

05-24-BOD Agenda

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Friday, August 23, 2024 at 9:00 AM EDT to Friday, August 23, 2024 at 12:00 PM EDT

Agenda

1. Events

Fish Sampling

The Stewardship team will be running volunteer fish community surveys in the Town of Blue Mountains

Dates: August 27 – 28, 2024

Locations:

August 27 – Petun Conservation Area, 675485 2nd Line, The Blue Mountains

August 28 – 589682 Grey County Rd 19, The Blue Mountains

TD Tree Days

Thanks to funding from the TD Tree Days program, the Stewardship Team will be hosting potted stock plantings.

Date: September 7, September 21, October 19, 2024

Location: 80 Crompton Drive, City of Barrie

TD Tree Days

Thanks to funding from the TD Tree Days program, the Stewardship Team will be hosting potted stock plantings.

Date: September 21, 2024

Location: Whitetail Refuge Nature Reserve, 754415 Mono Centre Road, Mono Centre

Festival at Fort Willow

Experience Simcoe as it was in the 1800s as it was at the Historic Fort Willow Conservation Area

Date: October 5, 2024

Location: Historic Fort Willow Conservation Area, 2714 Grenfel Road, Springwater Township

TD Tree Days

Thanks to funding from the TD Tree Days program, the Stewardship Team will be hosting potted stock plantings.

Date: October 19, 2024

Location: Creemore - Ganaraska Trail, 2186 S Nottawasaga Concession 6, Creemore, ON, L0M 1G0

2. Call to Order

3. Land Acknowledgement

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional land of the Anishnaabeg people. The Anishnaabeg include the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Pottawatomi nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. 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 #05-24-BOD dated on August 23, 2024 be approved.

6. Announcements

There are no announcements at this time.

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), 12.2.2 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 04-24-BOD dated on May 24, 2024 be approved.

12.2. Staff Reports

12.2.1. Staff Report No. 19-05-24-BOD from Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services regarding Regulations Mapping Update

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 19-05-24-BOD regarding NVCA's regulations mapping update.

12.2.2. Staff Report No. 20-05-24-BOD from Tyler Mulhall, Planner regarding Permits/Approvals Under the Conservation Authorities Act

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: NVCA Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 20-05-24-BOD that summarizes the permits and approvals issued by staff for the period of November 27, 2023 to July 23, 2024.

12.2.3. Staff Report No. 21-05-24-BOD from Dalia Al-Ali, Manager, Engineering Services regarding Engineering Review Process

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 21-05-24-BOD regarding the Engineering Review Process.

12.2.4. Staff Report No. 22-05-24-BOD from Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services regarding NVCA's Asset Management Plan 2025 Update

Recommendation:

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

12.2.5. Staff Report No. 23-05-24-BOD from Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services regarding 2024 Second Quarter Budget

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 23-05-24-BOD regarding the 2024 second quarter financials; and
FURTHER THAT: staff continue to monitor budget activities.

12.2.6. Staff Report No. 24-05-24-BOD from Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services regarding 2025 Preliminary Budget Guidelines

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 24-05-24-BOD regarding guidelines for the development of the 2025 NVCA draft budget be received; and

FURTHER THAT: staff be directed to prepare a draft 2024 budget using option #1, for consideration by the Board of Directors.

12.2.7. Staff Report No. 25-05-24-BOD from Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist regarding Communications Report

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 25-05-24-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – *May 11, 2024 – August 9, 2024*, be received.

13. Other Business

14. In Camera

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting of the Board of Directors No. 05-24-BOD move into closed session at _____ to address matters pertaining to:
Personal information regarding an identifiable individual, including authority staff, and
FURTHER THAT: the Director, Corporate Services, be in attendance for recording and speaking purposes.

15. Out of In-Camera

Recommendation:

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

15.1. Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer 2024 Mid Year Review

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive the Chief Administrative Officer's mid-year 2024 performance review

16. Adjourn

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting adjourn at _____ to meet again on September 27, 2024 or at the call of the Chair.



04-24-BOD Minutes **(Draft)**
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
May 24, 2024 at 9:00 AM EDT

Attendance

Present:

Mayor Scott W. Anderson, Adjala-Tosorontio (Township); Cllr. Christopher Baines, Collingwood (Town); Cllr. Joe Belanger, Wasaga Beach (Town); Cllr. Nicole Cox, New Tecumseth (Town); Cllr. Kyle Fegan, Shelburne (Town); Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink, Essa (Township); Chair Gail Little, Amaranth (Township); Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren Clearview (Township); Cllr. Patricia Clark, Mulmur (Township); Cllr. June Porter, The Blue Mountains (Town); Vice-Chair Jonathan Scott, Bradford West Gwillimbury (Town); Cllr. Ralph Manktelow, Mono (Town); Cllr. Richard Schell, Oro-Medonte (Township) -*arrived at 9:15am*; Cllr. Kevin Eisses, Innisfil (Town); Cllr. Joel Loughead, Grey Highlands (Municipality)

NVCA Staff:

Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services; Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer; Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services; Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services; Christine Knapp, General Account (*departed at 9:30am*); Sarah Thompson, Source Water Coordinator; Jennifer France, Watershed Monitoring Technician; Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist; Kerry Jenkins, Administrative Assistant/Recorder

Absent:

Cllr Phil Fisher, Springwater (Township); Cllr. Gary Harvey, Barrie (City); Mayor Darren White, Melancthon (Township)

Guests:

Pamela Spence -*departed at 9:42am*

1. Events

Let the River Flow: Mad River benefit concert

A benefit concert in support of "The Friends of the Mad River", a local, community-based group of volunteers who are committed to restoring and sustaining the Mad River as a healthy habitat for all who rely on it. [Free registration encouraged on Eventbrite](#). This is a "Pay What You Can" event, cash only at the door or donate online at the [Canada Helps link](#).

Date: May 26, 2024

Location: St. John's United Church, 192 Mill Street Creemore, ON L0M 1G0

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 March 19, 2023 – June 4, 2024

Full Day Dates: Thursdays March 21, 2023 – June 6, 2024

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

PA/PD Day

Camp Tiffin encourages outdoor exploration, guided excursions in the forest fueled by student interest. Every day will be guided by student inquiry, seasonal changes, and weather and program availability.

Date: June 7 and June 28, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

2. Call to Order

Chair Little called the meeting to order at 9:03am.

3. Land Acknowledgement

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional land of the Anishnaabeg people. The Anishnaabeg include the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Pottawatomi nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. 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: 30-24

Moved by: Cllr. Ralph Manktelow

Seconded by: Mayor Scott W. Anderson

RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting #04-24-BOD dated on May 24, 2024 be approved.

Carried;

6. Announcements

Chair Little introduced Cllr. Patricia Clark to the Board of Directors as she took over Mayor Horner's position on the Board.

7. Presentations

There were no presentations at this time.

8. Deputations

Deputation regarding Watercourse Deluge and Runoff Negatively Affecting Nottawasaga Bay from Pamela Spence.

Recommendation:

RES: 31-24

Moved by: Cllr. Patricia Clark

Seconded by: Cllr. June Porter

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive the deputation as presented.

Carried;

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: 32-24

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren

Seconded by: Cllr. Christopher Baines

RESOLVED THAT: no agenda items 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

RESOLVED THAT: the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting 03-24-BOD dated on April 26, 2024 be approved.

12.2. Staff Reports

12.2.1. Staff Report No. 14-04-24-BOD from Greg Marek, Senior Planner Regarding PPS

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors receive and approve Staff Report No. 14-04-24-BOD regarding NVCA planning staff's review of the new proposed provincial planning policy instrument titled the "Provincial Planning Statement".

12.2.2. Staff Report No. 15-04-24-BOD from Greg Marek, Senior Planner Regarding the Minister and CA Act

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors receive and approve Staff Report No. 15-04-24-BOD regarding NVCA planning staff's review of the proposed regulation detailing new Minister's permit and review powers under the Conservation Authorities Act.

12.2.3. Staff Report No. 16-04-24-BOD from Greg Marek, Senior Planner Regarding Bill 185

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors receive and approve Staff Report No. 16-04-24-BOD regarding NVCA planning staff's review of Bill 185 and potential implications for the NVCA in its delegated responsibility from the Province to represent provincial interests regarding natural hazards.

12.2.4. Staff Report No. 17-04-24-BOD from Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 17-04-24-BOD as information.

12.2.5. Staff Report No. 18-04-24-BOD from Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 18-04-24-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – *April 12, 2024 – May 10, 2024*, be received.

13. Other Business

There was no other business.

14. In Camera

Recommendation:

RES: 33-24

Moved by: Cllr. Christopher Baines
Seconded by: Cllr. Ralph Manktelow

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting of the Board of Directors No. 04-24-BOD move into closed session at 9:42am 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 Chief Administrative Officer, Director, Corporate Services, Director, Watershed Science, Director, Conservation Services, Manager, Development Planning & Permits, Manager, Engineering Services and Administrative Assistant be in attendance for recording and speaking purposes for item a and;

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

Carried;

15. Out of In-Camera

Recommendation:

RES: 34-24

Moved by: Mayor Scott W. Anderson

Seconded by: Cllr. Joel Loughead

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors rise from in-camera at 10:42am and report progress.

Carried;

15.1. Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer 2023 Annual Performance Review

Recommendation:

RES: 35-24

Moved by: Cllr. Christopher Baines

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Belanger

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive the Chief Administrative Officer's 2023 annual performance review and 2024 review for implementation.

Carried;

16. Adjourn

Recommendation:

RES: 36-24

Moved by: Mayor Scott W. Anderson

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting adjourn at 10:43am to meet again on June 28, 2024 or at the call of the Chair.

Carried;



Staff Report: 19-05-24-BOD

Date: 23/08/2024

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Chris Hibberd, RPP, MCIP
Director, Watershed Management Services

SUBJECT: Regulations Mapping Update

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 19-05-24-BOD regarding NVCA's regulations mapping update.

Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report is to advise the Board on the regulation mapping update progress and next steps.

Background

Historically, NVCA has developed and maintained regulations mapping pursuant to the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 172/06. The mapping is displayed on NVCA's website and prepared in accordance with Provincial guidelines.

On April 1, 2024, Ontario Regulation 41/24 (Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits) and Part VI of the Conservation Authorities Act came into effect. This regulation replaces the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) previous "Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses" regulation (172/06).

Ontario Regulation 41/24 (the regulation) identifies that “an authority shall develop maps depicting the areas within the authority’s area of jurisdiction where development activities are prohibited under paragraph 2 of subsection 28 (1) of the Act which shall be filed at the head office of the authority and made available to the public on the authority’s website, and by any other means that the authority considers advisable.

In addition, the regulation notes the following:

- that “at least once annually, the authority shall, review the maps;
- make and file such updates to the maps at its head office if required; and
- make the updated maps available to the public on its website and by any other means it considers advisable”.

Further to the above, the regulation stipulates that for significant updates to the areas where development activities are prohibited under paragraph 2 of subsection 28 (1) of the Act, including enlargements or reductions to such areas, the authority shall ensure that stakeholders, municipalities and the public are notified of the proposed changes in any manner that the authority considers advisable, including making any relevant information or studies available online at least 30 days prior to an authority meeting during which the proposed changes are on the agenda.

The regulation also includes the following provision: “For greater certainty, in case of a conflict regarding the boundaries of the areas where development activities are prohibited under paragraph 2 of subsection 28 (1) of the Act, the description of those areas in that paragraph and in section 2 of this Regulation prevail over the depiction of the areas in the maps referred to in subsection (1) of this section.”

The full version of Ontario Regulation 41/24 can be found at:
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r24041>

Issues/Analysis

NVCA’s last major update to the regulation mapping occurred in 2014. Since then, there have been numerous legislative changes, studies and updated information that impact on the regulation mapping criteria layers.

The key mapping layers that comprise the mapped regulated area includes:

- riverine flood hazards, slope hazards, and meander belt hazards plus 15 metre allowance,
- wetlands and associated 30 metre allowance, and
- Georgian Bay shoreline hazards (100-year flood level; shoreline erosion over

a 100-year period, and where a dynamic beach is associated with the waterfront lands, an allowance of 30 metres inland to accommodate dynamic beach movement) plus 15 metres allowance inland.

Other regulated hazards lands include unstable soil or bedrock.

Staff have been updating and developing draft mapping with the focus on using the 2017 shoreline hazard studies produced by Shoreplan Engineering, updated wetland mapping, available flood hazard studies (e.g. Creemore, Wasaga Beach) and an updated slope hazard identification (using TRCA's methodology).

As noted above stakeholder engagement is required prior to finalization of the draft mapping. The proposed stakeholder engagement process includes: 1) circulation to municipalities for input (summer 2024); 2) notifying other key stakeholders and the public including a public information session (early fall 2024); and 3) presenting the final mapping, summary of the stakeholder engagement and an overview of the mapping update process to the Board for approval (late fall 2024/early winter 2025).

Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

The actions noted in this report are intended to be consistent within the noted legislation that came into effect April 1, 2024.

Impact on Authority Finances:

This project is expected to be carried out and implemented through the approved budget.

Climate Change Implications

This report has no climate change implications.

