Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society (PALS) fonds


RG 547

Brock University Archives

Creator: Gracia Janes for the Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society (PALS)

Extent: 2.5 metres of textural material (10 boxes)
2 VHS tapes

Abstract: Fonds contains material about the activities of the Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society (PALS). Most of the material concerns the Niagara Region and consists of administrative records, promotional material, reports, policies and briefs.

Materials: Reports, policies, briefs, correspondence, news clippings, newsletters, minutes, and press releases.

Repository: Brock University Archives

Processed by: Chantal Cameron

Last updated: April 2019

Terms of Use: The Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society (PALS) fonds is open for research.

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Administrative History:

The Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society (PALS) was formed in 1976 by a group of individuals concerned about the future of Canada’s agricultural self-sufficiency. Founding members included NDP MPP Mel Swart, Brock University Professor Bob Hoover, as well as Gracia Janes, John Bacher, and 26 others. The non-profit, charitable organization is based in St. Catharines, Ontario. PALS efforts have focused on land use within the Niagara region, although their activities, and membership, are not limited to the area.

The protection of the unique tender fruit and grape lands of the Niagara Peninsula has been the most pressing concern of PALS. Urban development consistently threatened these lands. PALS worked to educate the public and presented briefs to all levels of government in an attempt to bring awareness to the issue. A lack of effective government action at any level from 1978-1980 prompted PALS to take the case for the land to two Ontario Municipal Board Hearings. The decisions which resulted from these hearings (in Feb. 1980 and Feb. 1981) directed the Region of Niagara to redirect growth away from the tender fruit and grape lands and to consider the boundaries bordering on 52,000 acres of such land as “permanent”. In 2001, these boundaries were breached when the Ontario Municipal Board approved the expansion of the urban boundary of Fonthill, involving 600 acres of tender fruit land. This loss prompted the 2005 Greenbelt Act, which determines areas within Southern Ontario that can and cannot be developed.

Another important aspect of PALS work, as stated in their charter, is promoting the farm industry by helping the farmer. To this end, they produced a document, *Support for Farmers: Agricultural Support Policy* (1983), informed by farmers who belonged to the organization and other experts. Some of the recommendations included the need for a reassessment of the tariff policy that had been in place since the 1930s; an opposition to the importation and promotion of foreign foods just prior to and during harvest here; and more promotion of the use of local produce and the adoption of a symbol to indicate Canadian, Provincial or locally grown produce. This document was issued twice and distributed widely across Canada.

PALS has also been very active in the promotion and development of a voluntary land protection program that protects farmers and the farmland by compensating the farmer for restrictive covenants on land use. This concept of “land trusts” was first investigated by PALS in the late 1980s, in response to difficult economic times faced by farmers. PALS brought the director of the Maryland Farmland Preservation Programme to Niagara for a Land at Risk Conference, and began promoting the concept to all levels of government and within the farm
community. The government established a Tender Fruit Lands Committee to investigate the use of what were now called “easements”. In February of 1995, the Minister of Agriculture announced the enactment of the Niagara Tender Fruit Lands Program. Over 60% of the tender fruit farmers applied, and a committee was appointed to determine who should receive the money first for the restrictive covenants to be placed on their land. The program experienced several delays for various reasons, and was eventually scrapped when a new government was elected later that year.

PALS remains active and continues to press the government for a voluntary land protection program that uses restrictive covenants to save tender fruit and grape lands for future generations of farmers and urbanites.

Scope and Content:

The fonds contains information about the activities of the Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society (PALS). The bulk of the material consists of reports, policies, briefs, meeting minutes, correspondence and news clippings. Some newsletters and press releases are also included. The activities of PALS includes all areas of the Niagara Region, such as Fort Erie, Grimsby, the Town of Lincoln, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Pelham/Fonthill, St. Catharines, and Thorold, as well as areas outside of the Niagara Region, including Caledon, Mississauga, and Seaton.

Some of the material was donated around 2002 by Gracia Janes, most notably the meeting minutes and some correspondence. The remainder of the fonds was donated in 2015.

Organization:

The records were arranged into four series:

   Sub-series A: Minutes
   Sub-series B: Correspondence

   Sub-series A: News clippings
   Sub-series B: Newsletters
   Sub-series C: Press releases
   Sub-series D: Brochures and Handouts
   Sub-series E: Fundraising
   Sub-series F: Videos

Sub-series A: Reports & Policies
Sub-series B: PALS Briefs and Presentations
Sub-series C: Surveys
Sub-series D: Agricultural Organizations
Sub-series E: Other Resources

Inventory:


Sub-series A: Minutes, 1976-2016

1.1-1.9 Minutes, 1976-2016 (non-inclusive). Contains meeting minutes of Annual General meetings, Executive meetings, and Land Use Committee meetings. Also includes some financial statements.

Sub-series B: Correspondence, 1977-2009, n.d.


1.12 Correspondence with MPP’s—Tender Fruitland Program, 1989-1995. Contains correspondence with Mike Dietsch (MPP St. Catharines/Brock); Margaret Harrington (MPP Niagara Falls); Christel Haack (MPP St. Catharines/Brock); Marion Boyd (Minister of Education); Howard Hampton (Attorney General); Brian Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions); David Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs); Ruth Grier (Minister of the Environment); Jim Wiseman (MPP Durham West); Ron Hansen (MPP Lincoln); Shelley Martel (MPP Sudbury East); George Dadamo (MPP Windsor-Sandwich); Gilles Bisson (MPP Cochrane South); Fred Wilson (MPP Frontenac-Addington); Ed Philip (Minister of Municipal Affairs); David Christopherson (MPP Hamilton Centre); Floyd Laughren (Minister of Finance) and Jim Bradley (MPP St. Catharines).

