

10-23-BOD Agenda

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Nov 24, 2023 at 9:00 AM EST to Nov 24, 2023 at 12:00 PM EST

Agenda

1. Events

Tiffin Nature Program (for preschoolers)

Tiffin Nature Program will help preschoolers gain knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our amazing planet. Children learn about risky play, and develop a better understanding of their relationship with the land.

Half Day Dates: Tuesdays September 5, 2023 – November 28, 2023

Full Day Dates: Thursdays September 7, 2023 – November 30, 2023

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

Giving Tuesday

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is participating in Giving Tuesday this year to help raise \$10,000 towards our Land Conservation, Environmental Education, Healthy Rivers & Streams and our Watershed Monitoring

Dates: On now until November 28, 2023

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 #10-23-BOD dated on November 24, 2023 be approved.

6. Announcements

There are no announcements at this time.

7. Presentations

Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services will conduct a presentation regarding the Conservation Lands Program.

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive this presentation as presented.

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 09-23-BOD dated on October 27, 2023 be approved.

12.2. Staff Reports

12.2.1. Staff Report No. 46-10-23-BOD from Dalia Al-Ali, Manager, Engineering Services

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 46-10-23-BOD regarding NVCA Request for Proposal #01/2023 Pretty River Dike Safety Review Update 2023 be received.

12.2.2. Staff Report No. 47-10-23-BOD from Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff report No. 47-10-23-BOD; and

FURTHER THAT: the New Lowell Reserve be utilized to finance the New Lowell washroom repairs at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.

12.2.3. Staff Report No. 48-10-23-BOD from Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the Staff Report No. 48-10-23-BOD regarding surplus/deficit allocations be approved; and

FURTHER THAT: The NVCA Auditor be directed to place any 2023 surplus/deficit funds in/out of the following reserves as specified:

- Planning Reserve – all planning programs surplus/deficits;
- New Lowell Reserve – all New Lowell CA program surplus;
- Operational Reserve – 25% of any surplus not allocated to another reserve or any potential deficits, including those from Planning not covered by that reserve;
- Capital Reserve – 50% of any surplus not allocated to another reserve;
- Human Resources Reserve – 25% of other surplus not allocated to another reserve;
- Healthy Waters Reserve – all department 120 surplus, if any;
- Environmental Education Reserve - all department 630 surplus, if any;
- Forestry Reserve - all department 110 surplus, if any;
- Watershed Science Reserve – all department 420 surplus, minus any Source Water Protection, if any.
- Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Repayment:
 - 50% from Operational Reserves
 - 50% from Human Resources Reserves

12.2.4. Staff Report No. 49-10-23-BOD from Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 49-10-23-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – *October 14, 2023 – November 10, 2023*, be received.

13. Other Business

14. Adjourn

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting adjourn at _____ to meet again on December 8, 2023 or at the call of the Chair.



Conservation Lands Program

Kyra Howes | Director, Conservation Services

November 24, 2023

Watershed Representation

Oliver Crescent - Collingwood



- Conservation Areas located throughout the watershed;
- 12 Conservation Areas;
- 9 Conservation Reserves;
- Ownership of ~5,300 Hectares (13,000 acres).

NVCA Lands – Flood Protection

Tottenham Conservation Area- New Tecumseth



- 4 flood protection structures;
- 6 properties protected for flood abatement;
- 3 hydrometric stations;
- 7 snow survey locations.

Connect with Nature

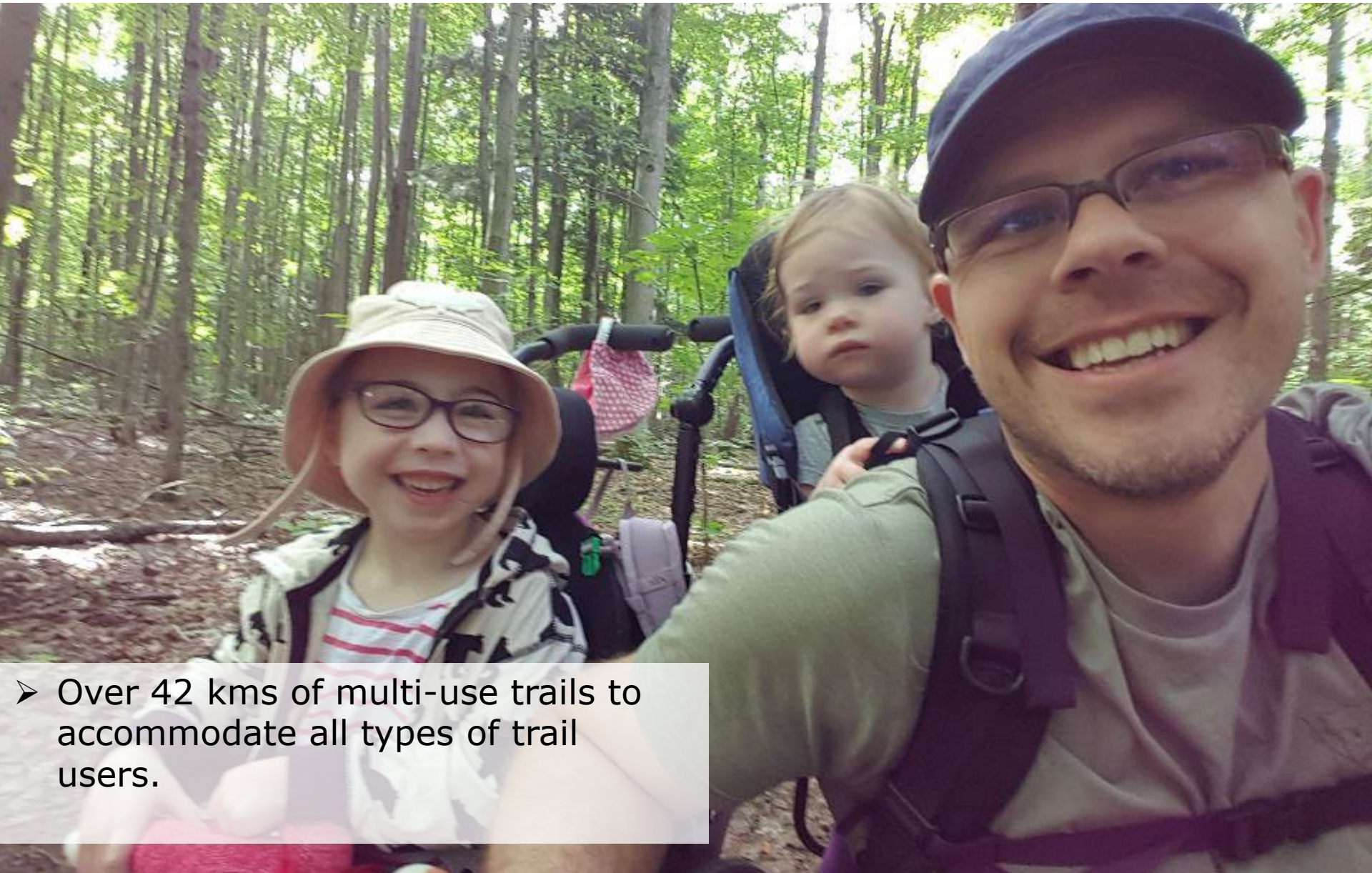
Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area - Clearview



- 2 hours a week, 20+ minutes at a time
 - Reduces stress;
 - Increases happiness;
 - Fosters a connection to communities; and
 - Improves perception of health

Multi-Use Passive Recreation

Tiffin Conservation Area- Essa



- Over 42 kms of multi-use trails to accommodate all types of trail users.

Multi-Use Passive Recreation

Glencairn Conservation Area - Adjala-Tosorontio



- Angling and Hunting permits available for watershed residents and non-residents



Glencairn Conservation Area – Adjala-Tosorontio

Visitor Management

Nottawasaga Bluffs – Clearview & Petun Conservation Area – The Blue Mountains

- 10-fold increase in visitors over the past 5 years;
- Increasing number of watershed residents and visitors.

