Garden Kickoff and
Ribbon Cutting**

A ribbon cutting ceremony and kickoff event celebrating the 2010 garden season and new addition of a tool shed was held at The Highland Community Vegetable Garden on Saturday, July 10th. Niagara Falls Mayor, Paul Dyster, and City Administrator, Donna Owens, joined HCV Garden coordinators and area residents in thanking the Fiskars’ Project Orange Thumb grant program and local community organizations that aided in supporting the 2010 HCV Garden season. Community members and families enjoyed music, refreshments, and a delectable salsa recipe demonstration from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County. Thank you to all who participated!

**HCV Garden
Committee**

The HCV Garden is in need of a Committee comprised of dedicated youth and adult volunteers. The committee will be in charge of garden publicity, market days, and organization of garden maintenance. Please call or email the ReNU Niagara office for more information. As always, volunteers of all ages are welcome to help water and weed the garden regularly. Community efforts are key to the sustainability of the HCV Garden, and with your help its positive impact on Niagara Falls and the Highland Neighborhood is limitless.

ReNU Niagara Staff:

Jill A. Shuey
Executive Director
jshuey@niagara.edu

Mary Ann Broda
Office Assistant
mbroda@niagara.edu

Faculty Coordinator
Dr. David B. Taylor
dtaylor@niagara.edu

AmeriCorps VISTAs:
Lacey Severson
Tom Lowe
Erin Mahaney
Franklin Moore

Student Assistant:
Caitlin Cotton

Newsletter created by:
Lacey Severson, Erin
Mahaney, Franklin
Moore

MLK Service Day: Paint the Rain January 18th, 2010

To honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Niagara Falls area residents, including local youth programs, participated in the MLK Service Day: Paint the Rain event on January 18th, 2010.

Participants learned about the importance of water

conservation and harm of pollution from a combined-sewer systems through a short presentation given by

Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper as well as were given creative authority to paint rain barrels with environmentally- inspired themes to be used at Niagara Falls community garden sites. 16 volunteers helped to paint 4 vibrant rain barrels to be used for watering Niagara Falls community gardens, including the Highland Community Vegetable Garden (1800 Beech Avenue @ the Henry J. Kalfas Magnet School).



(Top right) Niagara Falls area students paint a rain barrel with the theme of "nature's seasons" (Spring, Summer, Winter, & Fall)



ReNU Niagara and Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper partnered to take the rain barrels on a tour of Niagara Falls with the "Paint the Rain: Rain Barrel Art Display" featured February-May 2010 (photo below)



**" This Summer
MORE THAN
140 service
hours and
OVER 80
volunteers
have
contributed
to the HCV
Garden "**

**KEEP UP THE
GREAT WORK &
LET'S REALLY
GET GROWING!!**

**-Invite your
friends too!-**

Fresh Food for the Falls: Green Gardening Workshop Series

During the Winter and Spring of 2010, ReNU Niagara partnered with local organizations to present a series of workshops aimed at educating Niagara Falls area residents about sustainable gardening practices. The series, *Fresh Food For the Falls: Green Gardening Workshop Series*, featured presentations from regional experts on a variety of topics, which included "Organic Gardening 101" (Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County), "Vermicomposting and Beyond" (MAP), "Rain Barrel Uses and Benefits" (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper), "Rain Gardens" (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper), and two youth workshops: "Your Food Is Fertilizer: Worm Composting" (Reinstein Woods Environmental Education Center) & "Re-cycling the Rain: Water Conservation" (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper). Thank you to all of the community partner organizations that donated their talents and resources to make these training and educational opportunities possible for all gardeners (beginners and experts)!



(Bottom Left): "Your Food Is Fertilizer: Worm Composting" participants have fun picking out worms for the compost bin at Henry J. Kalfas Magnet School. (Bottom Right): Residents get information about benefits of rain gardens and protecting bird habitats.



Things Are Looking Clean and Green In Highland: Highland Community Clean Up, Pocket Park, & Highland Community Vegetable Garden Community Plant Days

Folks in Highland are really getting into the “green” of things by cleaning the streets and growing food for the community with help from residents throughout Niagara Falls. On April 24th, 2010, community members volunteered to pick up trash, lay down mulch, and work at a community vegetable garden as a part of the Highland Community Clean Up. The Highland Community Clean Up was a collaborative effort support by various Highland and Niagara Falls organizations and was a clean up site included in the larger citywide Beautify Niagara event that took place the same day. Over 80 people came out to “spruce up” Highland!

Below: Highland Community Clean Up @ HCV Garden



The Highland Community Vegetable (HCV) Garden Community Plant Days on June 3rd and 10th, 2010 started the beginning of the 2010 growing season at the HCV Garden off to a great start. 48 individuals, including Niagara Falls area youth and their families, came out to help plant over 40 varieties of vegetable, fruit, and herb plants at the HCV Garden. Just a few of the vegetables, fruit, and herbs growing at the garden are: heirloom tomatoes, bell peppers, cauliflower, collards, eggplant, cucumbers, radishes, watermelon, cantaloupe, carrots, basil, oregano, and more! Come visit us this summer at the HCV Garden (1800 Beech Avenue, Niagara Falls) for some good eats and a chance to play in the dirt!

Above: Volunteers help plant seedlings @ Community Plant Days event (June 10th)

NEW Highland Community Pocket Park!: Students from Niagara University’s NUOP Program are helping to do landscaping on a formerly vacant lot in on Garden Avenue (1013 Garden Ave.) in Highland to transform the space into the *Highland Community Pocket Park*. The park will feature benches, shrubs, and eco-friendly fencing. Stop by and enjoy this nice outdoor space!

A Few of Our NF Neighbors...



May 15th, 2010: Weed and Seed Youth Mentoring Program and Saturday’s @ The Connection Program Yard/Bake Sale Fundraiser

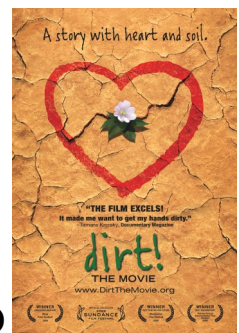
Get Certified Dirtified!

— **FOR FREE** —
July 25th, 2010

Come join the HCV Garden, Niagara Arts and Cultural Center, & Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center in presenting ... Dirt! The Movie

WHEN: 2 PM & 4 PM

WHERE: NACC Grand Theatre (1201 Pine Ave)



Community Partners

Center City Neighborhood
Development Corporation

Center for Joy at HANCI

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Heart, Love and Soul Soup
Kitchen

Highland Community
Revitalization Committee, Inc.

Main Street Business and
Professional Association, Inc.

Michigan Ave. Block Club

Mt. Saint Mary's Hospital

Niagara Beautification
Commission

Niagara County Dept. of
Health/ Healthy
Neighborhoods Program

Niagara County Employment &
Training/One Stop Center

Niagara County Workforce
Investment Board

Niagara Falls Block Club
Council

Niagara Falls Housing
Authority, Doris W. Jones
Family Resource Building

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical
Center

Niagara Falls City School
District

Niagara Falls Weed and Seed

Niagara Arts and Cultural
Center

United Way of Niagara

ReNU News

Awards/Recognition:

- **Fiskars' Project Orange Thumb grant:** The Project Orange Thumb grant was awarded for continued support of the HCV Garden through Fiskars garden tools and planting supplies.
- **Business First 2010 School Innovation Award:** The Henry J. Kalfas Magnet School received award for integrating the HCV Garden into the classroom and working with community partner organizations that help establish and maintain the community garden.

Upcoming Events:

July:

**25th– 12-6 PM: NACC Kitchen Gardens Arts in the Park @
Schoellkopf Park and the NACC Front Lawn.**

- **FREE COMMUNITY FILM SCREENINGS: DIRT! THE MOVIE**

Join the HCV Garden and friends in presenting the award winning documentary *Dirt! The Movie*. 2 FREE Screenings: 2 PM & 4 PM @ the NACC (1201 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY). The HCV Garden will have a table with information on gardening at Arts in the Park from 1-5 pm in addition to the film screening.

28th– HCV Garden Market Starts! Vegetable, Fruit, and Herbs include: heirloom tomatoes, bell peppers, cauliflower, collards, eggplant, cucumbers, watermelon, cantaloupe, carrots, basil, and more!

*****More summer garden opportunities and workshops soon to come*****

On-going activities:

- **Highland Community Vegetable Garden Market (1800 Beech Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY) will be open starting July 28th from 6-7 PM. Call: 716-205-0287 for additional details and list available of produce**

- **For HCV Garden volunteer opportunities and market times please refer to the ReNU Niagara website:
www.niagara.edu/renu**

OR CALL: (716) 205-0289

AND VISIT our office located at 1117 Michigan Avenue

- **Green-Line (716) 205-0287: a referral for your questions or concerns about environmental and health issues**

**** Go to www.niagara.edu/renu for more information****