



NVCA May 2023 Board Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting: June 23, 2023, held virtually

For the full meeting agenda including documents and reports, visit [NVCA's website](#).

Administrative Bylaws Update

NVCA's Board of Directors approved an update to the Administrative Bylaws. The update included the possibility of an agricultural sector member and the changes within the *Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*.

Presentation on NVCA's Stewardship Services

Fred Dobbs, NVCA's Manager of Stewardship Services gave a presentation regarding NVCA's Stewardship Services program to the Board of Directors.

The Stewardship Services program helps restore rivers, streams and wetlands in the Nottawasaga Watershed.

Healthy watercourses provide wildlife habitat and are vital for maintaining recreation opportunities and economic activity in the watershed. In fact, Wasaga Beach and salmon and trout fishing rely on a clean Nottawasaga River!

Healthy rivers, floodplains and wetlands also provide green infrastructure for protecting watershed residents from property damage due to flooding and erosion.

Healthy Waters Grant Incentive Program

This program provides grants and cost-sharing opportunities to landowners to restore rivers and streams on private properties.

Some projects include tree planting and vegetated buffer creation, livestock exclusion fencing, planting pollinator strips and manure management.

As part of the program, NVCA's stewardship staff provide services such as free site visits,

technical advice and volunteer coordination for high priority projects.

River Restoration

Through the Nottawasaga River Restoration Program, NVCA works with partners and funders to improve water quality in the Nottawasaga River and its tributaries.

The goal is to extend the high-quality water and coldwater trout habitat in the Upper Nottawasaga River and its Sheldon Creek tributary downstream to enhance the world class trout and salmon sport fishery and restore native fish habitat.

For more information, [watch this ten-minute documentary about the program](#).

Grassland Restoration

Over 97% of Southern Ontario's native grasslands have been lost. NVCA works with Forests Ontario and private landowners to restore grasslands.

Grasslands allow water to infiltrate quicker into the ground which helps with flood control and contributes to carbons sequestration. It is also important habitat for species at risk like bobolink and meadowlark.

Volunteer Tree Planting Program

NVCA works with many volunteers each year to restore rivers and streams in the watershed. This Spring, volunteers helped plant 8,000 native tree and shrub seedlings on 40 different sites

Phragmites Control

Working with Blue Mountain Watershed Trust, condominium associations, local municipalities and Georgian Bay Forever, NVCA helps remove the invasive Phragmites along the shoreline in

the Town of Collingwood and the Town of Wasaga Beach.

Thanks to this joint effort, which will continue into 2023, large stands of invasive Phragmites have been controlled and habitat for native wetland plants, turtles and birds in the Silver Creek coastal wetland has been restored!

NVCA Watershed Monitoring Strategy

As a science-based organization, NVCA's Watershed Science program completes water and ecological monitoring to ensure there is adequate and accurate scientific information to support both internal and external partners.

Monitoring the Nottawasaga Watershed helps support the conservation, enhancement, and management of the watershed and its resources for current and future generations.

Under this new strategy, the watershed monitoring program will be reorganized under four disciplines — climate, groundwater, natural heritage, and surface water.

NVCA will also transition away from the production of Watershed Report Cards every five years and towards an annually updated online reporting dashboard. The dashboard would be designed as a user-friendly webtool allowing for the exploration of the watershed and its health through data and analyses.

Upcoming Events

Learn to fly fish like a biologist

NVCA's fisheries biologist Fred Dobbs and Cabela's Barrie will be hosting a fly fishing workshop!

Both smallmouth and largemouth bass are both exciting to catch while fly fishing! To be successful with these species, however, requires different gear, flies and techniques than fly fishing for trout.

Join us on Saturday, June 17 to learn how to fly fish for bass to make sure you have the best ever summer season on the water!

Date: Saturday, June 17, 2023 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Location: Cabela's Barrie Park - Place Centre, 50 Concert Way Barrie, Ontario L4N 6N5

Tiffin Nature Program

Geared towards pre-K and children in kindergarten, the Tiffin nature program will help children gain knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our amazing planet.

Date: 6-week sessions from September 20, 2022 to June 13, 2023.

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation 8195 8th Line, Utopia, ON L0M 1T0

PA/PD Day Camp

Offered on PA/PD Days only (Simcoe County District School Board and Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board), kids will enjoy lots of physical activity, and be mentally stimulated as they explore ever changing scenery and landscapes. They will be able to move away from excess screen time, and learn how to integrate nature into their everyday lives.

Date: June 2, 2023

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation 8195 8th Line, Utopia, ON L0M 1T0