1.13 Correspondence with the Ministry of Agriculture, 1990-1993, n.d.
1.14 Correspondence with Premier, 1991-1995. Contains correspondence to and from the Premier of Ontario (Bob Rae), mostly concerning the Niagara Tender Fruit lands Program.

1.15 Correspondence, Local and Regional Government, 1987-1992, n.d. Contains correspondence with the Regional Municipality of Niagara, the City of Thorold, the City of Niagara Falls, the City of St. Catharines, the Town of Lincoln, and the Town of Pelham.

1.16 Correspondence with the Federal Government, 1987-1990.

1.17 Urban Boundaries Correspondence, 1973-1984, n.d. Contains correspondence to and from federal, provincial and regional government about urban boundaries in the Niagara Region.


2.3 Correspondence with Friends, 1988-2000. Contains letters of appreciation from PALS supporters, as well as some letters written by PALS to newspapers. Also contains some correspondence from Premier Bob Rae and Minister Elmer Buchanan to PALS supporters acknowledging receipt of their letters.

2.4 Correspondence from Bob Hoover, 1979, n.d. Contains notes by Bob Hoover to Peter Elliott.


2.6-2.8 General Correspondence, 1974-2015, n.d.

**Series II: Promotional Material, 1954-2018, n.d.**


**Sub-series B: Newsletters, 1978-2018**


**Sub-series C: Press Releases, 1976-1993, n.d.**


**Sub-series D: Brochures and Handouts, 1976-1992, n.d.**

3.24  Brochures, n.d.  Contains brochures published by PALS about their work.


3.27  Peach Fact Sheet, produced by the Resources for Urban-Rural Cooperation, n.d.


3.29  *The Struggle to Preserve Specialty Crop Land in the Rural-Urban Fringe of the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario* by Ralph Krueger, n.d.


**Sub-series E: Fundraising, 1979-1991, n.d.**

3.32  Letter to PALS supporters expressing appreciation for financial support and a summary of initiatives undertaken as a result of donations and fundraisers, n.d.

3.34 Cookbook, 1983. Contains a copy of *Taste Niagara* by Gracia Janes for PALS, and related correspondence.

3.35 Arts and Crafts show, n.d. Contains photographs quilts and flyers advertising the event.


**Sub-series F: Videos, 1984-1999, n.d.**

3.37 *Pick and Choose...to Preserve Niagara Fruitland*, 1984-1987. Contains correspondence and promotional material about an educational video made by Alexander and McCormick Communications for PALS.

3.38 Videotapes, 1999, n.d. Contains 2 videotapes containing news footage involving PALS.

**Series III: Activities, 1970-2013, n.d.**


4.1 Foodland Preservation—Historic, 1973-1986, n.d. Contains a booklet entitled *Foodland: Preservation or Starvation*, a statement of Land Use Policy by the Ontario Institute of Agrologists; a statement by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food entitled *A Strategy for Ontario Farmland*; correspondence; news releases; a proposed policy statement on Foodland Preservation under the Planning Act by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs; and news clippings.

4.2 Niagara Grapevine [a founding group of PALS], 1974-1979, n.d. Contains newsletters; presentations; a Brief presented to Public Hearings into the Proposed Extension of Highway 406, St. Catharines; a brief entitled You Can’t Pave Over Niagara Fruitlands; a brief presented to the Cabinet of Ontario by Niagara Grapevine; meeting minutes; and the Grapevine Plan, Part A: Urban Growth and Development and Part B: Preservation of Farmland and Stabilization of Urban Boundaries. Most of the material is about the proposed extension of Highway 406 and Grapevine’s efforts to halt the project.

4.3 Niagara Grapevine Correspondence, 1974-1979.

4.4 Highway 406, 1971-1974. Contains briefs from the “Stop 406 Committee”; a summary report of public hearings about Highway 406, St. Catharines; a Niagara-
Lake Erie Transportation Study; a Ministry of Transportation and Communications report, *Technical Analysis and Recommendations, Highway 406, St. Catharines*; an address by regional councilor Robert Bell to the St. Catharines Businessmen’s Club; and correspondence.

4.5 Highway 406, 1976-1979, n.d. Contains correspondence; notices of road closures as a result of the Highway 406 expansion; a submission to council re: the development proposed in Martindale and the St. Catharines urban boundary; fact sheets about Highway 406 by Niagara Grapevine; maps; and a submission to the Environmental Assessment Act Steering Committee from Niagara Grapevine, the Ridley Heights Residents Association, and PALS, asking for a reversal of the exemption of a design phase of the Highway 406 extension from the Environmental Assessment Act.


**Sub-series B: Cities, Towns, and Region, 1970-2013, n.d.**

**Caledon**

4.8 Caledon/Ontario Municipal Board, 1984. Contains news clippings and a decision of the Board concerning a proposed rezoning of agricultural land, industrial park development, and residential development.

**Fort Erie**


4.10 Ontario Municipal Board, 2009-2013. Contains briefs written by PALS for government ministries addressing concerns about regional plan amendments (2009), and a reply written by PALS to the Ontario Government regarding its response to PALS Notice of Motion under Section 43 of the Ontario Municipal Board Act (March 15, 2013).
Grimsby


Lincoln (Town)


4.14 Vineland Church, 1991. Contains a notice of a public meeting about proposed Policy Plan Amendment 54, Vineland Pentecostal Church, Town of Lincoln and a summary of Public Comments about the same amendment, as well as a news clipping.