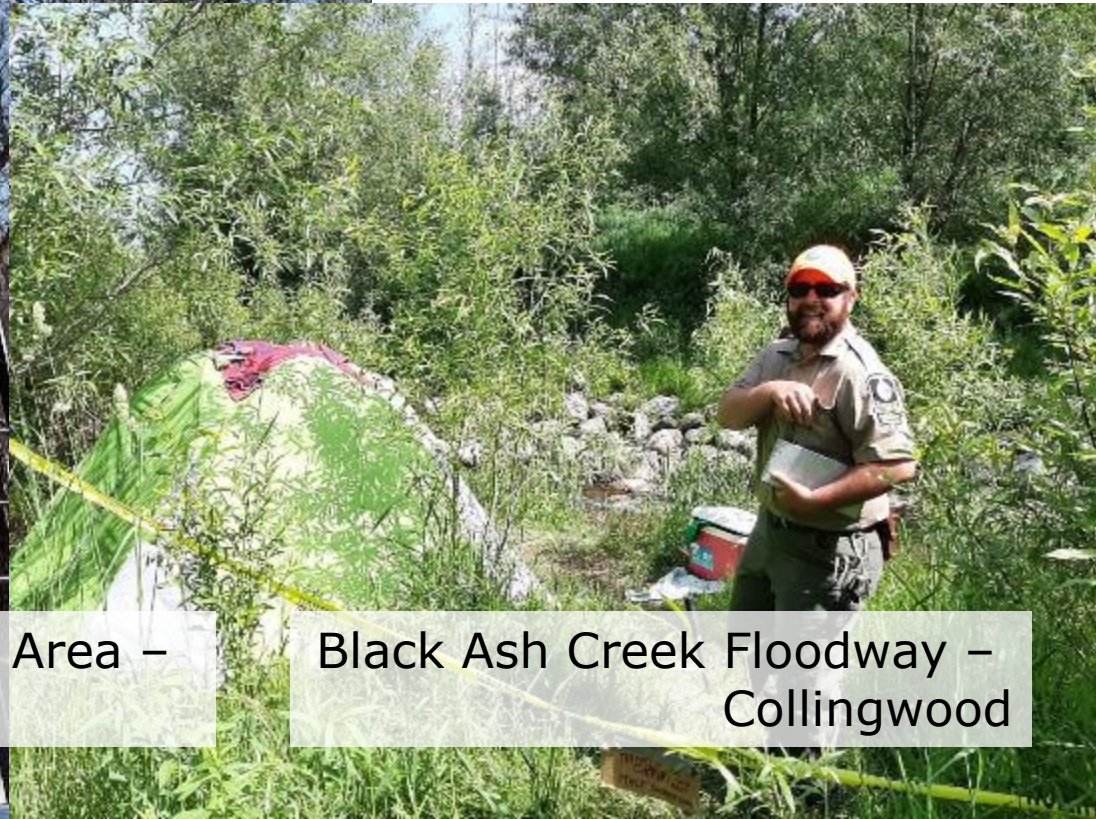


Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area - Clearview

NVCA Enforcement Program



Minesing Wetlands Conservation Area –
Essa, Springwater, Clearview



Black Ash Creek Floodway –
Collingwood

NVCA Enforcement Program


Tiffin - Conservation Area



➤ NVCA Lands staff have been designated as Provincial Offences Officers under Section 29 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.


Natural Heritage on NVCA Lands

Elba Wetlands - Amaranth

- 
- Each property has significant natural heritage features, including
 - Stream/wetland features;
 - Provincially Significant Wetlands;
 - Natural Hazard; and
 - Other sensitive features.

Natural Heritage on NVCA Lands

Boyne Springs - Mulmer

- 
- All significant watershed representative landforms represented
 - Niagara Escarpment
 - Oro Moraine
 - Oak Ridges Moraine
 - Minesing Wetlands

Striking a Balance

Osprey Wetlands – Grey Highlands



- » Undevelopable lands may be transferred to NVCA and may require a stewardship fee to assist with long-term management costs.

Partnerships

Fort Willow Conservation Area - Springwater



Partnerships

Utopia Conservation Area - Essa



Partnerships

Tiffin Conservation Area - Essa



Fostering Appreciation for the Watershed

Tiffin Conservation Area - Essa



Fostering Appreciation for the Watershed Tiffin Conservation Area - Essa



- Focus on community engagement
- Improve passive recreation visitor experiences
- Ensure self-sufficiency through external revenue opportunities

External Revenue Generating Tiffin Conservation Area - Essa



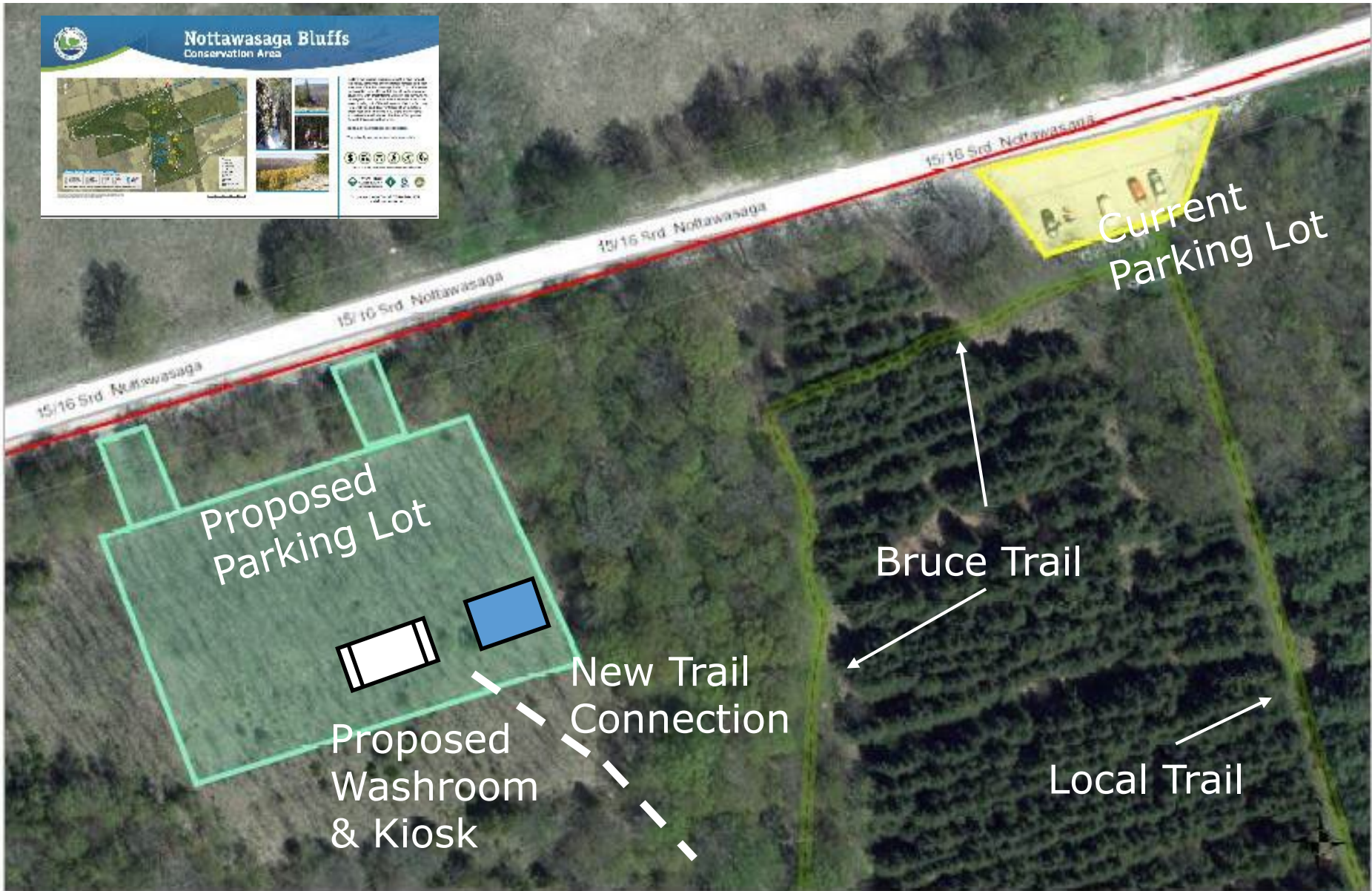
Conservation Area Needs

Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area - Clearview



- Update aging infrastructure;
- Infrastructure upgrades to improve visitor experience;
- Staffing resources to ensure high quality customer service, enforcement and maintenance.

