

## Niagara Adapts Year-in-Review 2021

### Niagara Adapts Partnership Concludes

A Message from Dr. Jessica Blythe, Faculty Lead, Niagara Adapts

Climate change is here in Niagara. We can see it when we experience flooding, heat waves, and variable climate extremes. Municipalities are one of the most important players in the fight for climate solutions. By undertaking robust climate adaptation planning and partnering with Brock University, seven municipalities in Niagara have demonstrated climate leadership. Niagara Adapts was a two-year partnership, designed to build innovative climate solutions tailored to Niagara. I am honoured to have worked with these seven municipalities in this important partnership, which has prepared municipalities in Niagara for the impacts of climate change. This type of climate action, which is rooted in place and collaboration, represents the future of climate solutions.

### Municipal Achievements Through the Niagara Adapts Partnership

We worked with BrockTV to produce individualized videos for each municipal partner focused on their climate change adaptation planning process. We have linked the ones below, that have been approved by each of the municipalities.

A general video about the partnership process, which includes a partnership overview by Dr. Jessica Blythe, was also created and can be viewed by clicking the photo to the right.



### Published Climate Adaptation Plans

The following municipalities have now have published corporate climate change adaptation plans (linked below) after receiving council approval. We look forward to reading the remaining adaptation plans when they are published.

- [Town of Pelham](#)
- [Town of Lincoln](#)
- [City of St. Catharines](#)

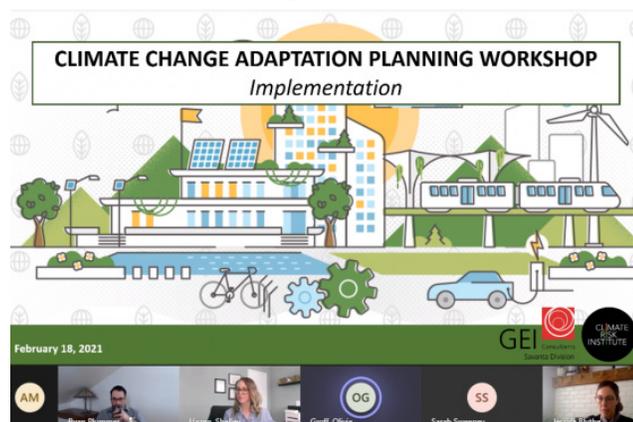
## Research Activities

- Stakeholder engagement surveys were developed and distributed via Qualtrics to ensure that community concerns and aspirations are reflected in the plans' visions and goals.
- Dr. Blythe and Research Assistant Michaela Jennings produced 10-page stakeholder engagement reports for all partners based on their stakeholder engagement surveys.
- Dr. Blythe worked with the Office of Research Services at Brock to produce a video highlighting the partnership. The full article and video is available via [The Brock News](#).

## Knowledge Mobilization Activities

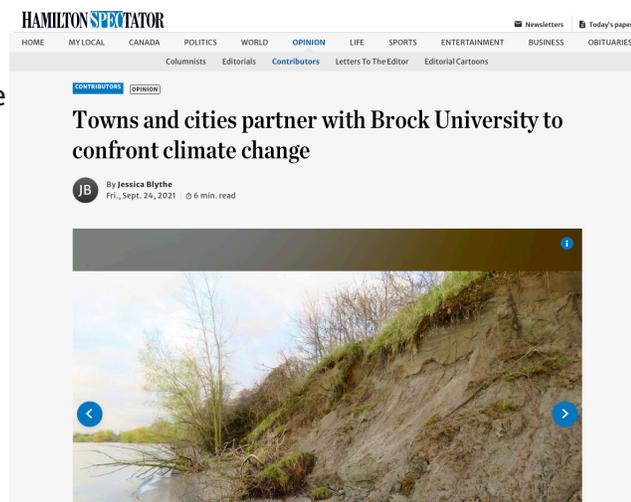
### Panel Discussion on Implementing Climate Change Plans

In March, Dr. Blythe was joined by Jacob Porter (City of Thunder Bay), Joanna Eyquem (Impact Centre, University of Waterloo), and Katie Thompson (City of Barrie) to discuss what can be accomplished at the municipal level when climate change adaptation plans are implemented. To learn more about the panel discussion and view a full recording, please check out [this blog post](#) about the event.



### Final Partnership Workshops

Workshop #8 focused on implementation and was led by Shelley Hazen and Glenn Milner, climate experts from Savanta (click image to right to learn more). The final workshop focused on Knowledge Mobilization and was held on May 11 and led by Dr. Jessica Blythe, alongside Amanda Smits, who has extensive expertise in knowledge mobilization and Erica Harper, recent Master of Sustainability graduate with expertise in corporate social responsibility communications.



### Published in the Hamilton Spectator

In September, the Niagara Adapts partnership was featured in The Hamilton Spectator in an article entitled "Towns and cities partner with university to confront climate change". The story was also picked up by several local newspapers, including the St. Catharines Standard. Read the full article at the [Hamilton Spectator](#).

### Experiential Education Opportunities for Brock Students

In November, Shannon Fernandes, Climate Change Coordinator at the Town of Lincoln, presented to Master of Sustainability students in SSAS 5P01 as an experiential education course component. Her presentation focused on what climate adaptation action really looks like for Canadian municipalities by providing an overview of the Town of Lincoln's Climate Adaptation Plan.



Thank you to everyone who made this partnership so successful!