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

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



Staff Report: 20-05-24-BOD
Date: 23/08/2024
To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
From: Tyler Mulhall
Planner

SUBJECT: Permits/Approvals under the *Conservation Authorities Act* for the Period November 27, 2023 to July 23, 2024.

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: NVCA Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 20-05-24-BOD that summarizes the permits and approvals issued by staff for the period of November 27, 2023 to July 23, 2024.

Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this staff report is to provide the Board of Directors with a summary of the permits/approvals issued under Section 28 (and section 28.1 as of April 1, 2024) of the *Conservation Authorities Act (the Act)* and provide information outlining how the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and Conservation Ontario Client Service Standards for Conservation Authority Plan and Permit Review permit response timelines are being met.

Background

Due to the enactment of Ontario Regulation 41/24 and sections of the *Act* on April 1, 2024, this report will highlight two different timelines. Any application that was received prior to April 1, 2024 will be reported under the previous timelines as demonstrated in past reports. For all applications received past this date of enactment will be reported in accordance with the new Provincial timelines.

Pervious Reporting

As a result of an amended regulation to the *Conservation Authorities Act Section, 28 'Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation'*, NVCA staff have been delegated the authority to approve permissions consistent with board approved policies and guidelines.

Based on the Board of Directors approved reporting format and timelines, staff provide the Board bi-annual reporting. This format allows for increased transparency.

As outlined in MNR's May 2010 "Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting Activities" (the "CALC" report), permit applications under the *Conservation Authorities Act* will generally be processed within specified timelines. This document identifies that conservation authorities are to make a decision (i.e., recommendation to approve or recommendation for refusal with right to an appeal) with respect to a permission (permit) application and pursuant to the *Conservation Authorities Act* within 30 days for a complete minor application and 90 days for a complete major application.

NVCA will notify applicants, in writing, within 21 days of the receipt of a permission (permit) application, as to whether the application has been deemed complete or not. The applicant should pre-consult with NVCA staff prior to submission of an application to determine complete permit application requirements for specific projects.

In 2019/2020 NVCA, in collaboration with Ontario's Conservation Authorities and Conservation Ontario, endorsed the Conservation Ontario "Client Service Standards for Conservation Authority Plan and Permit Review" (the "Client Services Standards" report, endorsed June 24, 2019, amended December 9, 2019). As a designated high growth CA, NVCA has implemented the following measures (Note that NVCA had historically and proactively addressed items 1 & 2 below):

1. Publicly accessible agreements and policies that guide reviews and decision making;
2. CA online screening maps;
3. CA annual report to Conservation Ontario on review timelines.

The Client Service Standards report provided client service targets for review of permit applications under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (Table 3 of document at link included below). Under the Client Service Standards, prior permit applications classified as 'Clearance Letter/Letter of Approval' have been renamed 'Routine Permit Applications'. The following target timelines have been identified:

- Routine Permit Applications – Notification as to whether the application has been deemed complete or not within 10 days, decision to be rendered within 14 days of receipt of complete application with 7 additional days for review of subsequent re-submissions.
- Minor Permit Applications - Notification as to whether the application has been deemed complete or not within 14 days, decision to be rendered within 21 days of receipt of complete application with 15 additional days for review of subsequent re-submissions.
- Major Permit Applications - Notification as to whether the application has been deemed complete or not within 21 days, decision to be rendered within 28 days of receipt of complete application with 30 additional days for review of subsequent re-submissions.

Pre-consultation prior to permit application submission are encouraged by NVCA and reduce the notification of application completeness for Minor and Major Permit Applications by 7 days.

Link to Conservation Ontario Client Service Standards for Conservation Authority Plan and Permit Review:

<https://conservationontario.ca/fileadmin/pdf/policy-priorities section/PlanRegs Client Client Service Standards for Conservation Authority Plan and Permit Review As Amended.pdf>

New Reporting

With the enactment of the Ontario Regulation 41/24 (Prohibited Activity, Exemptions, and Permits, and the subsequent enactment of new Sections of the Act, NVCA is now required to report on ensuring applicants are to be notified in 21 days of an application status, and a decision on files (once deemed complete) is to be issued within 90 days for all permit application types.

Section 7(2) of Ontario Regulation 41/24 outlines “upon receipt of the information required under subsection (1) and payment by the applicant of the fee charged by the authority under subsection 21.2 (4) of the Act, the authority shall notify the applicant in writing, within 21 days, whether or not the application complies with subsection 28.1 (3) of the Act and is deemed to be a complete application.” This 21 day notification timeline is the basis for our new reporting on Application Status.

Under Section 28.1(22) the Act specifies that if a decision for an application is not made within 90 days, the applicant can appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal for a non-decision on file. This 90 day appeal date is the basis for the 90 day decision timeline NVCA will be reporting against for any application received after April 1, 2024.

It is important to note; this new way of reporting removes the “CALC” timelines.

Issues/Analysis

Given the unique nature of this report – looking at two different timelines, staff have included an overall summary of the permits issued between November 27, 2023 to July 23, 2024. Below this table, staff have broken down the timelines for the Chair and Members of the Board for reference.

Below is a summary of the permits and clearances issued during the period November 27, 2023 to July 23, 2024. A total of 334 permits and clearances were approved by staff for this time period.

Permits/Approvals under the Conservation Authorities Act Report
 Staff Report No. 20-05-24-BOD

Summary of Permits and Clearances by Municipality	Total Permits	Total Clearances
CITY OF BARRIE	18	0
MUNICIPALITY OF GREY HIGHLANDS	4	0
TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS	5	0
TOWN OF BRADFORD WEST GWILLIMBURY	11	0
TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD	29	0
TOWN OF INNISFIL	5	0
TOWN OF MONO	12	0
TOWN OF NEW TECUMSETH	19	0
TOWN OF SHELBURNE	2	0
TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH	62	0
TOWNSHIP OF ADJALA-TOSORONTIO	28	1
TOWNSHIP OF AMARANTH	4	0
TOWNSHIP OF CLEARVIEW	31	0
TOWNSHIP OF ESSA	23	0
TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON	3	0
TOWNSHIP OF MULMUR	8	0
TOWNSHIP OF ORO-MEDONTE	38	0
TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWATER	32	1
Total	334	2

To understand where NVCA falls with our timelines under the previous timelines and our new timelines, staff ran two separate reports – one from November 27, 2023 to March 31, 2024 and another from April 1, 2024 to July 23, 2024. Staff manually identified permits issued post-April 1, 2024 that had an application received pre-April 1, 2024 and added this data to a table outlining the old timelines. The results are listed in the table below. Out of the 334 permits, a total of 114 were identified and put into the old timeline reporting structure.

Permits/Approvals under the Conservation Authorities Act Report
 Staff Report No. 20-05-24-BOD

Number of Permits Issued Within Policy and Procedure timeline		Number of Permits Issued Outside of Policy and Procedure Timeline			
Major	Minor	Major	Minor		
110	127	3	18		
Number of Permits Issued Within CO Guideline timeline		Number of Permits Issued Outside of CO Guideline timeline			
Major	Minor	Routine	Major	Minor	Routine
100	68	51	13	13	13

In the majority of instances (92.0%) NVCA staff met the prescribed timelines as outlined in the MNRF guideline document and noted in the "Background" section of this staff report.

In the majority of instances (85.0%), NVCA staff met the prescribed timelines as outlined in the Conservation Ontario Client Service Standard document and noted in the "Background" section of this staff report.

Given the nature of how this report had to be generated, staff determined it was difficult to accurately compare results from a similar time frame before, however, in the December 2023 Staff Report, NVCA issued a total of 397 permissions (permits/clearances), and met the mandated timelines in 97.0% (CALC) and 93.5% (Conservation Ontario Client Service Standard).

Continuing, below is a summary of NVCA's timelines with regards to the new timelines as of April 1, 2024

Number of Permits Issued Within Policy and Procedure timeline (90 days)	Number of Permits Issued Outside of Policy and Procedure Timeline (90 days)	Number of Applicants Provided Written Notification within 21 days	Number of Applicants Provided Written Notification outside 21 days
76	0	75	1

Since April 1, 2024, under the new timeline framework NVCA staff met timelines 100% of the time when issuing permits. NVCA staff have also achieved 99% when providing written notification status within prescribed timelines with only one (1) applicant receiving a late notice. This is explained further in the section below regarding file intake.

File Intake

NVCA has implemented a staged approach to file intake in light of the recent changes which is outlined below:

Step 1: Ensuring all items outlined in the application form is submitted. Once all minimum requirements are submitted and review fee is paid. Review staff either determine if the application requires "pre-screening" or moves directly to "Notice of Complete Application" and review starts and a decision is to be made within 90 days.

Stage 2: Pre-Screening

For applications that may require further technical information, they are sent to "pre-screening". This is a weekly meeting held by a Planner and an Engineer to screen applications to determine what further information may be required to deem an application complete.

Stage 3: Issuance of Notification

Once an application is through Stage 2, the applicant is then circulated written notification of the status of their application; "notice of additional materials required", or "complete application". If the applicant receives a complete application notice, the file then enters into review for a decision in 90 days. For applicants that received notification that additional materials are required, the file will not be deemed complete until all items outlines are supplied.

For further discussion related to personal information and to ensure compliance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, these discussions should be held in closed session. It is important to note that Conservation Ontario has specified a transition period of 2-years to implement the Client Service Standards and associated performance evaluation and reporting.

Starting and Stopping the Clock

To assist staff with accurate timeline reporting and to ensure NVCA is issuing a decision within 90 days of a file being "in-house"; NVCA will be implementing a "Run Time" on all files received after April 1, 2024 – an example of what this looks like is below.

Run Time (Start / Stop Tracking)

Status Start	Date 11/20/2024	Details Permit Issued, File Closed	Save
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Events Seq.

Date Start	Detail	Date End	Detail
07/25/2024	Notification of Complete Application	08/22/2024	Clarification Questions Sent
10/23/2024	Resposne to Questions	11/20/2024	Permit Issued, File Closed

In this example, staff started the clock on July 25, 2024 when the application was deemed complete. On August 22, 2024 NVCA sent clarification questions to the applicant and stopped the clock. Staff started the clock again when staff received

answers to the questions on October 23, 2024, and stopped and closed the file on November 20, 2024 when the permit was issued.

Using this example, it appears that staff took 118 days to issue the permit, but NVCA staff had the file "in-house" for 56 days, issuing the permit within the 90 day timeline. It is important to note that this feature was not live for staff to utilize at the time of this report, and as such is not being reported on. Future reports will include this metric.

Relevance to Authority Policy

Applications received prior to April 1, 2024 have permits issued under *Ontario Regulation 172/06* are in compliance with Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Applications received after April 1, 2024 have permits issued under Section 28.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and are in compliance with *Ontario Regulation 41/24*.

Impact on Authority Finances

Permit issuance and reporting is completed within the confines of the approved 2024 budget under staff salaries and program expenses.

Climate Change Implications

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	This staff report does not result in an increase in green house gases
Temperature	This staff report does not result in an increase temperature
Precipitation	This staff report does not result in an increase in precipitation exposure

Submitted by:
Original Signed by

Chris Hibberd
Director, Watershed Management
Services

Approved for Submission by:
Original Signed by

Doug Hevenor
Chief Administrative Officer



Staff Report: 21-05-24-BOD
Date: 23/08/2024
To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
From: Dalia Al-Ali, Manager, Engineering Services

**SUBJECT: Engineering Review Process
Observations, Insights, and Opportunities for Improvement**

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 21-05-24-BOD regarding the Engineering Review Process.

Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report is to present a succinct summary of key observations, insights and opportunities for improving the Engineering Review Process in an effort to improve review timelines and enhance customer service for internal staff and external partners, agencies and the public.

Background

The Engineering Review Process is one of the processes that make up the broader NVCA service areas of Municipal Plan Input and Review, and Plan Review Not Related to Natural Hazards (based on the NVCA Inventory of Programs and Services approved by the Board of Directors on February 25, 2022). Throughout 2024, the Manager of Engineering Services and Manager of Development Planning and Permits have dedicated time to observing, assessing and incrementally improving the broader review processes comprising these two service areas.

The current Engineering Review Process is driven by requests for technical engineering review from the Development Planning & Permits team. Development

Planning & Permits staff typically evaluate which planning and permit submissions require engineering review. To determine whether technical studies may be required, applications are pre-screened with technical staff. Following pre-screening, planning and permits staff follow up with the applicant to indicate whether the application is complete or additional technical studies are required. Once a complete application has been received, planning and permits staff generate a "workflow" to the appropriate engineering reviewer. In addition to this broader process, a Technical Review Triage process has been implemented to flag urgent or priority review requirements from technical staff (including engineering) on a weekly basis.

Between 2022 and 2024, over 5,500 applications and inquiries were received by planning and permits staff. Given the volume of applications and inquiries, staffing improvements have been made to the Planning and Engineering teams over the past 1-2 years to better support plan and permit review requirements and improve customer service. However, the Engineering team continues to deal with a backlog of files requiring engineering review. When the backlog is considered alongside the ongoing Technical Review Triage requirements, it is apparent that the current Engineering Review Process is presenting a bottleneck that is limiting the overall efficiency of the broader review process.