Conservation Area Needs



Conservation Area Needs

Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area - Clearview



Conservation – For the Long-Term

Tiffin Conservation Area - Essa



Questions?

Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services
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khowes@nvca.on.ca

www.nvca.on.ca • [@NottawasagaCA](https://www.instagram.com/NottawasagaCA)



09-23-BOD Minutes (Draft)
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Oct 27, 2023 at 9:00 AM EDT
Virtual Via Zoom

Attendance

Present:

Mayor Scott W. Anderson, Adjala-Tosorontio (Township); Cllr. Joe Belanger, Wasaga Beach (Town); Chair Gail Little, Amaranth (Township); Mayor Janet Horner, Mulmur (Township); Cllr. Ralph Manktelow, Mono (Town); Vice-Chair Jonathan Scott, Bradford West Gwillimbury (Town); Cllr. Kyle Fegan, Shelburne (Town); Cllr. Christopher Baines, Collingwood (Town); Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink, Essa (Township); Cllr. Joel Loughhead, Grey Highlands (Municipality); Cllr. Kevin Eisses, Innisfil (Town); Cllr. Gary Harvey, Barrie (City); Cllr. Nicole Cox, New Tecumseth (Town); Cllr. Phil Fisher, Springwater (Township)

NVCA Staff:

Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services; Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer; Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services; Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services; Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits; Emma Perry, Planning Ecologist; Hendrik Amo, Manager, Info Services & Technology (*departed at 9:56am*); Naomi Saunders, Manager, Environmental Education (*departed at 9:56am*); Kerry Jenkins, Administrative Assistant/Recorder

Absent:

Cllr. Richard Schell, Oro-Medonte (Township); Cllr. June Porter, The Blue Mountains (Town); Mayor Darren White, Melancthon (Township); Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren, Clearview (Township)

1. Events

Tiffin Nature Program (for preschoolers)

Tiffin Nature Program will help preschoolers gain knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our amazing planet. Children learn about risky play, and develop a better understanding of their relationship with the land.

Half Day Dates: Tuesdays September 5, 2023 – November 28, 2023

Full Day Dates: Thursdays September 7, 2023 – November 30, 2023

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

2. Call to Order

Chair Little called the meeting to order at 9:04am.

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: 58-23

Moved by: Cllr. Phil Fisher

Seconded by: Mayor Scott W. Anderson

RESOLVED THAT: the amended agenda for the Board of Directors meeting #09-23-BOD dated on October 27, 2023 be approved.

Carried;

6. Announcements

Chair Little welcomed Cllr. Phil Fisher from the Township of Springwater to the Board of Directors.

7. Presentations

Naomi Saunders, Manager, Environmental Education will conduct a presentation regarding NVCA's Environmental Education Program.

Recommendation:

RES: 59-23

Moved by: Cllr. Gary Harvey

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Belanger

RESOLVED THAT: the presentation regarding NVCA's Environmental Education Program be received.

Carried;

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: 60-23

Moved by: Cllr. Nicole Cox

Seconded by: Mayor Janet Horner

RESOLVED THAT: agenda item number(s), 12.3.3 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.

Carried;

12. Consent List

12.1. Adoption of Minutes

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting 08-23-BOD dated on September 22, 2023 be approved.

12.2. Correspondence

Letter from Annie Theroux, Deputy Director, Ministerial Correspondence and Briefings Division on behalf of the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: Correspondence not specifically dealt with be placed on file.

12.3. Staff Reports

12.3.1. Staff Report No. 41-09-23-BOD from Hendrik Amo, Manager, Info Services & Technology

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: the Staff Report No. 41-09-23-BOD regarding consulting services for the Upper Mad River Flood Study be received.

12.3.2. Staff Report No. 42-09-23-BOD from Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 42-09-23-BOD regarding a short-term agricultural lease renewal with Bernie Mayer for Mayer's Marsh be approved as presented.

12.3.3. Staff Report No. 43-09-23-BOD from Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning and Permits and Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services

Recommendation:

RES: 61-23

Moved by: Cllr. Ralph Manktelow

Seconded by: Cllr. Gary Harvey

RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 43-09-23-BOD regarding proposed changes to planning and permitting review fees.

Carried;

12.3.4. Staff Report No. 44-09-23-BOD from Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 44-09-23-BOD regarding the 2023 third quarter financials; and

FURTHER THAT: staff continue to monitor budget activities.

12.3.5. Staff Report No. 45-09-23-BOD from Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 45-09-23-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – *September 9, 2023 – October 13, 2023*, be received.

13. Other Business

There was no other business.

14. In-Camera

Recommendation:

RES: 62-23

Moved by: Cllr. Kyle Fegan

Seconded by: Cllr. Phil Fisher

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting of the Board of Directors No. 09-23-BOD move into closed session at 10:32am to address matters pertaining to:

a) Litigation, or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the authority, and;

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

FURTHER THAT: the CAO, Director, Corporate Services, Director, Conservation Services, Director, Watershed Management Services, Manager, Development Planning & Permits, Planning Ecologist, and Administrative Assistant be in attendance.

Carried;

15. Out of In-Camera

Recommendation:

RES: 63-23

Moved by: Cllr. Nicole Cox

Seconded by: Mayor Janet Horner

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors rise from in-camera at 11:16am and report progress.

Carried;

15.1. Closed Session Voting

Recommendation:

RES: 64-23

Moved by: Cllr. Gary Harvey

Seconded by: Mayor Scott W. Anderson

RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors receive the discussion as information.

Carried;

16. Adjourn

Recommendation:

RES: 65-23

Moved by: Cllr. Ralph Manktelow

Seconded by: Mayor Janet Horner

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting adjourn at 11:17am to meet again on November 24, 2023 or at the call of the Chair.

Carried;



Staff Report: 46-10-23-BOD
Date: 24/11/2023
To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
From: Dalia Al-Ali
Manager, Engineering Services

**SUBJECT: Request for Proposal #01/2023
Pretty River Dike Safety Review Update 2023**

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 46-10-23-BOD regarding NVCA Request for Proposal #01/2023 Pretty River Dike Safety Review Update 2023 be received.

Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the Board regarding the results of a recent Request for Proposal ("RFP") to select qualified professional engineers for the update of the Dike Safety Review for the Pretty River Dike in Collingwood.

Background

The Pretty River Dike system extends approximately 2 kilometres from the mouth of the river at Georgian Bay to just downstream of an existing farm crossing near Peel Street in Collingwood (see Figure 1). The dike was constructed to provide flood control for the Collingwood area. The dike system consists of a trapezoidal channel system with berms on either side to contain flood flows and to protect existing development on either side of the Pretty River.

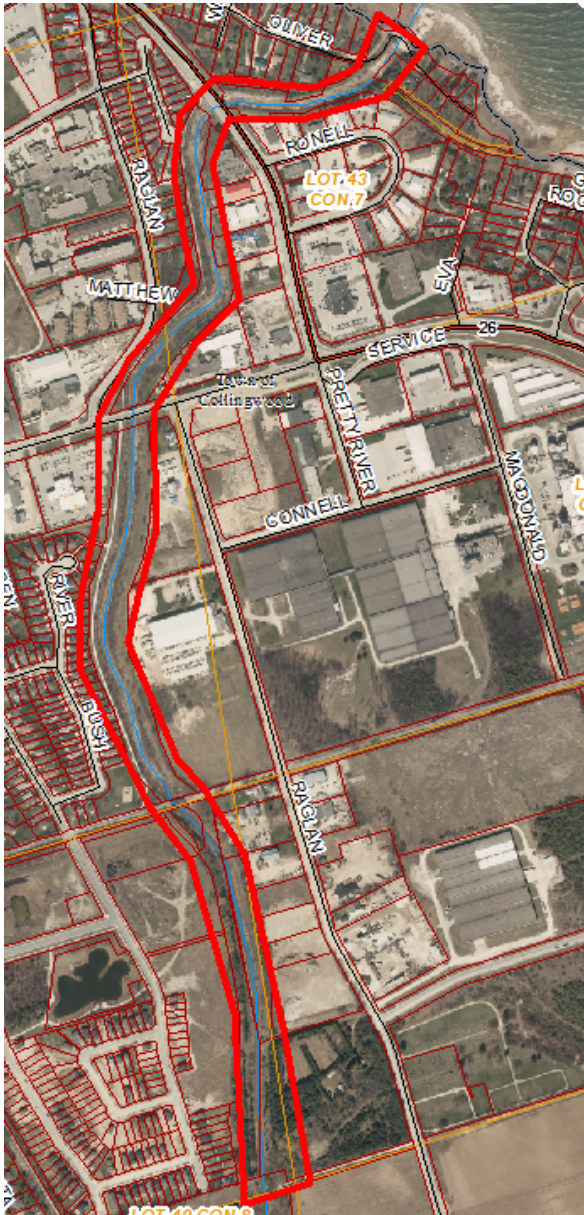


Figure 1. Aerial photo depicting the location and extent of the Pretty River Dike in Collingwood.

