

07-23-BOD Agenda

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Aug 25, 2023 at 9:00 AM EDT to Aug 25, 2023 at 12:00 PM EDT

Agenda

1. Events

Festival at Fort Willow

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2023, 10:00AM – 4:00PM

Location: Historic Fort Willow Conservation Area

Tiffin Nature Program

Date: September 5 to November 30, 2023

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

2. Call to Order

3. Land Acknowledgement

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg. The Anishinaabeg include the Odawa, Saulteaux, Anishinaabeg, Mississauga and Algonquin who spoke several languages including Anishinaabemowin and Potawatomi. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture and committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect with all First Nation, Métis and Inuit people.

4. Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflict of Interest

5. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting #07-23-BOD dated on August 25, 2023 be approved.

6. Announcements

Chair Little would like to recognize Fred Dobbs, Manager, Stewardship Services for receiving the Natural Channel Systems Award of Recognition.

7. Presentations

There are no presentations at this time.

8. Deputations

There are no deputations at this time.

9. Hearings

There are no hearings at this time.

10. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Board Members are requested to identify items from the Consent List that they wish to have considered for separate discussion.

11. Adoption of Consent List and Identification of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: agenda item number(s), _____ was identified as requiring separate discussion, be referred for discussion under Agenda Item #12; and

FURTHER THAT: all Consent List Agenda Items not referred for separate discussion be adopted as submitted to the board and staff be authorized to take all necessary action required to give effect to same; and

FURTHER THAT: any items in the Consent List not referred for separate discussion, and for which conflict has been declared, are deemed not to have been voted on or discussed by the individual making the declaration.

12. Consent List

12.1. Adoption of Minutes

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting 06-23-BOD dated on June 23, 2023 be approved.

12.2. Staff Reports

12.2.1. Staff Report No. 29-07-23-BOD from Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: The BOD approve the use of \$15,000 reserve funds for unanticipated, emergency fleet repair.

12.2.2. Staff Report No. 30-07-23-BOD from Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors approve the 5-year partnership agreement for the Edenvale Conservation Area.

12.2.3. Staff Report No. 31-07-23-BOD from Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 31-07-23-BOD regarding the 2023 second quarter financials; and

FURTHER THAT: staff continue to monitor budget activities.

12.2.4. Staff Report No. 32-07-23-BOD from Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 32-07-23-BOD regarding guidelines for the development of the 2024 NVCA draft budget be approved; and

FURTHER THAT: staff be directed to prepare a draft 2024 budget for consideration by the Board of Directors.

12.2.5. Staff Report No. 33-07-23-BOD from Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the updated NVCA Asset Management Plan be approved.

12.2.6. Staff Report No. 34-07-23-BOD from Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 34-07-23-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – *June 10, 2023 – August 11, 2023*, be received.

13. Notice of Motion

At the request of Vice-Chair Scott, the Notice of Motion will be deferred to the September meeting.

14. Other Business

CAO Hevenor to provide verbal update on the current activities of Conservation Ontario.

15. In-Camera

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting of the Board of Directors No. 07-23-BOD move into closed session at _____ to address matters pertaining to:

A). Personal information regarding an identifiable individual, including authority staff, and;

FURTHER THAT: the Director, Corporate Services will be in attendance for recording and speaking purposes.

16. Out of In-Camera

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors rise from in-camera at _____ and report progress.

16.1. 15.2. Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer 2023 Mid-Year Performance Review

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive the Chief Administrative Officer's mid-year 2023 performance review

17. Adjourn

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting adjourn at _____ to meet again on September 22, 2023 or at the call of the Chair.



06-23-BOD Minutes **(DRAFT)**
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Jun 23, 2023 at 9:00 AM EDT
Virtual Via Zoom

Attendance

Present:

Mayor Scott W. Anderson, Adjala-Tosorontio (Township); Cllr. Christopher Baines, Collingwood (Town); Cllr. Joe Belanger, Wasaga Beach (Town); Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink, Essa (Township); Chair Gail Little, Amaranth (Township); Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren, Clearview (Township); Cllr. Kevin Eisses, Innisfil (Town); Mayor Janet Horner, Mulmur (Township); Mayor Darren White, Melancthon (Township); Cllr. Joel Loughead, Grey Highlands (Municipality); Cllr. June Porter, The Bule Mountains (Town); Vice-Chair Jonathan Scott, Bradford West Gwillimbury (Town); Mayor Jennifer Coughlin, Springwater (Township); Cllr. Richard Schell, Oro-Medonte (Township)

NVCA Staff:

Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services; Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer; Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services; Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services; Meagan Kieferle, Senior Regulations Officer; Syacey Van Opstal, Regulations Technician; Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits; Rick Grillmayer, Manager, Forestry (*departed at 10:45am*); Alicia Sharp, Communications Assistant; Kerry Jenkins, Administrative Assistant/Recorder

Absent:

Cllr. Gary Harvey, Barrie (City); Cllr. Ralph Manktelow, Mono (Town); Cllr. Nicole Cox, New Tecumseth (Town); Cllr. Kyle Fegan, Shelburne (Town);

Guests:

Sean-Michael Stephen, MBA, Managing Partner, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. (*departed at 9:45am*)

1. Events

Learn to flyfish like a biologist

Date: June 17, 2023

Location: Cabela's Barrie

Camp Tiffin

Date: July 4 – September 1

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

Junior Leadership Camp

Date: July 4 – September 1

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

2. Call to Order

Chair Little called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

3. Land Acknowledgement

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg. The Anishinaabeg include the Odawa, Saulteaux, Anishinaabeg, Mississauga and Algonquin who spoke several languages including Anishinaabemowin and Potawatomi. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture and committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect with all First Nation, Métis and Inuit people.

4. Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflict of Interest

5. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Recommendation:

RES: 39-23

Moved By: Mayor Darren White

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Belanger

RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting #06-23-BOD dated June 23, 2023 be approved.

Carried;

6. Announcements

There were no announcements at this time.

7. Presentations

7.1. Programs Rates and Fees Review from Sean-Michael Stephen, MBA, Managing Partner, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

Sean-Michael Stephen, MBA, Managing Partner, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. conducted a presentation regarding NVCA's Program Rates and Fees Review.

Recommendation:

RES: 40-23

Moved by: Mayor Scott W. Anderson

Seconded by: Cllr. June Porter

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive the presentation and report regarding Programs Rates and Fees Review.

Carried;

7.2. Forestry Program Update from Rick Grillmayer, Manager, Forestry

Rick Grillmayer, Manager, Forestry conducted a presentation regarding NVCA's Forestry Program Update.

Please see Agenda Item # 12.2.6 for the resolution and voting

8. Deputations

There were no deputations at this time.

9. Hearings

There were no hearings at this time.

10. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Board Members are requested to identify items from the Consent List that they wish to have considered for separate discussion.

11. Adoption of Consent List and Identification of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Recommendation:

RES: 41-23

Moved by: Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink

Seconded by: Cllr. Christopher Baines

RESOLVED THAT: agenda item number(s), 12.2.2 and 12.2.4 were identified as requiring separate discussion, be referred for discussion under Agenda Item #12; and

FURTHER THAT: all Consent List Agenda Items not referred for separate discussion be adopted as submitted to the board and staff be authorized to take all necessary action required to give effect to same; and

FURTHER THAT: any items in the Consent List not referred for separate discussion, and for which conflict has been declared, are deemed not to have been voted on or discussed by the individual making the declaration.

Carried;

12. Consent List

12.1. Adoption of Minutes

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

Moved by: Cllr. Joe Belanger

Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Eisses

RESOLVED THAT: the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting 05-23-BOD dated on May 26, 2023 be approved.

12.2. Staff Reports

12.2.1. Staff Report No. 23-06-23-BOD from Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

Moved by: Mayor Janet Horner

Seconded by: Cllr. Rick Schell

RESOLVED THAT: The NVCA Board of Directors receive this report for information on the Lake Huron Management Plan (LAMP).

12.2.2. Staff Report No. 24-06-23-BOD from Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer

Recommendation:

Moved by: Cllr. June Porter

Seconded by: Cllr. Joel Loughead

RESOLVED THAT: the update on Memorandums of Understanding and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's (NVCA) progress report, be received; and
FURTHER THAT: NVCA's Board of Directors approves this progress report in fulfillment of O.Reg. 687/21 to be submitted to the Province's MNRF by July 1, 2023, as required for meeting the needs of the Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services under Section 21.1.2 of the Act.

Friendly amendment as requested by Doug Hevenor, CAO and approved by mover and seconder:

Recommendation:

RES: 42-23

Moved by: Cllr. June Porter

Seconded by: Cllr. Joel Loughead

RESOLVED THAT: the update on Memorandums of Understanding and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's (NVCA) progress report to be amended as discussed, be received; and
FURTHER THAT: NVCA's Board of Directors approves this progress report in fulfillment of O.Reg. 687/21 as discussed, to be submitted to the Province's MNRF by July 1, 2023, as required for meeting the needs of the Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services under Section 21.1.2 of the Act.

Carried;

12.2.3. Staff Report No. 25-06-23-BOD from Rick Grillmayer, Manager, Forestry

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren

Seconded by: Cllr. Gary Harvey

RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 25-06-23-BOD regarding the 2023 Forestry Program Update.

12.2.4. Staff Report No. 26-06-23-BOD from Megan Kieferle, Senior Regulations Officer & Stacey Van Opstal, Regulations Technician

Recommendation:

RES: 43-23

Moved by: Mayor Janet Horner

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Belanger

RESOLVED THAT: the NVCA Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 26-06-23-BOD that summarizes the permits and approvals issued by staff for the period of January 1, 2023 to June 10, 2023.

Carried;

12.2.5. Staff Report No. 27-06-23-BOD from Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

Moved by: Cllr. Kevin Eisses

Seconded by: Mayor Darren White

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 27-06-23-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – *May 13 – June 9, 2023*, be received.

13. Other Business

Vice-Chair Jonathan Scott brought forward a Notice of Motion for the next Board Meeting in regards to The Right to Repair.

14. In-Camera - Board decided there was no need to go in-camera and proceeded with the below resolution

14.1. Staff Report No. 28-06-23-BOD from Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services

Recommendation:

RES: 44-23

Moved by: Mayor Jennifer Coughlin

Seconded by: Cllr. Christopher Baines

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 28-06-23-BOD be received regarding the NVCA Legal Status Update.

Carried;

15. Adjourn

Recommendation:

RES: 45-23

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren

Seconded by: Cllr. Christopher Baines

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting adjourn at 11:12am to meet again on August 25, 2023 or at the call of the Chair.

Carried;



Staff Report: 29-07-23-BOD

Date: 25/08/2023

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Kyra Howes
Director, Conservation Services

SUBJECT: Use of Reserves for Emergency Fleet Repair

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: The BOD approve the use of \$15,000 reserve funds for unanticipated, emergency fleet repair.

Purpose of the Staff Report

This report is to provide the members of the Board of Directors an update on the status of the condition of the fleet, required maintenance and proposed solution.

Background

NVCA's fleet has had a particularly challenging year with significant mechanical failures with several vehicles. The majority of the repairs have been undertaken under the annual operational budget. Due to a mechanical failure, one truck is requiring an engine replacement to be operational, and associated costs are beyond what is available within the annual operational budget.

In consultation with our mechanic, based on the age and usage of the truck, it was determined that an engine replacement was the best option for this vehicle. The alternate option would be to remove the vehicle from the fleet, which is not a feasible option at this time.

Issues/Analysis

NVCA staff have contacted the manufacturer to determine if there was a special message advisory or other manufacturer defect associated with the failure. A special message advisory would be considered when there isn't a safety recall issued, but when the manufacturer is aware of an issue or malfunction, and repair costs may be covered by the manufacturer on a case-by-case basis.

The required repairs were not covered by warranty or by the manufacturer.

Due to the timing needed for the repair to take place, Chair Little gave staff emergency approval to move forward until the Board could approve this report.

Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

Under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, Part V, Section 21 (1) "an authority has power, ... (e) to purchase or acquire any personal property that it may require and sell or otherwise deal therewith; ..."

Impact on Authority Finances

Reserved funds are being requested to be used for these repairs.

Climate Change Implications

This staff report does not result in an increase in green house gases, temperature, or precipitation exposure.

Reviewed by:
Original Signed by
Kyra Howes
Director, Conservation Services

Approved for submission by:
Original Signed by
Doug Hevenor
Chief Administrative Officer



Staff Report: 30-07-23-BOD

Date: 25/08/2023

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Kyra Howes
Director, Conservation Services

SUBJECT: Edenvale Conservation Area Partnership Agreement with the Township of Springwater

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors approve the 5-year partnership agreement for the Edenvale Conservation Area.

Purpose of the Staff Report

This report is to provide the members of the Board of Directors an update of the status of the Edenvale Conservation Area lease and provide approval for the 5-year partnership agreement with the Township of Springwater.

Background

In 2003, the Township of Springwater approached NVCA about developing a long-term lease for the management and maintenance of the 5-hectare (13 acre) Edenvale Conservation Area, located at the north end of Minesing Wetlands on the Nottawasaga River.

The long-term lease was approved by NVCA's Board of Directors as well as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, in effect from October 27th, 2003, to October 27th, 2023. The lease outlined that NVCA would maintain ownership of the property while Springwater would undertake all management and maintenance of the property for non-intensive (passive) recreation.

Issues/Analysis

NVCA and Springwater staff worked collaboratively on the development of a new partnership agreement to begin upon the termination of the long-term lease agreement in October 2023.

The partnership agreement outlines that NVCA shall maintain and may develop the lands for recreational and conservation purposes with the Township providing fee for services for support. NVCA will develop a short- and long-term plan identifying proposed infrastructure and improvements and anticipated partnership roles of each NVCA and the Township of Springwater. The full partnership agreement can be found attached.

Prior to the end of the long-term lease in October 2023, NVCA and Springwater staff will conduct a thorough hazard assessment of the property. NVCA will develop a plan in collaboration with the Township to address immediate hazards prior to October 2023.

On June 7th, 2023, The Township of Springwater Council passed by-law 2023-057 in support of the partnership agreement.

Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

NVCA's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan notes a goal to "Foster awareness and appreciation of the watershed's natural features through outdoor experiences, opportunities and education".

The *Conservation Authorities Act*, Part V, Section 21 (1) states "...the authority has power (c) to acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise any land that it may require, and, subject to subsections (2) and (4), to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of land so acquired; ..."

The *Conservation Authorities Act*, Part V, Section 21.1 (1) states "An authority shall provide the following programs or services within its area of jurisdiction:

... ii. Programs and services related to the conservation and management of lands owned or controlled by the authority, including any interests in land registered on title. ..."

Impact on Authority Finances

There will be no immediate costs associated with the move from the long-term lease to the partnership agreement. Future maintenance costs such as grass cutting will be covered under current operations capacity and budget. Starting in 2024, NVCA's standard conservation area parking fees will be in place for the conservation area, enabling revenue generating opportunities to support the maintenance.

The development of the short- and long-term plans will guide the future infrastructure needs for the property as well as funding opportunities (ex. grants, partnership, etc.).

Climate Change Implications

Climate Change Implications This staff report does not result in an increase in green house gases, temperature, or precipitation exposure.

Reviewed by:
Original Signed by
Kyra Howes
Director, Conservation Services

Approved for submission by:
Original Signed by
Doug Hevenor
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment: Partnership Agreement 2023-2028

This Agreement made effective ___ day of _____, 2023

Partnership Agreement for the Edenvale Conservation Area

Between:

NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
(hereinafter called 'NVCA')

-and-

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWATER
(hereinafter called 'the Township')

Subject Property:

Edenvale Conservation Area
3920 Highway 26, Springwater
(Schedule A)
(hereinafter called 'the Lands')

Preamble

NVCA and the Township of Springwater have a long history of partnership with the Edenvale Conservation Area. The previous long-term lease agreement (2003-2023) permitted the Township of Springwater to manage and maintain the Edenvale Conservation Area as a passive recreation greenspace for residents and visitors. In 2023, NVCA and the Township of Springwater seek to enter into a partnership agreement, where NVCA will take over responsibility of the Edenvale Conservation with support from the Township of Springwater.

It is mutually agreed that:

1. NVCA shall retain ownership of the subject lands.
2. At its cost, NVCA shall maintain and may develop the lands for recreational and conservation purposes with the Township providing fee for service for support (ex. road grading). The maintenance and development of the lands will be consistent with the previous use of the property and will support non-intensive recreation for picnicking, nature appreciation and paddling access point to the Nottawasaga River.
3. Prior to the implementation of the partnership agreement (October 2023) and annually thereafter, NVCA will develop a short-term and long-term plan identifying proposed infrastructure and improvements and anticipated partnership role of each NVCA and the Township for review by Township staff.
4. The lands and use thereof shall be subject to the same regulations as all lands owned by the Conservation Authority. The fees charged for the public use of the property shall be consistent with the current approved Conservation Authority Fee Schedule. Such fees shall be collected by NVCA.