4.15 Lincoln, 1991-1992. Contains correspondence about a proposed Niagara Aerospace Centre; reports about policy plan amendment 64 (expansion to the Beamsville Urban Area, Lincoln Ave. and Greenlane Road Area, Town of Lincoln); and correspondence about preliminary applications for two golf driving ranges in the Town of Lincoln.


4.17 Christian Reform School, Town of Lincoln, 1994. Contains a list of PALS’ concerns about amendment 78, Niagara Reformed Christian Association School, and a revised final report and recommendations concerning the amendment by Regional Niagara.


Mississauga

4.19 Mississauga/Ontario Municipal Board, 1981. Contains news clippings and a memo written to the Ontario Municipal Board by APPEAL (the Association of Peel People Evaluating Agricultural Land) objecting to the residential, industrial, special policy and non-urban designations in the City of Mississauga Official Plan.

Niagara Falls
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<tr>
<td>4.21</td>
<td>Appeal of Niagara Escarpment Commission decision, 1987. Contains a notice of decision by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs regarding the construction of greenhouses and related office space on Lot 9 in the City of Niagara Falls.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.22</td>
<td>Walker Brothers Quarry, 1990-1992. Contains correspondence and reports about a proposed expansion of Walker Brothers Quarries Ltd. in Niagara Falls.</td>
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**Niagara-on-the-Lake**

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**Pelham/Fonthill**

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<td>5.2</td>
<td>Pelham, 1973-1994, 2004, n.d. Contains correspondence, reports and maps about possible changes to Pelham’s urban area boundaries. Also includes reports and correspondence about the proposed regional policy plan amendment 81 concerning the Agape Valley Camp, Niagara Shorthills Christian Ministries, Town of Pelham; and a regional report about a permanent flea market in an agricultural area in the Town of Pelham (2004).</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>OMB (Ontario Municipal Board) Decision, Pelham, 1980-1987. Contains a Notice of Decision regarding Steed and Evans Ltd. and the Niagara Escarpment Commission (1981); the Ontario Municipal Board’s Decision in respect to an application by the Telephone City Gravel Company (TCG) for a pit licence in the</td>
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Town of Pelham, (1986); the reply of TCG Materials Ltd. to the petition filed by PALS (1986); PALS response to the reply of TCG Material Ltd. (1986); and press releases by PALS.

5.4 OMB—Pelham, Urban Boundaries & Golf Course Expansion, 1987-2002, n.d. Contains reports and correspondence about urban boundaries and the expansion of Peninsula Lakes Golf Course and Lookout Point Golf Course that were referred to the Ontario Municipal Board.

5.5-5.6 Lookout Point Golf Club, OMB/PALS—General Correspondence, 2000-2001.


5.8 Lookout Point Golf Club, OMB/PALS—Notices of Adoption of Policy Plan Amendment 144 (permitting the establishment of a golf practice facility in Pelham), 2001.

5.9 Lookout Point Golf Club, OMB/PALS—Correspondence with the OMB, 2001. Also contains practice directions for Ontario Municipal Board hearings.


5.11 Lookout Point Golf Club, OMB/PALS—Appeal of Decision to adopt regional policy plan amendment no. 144 (golf club practice facility), 2001.


5.15 Pelham-Fonthill expansion, correspondence with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, 1996-1997.

5.16 Pelham-Fonthill expansion, correspondence with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 1998.


5.20 Pelham-Fonthill expansion, Regional DPD’s, 1984-1999. Contains reports by Regional Niagara about the expansion of the Town of Pelham’s Urban Area Boundaries, and related correspondence.

5.21 Pelham-Fonthill expansion (historic), 1981-1994. Contains a partial summary of an OMB (Ontario Municipal Board) hearing; a proposed Regional Niagara policy plan amendment no. 16 (expansion of Fonthill Urban Area, Town of Pelham, 1984); a rating list of soil capability for field crops; and a list of changes in agricultural activity patterns by municipality, including Grimsby, Lincoln, St. Catharines, Pelham, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Niagara Falls.

5.22 Pelham-Fonthill expansion (general), 1976-1998, n.d. Contains part of an agricultural impact assessment study conducted by Tony Shaw, a map used for the Pelham Thorold Welland Corridor Development Study, and news clippings.


5.24 Fonthill Kame, 1973-1982, n.d. Contains correspondence, reports, articles and maps. Titles include The Farm Windbreak (Ministry of Natural Resources); An Assessment of the Impact of Some Hypothetical Climatic Changes on Cereal Production in Western Canada by G.D.V. Williams, Canada Department of Agriculture; What makes Niagara Peninsula weather unique by John Wiebe (Canadian Fruitgrower, March 1976); The Impact of the Weather on the Niagara Fruit Crops in 1976 by Treidl, Wyllie and Thompson (Fisheries and Environment Canada, 1977); Critical Temperatures for Fruit Blossoms by B.J.E. Teskey (Ministry of Agriculture and Food) and some data from the Regional Niagara Climatological Network.

5.25 Fonthill Kame Aggregate, 1986-1990, n.d. Contains correspondence and presentations from the PALS forum on the future of the Fonthill Kame. Also contains correspondence and reports about a grant for a climatic study of the Fonthill Kame.

and *A Microclimate Assessment of Preferred Areas 2, 3, and 4 of the Fonthill Kame Complex.*

5.27 Steed and Evans Gravel, 1981-1990. Contains correspondence, reports and news clippings about the proposed expansion of the Steed and Evans Quarry into the Fonthill Kame.