The Staff Report will present a summary of key observations, insights and opportunities for improving the Engineering Review Process. These improvements are especially important given expectations to meet or exceed review timelines on high profile projects such as the \$15 billion Honda Plant expansion in New Tecumseth, Grain Terminals redevelopment in Collingwood, and proposed K-12 school in Wasaga Beach.

Issues/Analysis

1. Engineering Review Process: Current Process Observations & Insights

Currently, engineering review staff are assigned review responsibilities on the basis of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that is based on the geographic location of plan/permit file and the complexity of the required engineering review. However, deviations from the SOP are not uncommon, and they are facilitated by the Manager of Engineering Services to manage the engineering reviewers' workloads – particularly when trying to meeting Technical Review Triage requirements or deadlines.

The engineering team continues to deal with a backlog of files requiring engineering review. When the backlog is considered alongside the ongoing Technical Review Triage requirements, it is apparent that the current Engineering Review Process is presenting a bottleneck that is limiting the overall efficiency of the broader review

process. A basic throughput rate analysis confirms that the current Engineering Review Process is presenting a bottleneck. The rate at which engineering review is being assigned exceeds the engineering team's ability to address *new* review assignments while also addressing *existing* reviews in their workflow (i.e., backlog) and emerging *urgent/priority* reviews identified through the Technical Review Triage process. Simply put: the value of the investments made by NVCA to improve the broader review process will not be fully realized until this bottleneck is addressed.

Prior to addressing the bottleneck presented by the Engineering Review Process, a thorough analysis of the current process is required to identify the root causes of, and contributing factors to, the bottleneck. The Manager of Engineering Services has engaged staff and management involved in the broader review process to better understand challenges, limitations and inefficiencies. In addition, engineering review staff were engaged through a workshop designed to identify and gain insights into the current Engineering Review Process. Key challenges identified by the engineering review team are listed below.

- Generally, reviewers do not believe their current workloads to be manageable.
- Generally, the engineering reviewers' experience of the Technical Review Triage process is that it is driven by political pressures and does not accurately account for the time required for engineering review, especially for more complex Planning Act applications. That said, reviewers also expressed positive aspects about the process, including that it provides helpful direction to the engineering team and promotes collaboration.
- When asked to identify factors that most often contribute to lengthier engineering review times, the team noted the following factors:
 - Files with a lengthy history and/or several prior engineering reviewers;
 - Files located in areas with incomplete, inaccurate, or outdated natural hazards mapping/modelling;
 - Plan and permit submission materials which are incomplete or of poor quality, often requiring that engineering/planning staff reach out to the applicant to request revised/additional submission materials;
 - Frequent interruptions to the review process due to time-sensitive inquiries (both internal and external), urgent requests for engineering review (above and beyond Triage priorities), and meeting requests which sometimes interrupt the flow/pace of reviews;
 - Lack of understanding of the scope of engineering review required given the Planning and/or Regulatory context for the file being reviewed.

- When asked to identify factors that might improve the efficiency of the engineering review process, the team noted the following factors:
 - Updated natural hazards mapping/modelling;
 - Additional staff resources to assist with the volume of applications;
 - Limiting or reducing inquiries from applicants who argue the validity or accuracy of previously submitted engineering comments (i.e., inquiries that go beyond simple requests for clarification);
 - Limiting or reducing the frequency of interruptions to ongoing reviews which are most often linked to time-sensitive inquiries (internal and external) and urgent requests for engineering review (above and beyond Triage priorities);
 - Generally having more uninterrupted blocks of time to dedicate to reviews, which was identified as especially important for complex planning and permit submissions as well as files with a lengthy review history.

2. Process Improvement Principles (Lean & Six Sigma)

It is crucial that any process review be informed by sound process improvement methodologies. Lean and Six Sigma methodologies have been applied to the review, assessment and improvement of a wide range of organizational processes. Both methodologies present an array of tools for the review and improvement of the Engineering Review Process. Broadly, Lean and Six Sigma both focus on enhancing efficiency, improving quality, and bettering performance. Both methodologies strive to achieve these improvements using various tools and techniques. That said, both Lean and Six Sigma are grounded in the following overall objectives:

- Deliver consistent value and meet customer needs;
- Gather concrete data and use analytical tools to drive decisions, measure improvements and ensure improvements are sustained; and
- Improve processes in a holistically and comprehensively by eliminating resource-related “waste” and reducing variability in the desired outputs.

Applying Lean and Six Sigma principles to the Engineering Review Process has resulted in (a) generating new insights about aspects of the Process which are leading to slowdowns/inefficiencies, (b) confirming certain previously-held conclusions about the Process, and (c) identifying tangible opportunities for improving the current Process.

3. Engineering Review Process: Opportunities for Improvement

The observations presented above point to both direct (internal to the team) and indirect (external to the team) opportunities for improving the Engineering Review Process. In general, opportunities for improvement can be broadly encompassed by

the following three categories:

- i. Increasing engineering review capacity;
- ii. Optimizing current processes and developing new processes (as needed);
- iii. Reallocating engineering resources (if or when possible).

Each of the above categories has multiple subcategories of potential options for improvement in this context; each subcategory is informed by the observations and insights presented above, as well as broader observations by the Manager of Engineering Services and others. The categories, subcategories and proposed focus areas for improvement are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Direct and indirect opportunities for the improvement of the Engineering Review Process.

Category	Subcategory	Proposed Focus Area(s)
Increasing Engineering Review Capacity	Hire additional full-time engineering review staff (minimum of 2 full-time staff required given current and near-term projected workload)	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquire additional intermediate or senior review staff who can mentor more junior staff and serve as subject-area experts <input type="checkbox"/> Desired skillsets for proposed staff positions: Municipal design or construction experience; hydrologic or hydraulic modelling experience
Increasing Engineering Review Capacity	Implement a concrete training plan for current engineering review staff that ensures they are keeping up with current and emerging best practices relating to the modelling and/or mapping and/or management of natural hazards in the CA sphere	<input type="checkbox"/> Include dedicated funding for regular training on watershed and subwatershed scale hydrologic modelling, best practices, and software-specific expertise <input type="checkbox"/> Include dedicated funding for regular training on 1D and 2D hydraulic modelling, best practices, and software-specific expertise <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure the training plan identifies clear growth metrics required for staff growth and advancement
Increasing	Promote & enhance	<input type="checkbox"/> Enhance collaboration with

Engineering Review Process
 Staff Report No. 21-05-24-BOD

Category	Subcategory	Proposed Focus Area(s)
Engineering Review Capacity	collaboration and cross-disciplinary learning to improve the engineering review team's ability to accurately assess risk in relation to natural hazards within the watershed	Development Planning and Permit staff through the implementation of Planning-Engineering and Ecology-Engineering "rotating review pairs" that aim to maximize staff interactions and cross-disciplinary learnings
Optimizing Current Processes and Developing New Processes	Optimize current Engineering Review Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Optimize the existing workflow assignment SOP and improve it based on the observations and insights presented in this Staff Report
Optimizing Current Processes and Developing New Processes	Develop new processes to address critical factors impacting the efficiency of engineering review	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop SOP to consistently and reliably address the review of older files <input type="checkbox"/> Develop SOP to address reviewers' ability to achieve dedicated review time (e.g., dedicated meeting blocks to minimize disruption to reviews; proposed fielding of all questions relating to previously submitted engineering comments through the Manager of Engineering Services)
Optimizing Current Processes and Developing New Processes	Work with the Manager of Development Planning & Permits to develop new SOPs to streamline the broader review process based on review staff's input	<input type="checkbox"/> At the discretion of both managers, SOP requirements will be identified and SOPs developed to: ensure applicant submissions meet minimum standards for completeness and quality; provide the structure for supporting better two-way flow of information between Engineering and Planning staff; etc.
Reallocating	Assess the potential for	<input type="checkbox"/> Consider workload-related

Category	Subcategory	Proposed Focus Area(s)
Engineering Resources	revising the engineering team's structure to incorporate more flexible allocation of review resources	triggers that would flag other <u>or</u> new/additional staff to shift to <u>or</u> from engineering review responsibilities (<i>dynamic resourcing</i>)
Reallocating Engineering Resources	Reallocate resources to allow the Manager of Engineering Services to dedicate time to (a) the improvement and monitoring of processes of strategic importance, (b) the identification of opportunities for collaboration and/or funding, and (c) the development of a strategy to identify next steps and resource requirements for the update of NVCA's floodplain (hydrologic and hydraulic) modelling since improved tools will help to sustainably support the engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Develop clear metrics for regularly monitoring and evaluating the success of new or improved aspects of the Engineering Review Process <input type="checkbox"/> Acquire one additional full-time Flood Forecasting & Warning staff member given the anticipated long-term work load associated with the maintenance and management of flood structures <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a strategy in collaboration with the Information Management Services team to identify next steps in the <i>prioritized</i> update of NVCA's floodplain modelling <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that the Manager of Engineering Services is not assigned as a lead engineering reviewer for files to prioritize being able to support staff on reviews on an as-needed basis
Reallocating Engineering Resources	Consider cross-training opportunities and mentorship programs (internal and external) that can supplement technical/engineering training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure each engineering reviewer participates in at least one discipline-specific committee or group <input type="checkbox"/> Consider the above noted recommendation to implement Planning-Engineering and Ecology-Engineering "rotating review pairs" that aim to maximize staff interactions and cross-disciplinary learnings

Impact on Authority Finances

At this point in time, cost estimates have not been determined for all the opportunities for improvement identified above. It is anticipated that some form of financial impact will be realized through the implementation of some or all of the improvement opportunities.

It is important to note that the staffing requirements identified in Table 1 are an essential component in contributing to the successful implementation of most other opportunities noted in the table and to the broader success of the service areas identified in the Background section (Municipal Plan Input and Review, and Plan Review Not Related to Natural Hazards). Further, based on direct input from engineering review staff and observations by the Manager of Engineering Services, the workloads of reviewers are currently unsustainable while the backlog of files requiring engineering review persists.

In terms of immediate priorities for improvement, Engineering has requested the addition of a full-time Engineering Technologist (CET) on a 1-year contract plus another full-time permanent Flood Operations Specialist as part of the proposed 2025 budget. This staffing complement will help to support the engineering review requirements over the next year and allow the Manager of Engineering Services to dedicate more time to the improvement of the Engineering Review Process, particularly given the near-term priorities for the Flood program identified in Staff Report No. 06-02-24-BOD (Flood Structures: Workplan for 2024 and Key Near-Term Considerations).

Climate Change Implications

This report has no climate change implications.

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: 22-05-24-BOD

Date: 23/08/2024

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Sheryl Flannagan
Director, Corporate Services

SUBJECT: NVCA Asset Management Plan – 2025 Update

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 considered 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 the staff's review, an excel spreadsheet was produced which tracks over 600 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 2023, the NVCA holds a current book value of \$8,581,748 (down from \$8,682,506 at end of 2022) of assets as can be seen on page 7 of the Asset Management Plan as of December 31st, 2023. 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 the departments of the Authority as each department is accountable for the assets it controls.

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

The Plan is then 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.

Staff have also identified all 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.

For 2025 and for the next 4-5 years, there will be increases due to major dam repair work that needs to be completed. Staff will do everything they can to minimize the impact to our member municipalities.

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, \$176,035 per year is required.

For category 3 items, to achieve maintenance of assets for the next ten years, \$30,373 per year is required.

As previously mentioned, the increase over 2024's amount is primarily due to the larger infrastructure projects that are required to repair some dams after the safety reviews were completed.

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. 2025 Updated Asset Management Plan



Asset Management Plan

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Date Approved: August 2016

Date of last Revision: August 2024

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Executive Summary

Conservation Authorities are watershed-based, non-profit organizations, that are often located across multiple Municipalities. In Ontario there are 36 Conservation Authorities all of whom adhere to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. This includes the NVCA who works to manage natural hazards through planning comments, development permits, and flood forecasting as well as the management of natural resources that are essential to sustaining water quality and quantity through watershed planning, stewardship, environmental monitoring and research, and the management of conservation and natural areas.

The NVCA owns a variety of infrastructure assets that are used to support the services they deliver. The goal of asset management is to deliver an adequate level of service in the most cost-effective manner. This involves the development and implementation of asset management strategies and long-term financial planning.

With the development of this AMP, NVCA has met the requirements of Section 21.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act and the supporting O. Reg. 402/22 Budget and Apportionment. While not legislatively required for the NVCA, this AMP meets, to the greatest extent reasonably possible, the reporting requirements of O. Reg. 588/17 Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure. Currently, this is Ontario's most rigorous legislative reporting requirement for Asset Management Planning and Reporting. By working to meet such requirements, the NVCA's asset management program aligns with best practices and proactively positions the authority to meet their own potential future legislative requirements.

Background - Asset Management at NVCA

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.