5. All costs of development and maintenance of the lands shall be the responsibility of NVCA. NVCA will pay all taxes or other charges levied against the lands.
6. NVCA may seek the services of the Township on a fee for service basis appropriate for the task. Separate agreements will be put in place for the services to be provided by the Township, this may be verbal, written or contractual, depending on the nature of the services.
7. NVCA may request financial or in-kind support for capital or other projects taking place on the lands.
8. NVCA will provide access, as required, to the adjacent lot (3926 Highway 26), owned by the Township of Springwater for maintenance or other needs. The Township will be responsible for any property or road damage caused by accessing the lot via the Edenvale Conservation Area.
9. The Township will continue standard operating and maintenance until the end of the long-term lease in October 2023. This will include, but is not limited to, grass maintenance, garbage removal and seasonal washroom rentals.
10. Prior to October 2023, NVCA staff will conduct a thorough hazard assessment of the property (ex. hazard trees, infrastructure). NVCA will develop a plan in collaboration with the Township to address immediate hazard concerns prior to October 2023.
11. All communications material associated with the Edenvale Conservation Area will identify the partnership between the Township of Springwater and NVCA. Signs erected at the site will be circulated to the Township for review.
12. NVCA Provincial Offences Officers will work collaboratively with the Township municipal bylaw staff on any contraventions taking place at the Edenvale Conservation Area.
13. The partnership agreement will have an expectation of open communication between both parties.
14. This agreement will be in place for a term of five (5) years from date of signing.
15. The term of this agreement shall commence on October 28, 2023, until October 30, 2028 or until the agreement is terminated in writing between both parties.

IN WITNESS of the foregoing covenants, the below noted have executed this agreement.

NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Per:

Doug Hevenor
Chief Administrative Officer

date

Sheryl Flannagan
Director, Corporate Service

date

THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWATER

Per:

Name (printed)

date

Signature

Name (printed)

date

Signature

SCHEDULE "A" LANDS

3920 Highway 26




434103000802000

Part of Lots 21 & 22, Concession 1, Springwater

Edenvale Conservation Area



Legend

-  Municipal Boundary
-  Assessment Parcel Fabric
-  Lot and Concession Fabric

0 50 100 150m



1 : 4.514

Map 2017
Municipality of Springwater
434103000802000
North Magnetic Decline 1987



Staff Report: 31-07-23-BOD

Date: 25/08/2023

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Sheryl Flannagan
Director, Corporate Services

SUBJECT: 2023 Second Quarter Budget Report

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 31-07-23-BOD regarding the 2023 second quarter financials; and

FURTHER THAT: staff continue to monitor budget activities.

Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report is to provide quarterly information to the Board regarding the status of the budget activities.

Background

On March 24, 2023 the Board approved the NVCA's 2023 budget. Quarterly reports are given to the Board to update on the status of the budget activities and any variations expected.

Issues/Analysis

The following are the highlights for the first 6 months of operations of the NVCA:

- Expenditures to date are tracking on schedule, with 58.23% of the budgeted expenses (50% of budget year completed). However, that is including the

CEWS repayment amount of \$740,879, so expenditures are actually trending below 50%.

- Revenues are tracking well, with 51.49% of the budgeted revenues recognized. This includes the first 6 months of the general municipal levy of \$1,390,821.
- Currently, the NVCA is sitting in a deficit position, due to the CEWS repayment the Board was notified about on the 1st quarter report. If we remove that, we would currently be sitting in a slight surplus situation.

Individual Program Updates

Conservation Services:

Forestry 110

- Forests Ontario has confirmed that the 50 Million Tree Program will be available for 2024-2025. The Federal 2 Billion Tree Initiative agreement is being developed, which would support tree planting until 2031.
- Site visits for 2024 planting are well underway. Survival studies and site preparation for 2024 sites will be starting in the next quarter.
- The 2023 plant was completed May 16th with 78,000 trees on 35 properties.
- Managed forest plans for over 630 acres were completed for the June and July deadlines.
- Tree planting taking place in Adjala-Tosorontio, The Blue Mountains, Essa, Mono, Mulmur, New Tecumseth and Oro-Medonte
- All expenses are on track and staff anticipate a balanced budget for 2023.

Conservation Lands – 150

- Conservation Area visitor trends seem to have leveled off after the pandemic spike in usage and are more in line with pre-pandemic levels.
- A significant encroachment/property violation on NVCA owned land resulted in larger than anticipated material costs at the start of the field season (surveying and fencing costs).
- Staff have secured a modest grant to support staff wages for invasive species control on CA properties. This, along with monitoring expenses is anticipated to result in a balanced budget by year's end.

Tiffin CA – 661

- The third and fourth quarters will see the majority of incoming revenues from events and bookings.
- Staff are currently developing plans to implement the capital asset purchases as per approved budget.
- Program expenditures will continue to be monitored to ensure a balanced budget for 2023.

Corporate Workshop-Vehicle and equipment – 650

- The fleet has required several unanticipated and significant repairs, for several fleet vehicles.
- Two fleet vehicles had to be removed from the fleet due to extensive mechanical failures. Due to the age and kms, one vehicle will be removed from fleet with an anticipated replacement in 2024 (one year earlier than scheduled). The second vehicle will undergo repairs as per another staff report in this agenda.
- Staff are prioritizing all expenditures and will be extending life on equipment to limit budget deficit for this program.

Healthy Waters – 120

- Stewardship staff recently received confirmation of funding support from TD Tree Days and Bass Pro Shops/Cabelas, which will bolster staff revenues for the second half of 2023.
- Staff are waiting on feedback from the Midhurst Landowners group regarding a \$300,000 phosphorus offsetting contract.
- Staff are projecting a balanced Healthy Waters budget for 2023 contingent on confirmation of support for the phosphorus offsetting project.

Tiffin Education – 630

- School programming wrapped up, having seen 7,100 students from across the watershed.
- Summer Camp sold out for regular, Junior, and Newcomer camp, bringing in \$123,000.
- Seniors Programming, sponsored by Retired Teachers of Ontario officially ran two sessions in spring, and is planning more in fall when the weather is cooler.
- For the preschool Nature Program, there was a summer program added for one day a week due to customer demand.
- Completed all SCDSB contracts for all three sessions in the amount of \$70,000.
- A successful year of homeschool programming bringing in \$4,000.
- A balanced budget is expected.

Watershed Management:

Planning – 310

- Planning Services user fee revenues as of June 30th are approximately \$659,271 (excluding levy, federal funds, and reserve use).
- Based on the revenues received to date, the user fee revenues for subdivisions are currently trending slightly higher than anticipated for the second quarter.
- Revenues for legal inquiries and consents/minor variances are currently trending as anticipated for the year end.

- Section 28 permits are currently trending slightly lower than anticipated for the second quarter and are expected to trend slightly lower in the third quarter.
- The program expenditures are currently lower than budgeted; however, the third quarter is expected to trend higher due to on-going enforcement activity, peer review costs and legal fees.
- Staff anticipates a balanced budget for the end of the year.

Engineering- 400

- The Engineering cost center is used to track engineering special projects.
- The NVCA has been awarded a five-year contract (2021-2025) with the City of Barrie to maintain their rain gauge network.

Watershed Science - 420

- This program incorporates Source Water Protection, Risk Management Office, Environmental Monitoring and Natural Heritage.
- Overall, the program is on track to meet budget as revenues from Source Water Protection and Risk Management Office are being realized in the second half of 2023.
- Source Water Protection revenue is on track to exceed budget projections.
- Delivery of the Risk Management Official program has accelerated and with projected higher revenues expected in the remainder 2023, though it projects to have a slight deficit in revenue.
- Additional program revenue from Environmental Monitoring is expected through the completion of a special benefitting projects with the Town of Collingwood and the Town of New Tecumseth as well as projects with Credit Valley Conservation and North-Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority.

Flood Program - 430-440

- Flood has issued 7 flood messages this year to date (5 Watershed Conditions Statement Water Safety; 1 Spring Safety (March 9th) and 1 Watershed Conditions Statement Flood Outlook).
- Actual year to date expenses are tracking below budget but are expected to match budget year to date by year end.

Corporate Services: GIS/IT 410/Governance 670/Admin 660/680

GIS/Tech support - 410

- Current revenues and expenditures are tracking as anticipated.
- A slight surplus is anticipated at this time.

Governance 670

- Expenses are tracking as anticipated.

Corporate Admin 660 & 680

2023 Second Quarter Budget Report
Staff Report No. 31-07-23-BOD

- Staff and administrative expenditures are tracking above anticipated values due to the CEWS payback as mentioned above.
- A deficit is anticipated currently due to CEWS, however a balanced budget is anticipated other than that.

Impact on Authority Finances

The 2023 Approved Budget totals \$5,961,289 in revenue as compared to the 2022 approved budget of \$5,095,130. Additionally, staff time to prepare this report is addressed in the 2022 budget.

Climate Change Implications

This report has no climate change implications.

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by

Sheryl Flannagan

Director, Corporate Services

Approved for submission by:

Original Signed by

Doug Hevenor

Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

1. June 30, 2023 Statement of Operations

SUMMARY OF NVCA BUDGETED PROGRAM ACTIVITY, June 30, 2023 (unaudited)

	PROPOSED OPERATIONS BUDGET	Program Expense	Cost Recovery	Capital Asset Purchases	Total Expense	Expense vs Budget	Program Levy	Other Program Revenues	Use of Reserves	Donated Land	Total Revenue	Total Revenue vs Budget	Surplus / Deficit	
LAND & WATER & STEWARDSHIP SERVICES														
110	Reforestation	421,469.43	232,200.72	16,192.63	248,393.35	58.94%	39,734.72	12,206.59			51,941.31	12.32%	-196,452.04	
120	Healthy Waters	696,085.86	357,531.91	22,957.57	380,489.48	54.66%	85,042.92	343,781.20			428,824.12	61.61%	48,334.64	
150	Conservation Lands	215,264.84	59,655.66	21,994.73	81,650.39	37.93%	75,562.42	57,465.60			133,028.02	61.80%	51,377.63	
PLANNING														
310	Planning	1,578,111.44	621,230.22	59,584.37	680,814.59	43.14%	231,305.72	659,271.52	9,398.05		899,975.29	56.43%	219,160.70	
ENGINEERING & TECHNICAL SERVICES														
420	Watershed Science	579,113.13	156,325.16	27,663.66	183,988.82	31.77%	121,306.56	94,555.65			215,862.21	37.27%	31,873.39	
430-443	Flood Control	424,930.42	137,673.12	14,474.26	152,147.38	35.81%	112,811.70	98,293.03			211,104.73	49.68%	58,957.35	
TIFFIN CENTRE														
630	Tiffin Education	233,777.72	134,411.30	11,643.70	146,055.00	62.48%	4,388.86	242,620.24			247,009.10	105.66%	100,954.10	
661	Tiffin CA - Infrastructure	425,380.77	174,075.58	17,870.05	191,945.63	45.12%	106,890.38	62,373.34	2,095.23		171,358.95	39.79%	-20,586.68	
COST RECOVERY CENTRES														
410	GIS / IT Support	409,150.32	172,457.09		197,401.04		182,425.16	22,123.90	20,366.66		224,915.72		27,514.68	
650	Workshop Vehicle & Equip	37,500.00	72,758.54	-72,758.54	0.00			0.00			0.00		0.00	
660	Occupancy Costs		84,904.63	-84,904.63	0.00			0.00			0.00		0.00	
670	Governance	345,067.33	207,251.46	-34,717.80	172,533.66		172,533.66	-20,940.24	20,940.24		172,533.66		0.00	
680	Corporate Admin Support	567,637.98	1,019,765.61		1,019,765.61		258,819.00	39,814.93			298,633.93	52.61%	-721,131.68	
Total Operations		5,933,489.24	3,430,241.00	0.00	24,943.95	3,455,184.95	58.23%	1,390,821.10	1,611,565.76	52,800.18	0.00	3,055,187.04	51.49%	-399,997.91
Add Back: Transfer to Reserves														
Net to be distributed to Reserves													-399,997.91	

	Budgeted Capital Expenditure	Approved Draw From Reserve*	Actual Use of Reserve	Actual Capital Expenditure
110 Reforestation				
120 Healthy Waters				
150 Conservation Lands				
310 Planning Services				
BOD Mtg 06-22-BOD, Agenda 12.2.4		40,000.00	9,398.05	
400 Engineering - Special Projects				
BOD Mtg 05-22-BOD, Agenda 12.2.7		40,000.00		
410 GIS / IT Support	31,800.00	31,800.00	20,366.66	24,943.95
420 Watershed Science	99,500.00	99,500.00		
430 Flood	100,000.00	100,000.00		
630 Education				
650 Workshop Vehicle & Equip	37,500.00	37,500.00		
660 Occupancy Costs				
661 Tiffin CA - Infrastructure	9,500.00	9,500.00	2,095.23	
670 Governance	41,880.49	41,880.49	20,940.24	
680 Corporate Admin Support				
	310,380.49	390,380.49	52,800.18	24,943.95

*Approved Draw from Reserve--Budgeted and Board Approval

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Unaudited Statement of Operations
For The 6 Periods Ending June 30, 2023

Division	110 Reforestation					
	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2023
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	19,867.36	19,867.36	39,734.72	39,734.72	-	79,469.43
Municipal Grants	-	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	(3,000.00)	13,000.00
Contributions	122.00	-	402.00	-	402.00	255,000.00
Federal Sources	-	-	-	-	-	5,000.00
User Fees	9,004.59	53,000.00	11,804.59	53,000.00	(41,195.41)	69,000.00
E	<u>28,993.95</u>	<u>75,867.36</u>	<u>51,941.31</u>	<u>95,734.72</u>	<u>(43,793.41)</u>	<u>421,469.43</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wa ges and Interprogram Charges	33,111.53	33,924.99	59,483.79	67,849.98	(8,366.19)	135,699.98
	<u>33,111.53</u>	<u>33,924.99</u>	<u>59,483.79</u>	<u>67,849.98</u>	<u>(8,366.19)</u>	<u>135,699.98</u>
TOTAL REVENU						
Other Interpro gram Charges						
Cost Recovery	9,996.40	9,779.86	16,192.63	19,559.72	(3,367.09)	39,119.45
	<u>9,996.40</u>	<u>9,779.86</u>	<u>16,192.63</u>	<u>19,559.72</u>	<u>(3,367.09)</u>	<u>39,119.45</u>
Other Expenses						
Staff Expense 110	-	-	-	-	-	300.00
Memberships Prof.Dues 110	150.00	-	945.83	450.00	495.83	750.00
Material&Supply 110	2,634.07	3,000.00	2,634.07	3,000.00	(365.93)	6,000.00
Cost of Trees 110	69,820.22	110,000.00	69,820.22	110,000.00	(40,179.78)	114,000.00
Equipment Costs 110 Reforestation	91.25	-	181.76	-	181.76	500.00
Consultant Fees 110 Outsource Cont	99,135.05	125,000.00	99,135.05	125,000.00	(25,864.95)	125,000.00
Uniform & Special Clothing Expense	-	-	-	-	-	100.00
	<u>171,830.59</u>	<u>238,000.00</u>	<u>172,716.93</u>	<u>238,450.00</u>	<u>(65,733.07)</u>	<u>246,650.00</u>
	<u>214,938.52</u>	<u>281,704.85</u>	<u>248,393.35</u>	<u>325,859.70</u>	<u>(77,466.35)</u>	<u>421,469.43</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(185,944.57)</u>	<u>(205,837.49)</u>	<u>(196,452.04)</u>	<u>(230,124.98)</u>	<u>33,672.94</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Unaudited Statement of Operations
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Division

120 Healthy Waters

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2023
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	42,521.46	46,521.46	85,042.92	90,042.92	(5,000.00)	180,085.86
Provincial Grants	10,271.70	10,000.00	65,389.12	30,000.00	35,389.12	30,000.00
Municipal Grants	7,022.50	4,000.00	9,387.50	7,000.00	2,387.50	20,000.00
Contributions	127,389.93	86,512.50	231,451.08	136,025.00	95,426.08	350,000.00
Federal Sources	11,715.00	10,000.00	37,553.50	56,000.00	(18,446.50)	96,000.00
User Fees	-	6,000.00	-	11,000.00	(11,000.00)	20,000.00
E	<u>198,920.59</u>	<u>163,033.96</u>	<u>428,824.12</u>	<u>330,067.92</u>	<u>98,756.20</u>	<u>696,085.86</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wa ges and Interprogram Charges	102,925.72	95,335.02	187,934.81	190,670.04	(2,735.23)	381,340.09
	<u>102,925.72</u>	<u>95,335.02</u>	<u>187,934.81</u>	<u>190,670.04</u>	<u>(2,735.23)</u>	<u>381,340.09</u>
TOTAL REVENU						
Other Interpro gram Charges						
Cost Recovery	14,249.05	17,048.94	22,957.57	34,097.88	(11,140.31)	68,195.77
	<u>14,249.05</u>	<u>17,048.94</u>	<u>22,957.57</u>	<u>34,097.88</u>	<u>(11,140.31)</u>	<u>68,195.77</u>
Other Expenses						
Staff Expense 120 Healthy Waters	179.68	200.00	262.26	400.00	(137.74)	800.00
Material&Supply 120	59,200.04	50,000.00	168,901.95	104,000.00	64,901.95	244,000.00
Uniform & Special Clothing Expense	-	50.00	-	100.00	(100.00)	150.00
Advertisement 120	432.89	400.00	432.89	800.00	(367.11)	1,600.00
	<u>59,812.61</u>	<u>50,650.00</u>	<u>169,597.10</u>	<u>105,300.00</u>	<u>64,297.10</u>	<u>246,550.00</u>
	<u>176,987.38</u>	<u>163,033.96</u>	<u>380,489.48</u>	<u>330,067.92</u>	<u>50,421.56</u>	<u>696,085.86</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>21,933.21</u>	<u>(0.00)</u>	<u>48,334.64</u>	<u>(0.00)</u>	<u>48,334.64</u>	<u>(0.00)</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Unaudited Statement of Operations
For The 6 Periods Ending June 30, 2023