**Regional Niagara (Urban Area Boundaries)**


6.4 Urban Boundary Proposals, overhead maps, 1974-1981. Contains a memo to the Planning and Development Committee about the urban areas boundary map of the regional policy plan; 6 overhead transparency maps; and four pages of maps.

6.5 Regional Niagara, Urban Area Boundaries—OMB Decision, 1977. Contains a statement to the Ontario Municipal Board presented by PALS, re: Urban Service Area proposed by St. Catharines by-law no. 76-202, April 1977; Regional Niagara’s response to urban area boundaries reductions; and comments/procedures/proposed policies for a Regional Niagara Policy Plan review.


6.8 Hearing on Region’s Urban Boundaries, Ontario Municipal Board, 1976-1991, n.d. Contains a brief by PALS objecting to a regional bylaw to amend the Official Plan for the Regional Municipality of Niagara (1976); a brief to the Liberal Caucus from PALS about the urban area boundaries issue (1978); the decision of the OMB relating to urban areas boundaries of the City of Port Colborne, Niagara Falls and Thorold (1979); correspondence and news clippings.


6.11 Lyons Creek Sludge Storage—Ontario Municipal Board, 1977. Contains a brief by PALS to the OMB about a rezoning application and proposed sludge lagoon in the Lyons Creek area, and news clippings.


**St. Catharines**

6.16 Ontario Municipal Board, City of St. Catharines, 1977-1983. Contains a copy of the Board’s decision regarding an order made by the City to alter the urban service area (1977), and documents appealing the acquisition of land by Merion Sod Company in the Township of Wainfleet (1983).


6.18 St. Catharines, 1990-1997, 2004. Contains correspondence and reports about the Autotrend Transportation Centre (proposed policy plan amendment 52); a progress report on the strategic plan implementation (1997); correspondence and reports about a zoning amendment for a Seventh Street Market (1997); and a report by Regional Niagara about the co-location of a health complex at Fourth Avenue and First Street.

**Scarborough**


**Seaton**

Thorold


7.3 Thorold/Ontario Municipal Board, 1986. Contains the decision of the Board regarding an appeal by PALS concerning a conveyance of land in Lot 61 in the City of Thorold.


7.5 Thorold Conformity, 1976-1991. Contains reports about the Region’s urban area boundaries and housing developments. Also contains correspondence about PALS concerns about Thorold conformity and official plan amendments/rezoning.

7.6 Thorold, Highway 20, 1990-1991. Contains correspondence, reports and news clippings about Highway 20; a Knob Hill Farms proposal; and zoning amendments for new development areas to achieve regional plan conformity in the City of Thorold.

7.7 Highway 20 Conformity, 1987-1991, n.d. Contains reports, briefs, and correspondence about the issue of Thorold conformity and Highway 20. Also contains some papers concerning the Fonthill Kame, Walker Brothers Quarries Ltd. expansion, and Steed & Evans Ltd.

Sub-series C: Easements/Land Trusts, 1974-2011, n.d.

7.8-7.9 Land Trusts--Background, 1984-1994, n.d. Contains brochures and reports on land trusts and easements, including some from the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, British Columbia, Agricultural Preserve Board (Lancaster County, Pennsylvania), New Jersey and Oregon. Includes a synopsis of several land preservation plans.

7.10 Regional lead-up to Easement Program, 1990-1991. Contains a follow-up report by Regional Niagara to the agricultural brief Preserving Niagara’s Agricultural Industry; and a report by Regional Niagara entitled Procedures for Reviewing the Provincial Response to the Economic Difficulties in Niagara’s Tender Fruit Industry.

7.12 Correspondence, 1989-1994. Contains correspondence concerning land trusts and easements, some addressed to members of government, including a letter sent to Premier Bob Rae providing details of a Niagara ‘Pilot’ Easement Purchase Program.

7.13 Briefing Notes, 1991-1992. Contains briefs on easements, including a resolution of differences between the Region of Niagara and the Provincial Government re: enactment of the Niagara Tender Fruitlands Program; a memo re: Niagara Tender Fruitlands Program to the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture; and briefing notes for meetings with Cabinet Ministers.

7.14-7.15 Easement Committee, 1991-1995. Contains a report of the Task Force on Agricultural finance and farmland issues in the Niagara tender fruit industry; correspondence, terms of reference and minutes of the subcommittee on conservation easements; information on easement programs in the United States, including Maryland and Pennsylvania; and briefing notes.

7.16 Land Trusts/Easements and PALS, 1974, 1991-1992, n.d. Contains a thesis by Bruce Krushelnicki entitled Toward Preserving the Niagara Fruitlands: An Examination of Alternative Means for Resource Management (1974); correspondence about a pilot project for easements in Niagara; a chronology of highlights of progress re: easements in Niagara; a presentation by PALS entitled Bringing Trusts to the Niagara Peninsula, and presented to the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1991); a letter sent to Premier Bob Rae providing details of a Niagara ‘Pilot’ Easement Purchase Program; minutes and a draft policy of the Conservation Easement Subcommittee; the Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture entitled The Path to Sustainable Agriculture (1992); a working draft entitled An Agricultural Preservation Easement Program for the Niagara Fruit Belt (June 1992); a draft report on an agricultural preservation easement program for the Niagara fruitlands by the Conservation Easement Committee (August 1992); a submission to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food entitled An Agricultural Land Protection Program for Ontario from the Planning Services Committee of Regional Niagara Council (1992); and progress reports by Regional Niagara on the work of the Provincial Committee on Conservation Easements.