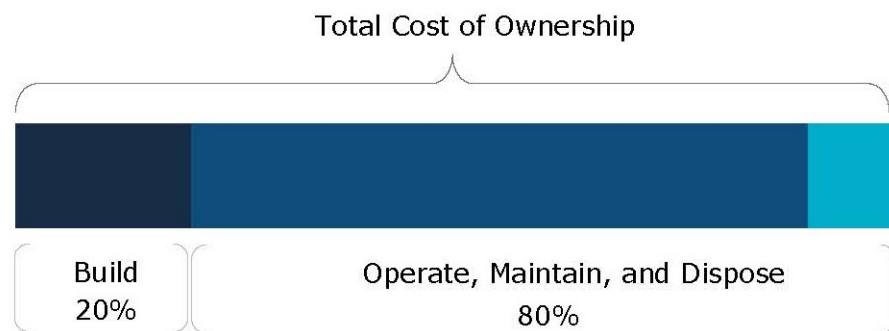
To comply with the new standards in 2009, NVCA gathered information on the assets they owned, and created an excel spreadsheet to track current assets and assets to be purchased in subsequent years. The NVCA now has a database that provides a foundation for improving asset management practices at the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

The information required to be PSAB compliant at the end of 2009 investigated the previous year's assets. It considered historical costs (or reasonable estimate where necessary), annual amortization, accumulated amortization, and the resultant current net book value of assets. The AMP 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.

An Overview of Asset Management

Many of the services provided by Conservation Authorities are supported by an underlying infrastructure. To deliver these services, the infrastructure used must be effectively managed and maintained, including identification of near- and short-term capital costs, asset risks, and asset performance. The goal of asset management is to minimize the lifecycle costs of delivering infrastructure services, manage the associated risks, while maximizing the value received from the asset portfolio.

Typically, the acquisition of capital assets accounts for only about 10-20% of their total cost of ownership. The remaining 80-90% derives from operations and maintenance. This AMP focuses its analysis on the capital costs only to maintain, rehabilitate and replace existing assets under ownership.



These costs can span decades, requiring planning and foresight to ensure financial responsibility is spread equitably across generations. An AMP is critical to this planning, and an essential element of broader asset management program.

Key Concepts in Asset Management

Effective asset management integrates several key components, including lifecycle management, risk management, and levels of service. These concepts are applied throughout this AMP and are described below in greater detail.

The condition or performance of most assets will deteriorate over time. This process is affected by a range of factors including an asset's characteristics, location, utilization, maintenance history and environment. Asset deterioration has a negative effect on the ability of an asset to fulfill its intended function, and may be characterized by increased cost, risk and even service disruption.

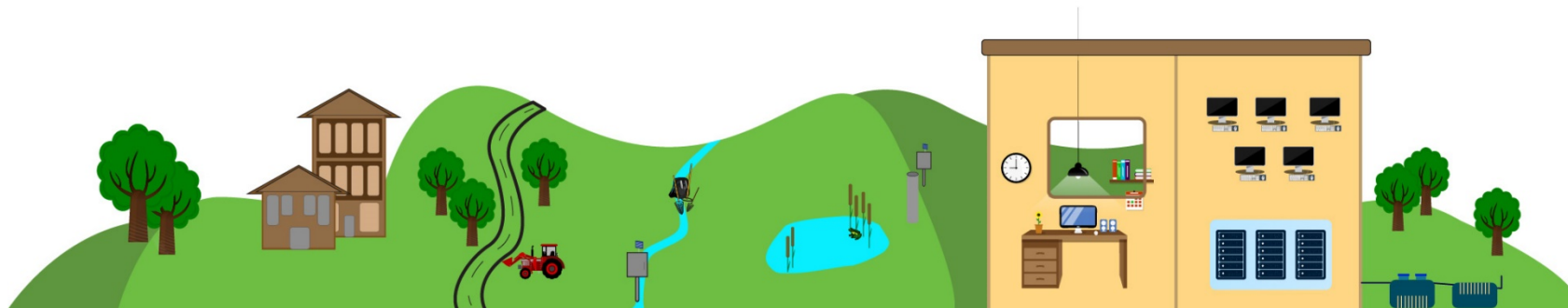
To ensure that municipal assets are performing as expected and meeting the needs of customers, it is important to establish a lifecycle management strategy to proactively manage asset deterioration.

There are several field intervention activities that are available to extend the life of an asset. These activities can be generally placed into one of three categories: maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement. The following table provides a description of each type of activity and the general difference in cost.

Lifecycle Activity (Typical Funding Source)	Description	Example (Large Equipment)	Cost
Maintenance (Operating)	Activities that prevent defects or deteriorations from occurring	Oil Change	\$
Rehabilitation/ Renewal (Capital)	Activities that rectify defects or deficiencies that are already present and may be affecting asset performance	Engine Rebuild	\$\$
Replacement/ Reconstruction (Capital)	Asset end-of-life activities that often involve the complete replacement of assets	Full Replacement	\$\$\$

NVCA's approach to lifecycle management is described within each asset category outlined in this AMP. Developing and implementing a proactive lifecycle strategy will help staff to determine which activities to perform on an asset and when they should be performed to maximize useful life at the lowest total cost of ownership.

Tangible Capital Assets as of December 31, 2023



Amortization	Land	Buildings	Large Equipment/ Vehicles	Small Equipment	Structures	Furniture/ Fixtures	Computers	Utility	Total
Cost	\$6,516,357	\$1,978,239	\$496,517	\$404,697	\$3,050,263	\$296,702	\$243,545	\$642,149	\$13,601,469
Accumulated Amortization		\$963,015	\$420,061	\$238,427	\$2,400,467	\$247,711	\$161,510	\$588,530	\$5,019,721
Net Book Value	\$6,516,357	\$1,015,244	\$76,456	\$166,270	\$649,796	\$21,991	\$82,035	\$53,619	\$8,581,748
Amortized %		49%	85%	59%	79%	83%	66%	92%	

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 an AMP 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 to conduct business and reduce the NVCA's liability. The goal of every AMP is to define the use of assets to streamline productivity and delivery with minimal loss of capital.

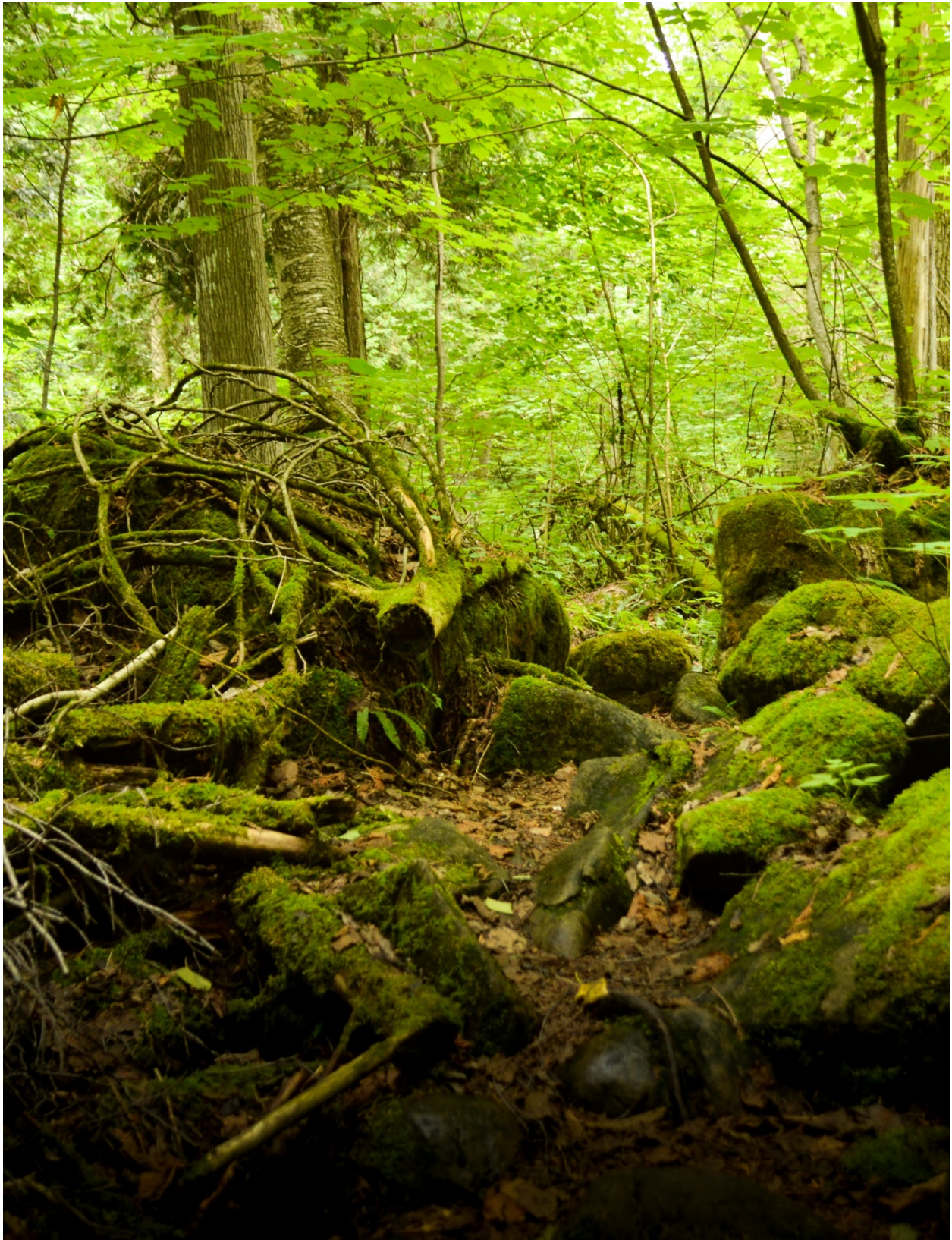
The AMP will identify liability situations and support NVCA's budgeting, planning, and forecasting processes which will bring benefits in the budgeting process, improving collaboration between user groups, and enhancing data quality and reliability.

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 AMP 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 49% amortized, which shows that they are relatively newer and do not require major replacement in the next 10 years, however, some maintenance and rehabilitation will be required.

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:

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
\$5,000	\$9,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	Total
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$14,000

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$1,400 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 staff to 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.).

Also, the NVCA has several large equipment including but not limited to tractors, 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 most 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 to poor condition and 85% amortized. Therefore, may be subject to higher maintenance and rehabilitation costs as they get closer to replacement.

Most of the 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:

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
\$106,000	\$178,700	\$125,000	\$135,000	\$72,000

2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	Total
\$-	\$ -	\$1,500	\$-	\$ -	\$618,200

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$61,820 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:

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
\$ -	\$7,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	Total
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$7,500

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$750 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 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 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

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 for the replacement of workstations 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 "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 extended core machines, those which have additional CPU's, RAM and dedicated graphic memory.

Business Standard Usage Replacement: Users will receive

workstations that are 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:

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
\$33,000	\$72,100	\$34,300	\$52,550	\$82,500

2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	Total
\$26,500	\$40,800	\$6,600	\$15,050	\$7,000	\$370,400

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$37,040 per year over the next 10 years excluding inflation.



Small Equipment

Our equipment inventory includes but is 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 59% and NVCA's inventory of equipment is in fair condition.

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

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

Monitoring Equipment

NVCA's monitoring programs examine the biological components of the watershed and include 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 changes over time in watershed health. 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.

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

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:

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
\$82,000	\$30,700	\$32,000	\$27,400	\$1,000

2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	Total
\$3,100	\$22,000	\$95,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$293,200

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$29,320 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:

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
\$19,400	\$83,150	\$26,000	\$37,500	\$49,400

2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	Total
\$5,000	\$39,450	\$2,000	\$50,800	\$16,500	\$329,200

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$32,920 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 in fair to poor condition at 92% amortized.

The risks associated with not replacing equipment include:

- High maintenance/repair costs

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

Financial Implications

Category 1

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

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
\$8,000	\$20,000	\$2,000	\$ -	\$4,000

2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	Total
\$7,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$41,000

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$4,100 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:

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
\$1,500	\$5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000

2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	Total
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$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 83%. 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

Most 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:

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
\$ -	\$ -	\$8,500	\$ -	\$ -

2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	Total
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$8,500

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$850 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:

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
\$ -	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$ -	\$ -

2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	Total
\$ -	\$3,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$10,500

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$1,050 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 in fair to poor condition and at 79% 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:

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
\$450,000	\$119,650	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	Total
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$569,650

The average capital replacement costs amount to \$56,965 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 \$1,914,950 or \$191,495 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 \$99,100 or \$9,910 per year towards assets. As well, due to some items being deferred from 2024 to 2025, there is a further reduction due to money collected in 2024 and not needed until 2025 in the amount of \$55,500 or \$5,550 per year.

This brings the amount needed every year to \$176,035. This increase from 2024 (\$131,675) 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 additions related to our structures/dams as major repair work is required as per the safety reviews that have been completed.

Category 3

To plan for the next ten years a total of \$354,700 or \$35,470 per year is required to adequately maintain our category 3 infrastructure. Some items have been deferred from 2024 to 2025, therefore bringing a reduction of \$50,970 or \$5,097 per year for a total of \$30,373 per year.

This is a slight increase from 2024 (\$21,081.50) however, it is due to the replacement of certain items that are now coming back onto the 10-year chart for replacement. 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 AMP 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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please contact us at 705-424-1479.



Staff Report: 23-05-24-BOD
Date: 23/08/2024
To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
From: Sheryl Flannagan
Director, Corporate Services

SUBJECT: 2024 Second Quarter Budget Report

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 23-05-24-BOD regarding the 2024 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 December 8, 2023 the Board approved the NVCA's 2024 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 slightly lower, with 43.67% of the budgeted expenses (50% of budget year completed).

