



NVCA November 2023 Board Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting: December 8, 2023, held in-person

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

Presentation on NVCA's Lands Conservation Program

Kyra Howes, NVCA's Director of Conservation Services gave a presentation regarding NVCA's conservation lands program to the Board of Directors.

NVCA owns approximately 5,300 hectares of land across the Nottawasaga Watershed. These lands are used for flood protection, land conservation and recreation purposes.

Throughout the watershed, NVCA owns and manages three hydrometric stations, seven snow survey locations, four flood protection structures, while six properties are protected for flood abatement.

There are over 42 km of multiuse trails in NVCA's conservation areas. The trails are made accessible whenever possible. Lands that are not open for visitors contain significant natural heritage features, such as provincially significant wetlands, natural hazards and other sensitive features.

To ensure adequate funding for conservation area maintenance, NVCA's Conservation Lands program charges parking fees and rents out venues for weddings and other event bookings.

NVCA Lands staff have been designated as Provincial Offences Officers under Section 29 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* to proper and legal use of NVCA lands.

Partnerships

NVCA partners with many local organizations maintain conservation areas and to host festivals such as the Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival and the Festival at Fort Willow.

These partners include the Rotary Club of Barrie and the Friends of the Utopia Gristmill.

Infrastructure development

Visitor numbers increased 10-fold over the last five years. To ensure high quality customer service and maintenance, NVCA's Conservation Lands program prioritizes infrastructure updates and improving visitor experience.

For example, in 2023, a new parking lot was installed at the Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area, one of NVCA's most popular conservation areas.

Pretty River Dike Safety Review Update

D.M. Wills Associates Limited ("D.M. Wills") was chosen as the successful bid for an RFP that solicited bids for the execution of a safety review update for the Pretty River Dike.

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.

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.

New Lowell Washroom Repairs

The NVCA Board of Directors approved the use of the use of the New Lowell Reserve fund for washroom repairs at the New Lowell Campground.

2023 Year End Surplus/Deficit Allocation

The NVCA Board of Directors approved that any deficit/surplus for 2022 will allocated accordingly to the budget reserve.

Upcoming Events

Tiffin Nature Program

Geared towards children in pre-K and kindergarten, NVCA's nature program will help children 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.

Date:

Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year (with some exceptions)

Location:

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

[Link to Registration](#)