7.17 Land Trusts/Easements and PALS, 1993-1998, n.d. Contains a draft entitled Consulting Support for the Niagara Tender Fruit Lands Program by the Land Use Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (1994); a report by Regional Niagara entitled Steps towards the implementation of the Niagara Tender Fruitlands Program; a report by Phillips & Associates entitled Niagara Tender Fruit Land Consultation Report (1994); a working draft of a paper entitled Sustaining a Unique Resource: the Niagara Tender Fruit Lands Program by the
Conservation Easement Committee (1994); *Niagara Tender Fruit Lands Program* (draft for discussion, August 1994) an application form for the Niagara Tender Fruit Lands Program (1994/1995); summary statistics for the Niagara Tender Fruit Land Program (1994/1995); a report to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs by the Agricultural Easement Committee entitled *Proposed Administrative Details for Niagara Tender Fruit Lands Program* (1995); a booklet about the Niagara Tender Fruit Lands Program (1995); and an article by Gracia Janes entitled *The Restrictive Covenants of the Tender Fruitland Program will Save Niagara Fruitlands* (1998).


7.20 Land Trusts/Easements and PALS, 2002-2009. Contains a map of protected agricultural land in the Regional Municipality of Niagara (2002); a presentation by PALS to the Greenbelt Agricultural Advisory Committee entitled *Case for a renewed Fruit Land Program—Tender Fruit and Grapes* (2004); a request for a meeting with Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (2007); correspondence with Minister Leona Dombrowsky; correspondence to John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; notes from an interview with Wayne Caldwell; and Wayne Caldwell’s report *Protecting Niagara Tender Fruit and Grape Lands* and a response by PALS (2009).

7.21 Land Trusts/Easements and PALS, 2011-2014. Contains a presentation to Carol Mitchell, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, about the establishment of a new fruit land program to permanently protect Niagara’s fruit lands (2011); Ontario fruit tree acreage by variety, tree age, and district (2013-2014); and correspondence.

7.22-7.23 Land Trusts/Easements and PALS, 2011-2018. Contains correspondence, including some with government officials such as Premier McGuinty; Ted McMeekin (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs), Jeff Leal (Minister of Rural Affairs), Kathleen Wynne (Premier); Mitzie Hunter (Associate Minister of Finance); Glen Murray (Minister of the Environment and Climate Change); and Victor Doyle (Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs); some meeting minutes; summaries of presentations given to government officials; draft proposals on using easements to secure Niagara tender fruit lands; comments by PALS on developing permanent agricultural conservation easements for Niagara tender fruit lands as part of a strategy for implementing Ontario’s carbon cap and trade program for climate change; a background paper on California’s permanent
agricultural easement program funded by cap and trade; and comments by PALS on developing a voluntary carbon offsets program for Ontario.

7.24 Voluntary Carbon Offsets Program for Ontario background material, 2017-2018. Contains a regulation proposal notice; policy proposal notice; a discussion paper by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change; and the grant guidelines and applications for the California Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program.

Sub-series D: Other Activities, 1979-2006, n.d.

7.25 Greenhouses, 1979-1987, n.d. Contains correspondence, news clippings, and amendments relating to greenhouses within the Niagara Region.

7.26 Transportation Centre Hearing notes, 1986.

8.1 The Niagara Conservation Strategy [1988]. Contains a report written by PALS about the Conservation Project, as well as an itinerary, map and brochure of the ecotour of Niagara.

8.2 Presentation to the all-party legislature Standing Committee studying the Ontario Municipal Board, 2010.

8.3 Haley Farm, 1989-1991. Contains a report by the Ontario government, Reforming Our Land Use and Development System; and correspondence and news clippings about the government’s plan to expropriate land from the Haley Farm for the construction of an interchange and road extension for the Ancaster-to-Brantford Highway 403 link.

8.4-8.5 Land at Risk Conference, 1990. Contains correspondence, notes, conference summary and list of participants at the Land at Risk Conference held by PALS at Brock University, April 7, 1990.


8.7 Regional Agricultural Task Force, 2004-2011, 2013. Contains reports by the Agricultural Task Force of Regional Niagara during the time that PALS was involved. Also includes a list of members and a meeting agenda. The task force joined with the Agricultural Sub-Committee in 2013 to become the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee. The terms of reference for this committee are included.


Niagara Region Reports


8.11 1987. Contains a Summary of Public and Agency Comments on the Policy Plan Five Year Review and submissions received regarding the need for a five year review.


8.17 1991. Contains a policy plan review entitled Niagara’s Future: A Regional Strategy for Development and Conservation; Proposed revised agricultural and
rural areas policies for Niagara; Amendment 58: Regional Strategy for Development and Conservation; Additional Urban Policies: Amendment #59; and Agricultural Policies: Amendment #60. Also includes some correspondence from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs concerning amendments 58, 59, and 60 to the Regional Niagara Policy Plan and Tender Fruit Program (1994). Some of the reports are notated.

8.18 1992-1993. Contains the Review of the Agricultural Land Base Map in the Regional Policy Plan; Status of Amendments to the Regional Policy Plan and Suggestions for Improving the Amendment Review Process; and Recent Provincial Approvals of Six Regional Policy Plan Amendments. Some of the reports are notated. Also contains a map of agricultural land use in the tender fruit and grape growing areas of Niagara (1993).