- Revenues are also tracking a bit behind, with 44.24% of the budgeted revenues recognized. This includes the first 6 months of the general municipal levy of \$1,586,950.

Individual Program Updates

Conservation Services:

Forestry 110

- The 2024 plant started April 22nd and concluded May 21st. For the 2024 season the NVCA planted 74,900 trees.
- Forests Ontario has confirmed funding for the 2025 season, so our single biggest funding source has already been secured.
- Landowner interest in tree planting is strong for 2025. We anticipate another successful season. Site visits to meet with interested landowners for the 2025 plant began in early July.
- The Arbour Day Tree Sale was held on May 11th.
- Managed Forest Program is fully booked for 2024 with 30 plans confirmed.
- All expenses are on track and staff anticipate a balanced budget for 2024.

Conservation Lands – 150/151

- The Edenvale Conservation Area was added to NVCA's paid parking program, resulting in an increase in parking revenues.
- A local contractor completed the work on the Utopia Conservation Area Gristmill. The project was funded by the Friends of Utopia Gristmill and Park through a grant received from OMAFRA.
- As part of this year's capital asset plan, quotes have been requested from multiple engineering firms to complete a structural inspection of the viewing platform located on Concession 2, in Clearview.
- A balanced budget is anticipated for years end.

Tiffin CA – 661/662

- Wedding and events have started to ramp up for the summer season. Revenues from weddings and events are on track to meet 2024 budgetary targets.
- Significant, unanticipated repairs were required for a furnace in the Hix administration building, resulting in higher-than-expected expenses for this budget line.
- Program expenditures will continue to be monitored to ensure a balanced budget for 2024.

Corporate Workshop-Vehicle and equipment – 650

- Staff are continuing to complete in-house repairs and maintenance on equipment to reduce costs.

- Staff replaced 2 pieces of equipment including a leaf blower and a riding lawn mower as part of the capital asset plan.
- RFP's were completed for the replacement of 3 fleet vehicles as part of the capital asset plan. Delivery of the 3 new fleet vehicles is anticipated to be completed before the end of 2024.
- Currently, there are no unanticipated expenses and staff anticipate a balanced budget.

Healthy Waters – 120/121

- Staff continue to work with partners to finalize 2024 projects and program delivery.
- Staff delivery dollars linked to 2024 field projects including spring tree planting, Nottawasaga River Restoration, grasslands restoration, and Mad River restoration are providing support to the Healthy Waters budget.
- Staff are still waiting to receive feedback on several funding applications that have been submitted this past fall and winter to ensure that budgeted revenues are met by year-end.

Tiffin Education – 630

- Summer Camp Tiffin is well underway. Staff have opened additional camp spots to increase program revenues.
- Environmental Education staff continue to work in collaboration with the communications team to increase enrollment for Tiffin Nature Program (preschool programming). The challenge of this program is that participants quickly 'age out' of this program when they enter the school system.
- Environmental Education staff are currently completing certification requirements for Tiffin to become a certified "Forest School". Currently the "Forest School" budget line sits at \$0 as revenues from the Nature Program are being allocated to "Tiffin Camp". Once certification has been received, program revenues will be shifted from "Tiffin Camp" to "Forest School".
- Staff continue to investigate external funding support for program delivery.

Watershed Management:

Planning – 310

- Planning Services user fee revenues as of June 30th are approximately \$506,077 (excluding levy, federal funds, and reserve use).
- Based on the revenues received to date, the user fee revenues for subdivisions, site plans, legal inquiries and consents/minor variances are currently trending slightly lower than expected for the second quarter.
- Pre-consultation revenues are exceeding budgeted amounts for this quarter.
- Section 28 permit revenues are also trending lower than anticipated for this quarter. Permit revenues are expected to be higher than anticipated for the remaining portion of the year.

- The program expenditures are currently lower than budgeted.
- Staff anticipate a slight deficit for the end of the year.

Engineering- 443

- The Engineering cost center is used to track engineering special projects
- As noted in the last update, the Engineering program and Information Management, in partnership with Clearview, Federal and Provincial governments and Aquafor Beach completed updated flood mapping for Creemore. The project was completed on time and below budget. NVCA staff are working with Clearview planning staff to incorporate the findings of this study into the municipal planning documents.
- The NVCA is in the fourth year of a five-year contract (2021-2025) with the City of Barrie to maintain their rain gauge network.

Watershed Science – 420/421

- This program incorporates Source Water Protection, Risk Management Office, Environmental Monitoring and Natural Heritage.
- Source Water Protection is running under budget because of provincial delays in signing the new 2024-2027 contract. No revenue has been billed to date.
- The Risk Management Official program is under budget and with anticipated slowing of expected revenues in the remainder 2024.
- Environmental monitoring and natural heritage have brought in unbudgeted revenues which will leave this program area healthy across the remainder of the year.
- Staff anticipates a balanced budget for the end of the year.

Flood Program - 430-440

- Flood has issued 7 flood messages this year to date. This includes a January 15th Flood Watch, January 29th Water Safety, March 6th Spring Safety, April 12th Water Conditions, July 9th Flood Outlook, July 11th Flood Watch, and July 12th Flood Outlook.
- The Flood budget is currently running a deficit however it is expected to match budget 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

- Staff and administrative expenditures are tracking slightly below anticipated values but are anticipated to even out by end of year.

Impact on Authority Finances

The 2024 Approved Budget totals \$5,961,289 in revenue as compared to the 2023 approved budget of \$6,917,347. Additionally, staff time to prepare this report is addressed in the 2024 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, 2024 Statement of Operations

SUMMARY OF NVCA BUDGETED PROGRAM ACTIVITY, June 30, 2024 (unaudited)

	PROPOSED OPERATIONS BUDGET	Program Expense	Cost Recovery	Capital Asset Purchases	Total Expense	Expense vs Budget	Program Levv	Other Program Revenues	Use of Reserves	Donated Land	Total Revenue	Total Revenue vs Budget	Surplus / Deficit
LAND & WATER & STEWARDSHIP SERVICES													
Reforestation	426,928.99	226,707.53	16,297.18	0.00	243,004.71	56.92%	39,339.50	20,413.79	0.00	0.00	59,753.29	14.00%	-183,251.42
Healthy Waters	780,654.97	281,300.42	20,992.94	0.00	302,293.36	38.72%	75,327.48	201,091.82	0.00	0.00	276,419.30	35.41%	-25,874.06
Conservation Lands	267,311.74	76,864.89	23,391.25	2,007.03	102,263.17	38.26%	98,195.88	76,858.71	8,437.75	0.00	183,492.34	65.49%	81,229.17
PLANNING													
Planning	1,948,680.13	811,464.56	61,995.47	0.00	873,460.03	44.82%	344,090.06	506,077.49	0.00	0.00	850,167.55	43.63%	-23,292.48
ENGINEERING & TECHNICAL SERVICES													
Watershed Science	565,034.38	181,416.19	26,446.60	0.00	207,862.79	36.79%	124,032.20	115,520.65	0.00	0.00	239,552.85	42.40%	31,690.06
Flood Control	485,078.51	136,737.53	13,344.95	0.00	150,082.48	30.94%	116,385.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	116,385.76	23.99%	-33,696.72
Engineering - Special Projects	27,800.00	71,919.36	0.00	0.00	71,919.36		0.00	84,815.56	-25,000.00	0.00	59,815.56		-12,103.80
TIFFIN CENTRE													
Tiffin Education	319,295.57	148,582.17	12,771.02	0.00	161,353.19	50.53%	8,147.78	326,917.83	0.00	0.00	335,065.61	104.94%	173,712.42
Tiffin CA - Infrastructure	395,797.87	169,643.78	14,658.51	0.00	184,302.29	46.56%	97,898.94	58,590.27	0.00	0.00	156,489.21	39.54%	-27,813.08
COST RECOVERY CENTRES													
GIS / IT Support	456,002.90	190,858.15	0.00	36,610.43	227,468.58		199,351.46	15,486.73	41,610.43	0.00	256,448.62		28,980.04
Workshop Vehicle & Equip	176,400.00	77,935.07	-77,935.07	3,764.95	3,764.95		0.00	0.00	3,764.95	0.00	3,764.95		0.00
Occupancy Costs	0.00	83,267.37	-83,267.37	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Governance	368,069.36	212,730.16	-28,695.48	0.00	184,034.68		184,034.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	184,034.68		0.00
Corporate Admin Support	700,292.84	309,251.48	0.00	0.00	309,251.48		300,146.42	38,608.65	0.00	0.00	338,755.07	48.37%	29,503.59
Total Operations	6,917,347.26	2,978,678.66	0.00	42,382.41	3,021,061.07	43.67%	1,586,950.16	1,444,381.50	28,813.13	0.00	3,060,144.79	44.24%	39,083.72

	Budgeted Capital Expenditure	Approved Draw From Reserve*	Actual Use of Reserve	Actual Capital Expenditure
Conservation Lands	-3,300.00	6,700.00	8,437.75	2,007.03
Planning Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Engineering - Special Projects			-25,000.00	0.00
GIS / IT Support	44,800.00	44,800.00	41,610.43	36,610.43
Watershed Science	74,970.00	74,970.00	0.00	0.00
Flood	153,000.00	153,000.00	0.00	0.00
Workshop Vehicle & Equip	176,400.00	176,400.00	3,764.95	3,764.95
Occupancy Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tiffin CA - Infrastructure	22,000.00	22,000.00	0.00	0.00
Corporate Admin Support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	467,870.00	477,870.00	28,813.13	42,382.41

*Approved Draw from Reserve--Budgeted and Board Approval

Category 1, June 2024		PROPOSED OPERATIONS BUDGET	Program Expense	Cost Recovery	Capital Asset Purchases	Total Expense	Expense vs Budget	Program Lev	Other Program Revenues	Use of Reserves	Donated Land	Total Revenue	Total Revenue vs Budget	Surplus / Deficit
LAND & WATER & STEWARDSHIP SERVICES														
120	Healthy Waters	140,888.77	27,286.27	11,481.81		38,768.08	27.52%	39,444.38	1,898.31			41,342.69	29.34%	2,574.61
150	Conservation Lands	229,278.24	56,750.31	22,610.11	2,007.03	81,367.45	35.49%	92,164.12	40,503.04	2,269.06		134,936.22	57.86%	53,568.77
PLANNING														
310	Planning	1,948,680.13	811,464.56	61,995.47		873,460.03	44.82%	344,090.06	506,077.49			850,167.55	43.63%	-23,292.48
ENGINEERING & TECHNICAL SERVICES														
420	Watershed Science	344,215.00	104,343.03	22,275.33		126,618.36	36.78%	62,607.50	89,569.70			152,177.20	44.21%	25,558.84
430-442	Flood Control	485,078.51	136,737.53	13,344.95		150,082.48	30.94%	116,385.76	0.00			116,385.76	23.99%	-33,696.72
TIFFIN CENTRE														
661	Tiffin CA - Infrastructure	209,908.83	84,570.98	9,034.33		93,605.31	44.59%	89,254.42	3,275.80			92,530.22	44.08%	-1,075.09
COST RECOVERY CENTRES														
410	GIS / IT Support	456,002.90	190,858.15		36,610.43	227,468.58		199,351.46	15,486.73	41,610.43		256,448.62		28,980.04
650	Workshop Vehicle & Equip	176,400.00	77,935.07	-77,935.07	3,764.95	3,764.95				3,764.95		3,764.95		0.00
660	Occupancy Costs		83,267.37	-83,267.37		0.00						0.00		0.00
670	Governance	368,069.36	212,730.16	-28,695.48		184,034.68		184,034.68	0.00			184,034.68		0.00
680	Corporate Admin Support	700,292.84	309,251.48			309,251.48		300,146.42	38,608.65			338,755.07	48.37%	29,503.59
Total Operations		5,058,814.58	2,095,194.91	-49,155.92	42,382.41	2,088,421.40	41.28%	1,427,478.80	695,419.72	47,644.44	0.00	2,170,542.96	42.91%	82,121.56

	Budgeted Capital Expenditure	Approved Draw From Reserve*	Actual Use of Reserve	Actual Capital Expenditure
150 Conservation Lands	6,500.00	6,500.00	2,269.06	2,007.03
310 Planning Services				
410 GIS / IT Support	44,800.00	44,800.00	41,610.43	36,610.43
420 Watershed Science	24,000.00	24,000.00		
430 Flood	153,000.00	153,000.00		
650 Workshop Vehicle & Equip	176,400.00	176,400.00	3,764.95	3,764.95
660 Occupancy Costs				
661 Tiffin CA - Infrastructure	21,000.00	21,000.00		
680 Corporate Admin Support				
Total	425,700.00	425,700.00	47,644.44	42,382.41