The Pretty River Dike is one of the NVCA’s flood control structures. It was constructed in the 1970s to reduce the risk of flooding in the urban areas of Collingwood. The dike is designed to contain the floodwaters from the Provincial Regulatory Storm Event. Despite the rare nature of this storm event, the dike must be regularly inspected and maintained to mitigate the potential risks of property damage and loss of life associated with flooding.

In September 2023, the NVCA posted RFP #01/2023 on Biddingo and our website. The RFP solicited bids for the execution of a safety review update for the Pretty River Dike. A total of three bids were received by the closing of the proposal on October 6, 2023.

The objective of the safety review update is to complete an assessment of the dike's condition from a structural and geotechnical perspective, and to ensure that this assessment is completed by a Qualified Professional Engineer. The completion of the condition assessment would inform the recommendation of safety and structural improvements, where applicable. Given the location of the Pretty River Dike and the risk associated with its potential failure, the RFP required that the dike safety review be completed in accordance with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's "Best Management Practices for Dam Safety Reviews" (August 2011).

Issues/Analysis

NVCA's Director of Watershed Management Services, Manager of Engineering Services, and Flood Operations Field Specialist all participated in the review and evaluation of the three bids that were received. The results of the review and the preferred bid was reported to the Chief Administrative Officer.

D.M. Wills Associates Limited ("D.M. Wills") was chosen as the successful bid, with a total cost of \$49,940 (excluding HST). D.M. Wills' bid provided the best value for the proposed scope of work, in addition to being the bid with the lowest price.

The scope of work proposed by D.M. Wills is outlined below.

- Item 1: Project Initiation and Background Review
 - Including start-up meeting and background data collection and review.
- Item 2: Dike Inspection and Survey
 - Including dike inspection, topographic survey, and field data processing.
- Item 3: Dike Inspection Report
 - Including development of recommendations, preparation of draft report, finalization of report per NVCA's comments, and preparation of a Terms of Reference to guide future dike safety reviews.

In addition to the above, D.M. Wills has significant experience in the completion of dam safety reviews, dam inspections, and public safety risk assessments. More recently, they had completed the Emergency Dam Inspection Report for the New Lowell Dam in Clearview Township. Staff anticipate that D.M. Wills' contextual knowledge of NVCA's watershed and our infrastructure will prove to be valuable in the execution of the dike safety review.

Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

The Pretty River Dike Safety Review Update addresses several NVCA policies and mandates, including:

- Flood hazard mitigation for the safety and protection of life and property within NVCA's jurisdiction.
- NVCA's Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025 addresses the Goal to "promote resiliency and capacity in the face of dynamic conditions with the watershed". The outcome of, and recommendations from, the dike safety review will ensure that the NVCA can swiftly address any potential safety issues related to the structural and/or geotechnical integrity of the dike, thus ensuring the continued resilience of NVCA's flood infrastructure.

Impact on Authority Finances

This project has been funded through the NVCA's Flood Program, which is partially funded by the Province's Section 39 Transfer Payment Agreement with NVCA.

Climate Change Implications

The NVCA assesses climate implications in all staff reports using the Clean Air Partnership's '[Municipal Climate Lens Tool](#)' to consider climate impacts or benefits associated with any project, program, or initiative. The following is a summary of the results.

Municipal Climate Lens Tool	Results
Mitigation	Project will not result in the production of green house gases
Temperature	Project can not be affected by temperature
Precipitation	Project can not be affected by precipitation

Reviewed by:
Original Signed by
Chris Hibberd,
Director, Watershed Management Services

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



Staff Report: 47-10-23-BOD

Date: 24/11/2023

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services

SUBJECT: New Lowell Washroom Repairs

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff report No. 47-10-23-BOD; and

FURTHER THAT: the New Lowell Reserve be utilized to finance the New Lowell washroom repairs at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.

Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this report is to receive approval for the use of the New Lowell Reserve fund for washroom repairs at the New Lowell Campground.

Background

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and the New Lowell Campground & Conservation Park Ltd. maintain a 5-year lease agreement (2022-2028) for the use of the New Lowell Conservation Area, Clearview.

The lease agreement covers the entirety of the 44 ha (147 acre) New Lowell Conservation Area. The property includes the New Lowell reservoir, a public day-use beach, the seasonal campground and the remaining ~34 ha (90 acre) wetland/forest. The property and lease are managed by Ann and Jane Kidd, who seasonally live on site.

Approximately half of the annual revenues from the lease are set aside into this reserve to support maintenance and repairs required at the site.

Issues/Analysis

A majority of the annual repairs completed at the site are undertaken at the expense of the lease-holder. In certain circumstances, such as capital improvements, the use of reserve funds will be requested.

These funds will be used to purchase new washroom partitions, toilet/urinal replacements and address other standard maintenance requirements.

Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

The Conservation Authorities Act states that the authority has power to use lands owned or controlled by the authority for park or other recreational purposes, and to erect, or permit to be erected, buildings, booths and facilities for such purposes and to make charges for admission thereto and the use thereof.

Impact on Authority Finances

The New Lowell Reserve currently sits at \$33,267.22. The costs associated with the washroom repairs available within the New Lowell Reserve.

Climate Change Implications

There are no climate change implications related to this report.

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

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



Staff Report: 48-10-23-BOD
Date: 24/11/2023
To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
From: Sheryl Flannagan
Director, Corporate Services

SUBJECT: 2023 Year End Surplus/Deficit Allocation

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: the Staff Report No. 48-10-23-BOD regarding surplus/deficit allocations be approved; and

FURTHER THAT: The NVCA Auditor be directed to place any 2023 surplus/deficit funds in/out of the following reserves as specified:

- **Planning Reserve – all planning programs surplus/deficits;**
 - **New Lowell Reserve – all New Lowell CA program surplus;**
 - **Operational Reserve – 25% of any surplus not allocated to another reserve or any potential deficits, including those from Planning not covered by that reserve;**
 - **Capital Reserve –50% of any surplus not allocated to another reserve;**
 - **Human Resources Reserve – 25% of other surplus not allocated to another reserve;**
 - **Healthy Waters Reserve – all department 120 surplus, if any;**
 - **Environmental Education Reserve - all department 630 surplus, if any;**
 - **Forestry Reserve - all department 110 surplus, if any;**
 - **Watershed Science Reserve – all department 420 surplus, minus any Source Water Protection, if any.**
 - **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Repayment:**
 - **50% from Operational Reserves**
 - **50% from Human Resources Reserves**
-

Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report is to gain the Board's approval regarding the direction to the NVCA Auditors in the allocation of any deficit/surplus for the 2023 year.

Background

The NVCA Auditor requires direction from the Board regarding any year end surplus or deficit allocations including allocation of amortization.

Issues/Analysis

Staff recommend that any program surplus/deficits be placed in the following specified reserve areas to ensure that funds are available if required:

Planning Reserve - All planning program surplus/deficits must be placed into or removed from the Planning Reserves as required by MECF Planning User Fee guidance/policy, to offset planning program costs.

New Lowell Reserve - As per contract with current service providers, place all surplus revenues from New Lowell revenue.

Operational Reserve – Any potential deficits, including if required, all remaining planning deficits; or 25% of a surplus to ensure funds are available if required in the future.

Capital Repair and Replacement Reserve – 50% of any remaining surplus should be allocated to the Capital Reserve.

Human Resources Reserve – 25% of any remaining surplus to ensure that funds are available if required in the future.

Healthy Waters Reserve – all department 120 surplus, if any.

Environmental Education Reserve - all department 630 surplus, if any.

Forestry Reserve - all department 110 surplus, if any.

Watershed Science Reserve – all department 420 surplus, minus any Source Water Protection, if any.