8.20-8.21 Regional Issues, 1990-2004. Contains reports on different topics including the creation of lots through testamentary devise; the Final Recommendation Report for Regional Policy Plan Amendment 111, Revised Agricultural Policies; Final Recommendations Report, Proposed Expansion to the Fonthill Urban Area (Mori Nurseries/Weiland Properties), Town of Pelham; Agri-Tourism Policies in St. Catharines; Background information report on the Greek Orthodox Church in St. Catharines; comments and recommendations on the Niagara Escarpment Plan Review; the QEW Corridor Study, land use changes; the Final Recommendations Report, Expansion to Grimsby Urban Area; the Southeast Niagara Agricultural Study, comments and recommendations; and Niagara’s inventory of developable urban industrial land. Final Recommendation Report on a proposed Inn and Restaurant in Niagara-on-the-Lake; and a report on mineral aggregate production and agricultural land preservation in Niagara. Some of the reports are notated.

9.1 Regional Niagara Planning and Development Committee Minutes, 1993.

Federal Reports


Provincial Reports


Greenbelt, 2004-2005, 2015. Contains *Toward a Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt: advice and recommendations to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing* by the Greenbelt Task Force; the *Greenbelt Plan* (2005, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing); *Performance indicators for the Greenbelt Plan, part I* (2015); and *Ten Years of Greenbelt Research* from the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation.

Provincial Land Use Policy, 1995. Contains the Ontario Provincial Policy Statement and related correspondence, news clippings and reports, including a response by PALS to the policy statement.


**Other Reports and Policies**


Agricultural Support Policy, 1983. Contains a document drafted by PALS stating their objectives and policies for supporting farmers.


Briefs, 1999-2005, n.d. Contains briefs by the Niagara River Restoration Council; the Citizens’ Network on Waste Management; and a brief to the OMB Hearings re: referred parts of the official plan prepared by the Land Use Committee of the Niagara Peninsula Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association.


**Sub-series B: Briefs and Presentations by PALS, 1972-2013**

1972, 1974 [Before PALS]. Contains a Brief presented to the public hearings into the proposed extension of Highway 406, St. Catharines (1972), and *You Can’t Pave over Niagara Fruitlands*, a brief presented by the Coalition Against Highway 406 to the Hon. John Rhodes, Minister of Transportation and Communications.

1976-1978. Contains a brief submitted to the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara titled *Martindale: the keystone of any effective policy to*
preserve farmland in the area of regional Niagara north of the escarpment; a submission to John Rhodes, Ontario Minister of Housing entitled *The Preservation of Agricultural Land and the Niagara Regional Urban Boundaries*; a brief to the Ontario Municipal Board re: sludge lagoon rezoning application; a brief to William Newman, Minister of Agriculture and Food re: the Green Paper on Planning for Agriculture (Foodland Guidelines); and a brief on nuclear energy submitted to the Royal Commission on Electric Power Planning.


9.27 1981. Contains preliminary comments re: the policy for waterline extensions outside urban area boundaries; a statement re: proposed expansion of Niagara Regional urban development boundaries; and a brief to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing re: a proposed Steed & Evans gravel pit in Fonthill.

9.28 1982. Contains a presentation concerning the Niagara Escarpment Plan: Niagara Sector Phase II; and a brief to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources re: Niagara district land use strategy.

9.29 1983. Contains a position paper by James Hasler entitled *Agricultural Land Use in Ontario*; a brief to the Regional Planning Committee re: regional amendment #12—waterline extensions into the rural areas; a presentation to the Ontario Waste Management Corporation re: the waste site selection process as it affects the Niagara Foodlands; and a brief to Niagara Region on the proposed West Lincoln Toxic Waste Facility.

9.30 1984. Contains a presentation to the Planning Department of Regional Niagara about greenhouses in agricultural areas; a brief to the Ontario Municipal Board re: Caledon; a commentary on the Wainfleet Planning Area; comments of the Flood Plain Review Committee on Flood Plain Management in Ontario; comments on the Mineral Aggregate Resource Planning Policy; comments on the Land Drainage Act of Ontario; a brief re: the Niagara Escarpment Plan; and comments on Forest Glen Estates Plan of Subdivision.

9.31 1985. Contains comments to the Planning Committee of Regional Niagara about churches in agricultural areas; and briefs regarding severances and the Land Division Committee and Municipal Plan Conformity to the Regional Plan.

9.32 1986. Contains a presentation to the St. Catharines City Council about waterline extensions into agricultural areas; a presentation to the Planning Department of the Regional Municipality of Niagara about greenhouses in agricultural areas; and comments about the establishment of a radio station on agricultural lands by Wescom Radio Group Ltd.

9.33 1987. Contains comments to the CRTC on the proposed radio towers near Beamsville, Ontario; a brief to the Ontario Municipal Board re: cost awards; a
report on industrial, urban and agricultural land uses in Niagara; and a report entitled *Legislation and Foodlands Trust: Key elements in preserving prime foodlands of Ontario.*

9.34 1988. Contains ideas for “The Challenge of Progress”—Niagara Escarpment Program; a presentation by PALS, Friends of Foodland, and the Association of Peel People Evaluating Agricultural Land (APPEAL) to the Caucus Committees of the three Political Parties of the Government of Ontario; a brief on the proposed golf course in an agricultural area in the Town of Lincoln; comments on Bill 83, the Farm Practices Protection Act; ideas for Regional Niagara Review; and a report to the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee about proposed changes to the Environmental Assessment Program.

9.35 1989. Contains a presentation to the Niagara Regional Council about the Niagara Conservation Strategy; a presentation to Niagara Regional Council re: Where Next? A Look to the Future; a presentation to the Minister of the Environment and Deputy Minister of Labour re: Foodland Trust Legislation; and comments on the adequacy of the existing environmental planning and approvals process for the Ganaraska watershed.