Category 2 & 3, June 2024		PROPOSED OPERATIONS BUDGET	Program Expense	Cost Recovery	Capital Asset Purchases	Total Expense	Expense vs Budget	Program Lev	Other Program Revenues	Use of Reserves	Donated Land	Total Revenue	Total Revenue vs Budget	Surplus / Deficit
LAND & WATER & STEWARDSHIP SERVICES														
110	Reforestation	426,928.99	226,707.53	16,297.18		243,004.71	56.92%	39,339.50	20,413.79			59,753.29	14.00%	-183,251.42
121	Healthy Waters	639,766.20	254,014.15	9,511.13		263,525.28	41.19%	35,883.10	199,193.51			235,076.61	36.74%	-28,448.67
151	Conservation Lands	38,033.50	20,114.58	781.14		20,895.72	54.94%	6,031.76	36,355.67	6,168.69		48,556.12	111.45%	27,660.40
ENGINEERING & TECHNICAL SERVICES														
421	Watershed Science	220,819.38	77,073.16	4,171.27		81,244.43	36.79%	61,424.70	25,950.95			87,375.65	39.57%	6,131.22
443	Engineering - Special Projects	27,800.00	71,919.36			71,919.36	32.57%		84,815.56	-25,000.00		59,815.56	38.41%	-12,103.80
TIFFIN CENTRE														
630	Tiffin Education	319,295.57	148,582.17	12,771.02		161,353.19	50.53%	8,147.78	326,917.83			335,065.61	104.94%	173,712.42
662	Tiffin CA - Infrastructure	185,889.04	85,072.80	5,624.18		90,696.98	48.79%	8,644.52	55,314.47			63,958.99	34.41%	-26,737.99
Total Operations		1,858,532.68	883,483.75	49,155.92	0.00	932,639.67	50.18%	159,471.36	748,961.78	-18,831.31	0.00	889,601.83	47.87%	-43,037.84

	Budgeted Capital Expenditure	Approved Draw From Reserve*	Actual Use of Reserve	Actual Capital Expenditure
151 Conservation Lands	-9,800.00	-9,800.00		
BOD Mtg 10-23-BOD, Agenda 12.2.2		10,000.00	6,168.69	
421 Watershed Science	50,970.00	50,970.00		
443 Engineering - Special Projects			-25,000.00	
662 Tiffin CA - Infrastructure	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Total	42,170.00	52,170.00	-18,831.31	0.00

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110 Reforestation - Category 2 & 3

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	19,669.75	19,669.75	39,339.50	39,339.50	-	78,678.99
Contributions	460.00	-	460.00	-	460.00	45,000.00
User Fees	19,953.79	6,000.00	19,953.79	23,000.00	(3,046.21)	39,000.00
E	<u>40,083.54</u>	<u>25,669.75</u>	<u>59,753.29</u>	<u>62,339.50</u>	<u>(2,586.21)</u>	<u>162,678.99</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wages and Interprogram Charges	34,626.11	36,336.73	63,671.98	72,673.46	(9,001.48)	145,346.92
TOTAL REVENU	<u>34,626.11</u>	<u>36,336.73</u>	<u>63,671.98</u>	<u>72,673.46</u>	<u>(9,001.48)</u>	<u>145,346.92</u>
Other Inter program Charges						
Cost Recovery	8,740.06	9,733.02	16,297.18	19,466.04	(3,168.86)	38,932.07
	<u>8,740.06</u>	<u>9,733.02</u>	<u>16,297.18</u>	<u>19,466.04</u>	<u>(3,168.86)</u>	<u>38,932.07</u>
Other Expenses						
Staff Expense 110	-	-	-	-	-	300.00
Memberships Prof.Dues 110	150.00	-	973.33	450.00	523.33	750.00
Material&Supply 110	2,357.53	2,000.00	2,422.66	4,000.00	(1,577.34)	6,000.00
Cost of Trees 110	56,980.06	110,000.00	56,980.06	110,000.00	(53,019.94)	110,000.00
Equipment Costs 110 Reforestation	-	500.00	-	500.00	(500.00)	500.00
Consultant Fees 110 Outsource Contract	102,659.50	125,000.00	102,659.50	125,000.00	(22,340.50)	125,000.00
Uniform & Special Clothing Expense 110	-	-	-	-	-	100.00
	<u>162,147.09</u>	<u>237,500.00</u>	<u>163,035.55</u>	<u>239,950.00</u>	<u>(76,914.45)</u>	<u>242,650.00</u>
S	<u>205,513.26</u>	<u>283,569.75</u>	<u>243,004.71</u>	<u>332,089.50</u>	<u>(89,084.79)</u>	<u>426,928.99</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(165,429.72)</u>	<u>(257,900.00)</u>	<u>(183,251.42)</u>	<u>(269,750.00)</u>	<u>86,498.58</u>	<u>(264,250.00)</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE						

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Division

120 Stewardship Services - Category 1

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	19,722.19	19,722.19	39,444.38	39,444.38	-	78,888.77
Municipal Grants	-	500.00	-	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	2,000.00
Contributions	-	10,262.50	1,898.31	18,525.00	(16,626.69)	35,000.00
Federal Sources	-	3,000.00	-	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	10,000.00
User Fees	-	1,500.00	-	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	5,000.00
E	<u>19,722.19</u>	<u>34,984.69</u>	<u>41,342.69</u>	<u>65,969.38</u>	<u>(24,626.69)</u>	<u>130,888.77</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wa ges and Interprogram Charges	16,903.70	23,169.37	24,762.80	46,338.74	(21,575.94)	92,677.49
TOTAL REVENU	<u>16,903.70</u>	<u>23,169.37</u>	<u>24,762.80</u>	<u>46,338.74</u>	<u>(21,575.94)</u>	<u>92,677.49</u>
Other Inter program Charges						
Cost Recovery	6,165.89	6,915.32	11,481.81	13,830.64	(2,348.83)	27,661.28
	<u>6,165.89</u>	<u>6,915.32</u>	<u>11,481.81</u>	<u>13,830.64</u>	<u>(2,348.83)</u>	<u>27,661.28</u>
Other Ex penses						
Staff Expense 120 Healthy Waters	238.43	200.00	312.66	400.00	(87.34)	800.00
Material&Supply 120	-	7,250.00	1,898.31	9,000.00	(7,101.69)	18,000.00
Uniform & Special Clothing Expense 120	-	50.00	-	100.00	(100.00)	150.00
Advertisement 120	-	400.00	312.50	800.00	(487.50)	1,600.00
	<u>238.43</u>	<u>7,900.00</u>	<u>2,523.47</u>	<u>10,300.00</u>	<u>(7,776.53)</u>	<u>20,550.00</u>
S	<u>23,308.02</u>	<u>37,984.69</u>	<u>38,768.08</u>	<u>70,469.38</u>	<u>(31,701.30)</u>	<u>140,888.77</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(3,585.83)</u>	<u>(3,000.00)</u>	<u>2,574.61</u>	<u>(4,500.00)</u>	<u>7,074.61</u>	<u>(10,000.00)</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE						

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Division

121 Stewardship Services - Category 2 & 3

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	17,941.55	20,941.55	35,883.10	39,883.10	(4,000.00)	81,766.20
Provincial Grants	29,799.00	-	39,599.00	-	39,599.00	-
Municipal Grants	8,197.50	5,000.00	12,555.21	9,000.00	3,555.21	18,000.00
Contributions	28,364.54	67,000.00	126,385.63	122,000.00	4,385.63	385,000.00
Federal Sources	1,138.67	22,000.00	18,578.67	39,000.00	(20,421.33)	70,000.00
User Fees	1,925.00	5,000.00	1,925.00	8,000.00	(6,075.00)	15,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	-	150.00	-	150.00	-
E	<u>87,366.26</u>	<u>119,941.55</u>	<u>235,076.61</u>	<u>217,883.10</u>	<u>17,193.51</u>	<u>569,766.20</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wages and Interprogram Charges	<u>87,828.78</u>	<u>77,406.04</u>	<u>165,234.82</u>	<u>154,812.08</u>	<u>10,422.74</u>	<u>309,624.15</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>87,828.78</u>	<u>77,406.04</u>	<u>165,234.82</u>	<u>154,812.08</u>	<u>10,422.74</u>	<u>309,624.15</u>
Other Inter program Charges						
Cost Recovery	<u>5,384.54</u>	<u>7,673.01</u>	<u>9,511.13</u>	<u>15,346.02</u>	<u>(5,834.89)</u>	<u>30,692.05</u>
	<u>5,384.54</u>	<u>7,673.01</u>	<u>9,511.13</u>	<u>15,346.02</u>	<u>(5,834.89)</u>	<u>30,692.05</u>
Other Expenses						
Material&Supply 121	<u>8,315.96</u>	<u>51,862.50</u>	<u>88,779.33</u>	<u>82,725.00</u>	<u>6,054.33</u>	<u>299,450.00</u>
	<u>8,315.96</u>	<u>51,862.50</u>	<u>88,779.33</u>	<u>82,725.00</u>	<u>6,054.33</u>	<u>299,450.00</u>
S	<u>101,529.28</u>	<u>136,941.55</u>	<u>263,525.28</u>	<u>252,883.10</u>	<u>10,642.18</u>	<u>639,766.20</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(14,163.02)</u>	<u>(17,000.00)</u>	<u>(28,448.67)</u>	<u>(35,000.00)</u>	<u>6,551.33</u>	<u>(70,000.00)</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE						

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150 Conservation Lands - Category 1

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	46,082.06	46,082.06	92,164.12	92,164.12	-	184,328.24
Provincial Grants	-	-	-	-	-	2,000.00
Contributions	15,224.09	900.00	15,429.09	1,100.00	14,329.09	2,150.00
Federal Sources	801.41	-	801.41	-	801.41	-
User Fees	7,245.10	8,200.00	24,272.54	21,900.00	2,372.54	34,300.00
Use of Reserves	2,269.06	-	2,269.06	-	2,269.06	6,500.00
E	<u>71,621.72</u>	<u>55,182.06</u>	<u>134,936.22</u>	<u>115,164.12</u>	<u>19,772.10</u>	<u>229,278.24</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wages and Interprogram Charges	23,066.05	32,905.94	22,886.22	65,811.88	(42,925.66)	131,623.76
TOTAL REVENU	<u>23,066.05</u>	<u>32,905.94</u>	<u>22,886.22</u>	<u>65,811.88</u>	<u>(42,925.66)</u>	<u>131,623.76</u>
Other Inter program Charges						
Cost Recovery	12,070.87	13,118.62	22,610.11	26,237.24	(3,627.13)	52,474.48
	<u>12,070.87</u>	<u>13,118.62</u>	<u>22,610.11</u>	<u>26,237.24</u>	<u>(3,627.13)</u>	<u>52,474.48</u>
Other Expenses						
Staff Expense 150 Conservation Lands	-	200.00	-	200.00	(200.00)	400.00
Material&Supply	3,591.84	3,500.00	3,995.38	4,500.00	(504.62)	10,500.00
Legal Costs 150	7,837.09	1,000.00	7,837.09	1,000.00	6,837.09	1,000.00
Insurance 150	9,183.72	9,600.00	12,160.74	12,800.00	(639.26)	12,800.00
Taxes	2,877.09	-	8,228.48	8,030.00	198.48	16,060.00
Interest & Bank Chgs Lands	1,266.49	875.00	1,642.40	1,750.00	(107.60)	3,500.00
Maintenance Supplies 150	-	500.00	-	750.00	(750.00)	1,500.00
Advertisement 150	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	2,000.00
Capital Asset Purchases	2,007.03	-	2,007.03	-	2,007.03	5,000.00
	<u>26,763.26</u>	<u>16,675.00</u>	<u>35,871.12</u>	<u>30,030.00</u>	<u>5,841.12</u>	<u>52,760.00</u>
S	<u>61,900.18</u>	<u>62,699.56</u>	<u>81,367.45</u>	<u>122,079.12</u>	<u>(40,711.67)</u>	<u>236,858.24</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>9,721.54</u>	<u>(7,517.50)</u>	<u>53,568.77</u>	<u>(6,915.00)</u>	<u>60,483.77</u>	<u>(7,580.00)</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE						

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Division

151 Conservation Lands - Category 2 & 3

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	3,015.88	3,015.88	6,031.76	6,031.76	-	12,063.50
Provincial Grants	-	-	-	-	-	500.00
Contributions	-	850.00	3,989.62	950.00	3,039.62	2,130.00
User Fees	29,842.60	28,850.00	32,366.05	30,640.00	1,726.05	33,140.00
Use of Reserves	-	-	6,168.69	-	6,168.69	(9,800.00)
E	<u>32,858.48</u>	<u>32,715.88</u>	<u>48,556.12</u>	<u>37,621.76</u>	<u>10,934.36</u>	<u>38,033.50</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wages and Interprogram Charges	6,683.20	6,683.20	13,366.40	13,366.40	-	26,732.80
TOTAL REVENU	<u>6,683.20</u>	<u>6,683.20</u>	<u>13,366.40</u>	<u>13,366.40</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,732.80</u>
Other Inter program Charges						
Cost Recovery	442.23	630.18	781.14	1,260.36	(479.22)	2,520.70
	<u>442.23</u>	<u>630.18</u>	<u>781.14</u>	<u>1,260.36</u>	<u>(479.22)</u>	<u>2,520.70</u>
Other Expenses						
Material&Supply 151	407.60	500.00	6,613.59	500.00	6,113.59	1,000.00
Hydro 151 NewLowell	67.93	50.00	134.59	100.00	34.59	200.00
	<u>475.53</u>	<u>550.00</u>	<u>6,748.18</u>	<u>600.00</u>	<u>6,148.18</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>
S	<u>7,600.96</u>	<u>7,863.38</u>	<u>20,895.72</u>	<u>15,226.76</u>	<u>5,668.96</u>	<u>30,453.50</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>25,257.52</u>	<u>24,852.50</u>	<u>27,660.40</u>	<u>22,395.00</u>	<u>5,265.40</u>	<u>7,580.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE						