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Repayment to CRA – 50% of the \$740,879.03 from the Operational Reserve and 50% from the Human Resources Reserve. This is where the money was placed when it was received initially in 2021.

Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

The Board has set a minimum Reserve target of 25-30% of the annual budget as reserve funds. As the NVCA's 2023 approved budget is \$5,961,289, a reserve allocation target is \$1,490,322-\$1,788,387. After the repayment of the CEWS money this year and removing it from sitting in reserves, the NVCA is sitting around target at close to \$1,900,000 before any surplus or deficit allocations from the 2023 budget year.

Impact on Authority Finances

Allocation of reserves helps to ensure the NVCA is financially secure should there be an emergency or other financial impact throughout a future year.

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



Staff Report: 49-10-23-BOD

Date: 24/11/2023

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Maria Leung
Senior Communications Specialist

SUBJECT: Communications Report – October 14, 2023 – November 10, 2023

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 49-10-23-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – October 14, 2023 – November 10, 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 October 14, 2023 – November 10, 2023.

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

1. Flood Messages

No flood messages were issued in this reporting period.

2. Media coverage of NVCA news releases

Column: How climate change threatens development, issued on October 13, 2023

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
GUEST COLUMN: How climate change threatens development	Barrie Today	October 16, 2023	Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
GUEST COLUMN: How climate change threatens development	Bradford Today	October 16, 2023	Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits
GUEST COLUMN: How climate change threatens development	Barrie Today	October 16, 2023	Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits
GUEST COLUMN: How climate change threatens development	Midland Today	October 16, 2023	Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits
GUEST COLUMN: How climate change threatens development	Orillia Matters	October 16, 2023	Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits
How climate change threatens development	Aware Simcoe	October 18, 2023	Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits

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

3. Other Media Coverage

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
South Innisfil Creek Drain hits watershed construction moment	Barrie Today	October 16, 2023	Vice Chair Jonathan Scott Councillor Kevin Eisses CAO Hevenor Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services Fred Dobbs, Manager of stewardship services

Communications Report – October 14, 2023 – November 10, 2023
 Staff Report No. 49-10-23-BOD

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
South Innisfil Creek Drain hits watershed construction moment	Innisfil Today	October 16, 2023	Vice Chair Jonathan Scott Councillor Kevin Eisses CAO Hevenor Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services Fred Dobbs, Manager of stewardship services
Protection could be growing for Barrie's tree canopy	Barrie Today	October 17, 2023	
Proposed cemetery 'absolutely not' in public's interest	Bradford Today	October 19, 2023	Vice Chair Jonathan Scott
Proposed cemetery 'absolutely not' in public's interest	Barrie Today	October 19, 2023	Vice Chair Jonathan Scott
Springwater mayor facing watershed moment with NVCA questions	Barrie Today	October 20, 2023	Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist
Springwater mayor facing watershed moment with NVCA questions	Penticton Herald	October 20, 2023	Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist
Springwater mayor facing watershed moment with NVCA questions	Aware Simcoe	October 20, 2023	Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist
New metal shop proposed in Grey Highlands near McIntyre	Collingwood Today	October 25, 2023	

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
'Very important': NVCA seeks \$18K funding bump from Bradford	Bradford Today	November 8, 2023	Vice Chair Jonathan Scott CAO Hevenor Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services

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

- October 14, 2023 – Engaged volunteers with Fall tree planting along Sheldon Creek in Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
- October 18, 2023 – Engaged volunteers in installing live staking and wildflower planting along the Mad River at Carruthers Park in the Township of Clearview

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

GUEST COLUMN: How climate change threatens development

'The biggest climate change-related threats to development are precipitation and wildfires,' conservation official explains

October 16, 2023

Barrie Today



1 / 3 High water levels are shown in Brentwood. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



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This year, [Boston experienced the second-wettest summer in recorded history, and many parts of Massachusetts experienced flooding](#). Residents were asked to avoid contact with rivers and beaches as untreated sewage was released with stormwater.

Back at home, Adjala-Tosoronto, Mono, New Tecumseth and Shelburne experienced significant flooding in June 2017. Crops were badly damaged, causing lost profits for farmers around the area. The emergency spillway at the Tottenham Dam also suffered excessive damage and has since been repaired. A number of roads were closed for a short period of time. Although the water was just three to six inches deep, the water took about a week to drain from the fields.

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Ben Krul is the manager of development planning and permits with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.

South Innisfil Creek Drain hits watershed construction moment

Project will have 'positive impact on our environment and the communities it serves,' says councillor

October 16, 2023

Barrie Today



1 / 3 Shown during a tour of the South Innisfil Creek Drain improvement project are, from left, Kyra Howes, director of conservation services with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), Jonathan Scott, Bradford West Gwillimbury councillor and NVCA board member, Jeremy Nyenhuis, operations specialist, stormwater and drainage, with the Town of Innisfil, Kevin Eisses, Innisfil councillor and NVCA board member, Doug Hevenor, chief administrative officer with the NVCA, Fred Dobbs, manager of stewardship services with the NVCA, and Jeff Dickson, project engineer with R.J. Burnside & Associates Ltd. Photo supplied by the Town of Innisfil



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NEWS RELEASE

TOWN OF INNISFIL

The South Innisfil Creek Drain (SICD) improvement project reached a significant milestone with the recent completion of Phase 3 of the construction.

Last month, the Town of Innisfil hosted a tour of the ecological and aquatic enhancements in partnership with the Nottawasaga Valley

Conservation Authority (NVCA) and R.J. Burnside & Associates Ltd. (Burnside). More than 20 representatives from Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Conservation Ontario, Simcoe Federation of Agriculture, South Simcoe Streams Network — Nottawasaga Futures, Land Improvement Contractors of Ontario, the Holland Marsh Growers' Association, and other conservation authorities across Ontario joined the tour for a firsthand look at the project.

"We are grateful to all the individuals and organizations who joined us for the South Innisfil Creek Drain tour," says Kevin Eisses, Town of Innisfil councillor and NVCA board member. "We're proud to showcase a thriving example of using natural features to reduce ecological impact while enhancing drainage and water quality. Together, we are making a positive impact on our environment and the communities it serves."

The SICD tour aimed to demonstrate the unique features of the municipal drain work and highlight a 'drain done differently' approach to environmental and agricultural agencies.

Improvements include the:

- Creation of a two-stage drainage system, which featured the use of sod mats to vegetate the new 7.5-metre-wide bench or shelf of the upper stage
- Use of existing woody material to rehabilitate and protect eroding drain bends and banks

- Construction of a number of riffle-pool sequences to aerate the flow within the drain, provide refuge for migrating fish species, and enhance existing fish habitat
- Addition of gravel substrate to enhance and expand fish spawning habitat
- Installation of the first Barefoot Box Culvert on a municipal drainage project, which was installed under 4th Line just east of County Road 54 (10 Sideroad)
- Planting of nearly 1,000 trees to create a buffer with support from South Simcoe Streams Network

The project also incorporated an offset wetland and the protection of a bank swallow nesting area downstream of Highway 400.

"The new SICD sets the bar pretty high for the environmental management of a municipal drain," says Fred Dobbs, manager of stewardship services at NVCA.

"Thanks to funding support from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs we have the chance to share this positive story."

For residents in the area, these improvements hold significant benefits. The SICD (main drain), spanning almost 10 kilometres with a watershed of more than 80 square kilometres, serves approximately 900 properties. The project's aim is to enhance the drain's condition, improve flow during rainfall and runoff events,

and mitigate flooding in the surrounding areas. The work done to enhance water quality in the SICD is important as it empties into the Nottawasaga River.

“The Burnside team has been quite pleased to be able to work with a very capable and accommodating local contractor on this project, R&D Excavating Ltd.,” says Jeff Dickson, project engineer at R.J. Burnside & Associates Ltd. “The engineer’s report is only a tool to facilitate improvements to a municipal drain; without a competent and willing contractor to bring the report and associated drawings to life, it would not be possible to create a drain done differently.”

Work is scheduled to continue on the SICD in 2024. For more information, visit www.innisfil.ca/SICD.

GUEST COLUMN: How climate change threatens development

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October 16, 2023

Bradford Today



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Protection could be growing for Barrie's tree canopy

'Many of our street trees are struggling to survive,' says councillor, citing poor planting specifications and insufficient maintenance

October 17, 2023 by Bob Bruton

Barrie Today



Tree grows in Barrie. Kevin Lamb/BarrieToday

Barrie might just have more trees to hug.