9.36 1990. Contains a report entitled *Legislation and Foodland Trusts: Key Elements in Preserving Prime Foodlands of Ontario*; a framework for discussion on the environment; a response to the Niagara Regional Review Commission; a report to the Minister of Agriculture on Environmental Sustainability; a brief to Regional Council regarding land preservation and the farm industry; a brief to Ruth Grier, Minister of the Environment in response to the *Greater Toronto Area Urban Structure Concepts Study, Space for All; Options for a Greater Toronto Area Greenslands Strategy, and Watershed: an interim report of the Royal Commission on Toronto’s waterfront*; a presentation to the Provincial Task Force on the Economics of Agriculture; and a brief expressing opposition to a proposed incinerator and landfill facility in the North Cayuga Slough Forest.

9.37 1991. Contains a presentation to the Standing Committee on Government Agencies as part of a review of the Ontario Municipal Board; a response to Niagara Region’s report *Choices for Agricultural Areas*; a report entitled *Bringing Trusts to the Niagara Peninsula*; a report entitled *Making Niagara a Green Community: a response to the threat of unemployment*; and a position paper entitled *Toward a healthy countryside.*

9.38 1992. Contains a commentary on the Agricultural Land Protection Program for Ontario Discussion Paper; a presentation to the Hearing Panel re: OWMC [Ontario Waste Management Corporation] proposal to site a hazardous waste facility in West Lincoln; a response to the report of the Minister’s Advisory Committee on new heritage legislation; a submission to the joint OMB-Environmental Assessment Board Hearing re: proposed OWMC waste disposal facility; and a response to the Minister’s actions to the Niagara Task Force.
1993. Contains a brief re: amendment #78, Town of Lincoln, re: a private school in Jordan; a brief re: Rouge Park Master Plan; a brief to the Regional Planning Committee re: revisions to the agricultural land base map and policy; a brief on the final report of the Commission on Planning and Development Reform in Ontario; a presentation to the committee to review Ontario’s Public Hospitals Act re: concerns that hospitals be required to have a “Buy Ontario” policy; and a brief to the Niagara Regional Planning Committee re: An Assessment of Land Use Impact on the Microclimate of the Fonthill Kame by Anthony Shaw.

1994. Contains a response to the provincial government’s response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Planning and Development Reform; a brief re: the creation of a nature preserve for the Wainfleet bog; a brief re: amendment #78, Town of Lincoln, Niagara Reformed Christian Association School; a brief re: proposed Welland Canal Development Plan; and PALS 1994 President’s report.

1995. Contains proposed revisions to the Niagara Escarpment Plan Review.

1996. Contains a presentation to the Standing Committee on Resources Development re: Bill 20; a submission to the Chairman of the OMB panel withdrawing an objection to an expansion of an urban boundary in Niagara-on-the-Lake; a presentation to the Environmental Studies Association of Canada’s annual conference; a paper entitled The Impact of Research on the Formulation of Public Policy for the Protection of the Niagara Fruitbelt; and comments to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada re: the strategy for sustainable agriculture.

1997. Contains a brief overview of the history of the struggle to preserve unique fruit land; a brief to Niagara Regional Council Planning Committee re: regional policy plan amendment 103; and a brief re: the proposed elimination of environmental protection designation on Beaverdams Creek.

1998. Contains a brief to the Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC) re: preservation of natural areas within the urban boundaries; a brief re: an environmental assessment of the St. Davids community sewage works; and a brief to the OMB re: the Queenston urban boundary.

1999. Contains an annual achievements report (1999-2000); a brief to the Environmental Hearing Panel re: Red Hill Creek Expressway; a response to the St. Catharines Municipal and Urban Boundaries discussion paper; and a brief concerning agricultural land in Niagara Falls.

2000. Contains a brief to the Berkeley Group in response to Governance Options Paper #1; and a response to the St. Catharines municipal and urban boundaries discussion paper.

10.2 2002. Contains preliminary comments re: Ontario Smart Growth; a brief re: Grimsby urban boundary expansion; a brief re: a by-law amendment application by Westbrook Greenhouses Systems Ltd.; a review of the year report to PALS general membership; a brief to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority re: Valleyland Plan Input and Review Policies; and a paper entitled *High Drama at Central Ontario Smart Growth Consultation.*

10.3 2003. Contains a report to PALS Annual Membership Meeting; a brief to the Minister of the Environment about the mid-peninsula trade corridor; a brief to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority re: Valleyland Plan Input and Review Policies; comments re: the Niagara-on-the-Lake 2003 Official Plan Review; and a PALS Annual Report.

10.4 2004. Contains a brief in response to the Planning Committee’s request for compensation for Greenbelt freeze; a brief in response to the Parliamentary Committee on the Greenbelt Protection Act Bill 27; a response to the Greenbelt Task Force Discussion Paper; a presentation to the Greenbelt Agricultural Advisory Committee calling for a renewed fruit land program; a response to the proposed Provincial Policy Statement; a brief re: reform of the Ontario Municipal Board; and a response to the Greenbelt Draft Plan.

10.5 2005. Contains a submission to the Standing Committee on General Government re: Bill 135, Greenbelt Act; remarks on the enactment of Bill 135; a response to the Niagara to GTA Environmental Assessment EA Terms of Reference; a brief re: Regional Policy Plan Amendment 196; a background paper re: conservation easements; a brief in response to revised proposed Regional Plan Amendment 187; an article entitled *Deluge of Urban Expansions Proposed Outside of Greenbelt*; a brief in response to the evaluation of alternative systems public information package; a response to draft reports on additional source diversion and formulation of alternative waste disposal system for Niagara-Hamilton Waste Plan Joint Working Group; and a draft report of joint study on waste disposal.