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310 Planning - Category 1

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	172,045.03	172,045.03	344,090.06	344,090.06	-	688,180.13
User Fees	141,121.13	431,500.00	506,077.49	679,000.00	(172,922.51)	1,260,500.00
E	<u>313,166.16</u>	<u>603,545.03</u>	<u>850,167.55</u>	<u>1,023,090.06</u>	<u>(172,922.51)</u>	<u>1,948,680.13</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wa ges and Interprogram Charges	400,392.08	417,956.92	737,197.23	835,913.84	(98,716.61)	1,671,827.68
TOTAL REVENU	<u>400,392.08</u>	<u>417,956.92</u>	<u>737,197.23</u>	<u>835,913.84</u>	<u>(98,716.61)</u>	<u>1,671,827.68</u>
Other Inter program Charges						
Cost Recovery	34,641.66	46,813.11	61,995.47	93,626.22	(31,630.75)	187,252.45
	<u>34,641.66</u>	<u>46,813.11</u>	<u>61,995.47</u>	<u>93,626.22</u>	<u>(31,630.75)</u>	<u>187,252.45</u>
Other Ex penses						
Staff Expense 310	558.18	300.00	591.70	300.00	291.70	500.00
Memberships Prof.Dues 310	507.84	500.00	4,994.79	4,100.00	894.79	4,600.00
Material&Supply 310	-	250.00	-	250.00	(250.00)	500.00
Legal Costs	4,251.04	6,200.00	6,517.24	8,700.00	(2,182.76)	20,000.00
Consultant Fees 310	373.75	2,500.00	1,523.64	2,500.00	(976.36)	5,500.00
Insurance 310 E&OLiability Premium	45,532.74	43,125.00	60,639.96	57,500.00	3,139.96	57,500.00
Office Expenses	-	125.00	-	250.00	(250.00)	500.00
Bad Debt Expense 310 Planning	-	125.00	-	250.00	(250.00)	500.00
	<u>51,223.55</u>	<u>53,125.00</u>	<u>74,267.33</u>	<u>73,850.00</u>	<u>417.33</u>	<u>89,600.00</u>
S	<u>486,257.29</u>	<u>517,895.03</u>	<u>873,460.03</u>	<u>1,003,390.06</u>	<u>(129,930.03)</u>	<u>1,948,680.13</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(173,091.13)</u>	<u>85,650.00</u>	<u>(23,292.48)</u>	<u>19,700.00</u>	<u>(42,992.48)</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
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Division

410 Information Management Services - Category 1

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	99,675.73	99,675.73	199,351.46	199,351.46	-	398,702.92
User Fees	-	-	15,486.73	12,500.00	2,986.73	12,500.00
Use of Reserves	5,000.00	-	41,610.43	41,800.00	(189.57)	44,800.00
E	<u>104,675.73</u>	<u>99,675.73</u>	<u>256,448.62</u>	<u>253,651.46</u>	<u>2,797.16</u>	<u>456,002.92</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wages and Interprogram Charges	92,612.84	99,675.73	172,613.08	199,351.46	(26,738.38)	398,702.92
TOTAL REVENU	<u>92,612.84</u>	<u>99,675.73</u>	<u>172,613.08</u>	<u>199,351.46</u>	<u>(26,738.38)</u>	<u>398,702.92</u>
Other Inter program Charges						
Cost Recovery	-	(5,525.00)	-	950.00	(950.00)	(10,600.00)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,525.00)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>950.00</u>	<u>(950.00)</u>	<u>(10,600.00)</u>
Other Expenses						
Staff Expense 410 GIS	20.38	25.00	129.30	50.00	79.30	100.00
Material&Supply 410	12,234.66	5,000.00	18,115.77	16,000.00	2,115.77	27,000.00
Consultant Fees 410	-	500.00	-	500.00	(500.00)	1,000.00
Capital Asset Purchases	-	-	36,610.43	36,800.00	(189.57)	39,800.00
	<u>12,255.04</u>	<u>5,525.00</u>	<u>54,855.50</u>	<u>53,350.00</u>	<u>1,505.50</u>	<u>67,900.00</u>
S	<u>104,867.88</u>	<u>99,675.73</u>	<u>227,468.58</u>	<u>253,651.46</u>	<u>(26,182.88)</u>	<u>456,002.92</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(192.15)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,980.04</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,980.04</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
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Division

420 Watershed Science - Category 1

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	31,303.75	31,303.75	62,607.50	62,607.50	-	125,215.00
Provincial Grants	-	48,750.00	84,569.70	97,500.00	(12,930.30)	195,000.00
Contributions	-	-	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	-
Use of Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	24,000.00
E	<u>31,303.75</u>	<u>80,053.75</u>	<u>152,177.20</u>	<u>160,107.50</u>	<u>(7,930.30)</u>	<u>344,215.00</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wages and Interprogram Charges	51,169.37	63,113.15	98,577.17	126,226.30	(27,649.13)	252,452.59
TOTAL REVENU	<u>51,169.37</u>	<u>63,113.15</u>	<u>98,577.17</u>	<u>126,226.30</u>	<u>(27,649.13)</u>	<u>252,452.59</u>
Other Inter program Charges						
Cost Recovery	12,033.30	13,915.60	22,275.33	27,831.20	(5,555.87)	55,662.41
	<u>12,033.30</u>	<u>13,915.60</u>	<u>22,275.33</u>	<u>27,831.20</u>	<u>(5,555.87)</u>	<u>55,662.41</u>
Other Expenses						
Staff Expense 420	808.06	750.00	866.03	1,500.00	(633.97)	2,500.00
Memberships Prof.Dues 420	753.03	-	981.99	1,000.00	(18.01)	1,000.00
Material&Supply 420	169.71	2,500.00	2,028.32	3,500.00	(1,471.68)	6,500.00
Insurance 420 Water Source Prot Endor:	1,416.90	1,575.00	1,889.52	2,100.00	(210.48)	2,100.00
Capital Asset Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	24,000.00
	<u>3,147.70</u>	<u>4,825.00</u>	<u>5,765.86</u>	<u>8,100.00</u>	<u>(2,334.14)</u>	<u>36,100.00</u>
S	<u>66,350.37</u>	<u>81,853.75</u>	<u>126,618.36</u>	<u>162,157.50</u>	<u>(35,539.14)</u>	<u>344,215.00</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(35,046.62)</u>	<u>(1,800.00)</u>	<u>25,558.84</u>	<u>(2,050.00)</u>	<u>27,608.84</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
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Division

421 Watershed Science - Category 2 & 3

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	30,712.35	30,712.35	61,424.70	61,424.70	-	122,849.38
Municipal Grants	19,738.54	18,000.00	19,738.54	18,000.00	1,738.54	41,000.00
User Fees	1,769.91	3,500.00	6,212.41	4,500.00	1,712.41	6,000.00
Use of Reserves	-	44,070.00	-	44,070.00	(44,070.00)	50,970.00
E	<u>52,220.80</u>	<u>96,282.35</u>	<u>87,375.65</u>	<u>127,994.70</u>	<u>(40,619.05)</u>	<u>220,819.38</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wages and Interprogram Charges	38,472.21	38,472.21	76,944.42	76,944.42	-	153,888.84
TOTAL REVENU	<u>38,472.21</u>	<u>38,472.21</u>	<u>76,944.42</u>	<u>76,944.42</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>153,888.84</u>
Other Inter program Charges						
Cost Recovery	2,361.48	3,365.14	4,171.27	6,730.28	(2,559.01)	13,460.54
	<u>2,361.48</u>	<u>3,365.14</u>	<u>4,171.27</u>	<u>6,730.28</u>	<u>(2,559.01)</u>	<u>13,460.54</u>
Other Expenses						
Consultant Fees 421 Outsource Lab Costs	128.74	1,000.00	128.74	1,000.00	(871.26)	2,500.00
Capital Asset Purchases	-	44,070.00	-	44,070.00	(44,070.00)	50,970.00
	<u>128.74</u>	<u>45,070.00</u>	<u>128.74</u>	<u>45,070.00</u>	<u>(44,941.26)</u>	<u>53,470.00</u>
S	<u>40,962.43</u>	<u>86,907.35</u>	<u>81,244.43</u>	<u>128,744.70</u>	<u>(47,500.27)</u>	<u>220,819.38</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>11,258.37</u>	<u>9,375.00</u>	<u>6,131.22</u>	<u>(750.00)</u>	<u>6,881.22</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
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Consolidated

From Division 430 Flood Control Structures - Category 1
To Division 442 4.8 Administration

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	33,866.13	33,866.13	67,732.26	67,732.26	-	135,464.51
Matching Municipal Levy (Flood)	24,326.75	24,326.77	48,653.50	48,653.54	(0.04)	97,307.00
Provincial Grants	-	-	-	-	-	97,307.00
Municipal Grants	-	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	2,000.00
Use of Reserves	-	18,000.00	-	18,000.00	(18,000.00)	153,000.00
E	<u>58,192.88</u>	<u>78,192.90</u>	<u>116,385.76</u>	<u>136,385.80</u>	<u>(20,000.04)</u>	<u>485,078.51</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wages and Interprogram Charges	69,987.58	64,797.62	118,776.22	129,595.24	(10,819.02)	259,190.41
TOTAL REVENU	<u>69,987.58</u>	<u>64,797.62</u>	<u>118,776.22</u>	<u>129,595.24</u>	<u>(10,819.02)</u>	<u>259,190.41</u>
Other Inter program Charges						
Cost Recovery	4,466.48	6,364.77	7,889.49	12,729.54	(4,840.05)	25,459.07
	<u>4,466.48</u>	<u>6,364.77</u>	<u>7,889.49</u>	<u>12,729.54</u>	<u>(4,840.05)</u>	<u>25,459.07</u>
Other Expenses						
Material&Supply	1,891.75	12,000.00	4,918.56	12,500.00	(7,581.44)	157,000.00
Corp Fleet Charge 437	2,875.76	2,907.26	5,455.46	5,814.52	(359.06)	11,629.03
Insurance	9,450.00	9,450.00	12,600.00	12,600.00	-	12,600.00
Taxes	-	-	442.75	600.00	(157.25)	1,200.00
Capital Asset Purchases	-	18,000.00	-	18,000.00	(18,000.00)	18,000.00
	<u>14,217.51</u>	<u>42,357.26</u>	<u>23,416.77</u>	<u>49,514.52</u>	<u>(26,097.75)</u>	<u>200,429.03</u>
S	<u>88,671.57</u>	<u>113,519.65</u>	<u>150,082.48</u>	<u>191,839.30</u>	<u>(41,756.82)</u>	<u>485,078.51</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(30,478.69)</u>	<u>(35,326.75)</u>	<u>(33,696.72)</u>	<u>(55,453.50)</u>	<u>21,756.78</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
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Division

443 Engineering Projects - Category 2 & 3

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Provincial Grants	82,707.51	-	82,707.51	-	82,707.51	-
Municipal Grants	1,652.76	-	2,108.05	-	2,108.05	27,800.00
Use of Reserves	(25,000.00)	-	(25,000.00)	-	(25,000.00)	-
E	<u>59,360.27</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,815.56</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,815.56</u>	<u>27,800.00</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wages and Interprogram Charges	5,735.03	5,735.03	11,470.06	11,470.06	-	22,940.13
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>5,735.03</u>	<u>5,735.03</u>	<u>11,470.06</u>	<u>11,470.06</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,940.13</u>
Other Inter program Charges	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Other Expenses						
Material & Supply 443	58,340.41	1,214.97	60,449.30	2,429.94	58,019.36	4,859.87
S	<u>58,340.41</u>	<u>1,214.97</u>	<u>60,449.30</u>	<u>2,429.94</u>	<u>58,019.36</u>	<u>4,859.87</u>
	<u>64,075.44</u>	<u>6,950.00</u>	<u>71,919.36</u>	<u>13,900.00</u>	<u>58,019.36</u>	<u>27,800.00</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(4,715.17)</u>	<u>(6,950.00)</u>	<u>(12,103.80)</u>	<u>(13,900.00)</u>	<u>1,796.20</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
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Division

