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*Emerald
Evening*

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MAY 21

BNWATERKEEPER.ORG/EMERALDEVENING

Water Quality Protection



Waterway Access



Climate and Coastal Resiliency



Community Engagement



Scajaquada Creek



About Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper

Just like our region, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper's story is one of triumph over adversity, commitment and persistence in the face of nearly insurmountable challenges, and revitalization. Our organization has worked tirelessly for the last three decades, and with many partners, to bring the Buffalo River back to life. It's a tremendous, largely untold success story that played an integral role in the city's resurgence and renaissance in recent years.

Our mission going forward is to work to achieve the same success for our other waterways. From restoring the highly impaired yet historically and culturally significant Scajaquada Creek, to transforming our degraded banks into living shorelines, engaging WNY's youth in hands-on experiences in their natural world, monitoring our water quality and working to keep pollutants out of it, enhancing public access to our waterways and protecting our precious headwaters, our work doesn't end.

Today, we are managing over 70 construction projects, community engagement programs and state and federal advocacy campaigns to ensure clean water for our families and for future generations.

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BY PARTNERSHIP.**



Learn more about our community
engagement efforts.



Welcome to **Emerald Evening**

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS
OF PROTECTING OUR
FRESH WATER



BUFFALO NIAGARA
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On behalf of all of us at Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, we are thrilled to welcome you to Emerald Evening!

Thirty-five years ago, Buffalo's waterfront was highly polluted, declared biologically dead and labeled as one of 40 Great Lakes Areas of Concern by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The city's economy was struggling, buildings were abandoned, and people were leaving our community in droves. However, during this time a small group of concerned citizens who loved their community and envisioned a cleaner and more accessible waterfront banded together to form the volunteer group, Friends of the Buffalo River. It was a watershed moment.

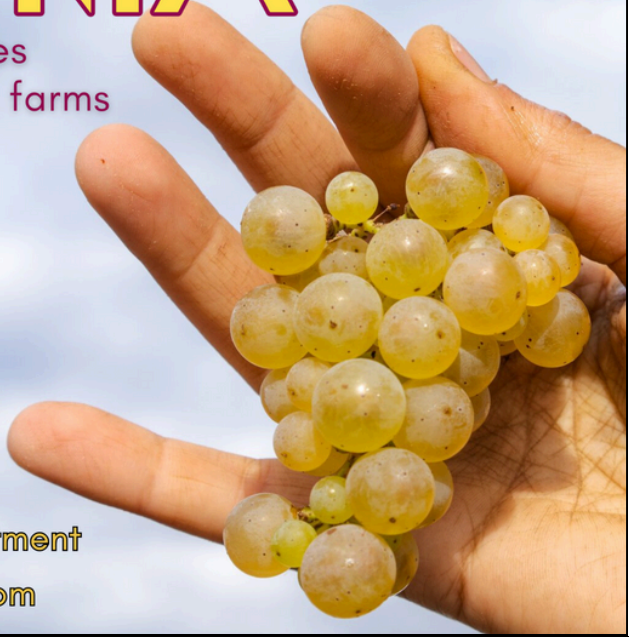
Thirty-five years later, from the early leadership and advocacy of the "Friends" to Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper (BNW), that dream is being realized. After massive efforts on the part of BNW and its partners to clean up the Buffalo River and restore the habitats, shorelines and access points, Buffalo now sits on a vibrant, activated and healthier waterfront. Cleaning up our waterway was the spark Buffalo's economy needed to turn from Rust to Blue™, and with it, a city came back to life. BNW has been recognized internationally for this historic and collaborative transformation, but we know we couldn't do it without this community.

Yours for Clean Water,

Jill Jedlicka
Executive Director & WATERKEEPER

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Thanks to everyone who donated to our Anniversary Auction

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THIRTY-FIVE YEARS
OF PROTECTING OUR
FRESH WATER

ANNIVERSARY ONLINE AUCTION

We have many incredible items available, featuring U.S. Open courtside seats, jewelry, entertainment packages, artwork & more. Get registered now to participate in the auction. All Emerald Evening ticket holders have free access to the auction.

BIDDING ENDS TOMORROW MAY 22!

- Register online at the QR code
- Enter **emerald35** at checkout for free access
- Visit bnwaterkeeper.org/auction/ for more details



New York Is A Great Lakes State

Our freshwater coastal environments are increasingly vulnerable as climate change causes declining ice coverage and increased frequency of severe storms, resulting in negative impacts on the water quality and the surrounding ecosystems.

As a state with not just one, but two Great Lake shorelines, we are a dedicated guardian for the protection of the entire Great Lakes which provides drinking water, recreational opportunities, and unique and critical freshwater habitats found in few places on the planet.

The entire Great Lakes basin, including Western New York, is connected to the ocean. Lake Superior, Michigan, and Huron drain into Lake Erie, flow over Niagara Falls and into Lake Ontario and then onward until finally reaching the Atlantic Ocean.

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper's advocacy mission is to work with partners, municipalities, and elected official to ensure the health and protection of New York State's Great Lakes and shoreline ecosystems.



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OF THE WORLD'S
FRESHWATER



84%

OF NORTH AMERICA'S
FRESHWATER



95%

OF THE UNITED STATES'
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Kristan Andersen Tracy Heneghan

**Vice President
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kandersen
@gurneyrealestate.com
Cell: 716-480-0000

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Awards

Brian Higgins

Lifetime Achievement Recognition

It didn't take much to recruit Brian to join the Friends of the Buffalo River – the precursor to Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper – in 1989 as a founding board member. A member of the Buffalo Common Council representing South Buffalo, Brian instinctively understood the potential that the environmental restoration of the Buffalo River and the city's waterfront would have towards revitalizing the community.



From day one, Brian was active in the group, helping organize meetings, joining clean up events, and advocating for improvements along the waterfront. His participation and support provided the Friends group with the prestige it needed to grow and advance its work while building and cultivating relationships with communities along the Buffalo River. As Brian moved on to the New York State Assembly and then to Congress, he staunchly advocated for federal and state dollars to support waterfront revitalization.

For over 19 years, Brian served as a member of Congress, maintaining a focus on targeted initiatives which addressed the needs and leveraged the strengths unique to the Western New York community. His leadership secured a \$279 million federal relicensing settlement that has made redevelopment of Buffalo's waterfront possible. Brian's work on the House of Representatives Budget and Ways and Means Committees saw cancer research and infrastructure projects receive a major boost in federal investments. As a member of the Foreign Affairs and Homeland Security Committees, Brian participated in high level international discussion during his travels to Ireland, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Israel, Russia and two dozen additional countries around the world.

A member of the Congressional Arts Caucus and the author of federal Historic Tax Credit legislation, Brian has long recognized the social and economic value of investments in the environment, preservation, and culture. He now serves as President & CEO of Shea's Performing Arts Center, where he aims to position the three-theatre campus to sustain and grow its century-long tradition of delivering exceptional experiences and top performances to theatre goers while preserving the institution's historic character and building on the theatre's foundational standing in WNY.

Brian started off as a close friend, and Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper has been honored to maintain that friendship over the decades.



The Johnston
Family Foundation

Supporting & Creating

Positive
Change

Awards

Deb Gondek

Mike Hamilton Award

For the past nine years, Deb has served on Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper's Board of Directors. She was board chair from 2018 to 2020 and actively participated on several committees during her tenure. Deb's work with Waterkeeper gave her a new appreciation for the value of local waterways - the Niagara River, Great Lakes and all the creeks and streams within our watershed. She is a lifelong learner and one of her favorite parts of board meetings included staff presentations on current Waterkeeper projects.



Deb retired from Rich Products in 2017, where she worked for 17 years. Prior to that, she held positions in a variety of industries - including medical, banking, and real estate. During the first half of her career at Rich's, Deb was Director of Communication. In 2008, she was named the company's first Director of Sustainability. In this role, she collaborated with suppliers, customers, and associates at manufacturing facilities around the world to determine which aspects of their business contributed most to climate change. Subsequently, Deb developed an overall strategy to prioritize efforts and align company goals to reduce emissions, conserve water, minimize waste, and sustainably source ingredients. These initiatives improved corporate sustainability at Rich Products as well as saved the company millions of dollars annually.

In 2021, Deb became a member of the North Tonawanda Climate Smart Communities Task Force, a New York State program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. In addition, Deb is a LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) accredited professional, first applying green building principles in the corporate world, and recently expanding to government and communities.