10.6 2006. Contains a response to the Draft Report on the Joint Study of Waste Disposal; a brief to the Regional Municipality of Niagara re: the need to re-prosecute alleged tree cutting of Garner Road Woodlot; a response to Kemp Road and Mountain Road Hamlet Secondary Plan Study; a supplemental brief re: alleged illegal clear cutting in the southern section of the Garner Road forest; and a brief to the Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal requesting regional plan amendments 170 and 161 be disallowed as violations of the growth plan for the Golden Horseshoe.
2007. Contains a presentation to St. George’s Church Fellowship about the proposed mid-peninsula expressway; and a response to discussion papers, City of St. Catharines Official Plan Review.

2008. Contains a brief to Niagara Falls City Council re: Amendment 30-2004, City of Niagara Falls Official Plan; and papers by PALS on farmland preservation in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.


2011. Contains a brief on background research on easements; and a brief calling for the adoption of a program of public purchase of conservation easements/restrictive covenants for the Niagara Greenbelt.

2013. Contains a brief entitled *Effective Use of Agricultural Easements on Tender Fruit and Grape Land in Peninsula Township, Grant Traverse County, Michigan.*

**Sub-series C: Surveys, 1976-1990, n.d.**

PALS Surveys, 1976-1990, n.d. Contains correspondence and a survey sent to Niagara Regional Councillors about farm land preservation; completed copies of a questionnaire sent to farmers; a report of PALS survey of public attitude towards Niagara Fruitland Preservation; a questionnaire sent to non-municipal politicians and the responses received.


**Sub-series D: Agricultural Organizations, 1974-1994, n.d.**


Friends of Foodland, 1977-1994, n.d. Contains correspondence about the formation of the group, including a statement of purpose; activity reports; newsletters; press releases; a booklet entitled *Friends of Foodland: A Citizen’s Guide to Foodland Preservation*; meeting agendas and minutes; and a brief to the Commission on Ontario Planning Reform.

Niagara North Federation of Agriculture, 1980, n.d. Contains a brief to the Niagara Region Study Review Commission expressing concerns about the fruit industry; land use planning; farm labour; neglected land, orchards and vineyards; municipal drains; municipal structure committee; planning and assessment; roads and works department; boundaries; hydro; assessment and tax rebate; wide loads
on municipal roads; and pollution. Also contains a news clipping on the Federation and PALS.

10.17 Niagara South Federation of Agriculture, 1976-1982. Contains correspondence; a brief presented to the NDP mini-caucus on October 1976 re: Land Use Policy; a submission to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs from the joint Federations of Agriculture serving Niagara North and Niagara South; and a brief concerning the Pelham South Development.


10.19 EAT Canadian, 1988-1990, n.d. Contains correspondence and promotional material about a campaign to eat Canadian produced fruits, vegetables, peanuts, cheese, juice and wine.


10.20 The Niagara Peninsula, 1970. A report prepared for the 21st conference of Ministers’ and Deputy Ministers’ of Agriculture in Canada by the Statistics Section of Farm Economics, Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food.

10.21 The Niagara Fruit Belt: A Study of Present Conditions, 1972. A project completed as part of the Opportunities for Youth student employment program.

10.22 Population, 1974-1988, n.d. Contains reports by Regional Niagara about urban population capacity, residential land capacity and housing construction estimates (1976-1996), and population changes; a reported entitled A Review of Population and Housing in Niagara Region by H.L. Robinson; a report by the City of Toronto Planning and Development Dept. entitled Urban Sprawl in the Toronto Centred Region, and news clippings.

10.23 Ralph Krueger, 1959-1984, n.d. Contains articles by geography professor Ralph Krueger, including Urbanization of the Niagara Fruit Belt and The Disappearing Niagara Fruit Belt.


Advisory Council; a report by the Canadian Environmental Law Association, *Selling Canada’s Environment Short: the environmental case against the trade deal*; and a submission to the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Free Trade on the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement by the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario.

10.27 Promotional Material, 1989-1991, n.d. Contains a brochure by the National War Finance Committee entitled *Let’s Look at the Farm Front*; the Niagara Bruce Trail Club; the Ontario Agricultural Museum; a brochure about the Environmental Achievement Awards by Environment Canada; *Foodland Alert* (newsletter of the Coalition to Preserve Foodland); and a press release by Toronto Councillor Dale Marting calling for a development freeze outside of the Toronto area.


10.29 *Changing Aspects of Urban Containment in Canada: the Niagara Case in the 1980s and Beyond* by Hugh Gaylor, [1990].


10.31 Task Forces and Committees, 1991-1994. Contains news releases and reports about the Task Force to deal with Agricultural Finance and Farmland Issues in the Niagara Fruit Industry; the Provincial Study of the Potential for Downsizing Niagara Tender Fruit Farms; and a working group to address viability of the Ontario Tender Fruit Industry.


10.33 List of publications/resources available from PALS, n.d.


10.36 Ontario Hansard, November 16, 2000. Contains a speech by James Bradley (St. Catharines) introducing a resolution to protect agricultural areas. The resolution received support and/or comments from Peter Kormos (Niagara Centre), Garfield Dunlop (Simcoe North), George Smitherman (Toronto Centre-Rosedale), John Gerresten (Kingston and the Islands), and Bart Maves (Niagara Falls).
A Greener Future for Farmers in the Niagara Fruitbelt: Evaluating the Practicality of using Agriculture Easements in Ontario’s Greenbelt by Josh Berry, Queen’s University, June 2014. A report submitted to the School of Urban and Regional Planning.

Related Material:
