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Patricia Szarpa

We're celebrating 20 years of land conservation in Western New York because of your support! Thank you for your dedicated commitment to preserving and protecting the natural areas and working farmlands that define our region. As a result of your support, we have now protected over 4,600 acres throughout Western New York, with significant progress made in Erie and Niagara County.

The past year has been transformative for our organization. Your previous support allowed the Land Conservancy to complete the annual monitoring of all 62 of our protected parcels, while continuing to assist municipalities in land use planning. We have been able to speak on behalf of farmland protection throughout Western New York, keeping land protection conversations open and alive with area farmers, despite a challenging economy. We have acquired a key parcel in Niagara County, and assisted in the protection of another 189.5 acres in the Town of Clarence as part of its Greenprint Program. Your support has allowed us to take an active role in partnering with other environmental and farm related organizations. We have evolved into a fully functioning organization with three full time professional staff, with our headquarters located on the 131-acre Kenneglenn Nature Preserve, an ideal location for the many hikes and educational programs we offer every year.



We are particularly excited about our most recent acquisition, our first protected property on the Niagara Escarpment, the **Niagara Escarpment Preserve**, in honor of Frank L. and Julia Dersham Young. This is the first parcel on the Niagara Escarpment in Niagara County to be permanently protected as part of the Land Conservancy's major project focus, the Niagara Escarpment Legacy Project. Located on Leete Road in the Town of Lockport, the 36-acre property contains 1,000 feet of the Niagara Escarpment, prime soils, 21 acres of contiguous mature hardwood forest with several unique woodland plants and trees, including Hackberry and Paw Paw, and ten acres of grassland habitat that we will continue to restore and maintain for the benefit of grassland birds and insects.



The Niagara Escarpment represents a unique geological formation often associated with unusual plants and ecological communities. One of the world's unique biospheres, this ancient ribbon of land cuts through the county and is responsible for the specific weather, soil conditions, and hydrology that

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over



Yes! I want to ensure that our natural places and farmlands are protected for generations to come.

Enclosed is my donation of:

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other

My check payable to the **Western New York Land Conservancy** is enclosed.

Mail to: WESTERN NEW YORK LAND CONSERVANCY P.O. BOX 471, EAST AURORA NY 14052 (716) 687-1225
OR GIVE ONLINE: WWW.WNYLC.ORG

All gifts are tax deductible



define the county's heritage and economy. The Escarpment is responsible for the dramatic beauty of Niagara Falls, contributed to signature ridges and ravines of the Underground Railroad, and made necessary the intricate lock system of the Erie Canal.

Since 1888, when Peter Young settled near Lockport, the Young family has farmed in Niagara County. Through wars, depression, and prosperity, the family has cleared fields and grown hay, corn, wheat, soybeans, and tomatoes. They have grazed dairy cows, tapped sugar maple trees and developed vineyards, fruit orchards and tree farms. Peter's son, Frank L. Young, expanded the farm and also served the Town of Lockport as School Trustee, Justice of the Peace, and Assessor. *"It is our family's hope that this site of natural beauty will be a touchstone to county students and residents, so that all may appreciate the very beginning of our agrarian culture."* says Frances Young Harrison, 87 years old and the third generation of Young family farmers.

Completing this project represents the long cherished conservation values of Frances Harrison, her family, and all of us who value the unique character of the region we live in. It demonstrates first-hand the lasting impact of land protection for protecting and conserving the scenic vistas and agricultural landscapes that support vibrant communities, tourism, bird migration areas, important watersheds, and working farmland.

But we need your support to continue this essential work.

Land conservation is the most important determining factor in preserving our watersheds, migratory bird areas, diverse habitats for native species, and important working farmlands and local food production. During recessions it becomes infinitely more challenging for organizations like ours to maintain our momentum. It is especially important for us to protect land **while it is still available and affordable, before it is developed and forever lost.** There is so much more work to be done to preserve important ecosystems throughout our region. This work can't happen without your support!

With your gift today we can confidently proceed with our next steps: completing a full survey of lands of the Niagara Escarpment to identify the most significant parcels for protection, identifying specific areas to protect in key watersheds, working with private landowners and farmers in making decisions for the future ownership and protection of their lands, and strengthening collaborative relationships with other organizations who share our commitment to preserving these important areas.

Your generous support today ensures our continued success for generations to come!

Sincerely,

Patricia Szarpa
Executive Director

P.S. Please consider increasing your contribution this year. Every dollar you give to land protection in Western New York enables us to complete another important project – protecting the land that defines our region!

A copy of our latest financial report may be obtained at www.wnyc.org or from the NYS Attorney General's Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York 10271



I understand my annual support maintains the daily functions of the organization, but where possible, I want my contribution to support the following...

In order of priority (number your interest areas from 1-3, with 1 having the highest priority, and 3 having the lowest priority):

- To protect the unique grasslands, forests, native plant communities, bird migration and wildlife habitat areas that are under threat of development from a sprawling population.
- To protect the prime and important state soils that are essential for sustaining our local agriculture and family farms, for future generations of farmers.
- To inform and advise key decision makers in my community about the economic benefits of permanent conservation and sustainable land use.