In her free time, Deb enjoys biking, skiing, and early morning workouts with the November Project group. She finds every opportunity to be outdoors with her two grandsons and treasures time spent relaxing along Lake Erie's shoreline with her husband, Mike, and their family in Crystal Beach, Ontario.

Even though she is no longer on the board, we can always count on Deb to be a Waterkeeper supporter and to still be out there cleaning up the community, logging data and advocating for all of our water.



BankOnBuffalo is proud to support **Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper** and their efforts to **protect and preserve our fresh water** for the past 35 years.



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Thank You

Anne E. Doebler, P.C. is a proud supporter of Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper



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Awards

Dawn Cody

Yuri Hreshchyn Volunteer of the Year

Dawn's involvement with Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper began 25 years ago. Since then she has participated in almost every annual Spring Sweep, where you can typically find her as a site captain on a waterway in her beloved Niagara County.

Over the past 25 years, she has proven to be one of the organization's most loyal volunteers and advocates. No matter the opportunity, Waterkeeper has been able to count on Dawn! She and her husband Jim have been part of the Riverwatch Water Quality Monitoring Program and she encouraged her staff from Niagara County's Employment and Training Department to join a team-building activity planting trees on Gill Creek. She removed invasive plants at the Hyde Park Lake restoration site, mulched trees on Gill Creek, and put tree guards on newly planted trees at Ellicott Park, but her favorite role is spreading the word about Waterkeeper!



A dedicated Volunteer Ambassador, Dawn has talked to hundreds and hundreds of people at events on our behalf and we are grateful that she will continue this advocacy for years to come. In addition, Dawn is a member of the Waterkeeper Board of Directors and is an active member of the Advancement Committee.

Dawn is a dedicated community member whose career is rooted in making a difference in the lives of others. For over 25 years, she was a vocational rehabilitation counselor at Goodwill Industries, assisting adults with physical, mental, developmental, or emotional disabilities to achieve greater independence and helping them get into or return to work. Currently, Dawn is the working manager of the Youth Employment Programs and the Disability Resources Employment program at Niagara County's Employment and Training Department.

Dawn has been married to Jim, her self-described, "greatest supporter (and heavy stuff carrier) in all things, including Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper activities," for 35 years, and her son Jay was her first Shoreline Sweep partner 25 years ago.

We at Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper are certainly better for Dawn's continued support throughout the years!

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WATER RESOURCES





BUFFALO NIAGARA WATERKEEPER

HOW WE WORK:

Local Philanthropy Donations & Giving

1



Individuals
Foundations
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10-1 Historical Leverage of Generosity

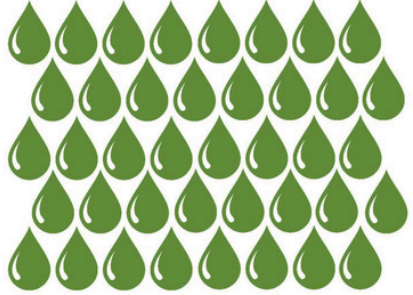
10X



This 10-1 leverage of generosity allows BNW to annually deliver over 60 programs and projects across the Niagara River Watershed.

4-1 Economic Investment Back into the Community

4X*



Our most successful restoration initiative, the Buffalo River, has drawn another 4-fold in economic investment into our WNY community.

* 4x ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

*Economic Impacts of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: 2018

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Thank you!

OUR THANKS TO THE JEDLIKA FAMILY FOR SUPPORTING EMERALD EVENING



thank You

Thanks to Mary Ann Rogers for supporting Emerald Evening





| Truly inspiring

We salute Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper for their commitment to the continued restoration of our waterways

Charles F. Kreiner, Jr.

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716-849-3830
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NIAGARA WATERKEEPER, **YURI HRESHCHYSHYN**.
SADLY, YURI PASSED AWAY THIS YEAR, BUT HIS
LEGACY OF ADVOCACY WILL LIVE ON.

The attorneys and staff of
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congratulate

BUFFALO NIAGARA WATERKEEPER
on 35 years of protecting our waterways



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in its ongoing mission to protect our
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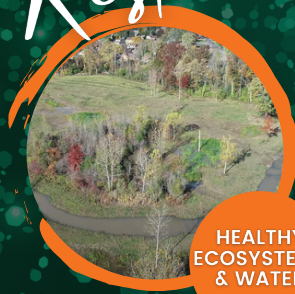
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Fax: 716.885.0765

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