Division

150 Conservation Lands

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2023
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	37,781.21	37,781.21	75,562.42	75,562.42	-	151,124.84
Provincial Grants	-	-	-	-	-	2,500.00
Contributions	-	1,350.00	2,100.47	1,650.00	450.47	5,000.00
User Fees	40,274.17	38,200.00	55,365.13	51,100.00	4,265.13	66,440.00
Use of Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	(9,800.00)
E	<u>78,055.38</u>	<u>77,331.21</u>	<u>133,028.02</u>	<u>128,312.42</u>	<u>4,715.60</u>	<u>215,264.84</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wa ges and Interprogram Charges	22,836.06	29,484.63	24,868.92	58,969.26	(34,100.34)	117,938.53
	<u>22,836.06</u>	<u>29,484.63</u>	<u>24,868.92</u>	<u>58,969.26</u>	<u>(34,100.34)</u>	<u>117,938.53</u>
TOTAL REVENU						
Other Interpro gram Charges						
Cost Recovery	13,563.47	12,666.58	21,994.73	25,333.16	(3,338.43)	50,666.31
	<u>13,563.47</u>	<u>12,666.58</u>	<u>21,994.73</u>	<u>25,333.16</u>	<u>(3,338.43)</u>	<u>50,666.31</u>
Other Expenses						
Staff Expense 150 Conservation Lan	-	200.00	-	200.00	(200.00)	400.00
Material&Supply	8,874.18	4,000.00	11,728.36	5,000.00	6,728.36	10,000.00
Legal Costs 150	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	1,000.00
Insurance 150	8,931.07	9,000.00	11,901.81	12,000.00	(98.19)	12,000.00
Taxes	3,585.56	-	9,206.32	8,030.00	1,176.32	16,060.00
Hydro 150	68.51	50.00	114.13	100.00	14.13	200.00
Interest & Bank Chgs Lands	1,414.02	875.00	1,815.78	1,750.00	65.78	3,500.00
Maintenance Supplies 150	20.34	500.00	20.34	750.00	(729.66)	1,500.00
Advertisement 150	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	2,000.00
	<u>22,893.68</u>	<u>16,625.00</u>	<u>34,786.74</u>	<u>29,830.00</u>	<u>4,956.74</u>	<u>46,660.00</u>
	<u>59,293.21</u>	<u>58,776.21</u>	<u>81,650.39</u>	<u>114,132.42</u>	<u>(32,482.03)</u>	<u>215,264.84</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>18,762.17</u>	<u>18,555.00</u>	<u>51,377.63</u>	<u>14,180.00</u>	<u>37,197.63</u>	<u>-</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Unaudited Statement of Operations
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Division

310 Planning

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2023
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	115,652.86	115,652.86	231,305.72	231,305.72	-	462,611.44
Federal Sources	-	-	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	-
User Fees	433,080.25	308,250.00	654,271.52	563,500.00	90,771.52	1,115,500.00
Use of Reserves	9,398.05	-	9,398.05	-	9,398.05	-
E	<u>558,131.16</u>	<u>423,902.86</u>	<u>899,975.29</u>	<u>794,805.72</u>	<u>105,169.57</u>	<u>1,578,111.44</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wa ges and Interprogram Charges	282,468.12	324,937.45	535,104.47	649,874.90	(114,770.43)	1,299,749.81
	<u>282,468.12</u>	<u>324,937.45</u>	<u>535,104.47</u>	<u>649,874.90</u>	<u>(114,770.43)</u>	<u>1,299,749.81</u>
TOTAL REVENU						
Other Interpro gram Charges						
Cost Recovery	37,070.71	47,940.41	59,584.37	95,880.82	(36,296.45)	191,761.63
	<u>37,070.71</u>	<u>47,940.41</u>	<u>59,584.37</u>	<u>95,880.82</u>	<u>(36,296.45)</u>	<u>191,761.63</u>
Other Expenses						
Staff Expense 310	320.09	125.00	320.09	250.00	70.09	500.00
Memberships Prof.Dues 310	1,226.13	-	5,164.85	4,600.00	564.85	4,600.00
Material&Supply 310	-	100.00	-	200.00	(200.00)	500.00
Legal Costs	9,338.62	6,750.00	10,959.35	11,500.00	(540.65)	20,000.00
Consultant Fees 310	9,398.05	625.00	9,398.05	1,250.00	8,148.05	2,500.00
Insurance 310 E&OLiability Premiurr	45,321.64	43,125.00	60,283.41	57,500.00	2,783.41	57,500.00
Office Expenses	-	125.00	-	250.00	(250.00)	500.00
Advertisement 310	(819.09)	-	-	-	-	-
Bad Debt Expense 310 Planning	-	125.00	-	250.00	(250.00)	500.00
	<u>64,785.44</u>	<u>50,975.00</u>	<u>86,125.75</u>	<u>75,800.00</u>	<u>10,325.75</u>	<u>86,600.00</u>
	<u>384,324.27</u>	<u>423,852.86</u>	<u>680,814.59</u>	<u>821,555.72</u>	<u>(140,741.13)</u>	<u>1,578,111.44</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>173,806.89</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>219,160.70</u>	<u>(26,750.00)</u>	<u>245,910.70</u>	<u>-</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
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Division

410 GIS/Tech Support

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2023
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	91,212.58	91,212.58	182,425.16	182,425.16	-	364,850.32
User Fees	-	3,125.00	22,123.90	6,250.00	15,873.90	12,500.00
Use of Reserves	20,366.66	25,000.00	20,366.66	25,000.00	(4,633.34)	31,800.00
E	<u>111,579.24</u>	<u>119,337.58</u>	<u>224,915.72</u>	<u>213,675.16</u>	<u>11,240.56</u>	<u>409,150.32</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wa ges and Interprogram Charges	87,803.75	91,212.58	160,563.95	182,425.16	(21,861.21)	364,850.32
	<u>87,803.75</u>	<u>91,212.58</u>	<u>160,563.95</u>	<u>182,425.16</u>	<u>(21,861.21)</u>	<u>364,850.32</u>
TOTAL REVENU						
Other Interpro gram Charges	-	(2,400.00)	-	(1,800.00)	1,800.00	(10,600.00)
Cost Recovery	-	(2,400.00)	-	(1,800.00)	1,800.00	(10,600.00)
Other Expenses						
Staff Expense 410 GIS	93.33	25.00	195.38	50.00	145.38	100.00
Memberships Prof.Dues 410	-	-	74.80	-	74.80	-
Material&Supply 410	6,768.34	10,500.00	11,622.96	13,000.00	(1,377.04)	27,000.00
Consultant Fees 410	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.00
Capital Asset Purchases	24,943.95	20,000.00	24,943.95	20,000.00	4,943.95	26,800.00
	<u>31,805.62</u>	<u>30,525.00</u>	<u>36,837.09</u>	<u>33,050.00</u>	<u>3,787.09</u>	<u>54,900.00</u>
	<u>119,609.37</u>	<u>119,337.58</u>	<u>197,401.04</u>	<u>213,675.16</u>	<u>(16,274.12)</u>	<u>409,150.32</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(8,030.13)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,514.68</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,514.68</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Unaudited Statement of Operations
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Division

420 Watershed Science

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2023
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	60,653.28	60,653.28	121,306.56	121,306.56	-	242,613.13
Provincial Grants	74,534.22	48,750.00	76,066.54	97,500.00	(21,433.46)	195,000.00
Municipal Grants	15,559.11	9,000.00	15,559.11	18,000.00	(2,440.89)	41,000.00
User Fees	2,930.00	1,000.00	2,930.00	1,000.00	1,930.00	1,000.00
Use of Reserves	-	18,000.00	-	18,000.00	(18,000.00)	99,500.00
E	<u>153,676.61</u>	<u>137,403.28</u>	<u>215,862.21</u>	<u>255,806.56</u>	<u>(39,944.35)</u>	<u>579,113.13</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wa ges and Interprogram Charges	70,411.54	96,699.63	146,039.22	193,399.26	(47,360.04)	386,798.51
	<u>70,411.54</u>	<u>96,699.63</u>	<u>146,039.22</u>	<u>193,399.26</u>	<u>(47,360.04)</u>	<u>386,798.51</u>
TOTAL REVENU						
Other Interpro gram Charges						
Cost Recovery	17,132.43	18,978.66	27,663.66	37,957.32	(10,293.66)	75,914.62
	<u>17,132.43</u>	<u>18,978.66</u>	<u>27,663.66</u>	<u>37,957.32</u>	<u>(10,293.66)</u>	<u>75,914.62</u>
Other Expenses						
Staff Expense 420	1,005.09	700.00	1,210.45	1,100.00	110.45	2,500.00
Memberships Prof.Dues 420	132.29	-	857.33	-	857.33	1,000.00
Material&Supply 420	3,929.90	2,500.00	6,329.35	3,000.00	3,329.35	6,500.00
Consultant Fees 420	-	1,666.66	-	1,666.66	(1,666.66)	5,000.00
Insurance 420 Water Source Prot Er	1,417.87	1,425.00	1,888.81	1,900.00	(11.19)	1,900.00
Maintenance Supplies 420 Equipmer	-	-	-	-	-	3,000.00
Capital Asset Purchases	-	18,000.00	-	18,000.00	(18,000.00)	96,500.00
	<u>6,485.15</u>	<u>24,291.66</u>	<u>10,285.94</u>	<u>25,666.66</u>	<u>(15,380.72)</u>	<u>116,400.00</u>
	<u>94,029.12</u>	<u>139,969.95</u>	<u>183,988.82</u>	<u>257,023.24</u>	<u>(73,034.42)</u>	<u>579,113.13</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>59,647.49</u>	<u>(2,566.67)</u>	<u>31,873.39</u>	<u>(1,216.68)</u>	<u>33,090.07</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Unaudited Statement of Operations
For The 6 Periods Ending June 30, 2023

Consolidated

From Division
To Division

430 Flood Control Structures
443 Engineering Special Projects

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2023
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	32,079.10	32,079.10	64,158.20	64,158.20	-	128,316.42
Matching Municipal Levy (Flood)	24,326.75	24,326.75	48,653.50	48,653.50	-	97,307.00
Provincial Grants	97,423.01	-	97,423.01	-	97,423.01	97,307.00
Municipal Grants	870.02	6,950.00	870.02	15,900.00	(15,029.98)	29,800.00
Use of Reserves	-	22,500.00	-	22,500.00	(22,500.00)	100,000.00
E	<u>154,698.88</u>	<u>85,855.85</u>	<u>211,104.73</u>	<u>151,211.70</u>	<u>59,893.03</u>	<u>452,730.42</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wa ges and Interprogram Charges	69,860.26	67,043.03	118,161.34	134,086.06	(15,924.72)	268,172.13
	<u>69,860.26</u>	<u>67,043.03</u>	<u>118,161.34</u>	<u>134,086.06</u>	<u>(15,924.72)</u>	<u>268,172.13</u>
TOTAL REVENU						
Other Interpro gram Charges						
Cost Recovery	5,851.97	8,191.29	9,381.16	16,382.58	(7,001.42)	32,765.17
	<u>5,851.97</u>	<u>8,191.29</u>	<u>9,381.16</u>	<u>16,382.58</u>	<u>(7,001.42)</u>	<u>32,765.17</u>
Other Expenses						
Material&Supply	3,256.55	25,958.21	6,479.92	31,416.42	(24,936.50)	112,832.84
Corp Fleet Charge 437	3,131.33	2,540.07	5,093.10	5,080.14	12.96	10,160.28
Insurance	9,450.00	9,450.00	12,600.00	12,600.00	-	12,600.00
Taxes	-	-	431.86	600.00	(168.14)	1,200.00
Capital Asset Purchases	-	7,500.00	-	7,500.00	(7,500.00)	15,000.00
	<u>15,837.88</u>	<u>45,448.28</u>	<u>24,604.88</u>	<u>57,196.56</u>	<u>(32,591.68)</u>	<u>151,793.12</u>
	<u>91,550.11</u>	<u>120,682.60</u>	<u>152,147.38</u>	<u>207,665.20</u>	<u>(55,517.82)</u>	<u>452,730.42</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>63,148.77</u>	<u>(34,826.75)</u>	<u>58,957.35</u>	<u>(56,453.50)</u>	<u>115,410.85</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Unaudited Statement of Operations
For The 6 Periods Ending June 30, 2023

Division

630 Tiffin Education

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2023
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	2,194.43	2,194.43	4,388.86	4,388.86	-	8,777.72
Contributions	2,283.02	2,750.00	5,634.02	4,500.00	1,134.02	8,000.00
Federal Sources	-	-	-	-	-	3,000.00
User Fees	121,580.31	112,167.00	236,986.22	154,334.00	82,652.22	214,000.00
E	<u>126,057.76</u>	<u>117,111.43</u>	<u>247,009.10</u>	<u>163,222.86</u>	<u>83,786.24</u>	<u>233,777.72</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wages and Interprogram Charges	75,544.38	47,447.44	128,855.03	94,894.88	33,960.15	189,789.76
	<u>75,544.38</u>	<u>47,447.44</u>	<u>128,855.03</u>	<u>94,894.88</u>	<u>33,960.15</u>	<u>189,789.76</u>
TOTAL REVENU						
Other Interprogram Charges						
Cost Recovery	7,250.27	9,621.99	11,643.70	19,243.98	(7,600.28)	38,487.96
	<u>7,250.27</u>	<u>9,621.99</u>	<u>11,643.70</u>	<u>19,243.98</u>	<u>(7,600.28)</u>	<u>38,487.96</u>
Other Expenses						
Staff Expense 630 Education	-	-	64.79	-	64.79	-
Memberships Prof.Dues 630	200.00	500.00	200.00	500.00	(300.00)	500.00
Staff Education/Training	292.93	-	2,047.93	-	2,047.93	-
Material&Supply 630	2,107.77	1,500.00	3,243.55	2,800.00	443.55	5,000.00
	<u>2,600.70</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>5,556.27</u>	<u>3,300.00</u>	<u>2,256.27</u>	<u>5,500.00</u>
	<u>85,395.35</u>	<u>59,069.43</u>	<u>146,055.00</u>	<u>117,438.86</u>	<u>28,616.14</u>	<u>233,777.72</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)						
	<u>40,662.41</u>	<u>58,042.00</u>	<u>100,954.10</u>	<u>45,784.00</u>	<u>55,170.10</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
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Division

650 Corp-Workshop,Vehicle&Equip

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2023
REVENUE:						
Use of Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	37,500.00
E	-	-	-	-	-	37,500.00
EXPENSES:						
Wa ges and Interprogram Charges	21,211.68	21,211.68	42,423.36	42,423.36	-	84,846.73
	21,211.68	21,211.68	42,423.36	42,423.36	-	84,846.73
TOTAL REVENU						
Other Interpro gram Charges						
Cost Recovery	(44,733.27)	(45,361.68)	(72,758.54)	(79,123.36)	6,364.82	(145,146.73)
	(44,733.27)	(45,361.68)	(72,758.54)	(79,123.36)	6,364.82	(145,146.73)
Other Expenses						
Material&Supply 650 Wkshp	427.34	250.00	512.79	500.00	12.79	1,000.00
Equipment Costs 650	532.25	300.00	532.25	300.00	232.25	500.00
Insurance Corp 650	6,242.71	8,100.00	8,688.51	10,800.00	(2,111.49)	10,800.00
Hydro 650 Workshop	553.79	700.00	872.06	1,300.00	(427.94)	2,300.00
Fuel Oil Heating Propane Wksp	96.67	300.00	772.62	1,000.00	(227.38)	2,500.00
Maintenance Supplies 650	9,353.13	5,200.00	10,916.82	11,200.00	(283.18)	20,750.00
Uniform & Special Clothing Exp 650	-	-	-	-	-	250.00
Gas & Oil 650	6,315.70	9,300.00	8,040.13	11,600.00	(3,559.87)	22,200.00
Capital Asset Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	37,500.00
	23,521.59	24,150.00	30,335.18	36,700.00	(6,364.82)	97,800.00
	-	-	-	-	0.00	37,500.00
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-	-	-	(0.00)	0.00

TOTAL EXPENSES

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
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Division

660 Corp. Office Infrastructure

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2023
REVENUE:						
E	-	-	-	-	-	-
EXPENSES:						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE gram Charges						
Other Interpro	(53,985.17)	(62,475.00)	(84,904.63)	(101,050.00)	16,145.37	(146,400.00)
Cost Recovery	(53,985.17)	(62,475.00)	(84,904.63)	(101,050.00)	16,145.37	(146,400.00)
Other Expenses						
Material&Supply 660	-	-	2,457.50	2,500.00	(42.50)	3,000.00
Equipment Costs 660 Office	-	1,750.00	-	3,500.00	(3,500.00)	7,000.00
Insurance 660 Office	36,610.03	40,350.00	49,149.51	53,800.00	(4,650.49)	53,800.00
Taxes Corp Office	(995.85)	-	463.25	500.00	(36.75)	1,100.00
Hydro 660	7,071.44	6,250.00	13,898.43	12,500.00	1,398.43	25,000.00
Telephone 660 Corp Office	3,033.83	4,500.00	5,809.15	9,000.00	(3,190.85)	18,000.00
Office Expenses	6,119.04	3,875.00	7,114.47	7,750.00	(635.53)	15,500.00
Maintenance Supplies 660 Interior	1,238.47	1,500.00	1,667.13	3,000.00	(1,332.87)	6,000.00
Leases 660 Equipment	-	3,000.00	2,528.79	6,000.00	(3,471.21)	12,000.00
Internet Access 680 SCAN	908.21	1,250.00	1,816.40	2,500.00	(683.60)	5,000.00
	53,985.17	62,475.00	84,904.63	101,050.00	(16,145.37)	146,400.00
	-	-	-	-	-	-
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
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Division

