



NVCA December Board Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting: January 26, 2024, held in-person

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

Presentation on NVCA's Planning and Permits Program

Ben Krul, NVCA's Manager, Development Planning and Permits gave a presentation regarding NVCA's planning and permits program to the Board of Directors.

The role of NVCA in the development planning process is to protect lives and properties from flooding and erosion in areas around watercourses, wetlands and shorelines. NVCA also aims to protect the natural benefits offered by these natural areas.

NVCA staff provides environmental planning expertise in a timely manner to guide municipal land-use planning decisions. The comments provided must be consistent with federal, provincial and municipal policies.

Projects that require an NVCA permit include:

- Construction of a dwelling or addition
- Reconstruction of a dwelling
- Construction of any other structure such as shorewall, in-ground pool or driveway
- Placing or constructing a detached accessory structure such as a barn, shed or pool house
- Changes to a building or structure that alters the use, increases the size or occupancy such as, enclosing a carport to create a garage, or an "in-law" suite
- Site grading
- Temporary or permanent, removal or importation of material such as fill, gravel, soils, even if the material originated on the site

Projects that do not require an NVCA permit include:

- If your proposed works is not in an NVCA regulated area
- If NVCA staff have reviewed the regulations associated with the property and determined a permit is not required. Email clearance can be given at that time
- Fences and ground level decks outside natural hazards.
- Above ground swimming pools, temporary pools and hot tubs
- Landscaping activities such as planting trees or garden beds
- Minor limbing of trees, cutting scrub or damaged vegetation outside of wetlands
- Agricultural practices such as cropping and tilling of existing agricultural lands

NVCA encourages permit applicants to consult with planning and permit staff prior to submitting an application to ensure their permit application process is smooth, efficient and on the right track.

Staff are currently development an e-permitting platform that allows applicants to track the status of permits online. There will also be database improvements and websites updates to improve customer service.

97% permits and clearances approved within prescribed timelines

Between June 10, 2023 to November 27, 2023, 397 permits and clearances were approved. In the majority of instances (97%) NVCA staff met the prescribed timelines as outlined in the MNRF guideline document.

NVCA's permit application service timelines are governed by the Conservation Authority Liaison Committee (CALC), 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.

Categories 2 & 3 Capital Reserve

With the introduction of the 3 categories in 2024, the 2024 budget was drafted to separate the capital purchases and asset levy by the categories.

The Board of Directors approved the creation and allocation of funds and directed the NVCA auditor to transfer 14% of the end of year balance in the current capital reserve.

2024 Budget Approved

The Board of Directors approved NVCA's 2024 budget at \$6,444,677 compared to the 2023 approved budget of \$5,687,989. This includes a \$400,000 increase to the municipal levy (shared among all 18 member municipalities), with the remainder coming from grants, fees for services, and other sources. Funds from municipal levy represent approximately 50% of NVCA's revenues.

Updated 2024 Conservation Services Fees

NVCA's Conservation Services program provides a variety of programs and services to watershed residents and visitors through a fee-for-service basis. The revenues that are generated through these programs are used to reduce the overall levy funds required by member municipalities.

Services include environmental education, forestry, events and recreational opportunities.

As per requirements set out in the *Conservation Authorities Act*, staff must review all Conservation Services fees on a regular interval.

The proposed fee increases may see an increase of \$25,000 – \$30,000 per year based on projected annual delivery of services.

Update MOU Cost Apportioning Agreement Programs and Services

Below is a summary the MOU Cost Apportioning Agreement Programs and Services with NVCA's member municipalities:

- Adjala-Tosorontio executed and signed
- Grey Highland executed and signed
- Mono executed and signed
- Amaranth executed and signed
- Shelburne executed and signed
- Melancthon executed and signed
- New Tecumseth approved in committee of the whole
- Innisfil approved in committee of the whole
- Bradford West Gwillimbury approved in committee of the whole
- Collingwood approved in committee of the whole
- Barrie provided cost apportionment agreement to CAO to be executed
- Wasaga Beach indicated support to date
- Oro-Medonte indicated support to date
- Clearview and Wasaga Beach indicated support preparing cost apportionment agreement for their review
- Springwater indicated support; require additional information preparing cost apportionment agreement
- Essa still deciding. Decision to come Dec 20, 2023
- Mulmur has not decided on Category 3 support

Acquisition of Three Properties Within Minesing Wetlands

NVCA has recently been successful with two tax sale property purchases (5 acres & 20 acres) and have received confirmation of a donation of a third property (50 acres) within the Minesing Wetlands, in the Township of Springwater. These properties provide significant ecological benefits to the larger land preservation landscape that is the Minesing Wetlands.

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](#)

Winter Camp Tiffin

In anticipation of winter Camp Tiffin, NVCA staff have been excited to plan activities full of outdoor adventures.

Activities may include wilderness survival skills, kick sledding, Christmas Bird Count for Kids and much more!

Date:

January 2 – January 5, 2024

Location:

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

[Link to Registration](#)

Christmas Bird Count for Kids

Come prepared for the weather, bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Additional binoculars and guides will be available for use at the event.

Learn about the birds that spend the winter at the Tiffin Conservation Area from local nature enthusiasts from Nature Barrie. The day will start with indoor instructions, followed by a guided hike to practice bird identification skills. Warm up with hot chocolate as we wrap up and review what special sights were seen, or heard!

Date:

January 5, 2024 from 9 am – 12 pm

Location:

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

[Link to Registration](#)