City councillors will consider a motion Wednesday night to approve an ecological offsetting policy, with added protection for single trees.

Ecological offsetting is a strategy where an established fee — in this case \$57,500 per hectare of woodland removal or \$500 per tree replacement value — may be collected by the city to compensate for the removal of trees or woodland for development purposes.

This funding would be applied to the planting of an equivalent number of trees or woodland, in an alternate city-owned location within Barrie's boundaries, to achieve "no net loss" of

the natural heritage feature in the long term.

"The ecological offsetting policy is a good step forward in our efforts to increase the city's tree canopy," said Coun. Clare Riepma.

When offsetting was done by the Nottawasaga Valley and Lake Simcoe Region conservation authorities, "trees could be removed from the city and replaced in other parts of the watershed," he added. "Now trees removed in Barrie will be replaced in Barrie."

The Ward 1 councillor noted this policy affects individual trees and woodlands of more than a half-hectare that are to be removed for development.

"However, before these trees can be removed, the policy requires that removal only be done as a last resort," Riepma said. "Avoiding removal is the first priority and I think that is correct."

To deter indiscriminate tree removals, the policy requires that private land development proposals demonstrate that avoiding, minimizing and mitigating tree removal have been explored through an approved natural heritage analysis, prior to seeking ecological offsetting.



Coun. Clare Riepma represents Ward 1 in Barrie. | Photo supplied

The proposal must demonstrate to the city's satisfaction that compensation is the only viable option.

The ecological offsetting fee of \$57,500 per hectare of woodland removal breaks down to \$50,000 per hectare for planning, design, site preparation, plant material, installation and monitoring costs, and an administration fee of \$7,500 per hectare.

"I am hopeful that this new policy will help to protect and increase our tree canopy," he said. "Let's see how it works for a couple of years. If it needs improvement, we can revisit it."

This policy applies to the city's land-use planning process for private and public land, including city infrastructure projects, according to the province's Planning Act, Condominium Act and the Environmental Assessment Act.

Instruments under the Planning Act or Environmental Assessment Act that may be used to ensure the collection of the ecological offsetting fee include: subdivision, condominium,

development and site-plan agreements, committee of adjustment severances, rezoning approvals and private tree bylaw municipal infrastructure projects.

The policy does recognize there are limits and certain natural heritage features may be irreplaceable, so offsetting fees will not be considered for features that contain rare vegetation communities and forested wetlands. Generally, offsetting will also not be considered for watercourses or for the minimum vegetation protection zone abutting the Lake Simcoe shoreline.

Riepma says more can still be done for Barrie's tree canopy.

"There are a couple of things that I would like to see undertaken with respect to trees in the city," he said.

"Many of our street trees are struggling to survive. This is because of poor planting specifications and insufficient maintenance in the form of watering, fertilizing and pruning.

"We should consider increasing this part of our budget to get better results," Riepma added. "It makes little sense to plant trees only to have them fail to thrive a couple of years later. Also, I would like to develop a program to encourage the general public to plant trees on their private properties."

An ecological offsetting policy is just the latest city measure to protect and restore Barrie's city trees.

Council has approved a waterfront tree capital project, with the objective of planting 1,000 trees along the

lakeshore during the next 10 years, starting in 2024. It would be funded from the city's ecological offsetting reserve and be detailed in next year's business plan and budget.

Barrie's total area of 24,876 acres has approximately 7,576 acres of tree canopy on private and public land — with 71 per cent on private property and 29 per cent on public land.

In 2018, the total canopy cover was measured, via satellite photography, at 30.5 per cent of the city's land base.

Of the total tree canopy area, 2,184 acres are protected on public land by the public tree bylaw and 3,296 acres are regulated by the existing private tree bylaw.

The remaining 2,184 acres, or 28 per cent of the tree canopy, is not regulated under a tree bylaw.

How climate change threatens development

October 18, 2023

Aware Simcoe



High water levels are shown in Brentwood. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

From Barrie Today, by Ben Krul, October 17, 2023

'The biggest climate change-related threats to development are precipitation and wildfires,' conservation authority official explains

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Read more [here](#)

Proposed cemetery 'absolutely not' in public's interest

October 19, 2023 by Michael Owen

Barrie Today

More than 50 residents overflow from Bradford council meeting eager to oppose proposed cemetery just south of Innisfil



1 / 7 Lanney Dennis answers questions as part of a public meeting about a proposed cemetery at 3369 Line 13, during the regular meeting of council at the Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library, on Tuesday evening, Oct. 17. Michael Owen/BradfordToday

Bradford council stopped a planned cemetery plan dead in its tracks after residents claimed traffic, environmental impacts and water contamination would be too hard to swallow.

More than 50 residents attended a public meeting to oppose Vincenzo Gagliardi's [proposal to convert his property at 3369 Line 13 into a cemetery](#), during a council meeting Oct. 17.

Mana Masoudi, senior planner, explained the reason for the public meeting and outlined the plan to

transform 36.42 hectares of farmland into a multi-denominational cemetery including 9,000 burial plots and two four-storey mausoleums.

While staff were prepared to issue site plan approval, the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 still required council to determine if the proposal was in the public's interest.

Of those in attendance, nine residents came up to share their concerns with council including Gail Hazlett, who lives nearby on Line 12, as do her parents, leading her to have concerns over impacts on traffic, air quality and ground water.

Hazlett said streams and rivers that run along the property in question lead to her and her parents' properties, and as her parents are in the process of digging a new well, the possibility of contamination is "very concerning."

"My kids drink the water, my neighbours drink the water, everyone drinks the water," she said, adding that and other concerns mean "it's a recipe for disaster if you ask me."

Jackie Edwards lives to the north of the proposal and worries that not enough is being done to prevent construction and operation of the site from impacting those residing nearby.

Edwards wants to see servicing and mitigation plans expanded to consider gas emissions, water use and septic provisions, and worries about "bio waste" from the site contaminating water sources.

"A mitigation plan is preventative and not reactive and should require that

all reasonable mitigation be implemented to prevent any environmental spills from occurring," she said.

Karyl Alfred felt there should be a distinction between a common cemetery and one with two four-storey mausoleums, which she compared to "a massive commercial project," and worried about the potential for funerals attracting hundreds of vehicles and negatively impacting nearby residents.

"We all purchased a rural property for the purpose of a quiet life. This would make our lives miserable," she said, adding that if the project were to move forward, she would want to see limitations on when and how much activity can take place on the site.

Marlon Alfred felt residents should have been given notice of the project sooner and that the reports had too many caveats about what could happen, and not enough assurances for residents.

Giovanni Calabro introduced himself as a professional road builder and paver who thinks the road would need significant improvements to handle traffic from construction.

"I can guarantee you that road will not support heavy trucks going in and out," he said. "Thirteenth Line, you say your prayer in the winter when you drive on that street. All that traffic is going to be hell."

Lanny Dennis, of Lanny Dennis Planning, represented the property owner. He explained the cemetery wouldn't be built out all at

once, but expanded over decades and kept to the areas that have already been disturbed for farming.

The proponent confirmed all existing wetlands, watercourses and woodlands on the property would be preserved. Most nearby wells are 40 to 100 metres deep, the proponent says, and should be protected by a layer of soil that prevents leachate contamination. Ground water should run off the site away from houses, too.

These comments drew criticism from the crowd.

Joe Voisin, a civil engineer, explained the sewage system for the site should have no impact on nearby residents and that the fire system would use dry hydrants with precast tanks, so it would have no impact on the aquifer.

Town staff had requested a 30-year monitoring program and the proponent had agreed, Dennis said.

On traffic, Michael Cullip of Tatham Engineering said, "this is not going to cause gridlock or chaos."

But councillors ultimately remained skeptical.

Ward 6 Coun. Nickolas Harper asked the consultants how the cemetery would be in the public interest.

In response, Dennis stressed the importance of adding more burial space in Bradford, especially due to population growth, an aging population and limited existing spaces.

With reports containing qualifiers such as suspect, expected, should and could, Harper wanted to know how consultants could be sure water quality wouldn't be affected.

Ward 2 Coun. Jonathan Scott asked who would be responsible for operating the site and adhering to long-term agreements, and upon hearing that there is currently no proposed operator, became frustrated.