661 Tiffin CA & Maintenance

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2023
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	53,445.19	53,445.19	106,890.38	106,890.38	-	213,780.77
Contributions	1,200.00	6,375.00	6,000.00	12,750.00	(6,750.00)	25,500.00
User Fees	47,166.26	45,100.00	56,373.34	49,100.00	7,273.34	176,600.00
Use of Reserves	2,095.23	6,500.00	2,095.23	6,500.00	(4,404.77)	9,500.00
E	<u>103,906.68</u>	<u>111,420.19</u>	<u>171,358.95</u>	<u>175,240.38</u>	<u>(3,881.43)</u>	<u>425,380.77</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wages and Interprogram Charges	77,603.03	79,051.31	153,872.43	158,102.62	(4,230.19)	316,205.23
	<u>77,603.03</u>	<u>79,051.31</u>	<u>153,872.43</u>	<u>158,102.62</u>	<u>(4,230.19)</u>	<u>316,205.23</u>
TOTAL REVENUE						
Other Interprogram Charges						
Cost Recovery	11,108.12	13,968.88	17,870.05	27,937.76	(10,067.71)	55,875.54
	<u>11,108.12</u>	<u>13,968.88</u>	<u>17,870.05</u>	<u>27,937.76</u>	<u>(10,067.71)</u>	<u>55,875.54</u>
Other Expenses						
Material & Supply	7,202.25	10,875.00	12,353.99	16,550.00	(4,196.01)	23,000.00
Equipment Costs 661	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.00
Insurance 661 Tiffin Conservation Area	934.56	975.00	1,236.48	1,300.00	(63.52)	1,300.00
Taxes Tiffin Conservation Area	-	200.00	-	200.00	(200.00)	500.00
Maintenance Supplies 661	1,842.53	7,100.00	4,706.14	10,700.00	(5,993.86)	20,700.00
Advertisement 661 Tiffin CA	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	1,000.00
Waste Services 661	1,249.89	750.00	1,906.54	1,300.00	606.54	2,800.00
Capital Asset Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	3,000.00
	<u>11,229.23</u>	<u>20,900.00</u>	<u>20,203.15</u>	<u>31,050.00</u>	<u>(10,846.85)</u>	<u>53,300.00</u>
	<u>99,940.38</u>	<u>113,920.19</u>	<u>191,945.63</u>	<u>217,090.38</u>	<u>(25,144.75)</u>	<u>425,380.77</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)						
	<u>3,966.30</u>	<u>(2,500.00)</u>	<u>(20,586.68)</u>	<u>(41,850.00)</u>	<u>21,263.32</u>	<u>0.00</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Unaudited Statement of Operations
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Division

670 Corporate Governance

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2023
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	75,796.71	75,796.71	151,593.42	151,593.42	-	303,186.84
Use of Reserves	10,470.12	10,470.12	20,940.24	20,940.24	-	41,880.49
E	<u>86,266.83</u>	<u>86,266.83</u>	<u>172,533.66</u>	<u>172,533.66</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>345,067.33</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wages and Interprogram Charges	86,967.83	87,391.83	168,734.66	169,158.66	(424.00)	349,567.33
	<u>86,967.83</u>	<u>87,391.83</u>	<u>168,734.66</u>	<u>169,158.66</u>	<u>(424.00)</u>	<u>349,567.33</u>
TOTAL REVENUE						
Other Interprogram Charges						
Cost Recovery	(20,635.31)	(28,475.00)	(34,717.80)	(46,425.00)	11,707.20	(60,800.00)
	<u>(20,635.31)</u>	<u>(28,475.00)</u>	<u>(34,717.80)</u>	<u>(46,425.00)</u>	<u>11,707.20</u>	<u>(60,800.00)</u>
Other Expenses						
Memberships Prof.Dues 670	15,716.00	20,500.00	31,432.00	38,500.00	(7,068.00)	38,500.00
Member Education/Training	-	625.00	590.00	1,250.00	(660.00)	2,500.00
Material&Supply 670	394.37	875.00	1,494.21	1,750.00	(255.79)	3,500.00
Transportation 670 Municipal Officer	1,659.34	1,750.00	1,659.34	3,500.00	(1,840.66)	7,000.00
Insurance 670 Directors Liab	2,164.60	3,600.00	3,341.25	4,800.00	(1,458.75)	4,800.00
	<u>19,934.31</u>	<u>27,350.00</u>	<u>38,516.80</u>	<u>49,800.00</u>	<u>(11,283.20)</u>	<u>56,300.00</u>
	<u>86,266.83</u>	<u>86,266.83</u>	<u>172,533.66</u>	<u>172,533.66</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>345,067.33</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)						
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Unaudited Statement of Operations
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Division

680 Corporate Administration

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2023
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	129,409.50	129,409.50	258,819.00	258,819.00	-	517,637.98
Contributions	13.01	-	80.78	-	80.78	-
Investment Income	16,224.91	12,500.00	39,273.81	25,000.00	14,273.81	50,000.00
User Fees	296.84	-	296.84	-	296.84	-
Miscellaneous Revenue	100.00	-	163.50	-	163.50	-
E	<u>146,044.26</u>	<u>141,909.50</u>	<u>298,633.93</u>	<u>283,819.00</u>	<u>14,814.93</u>	<u>567,637.98</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wages and Interprogram Charges	143,716.18	129,409.50	229,648.79	258,819.00	(29,170.21)	517,637.98
	<u>143,716.18</u>	<u>129,409.50</u>	<u>229,648.79</u>	<u>258,819.00</u>	<u>(29,170.21)</u>	<u>517,637.98</u>
TOTAL REVENU						
Other Interprogram Charges						
Cost Recovery	-	(21,625.00)	-	(38,833.00)	38,833.00	(200,000.00)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(21,625.00)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(38,833.00)</u>	<u>38,833.00</u>	<u>(200,000.00)</u>
Other Expenses						
Staff Expense 680 Staff	796.90	1,500.00	1,115.34	3,000.00	(1,884.66)	6,000.00
Memberships Prof.Dues 680 Admin	1,211.01	1,000.00	2,303.46	3,500.00	(1,196.54)	4,000.00
Staff Education/Training	2,167.33	12,000.00	6,513.25	17,000.00	(10,486.75)	29,000.00
Material&Supply	531.93	6,250.00	749,011.81	13,583.00	735,428.81	17,500.00
Legal Costs	-	250.00	-	500.00	(500.00)	1,000.00
Consultant Fees	-	500.00	-	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	2,000.00
Audit Fees	1,984.32	-	1,984.32	-	1,984.32	20,000.00
Interest & Bank Chgs 680	8,581.55	7,500.00	15,731.40	15,000.00	731.40	30,000.00
Uniform & Special Clothing Expense	1,559.14	1,500.00	1,631.18	3,000.00	(1,368.82)	6,000.00
Advertisement 680	1,480.34	3,625.00	11,825.76	7,250.00	4,575.76	14,500.00
Bad Debt Expense 680 Write Off Sul	-	-	0.30	-	0.30	-
Transfer to Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	120,000.00
	<u>18,312.52</u>	<u>34,125.00</u>	<u>790,116.82</u>	<u>63,833.00</u>	<u>726,283.82</u>	<u>250,000.00</u>
	<u>162,028.70</u>	<u>141,909.50</u>	<u>1,019,765.61</u>	<u>283,819.00</u>	<u>735,946.61</u>	<u>567,637.98</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(15,984.44)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(721,131.68)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(721,131.68)</u>	<u>-</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES



Staff Report: 32-07-23-BOD

Date: 25/08/2023

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Sheryl Flannagan
Director, Corporate Services

SUBJECT: 2024 Preliminary Budget Guidelines

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 32-07-23-BOD regarding guidelines for the development of the 2024 NVCA draft budget be approved; and

FURTHER THAT: staff be directed to prepare a draft 2024 budget for consideration by the Board of Directors.

Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report is to obtain approval from the Board of Directors regarding guidelines to be used for the preparation of the 2024 draft budget.

Background

In discussion with various municipalities, staff understand that budget development commences during the summer in order to present final budgets to Councils by year end. Given this, in 2015 the Board of Directors developed the following process for budget preparations:

- Budget guidelines to be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at the August meeting.
- Draft budget prepared for Board consideration at the September meeting.

- The draft budget is circulated to member municipalities after September meeting for a 60-day review and consultation process. Staff will present to councils if requested during this time.
- Final budget to Board for approval at the December meeting.

The 2024 budget will be presented differently than it has in the past, due to the introduction of the Category 1, 2 & 3 requirements. NVCA staff will be doing their budget in 2 parts, Category 1 & Categories 2 & 3. NVCA Staff are also completing the 2024 budget with the assumption that all municipalities will be supportive of the MOU's given that over 50% have noted their support and/or signed agreements already. If this is not the case, reserves will be used for the 2024 year to cover the potential gaps and the 2025 budget will be correct. We are not able to wait until all MOU's are completed to do our budget given the timelines municipalities have as discussed in the previous paragraph.

Issues/Analysis

Over the past number of years, the Board and staff have worked diligently to address sustainable funding as we move forward. Staff also review the challenges posed each year by certain uncontrollable costs.

Budget Assumptions and Challenges

The following assumptions will be built into the draft budget; many of which further demonstrate the challenges faced by NVCA:

- The provincial transfer payment to the NVCA through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) currently remains at \$97,307 – almost 50% less than 2018 but there is no guarantee on how much longer this will continue.
- Some costs cannot be contained at the inflation rate – materials & supplies, fuel, etc.
- Canada Pension Plan (CPP) enhancement that started in 2019 – phase in continues for the next few years. The 2024 impact is forecasted to be an additional \$20,000. Other employment costs like WSIB, EI, OMERS, etc. we also have no control over their increases and are forecasting an additional \$60,000 in costs.
- Benefits & Insurance – The NVCA is part of the Conservation Ontario group with approximately 29 other CAs to obtain the best prices. The forecast for 2024 is an increase of 6.5% in September 2023.

- As per a Board resolution, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Ontario average from June 2022 to May 2023 is what is used to calculate cost of living increases and is just over \$206,000 for 2024.
- Software Support – the NVCA uses several software programs to ensure we are being efficient and providing excellent service (accounting software for example). However, these programs tend to have 10-15% increases in their annual subscription fees.
- The board direction to replenish reserves to 25 to 30% of the operational budget.
- Wages – As with any not-for-profit organization, wages are the largest expenditure. The NVCA continues to struggle with having adequate staffing to meet legislated timelines. The NVCA has hired an additional Engineering Technologist to assist with the backlog which does have an approximate \$90,000 impact on the 2024 budget.

Based on the above information, staff are anticipating an increase of over \$400,000 of uncontrollable costs. Staff are working very hard preparing for the 2024 budget. After the first draft of the budget, the levy increase request was sitting at approximately \$500,000 and staff knew that was not reasonable as the NVCA understands that it is important to increase our service delivery with as little impact to our member municipalities as possible in 2024. Staff have reviewed revenues and looked at controllable expenditures and anticipate being able to deal with close to 50% of the \$400,000 and almost 60% of the initial \$500,000 need.

After much review and many drafts, staff are requesting that the draft budget be developed based on an approximately \$200,000 increase to general levy. Municipal general levy, not including Asset Levy, currently stands at \$2,791,642 for 2023.

For that \$200,000, staff are anticipating that approximately \$3,000 will be towards a Category 3 levy increase and that \$197,000 will be towards Category 1.

Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

The **Conservation Authorities Act** (CAA) addresses NVCA's ability to raise funds. Starting in 2018, the NVCA has undertaken separating its annual operating (general levy) and capital (asset levy) programs.

Section 24, 25, 26, and 27 of the CAA, deals with apportionment of costs for administration, maintenance, and capital expenditures, which permits the NVCA to

work with municipalities to raise funds for both operating and capital (and benefitting) expenses through different budget requests. Special apportionment arrangements for capital (benefitting) projects, surveys and studies will be based on the municipal CVA apportionment. If special projects are carried out over several municipalities, such as new flood plain mapping, apportionment can be assessed to each municipality on a CVA basis.

Impact on Authority Finances

Staff recommend that the 2024 draft budget be based on addressing the above guidelines and parameters for further board consideration.

Climate Change Implications

There are no climate change implications related to this report.

Reviewed by:
Original Signed by
Sheryl Flannagan
Director, Corporate Services

Approved for submission by:
Original Signed by
Doug Hevenor
Chief Administrative Officer



Staff Report: 33-07-23-BOD
Date: 25/08/2023
To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
From: Sheryl Flannagan
Director, Corporate Services

SUBJECT: NVCA Asset Management Plan

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: the updated NVCA Asset Management Plan be approved.

Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report is to request the Board of Directors' approval of the updated Asset Management Plan.

Background

Recommendation 13 of the ***Service Delivery and Operational Review, 2014*** recommended the completion of an Asset Management Plan, as follows:

"complete a best practices review with the assistance of a seconded financial expert of Asset Management Programs in place in Member Municipalities and CA's; prepare a report for the Finance & Administration Standing (or Ad Hoc) Committee on next steps for NVCA."

The NVCA completed a plan in 2016 for implementation in 2017.

Issues/Analysis

The development of an asset management plan was an essential part of NVCA's ongoing liability and fiscal responsibility framework, as it guides the purchase, use, maintenance, and disposal of every asset NVCA needs in order to conduct business and reduce the NVCA's liability. The goal of every capital asset management plan is to define the use of assets in order to streamline productivity and delivery with minimal loss of capital.

As a starting point, staff reviewed information gathered to comply with the new PSAB standards in 2009. Due to changes to **Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB)** standards that came into effect in 2009, Conservation Authorities are required to report on their tangible capital assets in their annual, audited Financial Statements. Under the new standards, the full cost of acquisition or construction of an asset is no longer recognized as expenditure in the year in which it occurs. Instead, the cost of the asset is spread over the asset's estimated useful life as an amortization expense.

The information required to be PSAB compliant at the end of 2009 took into account historical costs (or a reasonable estimate where necessary), annual amortization, accumulated amortization and the resultant current net book value of assets.

An Asset Management Plan, on the other hand, takes the PSAB information and addresses the life expectancy based on actual asset condition, expected rates of deterioration, future required service levels, and estimated future replacement costs.

As a result of staffs' review, an excel spreadsheet was produced which tracks over 450 current assets. Since the implementation of the plan in 2016, staff have created an online database to improve asset management practices at the NVCA going forward.

As of the end of 2022, the NVCA holds a current book value of \$8,682,506 (down from \$8,712,545 at end of 2021) of assets as can be seen on page 5 of the Asset Management Plan as of December 31st, 2022. NVCA's infrastructure is aging (average 73% amortized) while demand for better public services is growing in response to higher standards of safety, health, environmental protection, and growth.

The Asset Management Plan identifies liability situations and supports NVCA's budgeting, planning, and forecasting processes. This will continue to bring efficiencies in the budgeting process; improve collaboration between user groups and enhance data quality and reliability. This Plan seeks to identify NVCA assets, what condition they are in, and what the anticipated needs are to maintain our infrastructure as we move forward. It also addresses estimates regarding future

needs both from the perspective of preserving existing infrastructure and also anticipated future new asset acquisitions and capacity enhancements.

The Asset Management Plan was coordinated with 4 departments of the Authority; as each department is accountable for the assets it controls.

A register of current assets was given to each department. A determination was made of which assets need to be managed and/or replaced based on a 10-year cycle.

The Plan is divided into subsections for each of the types of assets that the NVCA holds. At the end of each section are the financial implications for the next 10 years to maintain, repair and/or replace the current assets. While new assets are mentioned throughout the Plan, it does not address the need for new assets or the financial implications of those.

With the new *Conservation Authorities Act* changes, staff have also identified all of the assets as either a category 1 or 3 (there are no category 2 assets) and those are part of the financial implications of each section in the plan.

Staff update the plan each year. It considers the ability to defer some projects depending on the need or the equipment lasting longer than anticipated.

Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

Municipalities are required to complete asset management plans; Conservation Authorities are not. However, to address best practices, CAs are moving toward the development of Asset Management Plans as well as discussing 10-year capital projections as part of the budget process with member municipalities. The NVCA was one of the first CAs to complete an asset plan.

Impact on Authority Finances

For category 1 items, to achieve maintenance of assets for the next ten years, \$151,515 per year is required. Staff then looked at some minor capital maintenance which is addressed annually through the operational budget to reduce the actual requirement down to \$139,105. As well, some items have been deferred from 2023 to 2024 and due to that money collected in 2023 the total amount needed is brought down to \$131,675.

For category 3 items, to achieve maintenance of assets for the next ten years, \$24,204 per year is required. Some items have been deferred from 2023 to 2024 and due to money collected in 2023 the total amount needed is \$21,081.50.

This is the first year that the budget will be broken down between categories 1, 2, & 3 and the asset management plan numbers will be included in the budget as per this plan.

Climate Change Implications

There are no climate change implications related to this report.

Reviewed by:
Original Signed by
Sheryl Flannagan
Director, Corporate Services

Approved for submission by:
Original Signed by
Doug Hevenor
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

1. 2024 Updated Asset Management Plan



Asset Management Plan

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Date Approved: August 2016

Date of last Revision: August 2023

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Introduction

Conservation Authorities are responsible for the management of a diverse range of capital assets. In addition to significant holdings of land, the photos below illustrate some of the major classes of tangible capital assets (TCA) that support basic authority services related to conservation, restoration, development, and management of natural resources.

This plan will explain and determine how the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) will move forward in managing these assets.



Background - Asset management at NVCA

Municipalities are required to complete asset management plans; however, Conservation Authorities are not. Nevertheless, through the service delivery and operational review, completed in 2014, recommendation #13 stated that the NVCA should complete an asset management plan. The NVCA saw the importance of an asset management plan and moved forward. However, as this was done in house it is a high-level document.

NVCA's infrastructure is aging while demand for better public services is growing in response to higher standards of safety, health, environmental protection, and growth.