"Nothing you presented tonight inspired any confidence," he said.

As the vice-chair of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, Scott was unconvinced of the appropriateness of the site, as it sits over a "highly-vulnerable aquifer."

While deputy mayor Raj Sandhu estimated that there are only a little more than 6,000 burial spaces left in Bradford, he agreed with Scott.

"That doesn't fly with me; they have lots of homework to do," he said.

Ward 4 Coun. Joseph Giordano said that, while the site wasn't proposed for agricultural land and council is "growth oriented," the proposal wasn't the right type of growth for the town.

Mayor James Leduc agreed the presentation failed to properly address all of the concerns, but said the proponent should be given more time to revisit those concerns and return to council with an updated presentation.

Ward 5 Coun. Peter Ferragine, in whose ward the cemetery was proposed, said his eyes were opened by the concerns of residents and the responses from consultants.

"You see it in the room. Is this in the public's interest? Absolutely not," he said.

During a recorded vote requested by Giordano, all councillors voted to defeat the proposal except for the mayor, and the decision was met by cheering and applause from residents.

To view the meeting in its entirety, visit the town's [YouTube page](#).

Proposed cemetery 'absolutely not' in public's interest

October 19, 2023 by Michael Owen

Bradford Today

More than 50 residents overflow from Bradford council meeting eager to oppose proposed cemetery just south of Innisfil



1 / 7 Lanney Dennis answers questions as part of a public meeting about a proposed cemetery at 3369 Line 13, during the regular meeting of council at the Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library, on Tuesday evening, Oct. 17. Michael Owen/BradfordToday

Bradford council stopped a planned cemetery plan dead in its tracks after residents claimed traffic, environmental impacts and water contamination would be too hard to swallow.

More than 50 residents attended a public meeting to oppose Vincenzo Gagliardi's [proposal to convert his property at 3369 Line 13 into a cemetery](#), during a council meeting Oct. 17.

Mana Masoudi, senior planner, explained the reason for the public meeting and outlined the plan to

transform 36.42 hectares of farmland into a multi-denominational cemetery including 9,000 burial plots and two four-storey mausoleums.

While staff were prepared to issue site plan approval, the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 still required council to determine if the proposal was in the public's interest.

Of those in attendance, nine residents came up to share their concerns with council including Gail Hazlett, who lives nearby on Line 12, as do her parents, leading her to have concerns over impacts on traffic, air quality and ground water.

Hazlett said streams and rivers that run along the property in question lead to her and her parents' properties, and as her parents are in the process of digging a new well, the possibility of contamination is "very concerning."

"My kids drink the water, my neighbours drink the water, everyone drinks the water," she said, adding that and other concerns mean "it's a recipe for disaster if you ask me."

Jackie Edwards lives to the north of the proposal and worries that not enough is being done to prevent construction and operation of the site from impacting those residing nearby.

Edwards wants to see servicing and mitigation plans expanded to consider gas emissions, water use and septic provisions, and worries about "bio waste" from the site contaminating water sources.

"A mitigation plan is preventative and not reactive and should require that

all reasonable mitigation be implemented to prevent any environmental spills from occurring," she said.

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Springwater mayor facing watershed moment with NVCA questions

'This isn't leaving the NVCA, it's reverting back to where it was in 1999,' says mayor

October 20, 2023 by Wayne Doyle
Penticton Herald



Springwater Township Mayor Jennifer Coughlin. Image supplied

A lack of accountability and inadequate service levels.

Those are the two main reasons why Springwater Township Mayor Jennifer Coughlin brought forth a motion at Wednesday night's regular council meeting requesting staff prepare a report that would outline the process the township would have to take to reverse a 1999 council decision that placed the entirety of Springwater under the jurisdiction of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA).

Prior to the 1999 decision, 84 per cent of the township was under NVCA jurisdiction.

"Over the past many many years, I've heard from residents across the

township with questions that didn't make sense to me," she said after introducing her motion. "I would talk to generational farmers who would tell me that their land never used to be NVCA jurisdiction and how is it possible?"

According to background information provided by staff, Springwater council originally discussed the idea of moving the entire township under NVCA jurisdiction in the mid-1990s. Township council at the time approved the idea and it went to the NVCA for consideration and approval. Following NVCA approval, it was sent to the provincial government for final approval, which they provided.

According to Jeff Schmidt, Springwater's chief administrative officer, the township will have to reach out to the province first to see if a reversal is even possible.

If the township is successful in getting a reversal, it would change how much the township pays for NVCA services.

Currently, Springwater, along with the 17 other municipalities within the NVCA jurisdiction — the townships of Adjala-Tosorontio, Amaranth, Clearview, Essa, Melancthon, Mulmur, New Tecumseth and Oro-Medonte, the towns of the Blue Mountains, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Collingwood, Innisfil, Mono, Shelburne and Wasaga Beach, the municipality of Grey Highlands and the city of Barrie — must pay for mandatory Category 1 services provided by the NVCA.

In 2024, the cost to Springwater Township, which includes NVCA's

operational levy and asset management levy, will be \$225,913.

With a reversal, the cost would drop to \$189,766, which would represent the 84 per cent of the township that would be included in the NVCA.

The township also has a relationship with the Severn Sound Environmental Association and Coughlin says she's concerned about overlapping services from both partners.

"This isn't leaving the NVCA, it's reverting back to where it was in 1999," Coughlin said in an interview with *BarrieToday* after council. "Our residents have frustrations that they've shared with me over the last 10 years about the service level we receive with the NVCA and the lack of accountability.

"I'm working diligently to ensure the service partners we have in place are accountable to our residents and the corporation," she added.

According to Coughlin, the NVCA is not accountable to any single individual or organization. She said she has contacted the highest levels of the Ontario government to seek answers, but none have been forthcoming.

"When the NVCA takes 200 days to get a permit out to someone, I have no way to ensure that doesn't happen again nor do I have the ability to put pressure on them to make sure our residents are getting the service," she said. "People are missing building windows. We have people who are missing business opportunities because they can't get buildings built.

"It's impacting our residents in very many ways and aside from going to the minister, which I have done, I have no way of holding the service level of a partner accountable," the mayor added.

Coughlin believes the NVCA has "gotten too big" and strayed from its original mandate. She thinks if the organization pulled back some of its non-essential offerings, it wouldn't be in the financial straits it is today.

"They've got their fingers into everything," Coughlin said. "You have to get a permit from them for a new septic tank. They won't come out and inspect it or approve it — the township has to do that — but you've got to get the permit from them.

"They take the money and go."

BarrieToday also reached out to the NVCA for comment.

"NVCA does not have any comments at this time regarding the township's decision," said Maria Leung, senior communications specialist at NVCA.

Springwater mayor facing watershed moment with NVCA questions

October 23, 2023

Aware Simcoe



Springwater Township Mayor Jennifer Coughlin.

From Barrie Today, Wayne Doyle,
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
Oct 20, 2023

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Read More [Here](#)

New metal shop proposed in Grey Highlands near McIntyre

There were no public concerns or objections to the proposed metal working shop

October 25, 2023 by Chris Fell

Collingwood Today



Grey Highlands planner Abdullah Pasha (upper left) speaks to Grey Highlands council about a proposed rezoning to allow a new metal shop near McIntyre.

A public meeting revealed no objections to a proposed new metal shop to be located in Grey Highlands near McIntyre.

On Oct. 23, Grey Highlands council held a public meeting to hear any comments or concerns about a [proposal](#) to rezone a McIntyre-area property to allow a new "on-farm diversified use" operation.

The property is located at Lot 28, Concession 4 in the former Osprey Township.

If approved, the application would change the zoning on the property from agricultural to rural commercial. The rezoning would permit a 250-metre metal working shop that will

involve the fabrication, manufacturing and storage of metal cylinders that will be used for hydraulic and pneumatic devices.

The proposal also includes a 250-metre outdoor storage area.

The public meeting on the rezoning generated no comments or concerns from the community at large or council.

Abdullah Pasha, the Grey Highlands planner on the file, said commenting agencies such as Grey County and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority had no concerns with the proposal.

The application will be sent to a future council meeting for a final decision.