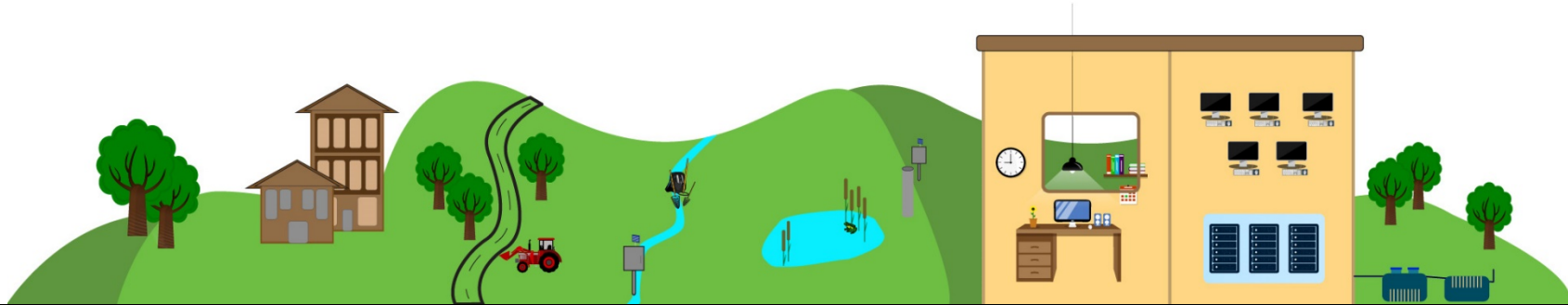
Due to changes to **Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB)** standards that came into effect in 2009, Conservation Authorities are required to report on their tangible capital assets in their audited Financial Statements.

Under the new standards, the full cost of acquisition or construction of an asset is no longer recognized as expenditure in the year in which it occurs. Instead, the cost of the asset is spread over the asset's estimated useful life as amortization expense.

In order to comply with the new standards in 2009, NVCA gathered information on the assets they owned, and created an excel spreadsheet to track current assets and assets to be purchased in subsequent years. The NVCA now has a database that provides a foundation for improving asset management practices at the NVCA.

The information required to be PSAB compliant at the end of 2009 investigated previous year's assets. It took into account historical costs (or reasonable estimate where necessary), annual amortization, accumulated amortization, and the resultant current net book value of assets. The Asset Management Plan on the other hand, takes the PSAB information and looks forward introducing life expectancy based on actual asset condition, expected rates of deterioration, future required service levels, and estimated future replacement costs.

Tangible Capital Assets as at December 31, 2022



Amortization	Land	Buildings	Large Equipment/ Vehicles	Small Equipment	Structures	Furniture/ Fixtures	Computers	Utility	Total
Cost	\$6,499,787	\$1,978,239	\$483,362	\$338,218	\$3,063,418	\$267,016	\$252,868	\$642,149	\$13,525,057
Accumulated Amortization		\$923,908	\$381,975	\$208,580	\$2,348,717	\$239,933	\$165,939	\$573,499	\$4,842,551
Net Book Value	\$6,499,787	\$1,054,331	\$101,387	\$129,638	\$714,701	\$27,083	\$86,929	\$68,650	\$8,682,506
Amortized %		47%	79%	62%	77%	90%	66%	89%	

Tangible Capital Assets are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization.

Cost includes all costs directly attributable to acquisition or construction of tangible capital assets.

Contributed tangible assets are recorded at fair value at the time of the donation, with a corresponding amount recorded as revenue.

Amortization is recorded on a straight-line or percentage declining basis over the estimated life of the tangible capital asset as follows:

- Buildings:** 50-year straight-line
- Large Equipment/Vehicles:** 25% declining
- Computers:** 5-year straight-line
- Small Equipment:** 20% declining
- Utility:** 15-year straight-line
- Furniture/Fixture:** 10-year straight-line
- Structures:** 50-year straight-line

Capitalization Threshold

Theoretically, any item that meets the definition and recognition criteria would be accounted for as a tangible capital asset. In practical terms, NVCA has established capitalization thresholds or minimum amounts that expenditures must exceed before they are capitalized. Items not meeting that threshold are recorded as expenses in that period.

The development of a capital asset management plan was an essential part of NVCA's ongoing liability and fiscal responsibility framework, as it guides the purchase, use, maintenance, and disposal of every asset NVCA needs in order to conduct business and reduce the NVCA's liability. The goal of every capital asset management plan is to define the use of assets to streamline productivity and delivery with minimal loss of capital.

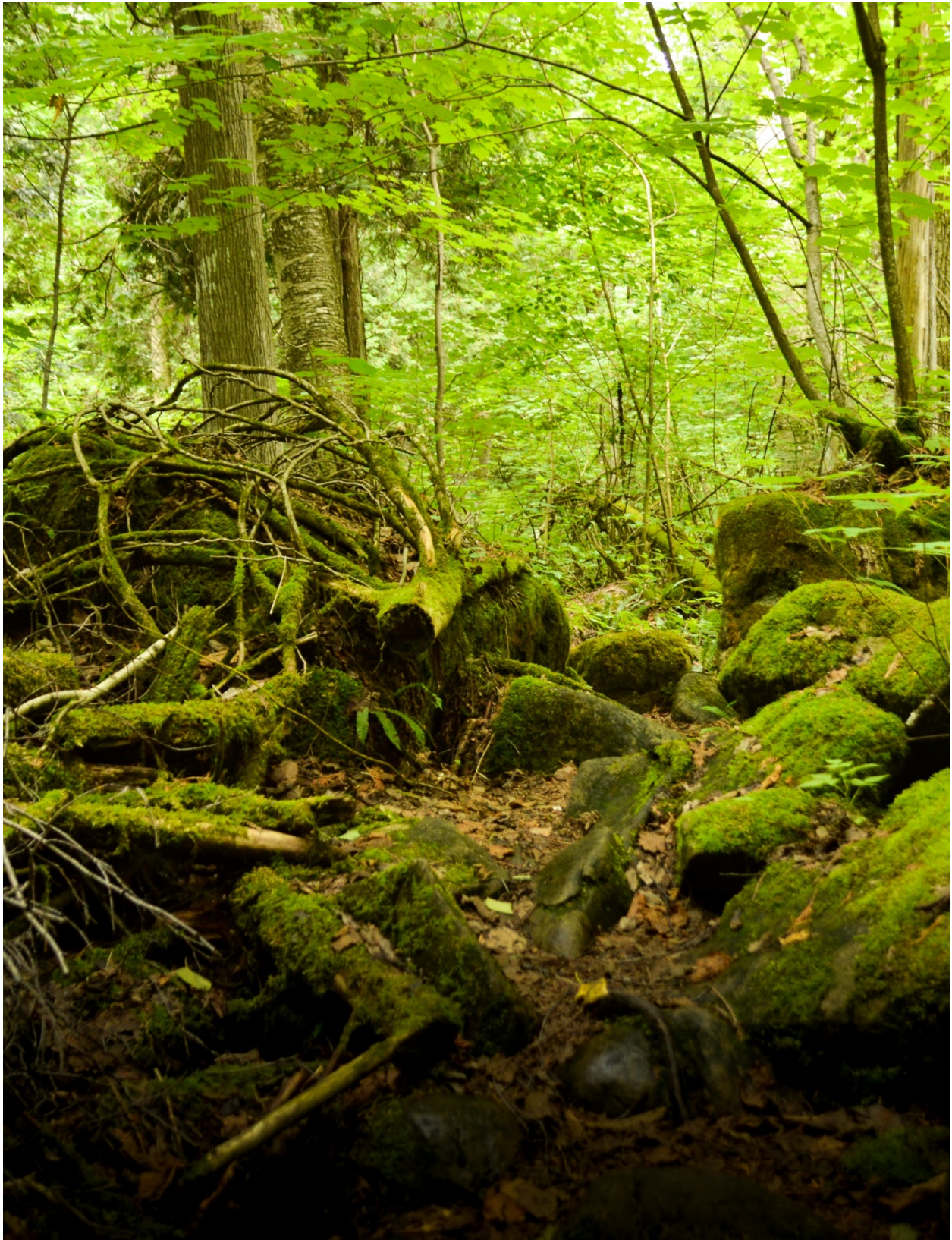
The capital asset management plan will identify liability situations and support NVCA's budgeting, planning, and forecasting processes which will bring benefits in the budgeting process, improving collaboration between user groups, and enhancing data quality and reliability.

This plan seeks to identify what we have, what condition it is in, and what the anticipated needs are to maintain our infrastructure as we move forward. It will also discuss estimates regarding future needs both from the perspective of preserving existing infrastructure and anticipated future new asset acquisitions and capacity enhancements.

The capital asset management plan was coordinated with departments of the Authority. Each department is accountable for the assets it controls.

A register of current assets was given to each department. A determination was made of which assets need to be managed and/or replaced based on a 10-year cycle.

The NVCA has also categorized assets in either category 1, 2 or 3 as per the updates to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and these updates are reflected as part of the included information.



NVCA Lands

Since 1960, the NVCA has secured over 13,000 acres of land including: environmentally significant areas (wetlands, woodlands), flood susceptible lands and day use park lands for passive recreation and outdoor education.

The mandate of the NVCA under Section 20 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* is "to establish and undertake, in the area under which it has jurisdiction, a program designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals".

The risks associated with not maintaining NVCA lands include:

- Disruption of services
- Increased maintenance and repair costs
- Health and safety concern for staff and public
- Liability concern

All lands are a Category 1 asset.

Financial Implications

Through PSAB standards, land is not eligible to be amortized as the value of the land does not decrease in value with use. Therefore, the purchase price (or value of land on day of donation) is the current day value in accounting standards.

Despite this, land ownership carries a high risk if safety related repairs are not addressed. This includes such items as signs, parking lots, trails, hazard tree maintenance, etc. This can generally be done through annual operational budgets.



Buildings

NVCA buildings are only 47% amortized, which shows that they are relatively newer and do not require major replacement in the next 10 years. However, the John Hix Administration Building and the John L. Jose Environmental Learning Centre will require some improvements in the next 10 years, which at this time are estimated to be completed via the operational budget.

The risks associated with not upgrading the offices include:

- Disruption of services
- Increased maintenance and repair costs
- Health and safety concern for staff and public

All buildings are a Category 1 asset.

Financial Implications

The financial implications (estimated cost per year for the strategy described) are as follows:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,000	\$ -	\$ -

2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	Total
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$9,000

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$900 per year over the next 10 years excluding inflation.



Large Equipment & Vehicles

The NVCA owns and maintains a small fleet of vehicles to enable our work programs.

Five vehicles are provided for general staff use to attend meetings, carry out site inspections and/or investigations and field work including, monitoring surface water, groundwater, invasive species and wetlands monitoring.

Further, there are six trucks in the fleet. Two trucks are specifically for the monitoring and stewardship programs due to the nature of the larger equipment they need to mobilize. The remaining trucks are primarily used for the Lands department to do maintenance around the NVCA's conservation lands (plowing, sanding, towing, etc.).

As well, the NVCA has a number of large equipment including but not limited to tractor, trailers, wood splitter, mower, snowmobile, snow blower/plow and a gator utility vehicle. This equipment is important in the maintenance and upkeep of our lands, specifically the Tiffin Centre where the majority of our programs take place.

With the management of twelve public Conservation Areas, NVCA makes steady use of large equipment in its inventory for everyday maintenance work.

Our extensive trail systems are maintained with the same

equipment as well as utility vehicles and chainsaws for our staff to complete trail maintenance and hazard tree work.

Our hazard trees are cut and split into firewood to fuel our woodstoves/fireplaces within the Tiffin Centre and the maple syrup evaporator.

The risks associated with not replacing large equipment/vehicles include:

- High maintenance and repair costs
- Health and safety concern for staff and public
- Liability concern
- Disruption of service to not only staff but residents and visitors
- Disruption of work/contract to staff and contractors; increased costs

The NVCA's fleet of vehicles and large equipment is aging and considered to be in fair condition and 79% amortized. Therefore, the vehicles/equipment is in fair condition and therefore may be subject to higher maintenance costs as they get closer to replacement.

The majority of equipment is a Category 1 asset but there are a few Category 3 items. The separation for financial implications is next.

Financial Implications

Category 1

The financial implications (estimated cost per year for the strategy described) are as follows:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
\$176,400	\$168,700	\$61,000	\$115,000	\$135,000

2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	Total
\$72,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,500	\$ -	\$729,600

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$72,960 per year over the next 10 years excluding inflation.

Category 3

The financial implications (estimated cost per year for the strategy described) are as follows:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
\$ -	\$ -	\$5,500	\$ -	\$ -

2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	Total
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$5,500

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$550 per year over the next 10 years excluding inflation.



Information Technology Infrastructure

The NVCA has a heavy operational dependency on Information Technology (IT), including Wide and Local Area Networks (WAN's and LAN's), database servers, intranet, internet and e-mail. The potential loss of operational control of essential services and impact upon stakeholders (e.g., clients or personnel – any person or organization with a *stake* in NVCA), that may occur in the event of an interruption in information technology services necessitates the need for continued preparation, implementation and maintenance.

NVCA's IT suite of software tools (including Virtual Machines, Veeam, and Security platforms) maintains the high availability IT network for its day to day operations. NVCA is currently running 13 virtual servers running the following applications: NVCA

IIS Applications, MS Exchange, MS SQL Server, Data Centre File Servers, Veeam Backup and Replication, Active Directory, Domain Controllers, Sage 300 ERP. All of these servers are critical to host the applications for the day-to-day operations of the Authority and play a vital role in key program areas such as flood forecasting and warning, the planning/development review process, and administration.

The Authority's core servers and storage area network are in good condition while the remainder of its network infrastructure is considered to be in fair condition and is at 66% amortized.

All Information Management Infrastructure items are a Category 1 asset.

Network Infrastructure Replacement Initiative

In order to maintain the high availability of NVCA's infrastructure, critical components must be replaced within the predicted lifespan of the hardware. The initiative will see the network infrastructure reviewed annually and a maintenance schedule to ensure the Authority is on pace to meet the needs of its users and clients. The set schedule of replacement will ensure a continually sustainable work environment that is free from disruption and failure.

The risks associated with not renewing workstations include:

- Unplanned downtime leading to disruption of Authority business;
- Unplanned expenses related to unexpected server, switch and storage renewal;
- Loss of data;
- Increased negative perception of technology due to aging infrastructure.

Server Room Maintenance Initiative

In order to maintain the business continuity of our network infrastructure and communication systems the maintenance and repairs of the server room and on-site back-up location need to be reviewed on an annual basis. The maintenance and repairs include the following:

- Cooling system renewal for server room in main office (through the main HVAC system)
- Backup power systems renewal for both server room and the Jose Building

When server rooms are not maintained correctly, they present risks related to:

- Early failure of equipment due to inadequate cooling
- Disruption of service or loss of data due to power failures for power conditioning

The maintenance of these systems will ensure the longevity of the hardware and ensure sustainability and high tolerance

Workstation Replacement Initiative

The Authority has recognized a need to budget the replacement of workstations in order to maintain business continuity. The initiative will see the renewal of workstations actively planned and executed on an annual basis. The set schedule of renewal will ensure a continually sustainable work environment that is free from disruption and failure. The risks associated with not renewing workstations include:

- Unplanned for downtime leading to disruption of Authority business;
- Unplanned expenses related to unexpected computer renewal;
- Loss of data;

- Increased negative perception of technology due to aging infrastructure.

Workstations have been budgeted for a five-year replacement cycle.

The workstations required by users at the Authority are dictated by their software and hardware requirements. Several resource intensive client-side applications are in use at the Authority are as follows: ESRI ArcGIS Suite of Software, Graphic software and Adobe InDesign. Users whose primary job function is the intensive use of the above-mentioned products are referred to as "Technical Workstation Usage". Staff members who use the software on a periodic basis are referred to as "Business Standard Usage". The remaining staff is

considered to be “Structure Task Usage” and do not use resource intensive client-side applications and predominately rely on server-based applications.

Tiered System based on Software requirements (with examples of staff types)

- Technical Workstation Usage
 - ArcGIS Power Users
 - Graphic Design Users
 - Database and Application developer
- Business Standard Usage
 - ArcView Users
 - Database/Spreadsheet
- Structure Task Usage
 - Remaining staff

Technical Workstation Usage Replacement: Users will receive workstations that are considered to be extended core machines, those which have additional CPU's, RAM and dedicated graphic memory.

Business Standard Usage Replacement: Users will receive workstations that are considered to be extended core machines, those which have additional CPU's and RAM.

Structure Task Usage Replacement: Users will receive Thin Client machines managed on the Server.

Workstations coming out of full-time staff use will be set aside for students or employment programs.

Financial Implications

The financial implications (estimated cost per year for the strategy described) are as follows:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
\$37,800	\$46,900	\$50,300	\$50,300	\$15,000

2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	Total
\$39,000	\$34,400	\$29,000	\$5,600	\$-	\$308,300

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$30,830 per year over the next 10 years excluding inflation.



Small Equipment

Our equipment inventory includes but not limited to, picnic tables, wood stoves and appliances used for the operation of our buildings and conservation areas as well as specific monitoring and flood program equipment.

The amortization rate for NVCA's inventory of machinery and equipment is at 62% and NVCA's inventory of equipment is considered to be in fair condition.

Small equipment is a mix of Category 1 and 3 and the financial impacts are next.

Monitoring Equipment

NVCA's monitoring programs examines the biological components of the watershed and includes fisheries, wildlife, wetland and terrestrial monitoring. The monitoring program provides important information used by the NVCA, and many watershed stakeholders including municipalities and other government agencies, developers, consultants, academia, ENGO's and residents.

Overall watershed health is evaluated as well as assessment of important indicators and components of the watershed. The data and information collected provide point-in-time information and identifies trends and change over time in watershed health.

The risks associated with not replacing equipment include:

- High maintenance and repair costs;
- Health and safety concern for staff and public;
- Liability concern;
- Disruption of service to residents and visitors;
- Disruption of work/contract to staff and contractors; increased costs

The work we do not only informs the NVCA but also informs federal and provincial programs. The information collected through some of the monitoring programs is submitted to provincial and federal databases in accordance with agreements, collection permits and licenses.

In order to carry out the various monitoring programs, a variety of equipment is necessary. This equipment includes highly specialized items.

NVCA's inventory of monitoring equipment is considered to be in fair condition.

There are many risks associated with a discontinuous monitoring program created by breaks in monitoring including:

- Inability to fulfill agreements associated with federal and provincial monitoring programs,
- Seriously disrupt continuous monitoring program which enables trend analysis to be conducted,
- Inability to assess relationship of change to land use and climate change impacts,
- Create gap in data, impacting system analysis and reliability of data to make decisions,
- Fragment data contributing to NVCA programs including watershed planning and plan review,
- Impact consistency, reliability and knowledge that is very important in maintaining and improving upon the NVCA's expertise regarding the health and management of our watersheds.

Flood Monitoring Equipment

The current network monitors all aspects of the hydrologic system and environmental parameters including surface water levels and flow in creeks, base flow measurements, precipitation, barometric pressure, air temperature, water temperature and snow accumulation.

NVCA operates 8 stream gauge stations located across our watershed. These gauges provide current information on flood conditions, low flow, and base flows. The actual type of measuring & recording equipment varies between stations but all record water level (stage) and converted to flow (discharge) using rating curves.

NVCA operates 13 weather and stream gauges located across our watershed. Many of these stations provide real-time information on the amount of precipitation (rain and/or snow) falling during an

event. The majority of the gauges are tipping bucket rain gauges that accurately record rainfall between April and November. To measure total precipitation (including snow) we operate a weighing type gauge (Geonor).

To complement the rain and stream water level & flow data, NVCA monitors temperature at some of the weather and stream gauges.

The focus of the flood monitoring network has been to monitor and record high flow events as they pass through the NVCA's watershed. This information assists with flood forecasting and warning operations.

Hydrologic information can be used to generate an understanding of low flow and drought conditions, groundwater budgets, aquatic studies and climate change.

The risks associated with not replacing equipment include:

- Unreliable or lost data
- Disruption of service
- Increased maintenance and repair costs
- Health and safety concern for staff and public
- Liability concern

Financial Implications

Category 1

The financial implications (estimated cost per year for the strategy described) are as follows:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
\$69,000	\$23,000	\$21,700	\$41,000	\$27,400

2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	Total
\$6,000	\$12,000	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$ -	\$217,600

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$21,760 per year over the next 10 years excluding inflation.

Category 3

The financial implications (estimated cost per year for the strategy described) are as follows:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
\$50,970	\$15,500	\$27,000	\$30,000	\$30,000

2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	Total
\$18,100	\$27,170	\$8,300	\$2,000	\$8,500	\$217,540

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$21,754 per year over the next 10 years excluding inflation.



Utilities

The NVCA utilities are the utilities related to the buildings and lands that we own. These include items like the septic systems, security system, generator backup, parking lots, lighting, campgrounds, etc.

- Health and safety concern for staff and public
- Liability concern
- Disruption of service to residents and visitors

The NVCA's utilities are considered to be in fair to poor condition at 89% amortized.

The majority of the utility assets are Category 1 assets; however, a few are Category 3 related to our campgrounds. The financial impacts are next.

The risks associated with not replacing equipment include:

- High maintenance/repair costs

Financial Implications

Category 1

The financial implications (estimated cost per year for the strategy described) are as follows:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
\$6,500	\$14,000	\$9,000	\$4,000	\$ -

2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	Total
\$4,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$37,500

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$3,750 per year over the next 10 years excluding inflation.

Category 3

The financial implications (estimated cost per year for the strategy described) are as follows:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
\$ -	\$6,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	Total
\$1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$7,500

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$750 per year over the next 10 years excluding inflation.



Furniture & Fixtures

The NVCA's furniture and fixtures are considered to be in fair to poor condition and are currently amortized at 90%. The NVCA has a small budget in the operational budget to replace a few furniture items yearly so that is not reflected in the numbers below.

- Health and safety concern for staff and public
- Liability concern
- Disruption of service to residents and visitors

The risks associated with not repairing/replacing furniture & fixtures include:

- High maintenance and repair costs

The majority of the furniture assets are Category 1 assets; however, a few are Category 3 related to our events and education. The financial impacts are next.

Financial Implications

Category 1

The financial implications (estimated cost per year for the strategy described) are as follows:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
\$5,000	\$3,500	\$ -	\$5,000	\$ -

2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	Total
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$13,500

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$1,350 per year over the next 10 years excluding inflation.

Category 3

The financial implications (estimated cost per year for the strategy described) are as follows:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
\$1,000	\$ -	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$ -

2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	Total
\$ -	\$ -	\$3,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$11,500

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$1,150 per year over the next 10 years excluding inflation.



Structures

The NVCA owns and/or maintains 8 flood control structures/dams and 28 groundwater monitoring wells.

The dams are a part of the flood management program as they help to control the flow of water. Each dam ranges in replacement cost from just over \$900,000 to over \$1,100,000. Therefore, it is crucial to perform regular maintenance to ensure that the dams stay useful over the course of their 50–75-year life.

The wells that the NVCA owns have a very long life with little to no maintenance costs. They are not scheduled to have a budgetary impact until 2064.

The NVCA’s structures are considered to be in fair condition and at 77% amortized. Their fair condition will be maintained if the maintenance schedule with the below financial implications is followed.

The risks associated with not maintaining the structures include:

- High maintenance and repair costs
- Health and safety concern for staff and public
- Liability concern
- Disruption of service to residents and visitors

All Structures items are a Category 1 asset.

Financial Implication

The financial implications (estimated cost per year for the strategy described) are as follows:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
\$150,000	\$34,650	\$15,000	\$ -	\$ -

2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	Total
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$199,650

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$19,965 per year over the next 10 years excluding inflation.



Conclusion

As mentioned earlier, the development of this plan was an essential part of NVCA's ongoing liability and fiscal responsibility. Timely maintenance, repair and replacement of assets is necessary to ensure our liability and costs are reduced.

Category 1

To plan for the next ten years a total of \$1,515,150 or \$151,515 per year is required to adequately maintain our category 1 infrastructure. Staff have reviewed the ability to use operational funds and over the next 10 years is able to contribute \$124,100 or \$12,410 per year towards assets. As well, due to some items being deferred from 2023 to 2024, there is a further reduction due to money collected in 2023 and not needed until 2025 in the amount of \$74,300 or \$7,430 per year.

This brings the amount needed every year to \$131,675. This increase is due to a few factors. The first is inflation and the cost of items. For example, we used to be able to purchase a pickup truck for around \$40,000 and that cost has now increased to closer to \$70,000. Also, there were some additions related to our structures/dams as dam safety reviews as well as some repair work is required soon.

Category 3

To plan for the next ten years a total of \$242,040 or \$24,204 per year is required to adequately maintain our category 3 infrastructure. Some items have been deferred from 2023 to 2024, therefore bringing a reduction of \$31,225 or \$3,122.50 per year for a total of \$21,081.50 per year.

Staff continue to find efficiencies with assets and extending their life, along with the ability to find savings wherever possible when purchasing.

It is recognized that this Asset Management Plan is a "high level" document and has been completed without the benefit of a qualified asset management staff or consultant. In addition, the assessment of risks, outlined in Appendix 1 has been completed without the benefit of an operational risk expert.




Appendix 1

Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic	
No Injuries/First Aid No Environmental Damage <\$1,000 damage	Some First Aid required Low Environmental Damage <\$10,000 damage	External Medical Medium Environmental Damage < \$100,000 damage	Extensive injuries High Environmental Damage <<\$1,000,000	Death or Major Injuries Toxic Environmental Damage >\$1,000,000	Rate Each as: Low Risk Moderate Risk High Risk Critical Risk
Furniture/Fixtures		Lands			Rare Only in exceptional circumstances (0.01%)
Computers					Unlikely/Occasional Might occur at some time (1-9%)
	Large Equipment/Vehicles Small Equipment				Moderate (10%)
		Utilities			Likely (20%)
			Buildings		Probable (50%)
				Structures	Almost Certain Expected in normal circumstances (100%)



Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority

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If you require this document in an alternative format,
please contact us at 705-424-1479.



Staff Report: 34-07-23-BOD

Date: 25/08/2023

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Maria Leung
Senior Communications Specialist

SUBJECT: Communications Report – June 10, 2023 – August 11, 2023

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 34-07-23-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – June 10, 2023 – August 11, 2023, be received.

Purpose of the Staff Report

This staff report presents a summary of NVCA media coverage and public outreach during the period of June 10, 2023 – August 11, 2023.

The following outlines the communications and media coverage during the period.

1. Flood Messages

Watershed Condition Statement: Water Safety, issued on July 21, 2023

There was no media coverage of this statement.

Watershed Condition Statement: Water Safety, issued on July 26, 2023

Title	Media Outlet	Date
Conservation Authority warns of possible flooding in low-lying areas	Collingwood Today	July 26, 2023

Title	Media Outlet	Date
Conservation Authority warns of possible flooding in low-lying areas	Orillia Matters	July 26, 2023
Heavy rain overnight could cause floods in low-lying areas: Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority issues advisory	Barrie Advance	July 27, 2023

2. Media coverage of NVCA news releases

NVCA Stewardship Manager, Fred Dobbs, receives distinguished award from the Natural Channels Initiative, issued on June 29, 2023

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
Biologist restores streams, spends downtime fishing in them	Collingwood Today	June 12, 2023	Fred Dobbs, Manager, Stewardship Services
Biologist restores streams, spends downtime fishing in them	Innisfil Today	June 12, 2023	Fred Dobbs, Manager, Stewardship Services
Biologist restores streams, spends downtime fishing in them	Orillia Matters	June 12, 2023	Fred Dobbs, Manager, Stewardship Services
NVCA Stewardship Manager, Fred Dobbs, receives award from Natural Channels initiative	Alliston Herald	June 29, 2023	Fred Dobbs, Manager, Stewardship Services
NVCA manager recognized for conservation efforts	Barrie Today	July 29, 2023	Fred Dobbs, Manager, Stewardship Services

All other media releases can be found on [NVCA website under "News."](#)

3. Other Media Coverage

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
NVCA urges caution around water with more rain on the way	Barrie Today	June 14, 2023	

Communications Report – June 10, 2023 – August 11, 2023
 Staff Report No. 34-07-23-BOD

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
NVCA urges caution around water with more rain on the way	Collingwood Today	June 14, 2023	
Making plans for the weekend? Here are 5 events happening in Simcoe County (June 17-18)	Barrie Advance	June 16, 2023	Fred Dobbs, Manager, Stewardship Services
NVCA Board gets update on fee review, forestry programs	Barrie Today	June 26, 2023	CAO Hevenor Rick Grillmayer, Manager, Forestry
NVCA looking for volunteers to help with riverbank restoration	New Tecumseth Times	June 29, 2023	
Committee approves 4-year agreement with NVCA	Collingwood Today	July 14, 2023	CAO Hevenor
You can learn a lot of things from the flowers, this map will help	Collingwood Today	July 22, 2023	Naomi Saunders, Manager, Environmental Education
Sidelaunch Days Harbourfront Festival Returns to Collingwood	Mycollingwood.ca	July 23, 2023	
'Pivotal': Collingwood arts centre project moves into Phase 3	Collingwood Today	July 26, 2023	
Volunteers use retired Christmas trees to make creek curvy again	Collingwood Today	July 29, 2023	
Volunteers use retired Christmas trees to make creek curvy again	Orillia Matters	July 29, 2023	

DISCLAIMER: NVCA does not allege that the information provided in the media articles depicts accurate statements or testimonies on behalf of any individual named, and is not responsible for any misinterpretation of information or misquoted statement(s).

2. Other Communication/Media Outreach

- Ongoing – social media outreach (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn)

3. Presentations/Displays/Key Events by NVCA staff

- June 17, 2023 – Fred Dobbs, Manager, Stewardship Services hosted a fly fishing workshop in partnership with Cabela’s Barrie.
- June and July, 2023 – Volunteer river restoration events on Sheldon Creek and Upper Nottawasaga River
- July 18 – 20, 2023 – River Bends on the Mend, a river restoration project on Willow Creek
- July 26, 2023 – Information session and open house regarding the Mad River Enhancement Program
- July 31 – August 4, 2023 – Camp Tiffin and the Rotary Club of Barrie welcomed newcomers to Canada

Issues/Analysis

All media coverage and public outreach/communications were positive with regard to NVCA work and programs.

There are no issues of concern at this time.

Impact on Authority Finances

Staff time to prepare this report is addressed in the 2023 budget.

Climate Change Implications

This staff report does not result in an increase in green house gases, temperature or precipitation exposure.

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by

Sheryl Flannagan

Director, Corporate Services

Approved for submission by:

Original Signed by

Doug Hevenor

Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment 1 – Media Clippings for the period

Biologist restores streams, spends downtime fishing in them

NVCA stewardship manager, Fred Dobbs, will lead a workshop at Bass Pro Shops Cabela's this weekend called 'learn to fly-fish like a biologist'

June 12, 2023 by Susan Jose

Collingwood Today



Fred Dobbs, NVCA fisheries biologist with Chinook salmon. Photo provided by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Biologist Fred Dobbs appreciates fish for their part in the eco-systems he works to restore and because he likes to spend his downtime trying to catch them for a possible dinner option.

As the manager of stewardship services for the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), Dobbs is hooked on the work of environmental restoration of the watershed's rivers, streams and habitats, which can include physically tearing down old dams and planting shrubs along riverbanks to restore their former shape, size and function.

He gets good use out of his hip waders too, since they are necessary

for his favourite hobby: fly-fishing. It may seem like a yin-yang situation, but Dobbs said both his hobby and his work help him appreciate and respect eco-systems.

"You give a little back by coordinating habitat restoration and you get to enjoy some of the fruits of your labour. Not in terms of catching or eating fish, although once in a while, but just in terms of experiencing their natural environment," says Dobbs.

He's combining both hobby and vocation for a workshop on fly-fishing at Bass Pro Shops Cabela's Barrie this weekend.

The last time he did a similar workshop in spring, a week before trout season, Dobbs said he received overwhelmingly positive feedback. It also helps that workshops based on hobbies such as fly-fishing open up opportunities for conversations about the restoration of rivers, and volunteering for restoration projects.

"Several of the people who participated in the fly casting instruction did come out a few weeks later and started helping us planting trees," says Dobbs.

The long-time NVCA staffer has seen an increase in volunteers for restoration projects following the COVID-19 pandemic, and has speculated that the lockdowns and grounded planes helped people realize the value of what's in their backyards and the land around them.



Fred Dobbs and the stewardship team from Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority. Photo contributed by Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

“During COVID, a healthy environment was not something you travelled to on a plane but something that was important to have close to home,” says Dobbs, adding, “Reconnecting with natural areas close to home has enhanced interest in volunteering to plant trees, restore rivers and raise funds to improve local habitats.”

Home for the biologist is out in the country in Clearview Township. And he talks passionately about the abundance as well as sensitivity of fauna in the area. Dobbs explains that there are two native fish species at risk: lake sturgeon, which are considered “threatened,” and northern brook lamprey, which are of “special concern.” A third species, brook trout, is not yet designated as at risk. However, there are growing concerns about their habitat given climate change scenarios that threaten to decrease coldwater habitat area across Ontario.

While the NVCA’s Nottawasaga River Restoration Program works to improve

the populations of the aforementioned varieties, it also benefits non-native yet economically important recreational ones such as rainbow trout, chinook salmon and brown trout.

The restoration program also focuses on recreating healthy floodplains as well as stable river banks and diverse in-water habitats for fish. These restored floodplains not only improve the river and provide habitat but they also store a lot of water and reduce flooding on adjacent lands and downstream. The Minesing Wetland is a natural feature that NVCA protects, which stores huge volumes of water and greatly decreases flooding further downstream at Wasaga Beach.

Growing up north of London, Dobbs has witnessed the changing landscape in southern Ontario. However, he finds that the pace has now accelerated.

“Close to the cusp of Toronto, you really see the aggressive front of new urban development sort of heading north and vaulting over the protected Oak Ridges Moraine and landing in our watershed,” he says.

Protecting habitat is as important as always. Dobbs was involved in [decommissioning a dam](#) on Black Ash Creek at the Petun Conservation Area property in 2020 to restore a coldwater stream, which is ideal habitat for caddisflies (which purify water) and brook trout.

What was once a tepid, brown pond is now a clear, tumbling, cold stream feeding Black Ash Creek and, eventually, Georgian Bay.

Dobbs says going back to sites like that one to witness the tangible difference, healthy, functional vegetation and increased fish populations is one of the best parts of his job.

It makes him appreciate all the time he spends standing in a river, whether that's planting oaks and dogwood on a bank, or swishing a fly back and forth on the surface of a river.

To the fly-fishing uninitiated, Dobbs recommends the 1992 Robert Redford directorial, *A River Runs Through It*, just so we know that "fly casting is very sort of fun and elegant and it has its own rhythms and it's very engaging and cool." Dobbs exclaims, "It's just a lot of fun!"

The fly-fishing workshop by Fred Dobbs will be held on Saturday, June 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Bass Pro Shops Cabela's Barrie (50 Concert Way). Drop-ins are welcome.