Clearview Township reaches settlement with Roxodus rock concert organizers

Settlement between concert organizers and Clearview Township is confidential

November 3, 2023 by Ian Adams

Wasaga Sun



More than four years after Roxodus was cancelled, Clearview Township has settled with concert organizers MF Live and Taurus Investment Group.

Torstar file photo

The organizers of a failed rock concert have reached a settlement with [Clearview Township](#).

The municipality had been pursuing MF Live and Taurus Investment Group for more than \$78,000 it was owed for work to "facilitate" the [proposed Roxodus concert in 2019](#), to be hosted on the Edenvale Aerodrome lands and a neighbouring property.

The concert was cancelled days ahead of when it was to be held, with organizers citing wet site conditions and poor ticket sales.

The organizers filed for bankruptcy, and have since reached [a confidential](#)

[settlement with online ticket seller Eventbrite](#).

They were also convicted under the Conservation Authorities Act in connection to [charges laid by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority](#). That conviction is currently under appeal.

In a brief statement issued to [Simcoe.com](#) on Nov. 1, Mayor Doug Measures confirmed that the matter between organizers and the township had been resolved.

"The Township has agreed to a confidential settlement to the Roxodus event litigation," Measures stated. "While the terms of the settlement are strictly confidential, the township is satisfied that the taxpayers are fully recompensed for the township expenses on the Roxodus event."

The County of Simcoe is still pursuing the Taurus Investment Group for \$1.5 million in a civil proceeding for the alleged removal of trees and destruction of environmentally sensitive lands. According to the county's legal department, "The County continues to work on components of its legal action against Taurus Investment Group Inc. and is unable to comment further at this time."

Organizers of failed Roxodus event reach settlement with Clearview Township

November 3, 2023 by Christian D'Avino

CTV Barrie



Four years after the greatest rock festival to never happen was cancelled, Clearview Township has recouped some of its costs from organizers.

The Township confirmed to CTV News Friday it had settled with MF Live and Taurus Investment Group after pursuing the organizing groups for more than \$78,000 for work related to facilitating the proposed Roxodus event.

"The Township has agreed to a confidential settlement to the Roxodus event litigation," said Clearview Mayor Doug Measures in a statement. "While the terms of the settlement are strictly confidential, the Township is satisfied that the taxpayers are fully recompensed for the Township expenses."

On July 3, 2019, the festival was cancelled just days ahead of when it was to be held, with organizers citing poor ticket sales and wet site

conditions. On July 12, organizers filed for bankruptcy.

Almost 200 creditors were owed money - according to documents released by Grant Thornton LLP, the insolvency trustee - including ticket-vendor Eventbrite Inc., which launched a lawsuit, claiming it was out \$5 million.

In October 2020, the two sides settled out of court.

Earlier this year, organizers were convicted under the Conservation Authorities Act in relation to charges that the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority brought forward. Those charges are under appeal.

The County of Simcoe is currently pursuing civil action against Taurus Investment Group, alleging the removal of trees and destruction of environmentally sensitive lands.



'Very important': NVCA seeks \$18K funding bump from Bradford

Authority seeking \$200K from 18 member municipalities for two new staff needed to keep up with permit applications

November 8, 2023 by Michael Owen
Bradford Today



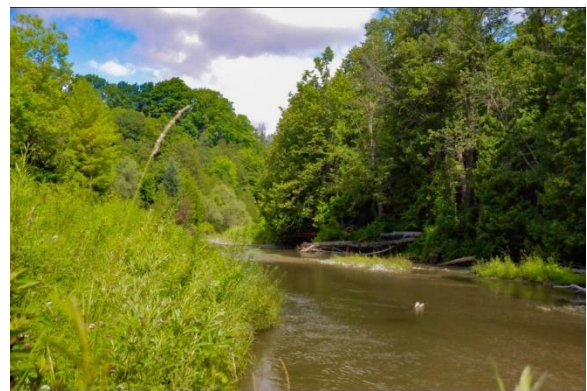
1 / 4 The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's Sheryl Flannagan, director of corporate services, listens as Doug Hevenor, CAO, speaks during the regular meeting of council in Bradford on Nov. 7. Michael Owen/BradfordToday



2 / 4 Tiffin Conservation Area Supplied photo



3 / 4 Petun Conservation Area
Supplied photo



4 / 4 Glencairn Conservation Area
Supplied photo

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) is asking Bradford for \$143,243 to cover the town's portion of the authority's draft 2024 budget — an increase of \$18,524 compared to the \$124,719 paid for 2023.

That includes an increase in operating expenses from \$119,485 to \$136,688, and a bump in asset management costs from \$5,234 to \$6,555.

The request came as part of a presentation by the NVCA's Doug Hevenor, chief administrative officer, and Sheryl Flannagan, director of corporate services, during the Nov. 7 Bradford council meeting.

In a report brought to the NVCA board in August, staff requested a \$200,000 increase to the total levy and during deliberations, the board decided to increase that to \$400,000 with the additional \$200,000 intended to fund two new staff for the planning and regulations department.

While Ward 6 Coun. Nickolas Harper expressed concerns over justifying the increase to residents, Hevenor explained it was necessary for the NVCA to meet their commitments under the province's bills 23 and 109, including processing all of the building permit applications they receive within a 90-day window, after which time municipalities could face even greater costs of refunding development fees.

"Our planning department needs to grow," Hevenor said. "What we are doing is very important for their (residents') safety and goodwill."

To help put the increase into perspective, Ward 2 Coun. Jonathan Scott said Bradford's portion was equal to about half the cost of a new speed bump, and as vice-chair of the NVCA he appreciated the need for the conservation authority to keep pace with the growth of its municipalities.

"Otherwise the complaints come in and we stand to be exposed both as a CA (conservation authority) and a municipality to the risks under the new provincial legislation," he said.

Mayor James Leduc asked if the NVCA had considered sharing staff and resources with the Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority (LSRCA), and Flannagan explained

that the two groups had discussed the idea, but the NVCA already has a greater number of permit applications coming in and the LSRCA staff are already busy with their own workload.

Hevenor confirmed they will probably never approve 100 per cent of all applications because some don't deserve it, but in previous years 98 per cent of applications were processed on time; whereas, this year, Hevenor expects only 85 to 92 per cent will be processed on time, due to the increase in applications coupled with the lack of staff.

The mayor expressed concern over seeing those numbers drop. But with only one engineer working on permitting, Hevenor explained there are few choices.

"There's no humanly way possible to make those numbers," he said, adding that a full compliment of staff is necessary to get the work done.

Flannagan estimated the total impact would be \$15.31 per watershed resident and provided the following breakdown by category as a percentage of the total budget:

- 42.9 per cent — Corporate Services and Governance
- 21.6 per cent — Planning and Regulations
- 12.4 per cent — Lands and Operations
- 7.8 per cent — Watershed Science
- 7.3 per cent — Flood Operations

- 5 per cent — Environmental Stewardship and Restoration
- 2.5 per cent — Forestry
- 0.5 per cent — Environmental Education

The NVCA is asking for nearly \$3.19 million from its 18 member municipalities for the proposed budget. When combined with contributions from the provincial and federal governments, grants and user fees it anticipates collecting about \$6.44 million in revenue next year.

Scheduled capital projects for 2024 include:

- Safety review for the Utopia Dam as well as the Tiffin ponds, work to be completed at Tottenham and New Lowell dams
- Parts replacement on lands, flood and monitoring equipment, as well as replacement of some end-of-life equipment
- Computers and server upgrades and network hardware
- Replacement of two vehicles

While the board's final budget vote will be held in December, Flannagan explained the deadline for member municipalities to sign memorandums of understanding is Dec. 31, with 70 per cent having already committed.

Council did not make a decision in response to the presentation. But according to staff, the town is obligated to continue funding its share

of the mandatory services while non-mandatory services will be discussed during council budget deliberations.

The NVCA is a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment and tasked with delivering innovative, integrated watershed management that is responsive to the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the Nottawasaga Valley watershed.

The board is comprised of representatives appointed from each of the member municipalities.

The Nottawasaga River is the main river in the 3,700-sq-km watershed which also includes the Oak Ridges Moraine, Niagara Escarpment, Minesing Wetlands and Georgian Bay.

Later that evening, council's committee of the whole endorsed the recommendation for the town to enter into memorandums of understanding with both the NVCA and LSRCA for their services. Recommendations from committee of the whole are considered for approval at the next regular council meeting.