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June 12, 2023 by Susan Jose

Innisfil Today



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NVCA urges caution around water with more rain on the way

After 24-45 mm of rain in the Nottawasaga Valley on July 13, another 25-35 mm is forecasted for the watershed this weekend

June 14, 2023

Barrie Today



The Pretty River is flowing fast and high today after days of heavy rainfall in the region. Erika Engel/CollingwoodToday

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) has sent out safety warning urging people to be cautious around watercourses as they're all higher and faster than usual because of the rain in the region.

The NVCA confirmed the watershed received 25-45 mm of rain on July 13, depending on the area, and another 25-35 mm is forecasted for the region this weekend.

"Watercourse flows are currently elevated, and the forecasted rainfall is expected to increase water levels," states a watershed condition statement issued by the NVCA on July 14. "Stream banks may be slippery and unstable, creating hazardous

conditions around our fast-flowing rivers and streams. There is the potential for localized flooding in low-lying areas, however no major flooding is anticipated at this time."

Everyone, but especially children, is urged to stay away from water during the storm and while the water levels are elevated.

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority continues to monitor river and stream conditions and will issue additional messages as conditions warrant. This Water Safety Statement will be in effect until 4:00 p.m., Monday July 17, 2023.

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**Making plans for the weekend?
Here are 5 events happening in
Simcoe County (June 17-18)**

Includes: Midhurst Soapbox Derby,
learn to fly-fish at Cabela's Barrie,
Indigenous Peoples Celebration Day,
and YetiCon

June 16, 2023 by Sara Carson

Barrie Advance



Midhurst Soapbox Derby & Classic Car Show happening June 17. - Submitted photo

**MIDHURST SOAPBOX DERBY &
CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — One of Midhurst's most popular events, the soapbox derby and car show started about a decade ago, and has quickly gathered fans across Springwater and beyond. Kids and parents are invited to build a soapbox car and take part in timed races down Doran Road. Prizes are given to the winners. A barbecue lunch will be available for purchase, provided by the [Springwater Vespra Lions Club](#).

Cost: \$10 fee for soapbox racers

Location: [Midhurst Pavilion, 41 Spence Ave., Midhurst](#)

Website: [villageofmidhurst.ca/derby](#)

CARDEN ALVAR FLORA WALK

ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW

Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Tour Carden Alvar for rare and unique Alvar flora with award-winning environmental consultant, writer, artist, photographer and naturalist, Bob Bowles. Prairie smoke (*Geum triflorum*), painted cup (*Castilleja coccinea*) and balsam ragwort (*Packera paupercula*) are just a few to mention among the more than 400 plants that flourish on Alvars. The tour finishes with a short drive to a trailhead at the Carden Alvar to see and experience a dazzling display of rare Alvar flora.

Cost: \$45

Location: [Robert L. Bowles Nature Centre, 1296 Concession Rd. 10, Ramara](#)

Website: [robertlbowlesnaturecentre.com/programs](#)

LEARN TO FLY-FISH

Saturday, June 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's fisheries biologist Fred Dobbs and Cabela's Barrie will be hosting a fly-fishing workshop.

Cost: Free

Location: [Cabela's Park Place Barrie, 50 Concert Way, Barrie](#)

Website: nvca.on.ca/events-education

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CELEBRATION DAY

Saturday, June 17 from 2 to 3 p.m.

— Join the Barrie Native Friendship Centre for teachings, face painting, and family-friendly activities. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Cost: Free

Location: [Sunnidale Park, 265 Sunnidale Rd., Barrie](#)

Website: barrienfc.ca/

YETICON: COSPLAY AND MARKET EDITION AT BLUE MOUNTAIN RESORT

Saturday, June 17 and Sunday, June 18 — A weekend geekaway at Canada's Resort Geek Con, YetiCon is a different kind of convention. Anime, comics, games and more.

ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW

Cost: \$24.31

Location: [Blue Mountain Village Conference Centre, 242 Jozo Weider Blvd., The Blue Mountains](#)

Website: yeticon.org/

NVCA board gets update on fee review, forestry programs

Between April 24 and May 17, local conservation authority says 78,000 trees were planted in seven municipalities

June 26, 2023

Barrie Today



Staff and students recently planted hundreds of trees and shrubs near Willow Creek. Photo by Carolyn Davies/Nature Conservancy of Canada

The following highlights from the June board meeting were provided by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA).

NEWS RELEASE
NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Sean-Michael Stephen, MBA, managing partner, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., conducted a presentation regarding NVCA's program rates and fees review.

The objective of this review was to make recommendations for the fees that were imposed for plan review and permitting by the authority due to

legislative changes that have occurred. These legislative changes include the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022.

All fee recommendations were made with regard for legislative authority to recover the full costs of delivering plan review and permitting services on a program basis, applicant affordability and completeness, and industry best practices and uniformity of fees.

The report recommends increasing review fees for site-specific official plan and zoning bylaw applications, minor variance, consents, NEC applications. The report also suggests maintaining existing subdivision, residential site plans and aggregate proposals. In addition, permit fees are proposed to be increased to full cost recovery levels while maintaining competitiveness with other conservation authorities. The discounted fee for agricultural permit fees that was established in 2016 should be maintained.

Presentation on NVCA's forestry program

Rick Grillmayer, manager of forestry, conducted a presentation regarding NVCA's forestry program. He outlined that NVCA is the only agency left in the watershed to offer tree-planting services, and that we have been planting trees each year since 1964.

NVCA's 2023 tree-planting season began on April 24 and was completed on May 17. All of NVCA's trees come from Somerville Seedlings in Everett, Ont. A total of 78,000 trees were planted on 19 properties in seven municipalities.

NVCA plants trees two ways: by machine and by hand. Machine planting is very cost effective and efficient. If the planting site is too steep, has too many stones, is too wet, or is too small, hand planters are sent in.

Forestry always works one year in advance. Site visits need to be completed the year before planting, before the winter.

Successful tree planting requires that the site is prepared and that the trees are tended to after planting. NVCA does this for landowners. NVCA's forestry program does survival surveys in the first, second, and fifth years after planting.

The tree species that NVCA plants are a result of decades of practice. The trees that NVCA planted this spring came from seeds that were collected up to five years ago to be grown and ready.

Permits approvals under the Conservation Authorities Act

NVCA's permit application service timelines are governed by the conservation authority liaison committee, which requires NVCA to complete a policy review within 21 days, and complete a technical review within 30 days for minor applications and 90 days for major applications.

NVCA regulations staff provided a summary of the permits issued during the period Jan. 1, 2023 to June 10, 2023. A total of 326 permits and clearances were approved by staff for this time period, with 93.5 per cent of

the permits processed within the provincial timelines.

Report on NVCA's memorandums of understanding (MOU)

Doug Hevenor, CAO of NVCA, reported that NVCA is in discussion with various CAOs from municipalities for MOUs. This report will be sent to the province's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry on July 1, 2023.

Upcoming events

Camp Tiffin

Led by NVCA's environmental educators, Camp Tiffin is an outdoor camp designed to enhance children's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our amazing planet.

Date: July 4 to Sept. 1

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation, 8195 8th Line, Utopia

Junior Leadership Camp

Camp Tiffin's Junior Leadership Program is a two-week camp for 13- to 15-year-olds, which builds valuable leadership skills and provides hands-on practical experiences.

Date: July 4 to Sept. 1

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation, 8195 8th Line, Utopia

NVCA stewardship manager Fred Dobbs receives award from Natural Channels initiative

Dobbs recognized for commitment to natural channel restoration

June 29, 2023

Alliston Herald



NVCA stewardship manager Fred Dobbs receives an award from the Natural Channel initiative. - NVCA photo

Contributed by: Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Fred Dobbs, manager of stewardship services at the [Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority \(NVCA\)](#), received an Award of Recognition at the recent [Natural Channels Systems Conference](#) — a national event held every four years.

“Over his ongoing 37-year career, Fred has worked with many conservation partners and funders to restore stream and floodplain habitat in the Nottawasaga watershed,” said Doug Hevenor, chief administrative officer of NVCA. “His personal commitment to the field almost matches the passion he brings to his work. Fred is always willing to share his knowledge with newcomers, with an infectious enthusiasm.”

While at NVCA, Dobbs co-ordinated the natural channel design for the Black Ash Creek Floodway in Collingwood, constructed floodplains on Beeton Creek in New Tecumseth, and completed multiple dam-removal projects among countless other smaller projects.

Most recently, he and his team have been working at restoring 10 kilometres of the Nottawasaga River and just completed one of southern Ontario’s largest trout stream restoration projects. They also worked on species-at-risk protection initiatives, including lake sturgeon research and brook lamprey habitat creation.

In addition to strong field skills, Dobbs and his team use existing support to develop funding applications designed to leverage additional dollars. Every dollar provided through municipal levy typically generates four dollars of external funding for projects.

“This award is a testament to the partners, funders and volunteers in the Nottawasaga Valley, as well as NVCA staff and board members, who contributed to and supported the

restoration projects,” said Dobbs. “I enjoy giving a little back to our natural environment by co-ordinating the restoration of the Nottawasaga River and its tributaries. One side benefit is that I get to enjoy fly-fishing in these beautiful watercourses.”

Dobbs received his award at the Natural Channels System Conference banquet in Guelph. The Natural Channels initiative is supported by the Canadian Water Resources Institute.

NVCA looking for volunteers to help with riverbank restoration

June 29, 2023 by Brian Lockhart

New Tecumseth Times

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) is looking for volunteers to help restore and improve local waterways.

Several events are coming up locally.

Sheldon Creek is home to many minnow and trout species. It is also an important spawning ground for Georgian Bay's trout and salmon.

Some parts of the creek are eroding, and you can help keep it cool, clean, and clear.

Members of the NVCA and volunteers will be stepping into chest waders and going into waist-deep water to anchor old Christmas trees into the streambank to prevent erosion.

There are two upcoming Sheldon Creek projects scheduled – July 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 8052 Adjala Sideroad 25, Rosemont and

July 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 4149 Concession Rd 4, Adjala-Tosorontio.

The Pine River is another local waterway with several fish species and is a spawning ground.

NVCA members and volunteers will be restoring the riverbank on two upcoming dates – July 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 628573 Side Road 15, Mansfield and July 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 628573 Side Road 15, Mansfield.

Once placed on the stream or riverbank, the Christmas trees will help trap the soil on the banks and provide a habitat for fish.

The events will include an orientation and tutorial and three hours of outdoor activity. The event will be cancelled or postponed if there is rain or extreme weather.

If you are a student, the hours you spend volunteering with the NVCA will count toward your high school volunteer hours, so remember to bring your community service volunteer form.

You must register to be a part of one of these events.

You can register by visiting the NVCA website at [www. nvca.on.ca](http://www.nvca.on.ca).

Committee approves 4-year agreement with NVCA

'We need to balance agriculture, development growth and the environment at every opportunity,' says Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority CAO

July 14, 2023 by Jessica Owen

Collingwood Today



The boardwalk on a trail at Petun Conservation Area on Blue Mountain, which is part of Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority lands. Contributed photo

Collingwood council gave initial approval this week for the town to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) to map out the next four years of conservation.

During a July 10 committee of the whole meeting, councillors reviewed the proposed new memorandum of understanding (MOU), which nails down which services the town will fund for the next four years.

"This is a rapidly changing time for populations. There is extremely high growth. We're looking at development

popping up everywhere. The watershed is growing and we have to make adjustments for that," said Doug Hevenor, chief administrative officer for the NVCA.

"We need to balance agriculture, development growth and the environment at every opportunity."

Under the Conservation Authorities Act which was revised by the province in 2021, conservation authority programs must be divided into three categories:

- Category 1 – Mandatory programs and services (also called core services, which includes permit administration, water quality monitoring, flood forecasting and warning)
- Category 2 – Municipal programs and services (includes watershed planning/reporting, regional watershed monitoring program, restoration and regeneration)
- Category 3 – Other programs and services (includes tree planting and stewardship activities)

"The Category 1 (services) are the lion's share of our budget," said Hevenor.

The MOU must be signed by all 18 municipalities within the NVCA's purview by January 2024.

Under the draft MOU, the NVCA will continue offering the programs it currently offers to the town, and will not change the services provided without first consulting with members. The agreement also requires the town

to be charged a levy for those services.

“The reality is, we’ve already started our (2024) budget process, so we need to bring these agreements into place by September at the latest,” said Hevener, noting the NVCA’s budget for 2023 is sitting at an expected \$5.7 million. He said one per cent of that budget comes from the province, while 49 per cent comes from municipal partners. Grant writing and donations make up the other 50 per cent.

“We see this as status quo moving forward,” he said.

In the staff report on the matter, town staff recommended that the town opt-in to all programs and services offered under the NVCA, continuing the status-quo approach.

“Consultation with NVCA staff indicate that changes to the regulation will not change the amount of the municipal levy, regardless of whether council opts into all the services,” noted the town’s chief administrative officer Sonya Skinner in her report to councillors.

At the end of discussion, the committee voted unanimously in favour of proceeding with a four-year memorandum of understanding with the NVCA. Mayor Yvonne Hamlin stepped out of council chambers at the time of the vote.

The decision will need to be ratified at the next regular meeting of council before going into effect.

You can learn a lot of things from the flowers, this map will help

The Tiffin Flower Map, developed from the hand-drawn sketches and notes of a Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority manager, can be used as a resource to learn about the local ecosystem and history of the land through its wildflowers

July 22, 2023 by Susan Jose

Collingwood Today



The Tiffin Flower Map, created using a hand-drawn map from Naomi Saunders and with help from Taryn Arsenault, details 19 wildflowers found at the Tiffin Centre, which is part of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority. Contributed photo

In a world where digital distractions can cause disconnection from nature, an environmental educationist seeks to foster a deeper love for the outdoors through wildflowers.

"I came up with the idea and started marking flowers on a map over 10 years ago," said Naomi Saunders, the

manager of environmental education for the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA).

Her wildflower map is hand-drawn. It marks out the locations of various flowers at the Tiffin Centre, and it evolved in the summer of 2021 with the help of one of Naomi's colleagues – a flood operations field specialist, Taryn Arsenault.

"She worked on this flower guide when taking the Environmental Technology Advanced Sampling course at Georgian College. She did the research and the flower pictures, and put the guide together, using the map," explains Saunders.

What was a rough map for personal reference has now turned into a useful aid for many, from botany enthusiasts and avid trekkers to educators engaging with Grade 3 students in their plant and soil curriculum. Additionally, the guide has become an essential tool for new programming initiatives, including a project supported by a grant from the Retired Teachers of Ontario.

One of the core aims of Saunders' work is to instil a sense of belonging and connection to nature.

She said it's author Richard Louv's phrase "nature deficit" that best describes the experience of many people today.

"We really have a deficit of nature in our lives," she said. "And if we don't get time out in nature, we don't connect with it; we don't connect with unfamiliar things, And then as we grow older, we'll not protect or love

the things we don't know. So increasingly, people don't protect nature."

The guide not only showcases the uniqueness of 19 flowers but also sheds light on their historical and cultural significance through storytelling that includes biblical references or associations with early settlers.

For example, a trout lily is so named because the leaves resemble the speckled trout fish.

"Of course, it is also important to note that all of these plants had Indigenous names before the pioneers and early settlers came over," she said.

With one example, she emphasizes the critical role of flowers in the food chain.

"Hepatica is one of the first to bloom after winters because it has hairs that grow on its stems and the leaves curl around the flower protecting it from the frost," she said. "It's one of the very first sources of food after a long winter; there are so many pollinators that are relying on these blooms. If it wasn't for pollinators, we wouldn't have most of the food, essentially."

One of the programs Naomi and her team teach is about biodiversity. They draw attention to the fact that species are being lost.

"Oftentimes, we're losing plants that we don't even yet know what their medicinal purposes are," she said. "If you have a plant that's an irritant, next to it is a plant that will cure it. The poison ivy, when it's in a naturalized area, grows next to a plant

called jewelweed aka spotted-touch-me-not, which cools the irritation from poison ivy."

With over 14 years of experience at the NVCA, Saunders' journey to becoming an environmental educationist was sparked during her time as a student at York University, where she developed a fascination for native plants through a program focused on ornamental plants. Inspired by her newfound passion, she began seeking out and learning about different plant species wherever she went.

As Saunders looks to the future, she hopes that participation numbers return to pre-pandemic levels as the numbers dropped from 14,600 kids in 2019 to 7,000 kids in 2022. She also envisions expanding the guide to include additional volumes or editions by reorganizing the content chronologically.

The Tiffin Flower Map was first published in 2022. The guide is available [online](#), and there are copies in the NVCA front office area for visitors. For more information on the Tiffin Centre, visit the website [here](#).

Sidelaunch Days Harbourfront Festival Returns to Collingwood

July 23, 2023

Mycollingwood.ca



Collingwood's harbourfront festival is back August 12-13 with a weekend full of activities celebrating the joy of being in, on, and around the waters of South Georgian Bay while commemorating the unique shipbuilding heritage of Collingwood. With free activities for all ages, Sidelaunch Days is a great family festival not to be missed.

This year's event features a mix of new activities and traditional favourites. Be sure to check out these highlights:

Launch Day Exhibit

Saturday, August 12, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Collingwood Museum, 45 St. Paul St.

Learn more about Collingwood's shipbuilding heritage through the Collingwood Museum's exhibit entitled "Launch Day". The exhibit focuses specifically on Collingwood's most photographed and cherished event - the side launch. Presented by the Collingwood Museum.

Promenade Vendor Walk

Saturday, August 12 & Sunday, August 13, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Stroll the waterfront promenade while exploring vendors featuring treats and treasures for everyone. Be sure to stop by the Town's booth featuring Collingwood's Climate Action Specialist Nicole Yardy and staff from Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, sharing information about the importance of stream health. Plus – enter to win a pair of tickets valid for a Collingwood Charters cruise! The promenade vendor walk is generously sponsored by [Devonleigh Homes](#).

Sidelaunch Days Drone Show

Saturday, August 12, 9:30 p.m., Shipyards Amphitheatre, 2 North Maple Street

Two-hundred drones will create colourful images in the sky over the harbour. The theme of the Sidelaunch Days Drone Show is Collingwood Harbour's industrial past. The Shipyards Amphitheatre is the recommended viewing location. It will be possible to view the Drone Show from anywhere along the shoreline between Harbourview Park and Heritage Drive however images created by the drones will be impacted the further east or west of the Shipyards Amphitheatre the viewer is located. Sponsored by Collingwood Downtown.

Ontario SUP Series Races

Saturday, August 12 & Sunday, August 13, Various times, Side Launch Basin

The Ontario SUP Race Series is a competitive and fun event series for

the sport of stand up paddle boarding (SUP) in Ontario. Register to compete at www.ontariosupseries.com or take in the excitement from the Promenade cheering on your favourite racers! Presented in partnership with Ontario SUP Series and BluWave SUP.

Free Kayaking and SUP Boarding

Saturday, August 12 & Sunday, August 13, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Harbourview Park, Westside Dock, Birch Street North
Give kayaking and stand up paddle boarding (SUP) a try with complimentary rentals from Little Ed's Harbourview Rentals. Presented in partnership with Little Ed's Harbourview Rentals.

Tall Ships Dockside Tours

Saturday, August 12 & Sunday, August 13, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Sidelaunch Basin
Hop aboard the TS Playfair or STV Pathfinder for a tour of the ships' upper and lower decks, meet crew members, and learn about the Brigs Youth Sail Training Program. Sponsored by Greenland International Consulting Ltd. and Urban Watershed Group Ltd.

Kites Over Collingwood

Sunday, August 13, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Millennium Park
Bring your own kite or pick up and decorate a complimentary one on site and enjoy the winds at Millennium. Or just relax and watch the professionals with their colourful array of large-scale kites soaring high above Collingwood Harbour! Sponsored by Epcor.

Queen M and Kirk Diamond in Concert

Saturday, August 12, 7:00 p.m., Shipyards Amphitheatre, 2 North Maple St.

Queen M, with their Neo soul mixed with vintage Motown and Reggae influences, takes the stage at 7:00 pm, followed by Juno-award-winning reggae musician Kirk Diamond at 8:00 pm. This concert is part of the Collingwood Live & Original Summer Concert Series. Presented in partnership with Side Launch Brewing. Sponsored by: Fram+Slokker, Collingwood Quay Condos, Living Water Resorts, and Streetcar Developments.

Graham Trude and Freedom Train in Concert

Sunday, August 13, 7:00 p.m., Shipyards Amphitheatre, 2 North Maple St.

Country/Folk musician, Graham Trude, performs from his deeply personal and powerful catalog at 7:00 p.m. Freedom Train follows at 8:00 p.m. Back by popular demand, this power-trio performs at over 200 shows annually on stages including Massey Hall and MGM Grand in Las Vegas, winning audiences with their spin on classic rock, R&B, funk, and reggae. Presented in partnership with Side Launch Brewing. Sponsored by: Fram+Slokker, Collingwood Quay Condos, and Living Water Resorts.

For a full schedule of events, visit www.sidelaunchdays.ca.

Sidelaunch Days is presented by the Town of Collingwood with generous

support from Collingwood Downtown,
Side Launch Brewing Company,
Ontario SUP Series, BluWave SUP,
Fram+Slokker, Collingwood Quay
Condos, Living Water Resorts,
Streetcar Developments, Epcor,
Greenland International Consulting
Ltd. and Urban Watershed Group Ltd.,
and Devonleigh Homes.

About Sidelaunch Days

Why the name you might ask? The
Sidelaunch Days Festival was named
in honour of Collingwood's
shipbuilding heritage and the unique
method of launching ships at The
Collingwood Shipyards. Learn more by
visiting the Collingwood Museum at 45
St. Paul
Street www.collingwood.ca/museum

'Pivotal': Collingwood arts centre project moves into Phase 3

Councillors vote to spend \$200K to prepare business case for centre during Monday's committee of the whole meeting

July 26, 2023 by Jessica Owen

Collingwood Today

The next step toward bringing an arts and culture centre to Collingwood was given initial approval on Monday night.

During the July 24 committee of the whole meeting, councillors voted unanimously to spend \$200,000 to contract Colliers Project Leaders to develop a business case for the centre, which will mark Phase 3 of the project. The money will come from the town's Arts and Culture Legacy Fund.

Dean Plater of Colliers Project Leaders provided a brief presentation for councillors, outlining the type of work they could embark on. A business case for the centre would include functional design elements, fundraising estimates/strategy and operating costs based on the design. Public consultation would also be undertaken as part of the business case.

"This is really an exciting day for the residents of Collingwood, and a pivotal point for the arts community," said Rob Hart, representing the Collingwood Arts, Culture and Entertainment group, in his comments to councillors on the motion. "This is a critical phase of this project."

Hart asked if other locations could still be considered as part of the business

case work, such as 140 Ste. Marie St., as he had concerns about 48 Ste. Marie St. being on a floodplain.

"Does Phase 3 also evaluate 140 Ste. Marie as an option? We don't want to end up back at square one if 48 Ste. Marie is, for some reason, turned down," he said.

Dean Collver, the town's director of parks, recreation and culture, said both 140 Ste. Marie St. and the Pine Street parking lot are still possibilities as locations for a future centre.

"Most of the downtown is within the floodplain and the (Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority) regulatory area, so any site chosen would require a robust planning approach," he said.

Resident Jim Roe asked if a governance model for the arts centre could also be considered within the business case, as well as an economic impact assessment.

[On April 3](#), the town's consultant team, Nordicity, delivered its most recent findings on the project to councillors as part of Phase 2, suggesting a 400-seat theatre be built and offering two site options for it: a parking lot at 48 Ste Marie St. and the former Collingwood Terminals building. At that time, most of council and representatives from several local arts groups pushed for 48 Ste. Marie St. as the best location of the two.

Based on the consultants' work in phases 1 and 2, the current estimated cost of building an arts and culture centre is between \$25 million and \$34 million, but those figures don't include

soft costs such as the architectural designs, nor do they include furnishings and equipment, which Nordicity suggested could add about 10 per cent to the overall cost. A parking structure, whether under or above ground, would also add to the cost, possibly another \$10 million.

The arts and culture centre is not anticipated to make a profit.

The annual operating budget is expected to run a deficit of about \$250,000 or perhaps as much as \$465,000 based on other centres currently operating in municipalities similar in size to Collingwood.

When it came time for councillor questions, Coun. Brandon Houston also asked about locations.

"Are the consultants going to be empowered to investigate other locations other than 48 Ste. Marie St.?" he asked.

Plater responded by saying part of the business case would include a review of all the work that had been done on the file to date, including site selection.

"At the end of the day, our job is to really provide an independent report and recommendations," he said.

Houston also noted he took issue with restricting the seating to 400, as he said the Gayety Theatre already can accommodate near that number of patrons.

"It could become a competitor to a private enterprise. I'm concerned with the cost of building a new theatre when we already have one of

similar size. That isn't a fiscally responsible decision," he said.

Coun. Steve Perry asked if the business case studies would include information on the possibility of corporate sponsorship.

"I feel we're in good hands here," said Mayor Yvonne Hamlin. "I think we have a good team who can guide us through where we want to go."

The arts and culture centre feasibility process was first approved by council in December 2019 as part of the 2020 budget. Since then, there have been two phases, led by Nordicity as well as Giaimo Architects.

Coun. Christopher Baines was absent from the meeting this week. The decision to approve \$200,000 for the business case will be up for ratification at a future council meeting.

At the end of the committee meeting, Houston put forward a notice of motion for the town to form a steering committee for the arts and culture centre project comprised of interested parties. That motion will be considered at a later meeting.

— *With files from Erika Engel*

Conservation authority warns of possible flooding in low-lying areas

Water levels expected to rise with more rain forecast heading into the weekend

July 26, 2023

Collingwood Today



Stock image

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority says up to 25 mm of rainfall is forecast overnight Wednesday with an additional 10-25 mm of rain possible if thunderstorms occur, according to a news release.

The accumulated rain, in combination with elevated streamflow from prior recent storms, can mean increased flows on all waterways. Flooding may occur in low lying areas with poor drainage, but no major flooding is anticipated, the releasee added.

Still, higher water levels could mean local streams and rivers becoming dangerous, especially near culverts, bridges, and dams. Please take care around rivers and streams, the release added, and parents should talk to children about the increased risk.

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority will keep monitoring river and stream conditions and will issue additional messages if necessary. This water safety statement will be in effect until the end of day on July 29.

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Orillia Matters



Stock image

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Heavy rain overnight could cause floods in low-lying areas: Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority issues advisory

Up to 25 mm of rainfall was expected within the watershed area

July 27, 2023 by Janis Ramsay

Barrie Advance



The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority has issued a flood advisory within its watershed area. - Metroland file photo

Rainfall in areas of Simcoe County overnight have prompted the [Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority](#) to issue a potential flooding advisory.

Approximately 25 mm of rain was forecast overnight (July 26), with an additional 10 to 25 mm of rain predicted if thunderstorms occurred. The accumulated rain, in combination with elevated stream-flow from other recent rainfalls, will result in elevated flows on all watercourses, the agency said in a press release. It said the flood potential was low.

Flooding may occur in low-lying areas with poor drainage; however, no major flooding is anticipated.

Higher water levels could result in local streams and rivers becoming dangerous, especially near culverts, bridges, and dams. Please exercise caution around all rivers and streams, the authority said.

Hazardous conditions may exist around all water bodies, as there is a high risk of life-threatening injury if a person falls into fast-moving water. The public and especially children are advised to stay away from all water bodies.

NVCA manager recognized for conservation efforts

Known for his 'infectious enthusiasm,' stewardship manager Fred Dobbs receives Award of Recognition at Natural Channels Systems Conference

July 29, 2023

Barrie Today



Fred Dobbs, stewardship manager with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, received an Award of Recognition at the Natural Channels Systems Conference in Guelph. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

NEWS RELEASE
NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Fred Dobbs, manager of stewardship

services at the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), received an Award of Recognition on Tuesday at the Natural Channels Systems Conference, a national event held every four years.

“Over his ongoing 37-year career, Fred has worked with many conservation partners and funders to restore stream and floodplain habitat in the Nottawasaga Watershed,” said Doug Hevenor, CAO of NVCA. “His personal commitment to the field almost matches the passion he brings to his work. Fred is always willing to share his knowledge with newcomers, with an infectious enthusiasm.”

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"This award is a testament to the partners, funders and volunteers in the Nottawasaga Valley as well as NVCA staff and board members, who contributed to and supported the restoration projects," said Dobbs. "I enjoy giving a little back to our natural environment by co-ordinating the restoration of the Nottawasaga River and its tributaries. One side benefit is that I get to enjoy fly fishing in these beautiful watercourses."

Fred received his award at the Natural Channels System Conference banquet in Guelph. The Natural Channels Initiative is supported by the Canadian Water Resources Institute.

Volunteers use retired Christmas trees to make creek curvy again

'By putting in these wing deflectors, it helps to slow down the current. As the water goes into these woody structures ... the sediment has time to drop'

July 29, 2023 by Erika Engel

Collingwood Today



1 / 5 Volunteers work to install wing deflectors that will help slow down the water and allow sediment to settle before the water gets to the wetland. Contributed photo



2 / 5 Volunteers work to install wing deflectors using 'retired' conifer trees anchored to the stream bed. Contributed photo



3 / 5 On July 20 and 21, volunteers and staff from the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority worked on an ongoing stream restoration project to restore Willow Creek to its natural winding pattern. Contributed photo



4 / 5 An egret spotted in Willow Creek. Contributed photo



5 / 5 Willow Creek - it has straightened out because of changes to the surrounding land such as

agriculture use, removing trees, etc. Work has been underway since 2010 to install wing deflectors to restore the channel to a more winding pattern that filters out sediment and creates more natural habitat. Contributed photo

Last week a group of volunteers in chest waders tied former and failed Christmas trees to the bottom of a stream near Angus — an exercise that's been repeated regularly since 2010.

Led by staff from the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the effort is meant to restore the stream — called Willow Creek — to a winding river, instead of the straight path it has followed in more recent decades.

"The work that we were doing was installing wing deflectors," said Carolyn Davies, a conservation biologist with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. "Basically what that means is ... we are reusing ... old, dead conifer trees, a lot of which would have been a Christmas tree that never got chosen ... and we install those on the bank of the stream."

The trees are anchored to the stream bed with aviation cables in a triangle pattern and layered like shingles to create a strong structure that will capture sediment as the water flows through it.

"After all of the rain we've been getting, the river kind of looked like chocolate milk, so loaded full of sediment," said Davies. "That's because of erosion upstream ... all that sediment rushes down, and

without actually having something in place, such as the bends in the river ... the sediment goes into the Minesing wetlands, and, over time, it can actually raise the level of the wetland, which we don't really want to happen."

Once, Willow Creek would have had lots of bends and curves for the water to navigate. It was also likely shaded by trees and brush. Through a change in use of the land surrounding it, which included dredging the creek to take water away from farm fields, Willow Creek now flows through open fields, mostly in a straight line.

"By putting in these wing deflectors, it helps to slow down the current," said Davies. "As the water goes into these woody structures ... the sediment has time to drop."

The shape and position of the wing deflectors help create pinch points in the creek to encourage the water to "meander." A wing deflector will help stabilize about 50 metres of bank downstream.

Each year, volunteers will add more layers to the wing deflectors, an effort that's been ongoing for 13 years now.

"By doing that, it actually increases the sort of meandering channel that would normally happen in a river system," said Davies.

The volunteers stood in the creek in chest waders and the trees were sent floating down the river toward them for installation. Over two days — July 20 and 21 — the volunteers installed 480 trees into 15-metre wing deflectors, adding stability to the

stream bank for several hundred metres.

"It will eventually fix the creek for sure, but it does take quite a number of years to build these in," said Davies, noting that the trees will rot over time since they are constantly sitting in water. The decomposition process will add nutrients into the stream bed, which will also improve habitat conditions in Willow Creek.

If the tree pile gets high enough, sometimes plants can be added to the new berm to secure it and make it more permanent.

There are also ongoing volunteer events to help plant new trees along the stream. In addition to clear-cutting, the area of Willow Creek was also heavily impacted by the invasive emerald ash borer, which destroyed ash trees.

The Minesing Wetlands is one of the oldest active natural areas within the Nature Conservancy of Canada's spaces. It's now owned and managed by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, which partners with the Conservancy on the work to protect and maintain the wetland. Minesing Wetlands includes about 10,937 hectares (27,025 acres) of wetlands and forests.

For more volunteer opportunities, visit the [Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority](#) website, and the [Nature Conservancy of Canada](#) website.

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Orillia Matters



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"The work that we were doing was installing wing deflectors," said Carolyn Davies, a conservation biologist with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. "Basically what that means is ... we are reusing ... old, dead conifer trees, a lot of which would have been a Christmas tree that never got chosen ... and we install those on the bank of the stream."

The trees are anchored to the stream bed with aviation cables in a triangle pattern and layered like shingles to create a strong structure that will capture sediment as the water flows through it.

"After all of the rain we've been getting, the river kind of looked like chocolate milk, so loaded full of sediment," said Davies. "That's

because of erosion upstream ... all that sediment rushes down, and without actually having something in place, such as the bends in the river ... the sediment goes into the Minesing wetlands, and, over time, it can actually raise the level of the wetland, which we don't really want to happen."

Once, Willow Creek would have had lots of bends and curves for the water to navigate. It was also likely shaded by trees and brush. Through a change in use of the land surrounding it, which included dredging the creek to take water away from farm fields, Willow Creek now flows through open fields, mostly in a straight line.

"By putting in these wing deflectors, it helps to slow down the current," said Davies. "As the water goes into these woody structures ... the sediment has time to drop."

The shape and position of the wing deflectors help create pinch points in the creek to encourage the water to "meander." A wing deflector will help stabilize about 50 metres of bank downstream.

Each year, volunteers will add more layers to the wing deflectors, an effort that's been ongoing for 13 years now.

"By doing that, it actually increases the sort of meandering channel that would normally happen in a river system," said Davies.

The volunteers stood in the creek in chest waders and the trees were sent floating down the river toward them for installation. Over two days – July 20 and 21 – the volunteers installed

480 trees into 15-metre wing deflectors, adding stability to the stream bank for several hundred metres.

"It will eventually fix the creek for sure, but it does take quite a number of years to build these in," said Davies, noting that the trees will rot over time since they are constantly sitting in water. The decomposition process will add nutrients into the stream bed, which will also improve habitat conditions in Willow Creek.

If the tree pile gets high enough, sometimes plants can be added to the new berm to secure it and make it more permanent.

There are also ongoing volunteer events to help plant new trees along the stream. In addition to clear-cutting, the area of Willow Creek was also heavily impacted by the invasive emerald ash borer, which destroyed ash trees.

The Minesing Wetlands is one of the oldest active natural areas within the Nature Conservancy of Canada's spaces. It's now owned and managed by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, which partners with the Conservancy on the work to protect and maintain the wetland. Minesing Wetlands includes about 10,937 hectares (27,025 acres) of wetlands and forests.

For more volunteer opportunities, visit the [Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority](#) website, and the [Nature Conservancy of Canada](#) website.