630 Tiffin Education - Category 2 & 3

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	4,073.89	4,073.89	8,147.78	8,147.78	-	16,295.57
Contributions	75.00	2,500.00	20,500.00	4,000.00	16,500.00	8,000.00
Federal Sources	-	-	-	-	-	10,000.00
User Fees	239,873.31	131,250.00	306,417.83	177,500.00	128,917.83	285,000.00
E	<u>244,022.20</u>	<u>137,823.89</u>	<u>335,065.61</u>	<u>189,647.78</u>	<u>145,417.83</u>	<u>319,295.57</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wages and Interprogram Charges	73,386.34	68,572.81	136,375.95	137,145.62	(769.67)	274,291.25
TOTAL REVENU	<u>73,386.34</u>	<u>68,572.81</u>	<u>136,375.95</u>	<u>137,145.62</u>	<u>(769.67)</u>	<u>274,291.25</u>
Other Inter program Charges						
Cost Recovery	7,169.28	9,876.08	12,771.02	19,752.16	(6,981.14)	39,504.32
	<u>7,169.28</u>	<u>9,876.08</u>	<u>12,771.02</u>	<u>19,752.16</u>	<u>(6,981.14)</u>	<u>39,504.32</u>
Other Expenses						
Staff Expense 630 Education	93.96	-	155.89	-	155.89	-
Memberships Prof.Dues 630	200.00	500.00	200.00	500.00	(300.00)	500.00
Material&Supply 630	11,283.06	1,500.00	11,850.33	2,800.00	9,050.33	5,000.00
	<u>11,577.02</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>12,206.22</u>	<u>3,300.00</u>	<u>8,906.22</u>	<u>5,500.00</u>
S	<u>92,132.64</u>	<u>80,448.89</u>	<u>161,353.19</u>	<u>160,197.78</u>	<u>1,155.41</u>	<u>319,295.57</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>151,889.56</u>	<u>57,375.00</u>	<u>173,712.42</u>	<u>29,450.00</u>	<u>144,262.42</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
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Division

650 Workshop, Vehicle & Equip - Category 1

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Use of Reserves	3,764.95	6,400.00	3,764.95	6,400.00	(2,635.05)	176,400.00
E	<u>3,764.95</u>	<u>6,400.00</u>	<u>3,764.95</u>	<u>6,400.00</u>	<u>(2,635.05)</u>	<u>176,400.00</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wa ges and Interprogram Charges	25,382.25	25,382.26	50,764.50	50,764.52	(0.02)	101,529.02
TOTAL REVENU	<u>25,382.25</u>	<u>25,382.26</u>	<u>50,764.50</u>	<u>50,764.52</u>	<u>(0.02)</u>	<u>101,529.02</u>
Other Inter program Charges						
Cost Recovery	(41,082.24)	(50,932.26)	(77,935.07)	(90,564.52)	12,629.45	(166,129.02)
	<u>(41,082.24)</u>	<u>(50,932.26)</u>	<u>(77,935.07)</u>	<u>(90,564.52)</u>	<u>12,629.45</u>	<u>(166,129.02)</u>
Other Ex penses						
Material & Supply 650	62.10	375.00	883.78	750.00	133.78	1,500.00
Insurance Corp 650	6,233.56	8,100.00	8,314.47	10,800.00	(2,485.53)	10,800.00
Hydro 650 Workshop	624.96	700.00	971.08	1,300.00	(328.92)	2,300.00
Fuel Oil Heating Propane Wksp	-	300.00	951.56	1,000.00	(48.44)	2,500.00
Maintenance Supplies 650	3,583.21	8,100.00	9,465.99	14,600.00	(5,134.01)	25,150.00
Uniform & Special Clothing Exp 650	-	-	-	-	-	250.00
Gas & Oil 650	5,196.16	10,375.00	6,583.69	13,750.00	(7,166.31)	24,500.00
Capital Asset Purchases	3,764.95	4,000.00	3,764.95	4,000.00	(235.05)	174,000.00
	<u>19,464.94</u>	<u>31,950.00</u>	<u>30,935.52</u>	<u>46,200.00</u>	<u>(15,264.48)</u>	<u>241,000.00</u>
S	<u>3,764.95</u>	<u>6,400.00</u>	<u>3,764.95</u>	<u>6,400.00</u>	<u>(2,635.05)</u>	<u>176,400.00</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(0.00)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(0.00)</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
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Division

660 Office Infrastructure - Category 1

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
E	-	-	-	-	-	-
EXPENSES:						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE						
Other Inter program Charges Cost Recovery	(50,098.05)	(61,850.00)	(83,267.37)	(99,800.00)	16,532.63	(143,900.00)
	(50,098.05)	(61,850.00)	(83,267.37)	(99,800.00)	16,532.63	(143,900.00)
Other Expenses						
Material & Supply 660	-	-	2,849.28	2,500.00	349.28	3,000.00
Equipment Costs 660 Office	1,073.50	1,750.00	1,073.50	3,500.00	(2,426.50)	7,000.00
Insurance 660 Office	37,527.95	40,350.00	49,731.29	53,800.00	(4,068.71)	53,800.00
Taxes Corp Office	-	-	1,552.34	500.00	1,052.34	1,100.00
Hydro 660	7,138.35	6,500.00	13,791.16	13,000.00	791.16	26,000.00
Telephone 660 Corp Office	3,319.95	4,000.00	6,897.12	8,000.00	(1,102.88)	16,000.00
Office Expenses	2,187.19	3,500.00	3,429.79	7,000.00	(3,570.21)	14,000.00
Maintenance Supplies 660 Interior	471.68	1,500.00	2,126.45	3,000.00	(873.55)	6,000.00
Internet Access 680 SCAN	908.22	1,250.00	1,816.44	2,500.00	(683.56)	5,000.00
	52,626.84	58,850.00	83,267.37	93,800.00	(10,532.63)	131,900.00
S	2,528.79	(3,000.00)	-	(6,000.00)	6,000.00	(12,000.00)
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(2,528.79)	3,000.00	-	6,000.00	(6,000.00)	12,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSE						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
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Division

661 Tiffin CA & Maintenance - Category 1

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	44,977.21	44,977.21	89,954.42	89,954.42	-	179,908.83
User Fees	2,107.60	2,500.00	2,575.80	4,000.00	(1,424.20)	9,000.00
Use of Reserves	-	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	21,000.00
E	<u>47,084.81</u>	<u>52,477.21</u>	<u>92,530.22</u>	<u>98,954.42</u>	<u>(6,424.20)</u>	<u>209,908.83</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wa ges and Interprogram Charges	31,377.62	32,969.31	61,276.22	65,938.62	(4,662.40)	131,877.24
TOTAL REVENU	<u>31,377.62</u>	<u>32,969.31</u>	<u>61,276.22</u>	<u>65,938.62</u>	<u>(4,662.40)</u>	<u>131,877.24</u>
Other Inter program Charges						
Cost Recovery	4,932.26	6,007.90	9,034.33	12,015.80	(2,981.47)	24,031.59
	<u>4,932.26</u>	<u>6,007.90</u>	<u>9,034.33</u>	<u>12,015.80</u>	<u>(2,981.47)</u>	<u>24,031.59</u>
Other Ex penses						
Material&Supply	369.64	6,775.00	539.43	7,500.00	(6,960.57)	10,700.00
Equipment Costs 661	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.00
Insurance 661 Tiffin Conservation Area	929.73	1,050.00	1,241.25	1,400.00	(158.75)	1,400.00
Taxes Tiffin Conservation Area	-	200.00	-	200.00	(200.00)	500.00
Maintenance Supplies 661	17,424.83	7,550.00	19,290.71	11,750.00	7,540.71	20,600.00
Advertisement 661 Tiffin CA	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	1,000.00
Waste Services 661	1,117.08	750.00	2,223.37	1,300.00	923.37	2,800.00
Capital Asset Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	16,000.00
	<u>19,841.28</u>	<u>17,325.00</u>	<u>23,294.76</u>	<u>23,150.00</u>	<u>144.76</u>	<u>54,000.00</u>
S	<u>56,151.16</u>	<u>56,302.21</u>	<u>93,605.31</u>	<u>101,104.42</u>	<u>(7,499.11)</u>	<u>209,908.83</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(9,066.35)</u>	<u>(3,825.00)</u>	<u>(1,075.09)</u>	<u>(2,150.00)</u>	<u>1,074.91</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Unaudited Statement of Operations
For The 6 Periods Ending June 30, 2024

Division

662 Tiffin CA & Maintenance - Category 2 & 3

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	4,322.26	4,322.26	8,644.52	8,644.52	-	17,289.04
User Fees	28,047.41	42,600.00	55,314.47	45,100.00	10,214.47	167,600.00
Use of Reserves	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	1,000.00
E	<u>32,369.67</u>	<u>47,922.26</u>	<u>63,958.99</u>	<u>54,744.52</u>	<u>9,214.47</u>	<u>185,889.04</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wages and Interprogram Charges	38,410.00	38,410.00	76,820.00	76,820.00	-	153,640.00
TOTAL REVENU	<u>38,410.00</u>	<u>38,410.00</u>	<u>76,820.00</u>	<u>76,820.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>153,640.00</u>
Other Inter program Charges						
Cost Recovery	3,184.02	4,537.26	5,624.18	9,074.52	(3,450.34)	18,149.04
	<u>3,184.02</u>	<u>4,537.26</u>	<u>5,624.18</u>	<u>9,074.52</u>	<u>(3,450.34)</u>	<u>18,149.04</u>
Other Expenses						
Material&Supply 662	4,110.17	2,600.00	8,252.80	7,550.00	702.80	10,800.00
Maintenance Supplies 662	-	850.00	-	1,150.00	(1,150.00)	2,300.00
Capital Asset Purchases	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	1,000.00
	<u>4,110.17</u>	<u>4,450.00</u>	<u>8,252.80</u>	<u>9,700.00</u>	<u>(1,447.20)</u>	<u>14,100.00</u>
S	<u>45,704.19</u>	<u>47,397.26</u>	<u>90,696.98</u>	<u>95,594.52</u>	<u>(4,897.54)</u>	<u>185,889.04</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(13,334.52)</u>	<u>525.00</u>	<u>(26,737.99)</u>	<u>(40,850.00)</u>	<u>14,112.01</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Unaudited Statement of Operations
For The 6 Periods Ending June 30, 2024

Division

670 Corporate Governance - Category 1

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	92,017.34	92,017.34	184,034.68	184,034.68	-	368,069.36
E	92,017.34	92,017.34	184,034.68	184,034.68	-	368,069.36
EXPENSES:						
Wa ges and Interprogram Charges	86,392.34	92,017.34	175,894.93	178,409.68	(2,514.75)	368,069.36
TOTAL REVENU	86,392.34	92,017.34	175,894.93	178,409.68	(2,514.75)	368,069.36
Other Inter program Charges						
Cost Recovery	(13,287.54)	(24,600.00)	(28,695.48)	(41,175.00)	12,479.52	(52,800.00)
	(13,287.54)	(24,600.00)	(28,695.48)	(41,175.00)	12,479.52	(52,800.00)
Other Ex penses						
Memberships Prof.Dues 670	16,084.00	18,000.00	32,168.00	36,000.00	(3,832.00)	36,000.00
Member Education/Training	-	625.00	-	1,250.00	(1,250.00)	2,500.00
Material&Supply 670	124.62	875.00	417.88	1,750.00	(1,332.12)	3,500.00
Transportation 670 Municipal Officer Exp	-	1,500.00	823.90	3,000.00	(2,176.10)	6,000.00
Insurance 670 Directors Liab	2,703.92	3,600.00	3,425.45	4,800.00	(1,374.55)	4,800.00
	18,912.54	24,600.00	36,835.23	46,800.00	(9,964.77)	52,800.00
S	92,017.34	92,017.34	184,034.68	184,034.68	-	368,069.36
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSE						

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Unaudited Statement of Operations
For The 6 Periods Ending June 30, 2024

Division

680 Corporate Administration - Category 1

	CURRENT QTR ACTUALS	CURRENT QTR BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER (UNDER) YTD BUDGET	BUDGET 2024
REVENUE:						
Municipal Levy Non Match	150,073.21	150,073.21	300,146.42	300,146.42	-	600,292.84
Contributions	38.35	-	128.35	-	128.35	-
Investment Income	17,102.27	25,000.00	38,324.09	50,000.00	(11,675.91)	100,000.00
User Fees	63.71	-	63.71	-	63.71	-
Miscellaneous Revenue	77.50	-	92.50	-	92.50	-
E	<u>167,355.04</u>	<u>175,073.21</u>	<u>338,755.07</u>	<u>350,146.42</u>	<u>(11,391.35)</u>	<u>700,292.84</u>
EXPENSES:						
Wages and Interprogram Charges	139,592.88	150,073.21	248,046.06	300,146.42	(52,100.36)	600,292.84
	<u>139,592.88</u>	<u>150,073.21</u>	<u>248,046.06</u>	<u>300,146.42</u>	<u>(52,100.36)</u>	<u>600,292.84</u>
TOTAL REVENUE						
Other Inter program Charges						
Cost Recovery	-	(8,875.00)	-	(14,750.00)	14,750.00	(154,000.00)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,875.00)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(14,750.00)</u>	<u>14,750.00</u>	<u>(154,000.00)</u>
Other Expenses						
Staff Expense 680 Staff	671.15	1,500.00	1,010.52	3,000.00	(1,989.48)	6,000.00
Memberships Prof.Dues 680 Admin Staff	1,214.11	1,000.00	2,622.22	3,500.00	(877.78)	4,000.00
Staff Education/Training	7,042.15	12,000.00	14,956.15	17,000.00	(2,043.85)	29,000.00
Material&Supply	1,678.88	4,750.00	9,524.44	12,000.00	(2,475.56)	16,000.00
Legal Costs	10,536.75	250.00	10,536.75	500.00	10,036.75	1,000.00
Consultant Fees	-	500.00	-	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	2,000.00
Audit Fees	2,133.14	-	2,133.14	-	2,133.14	20,500.00
Interest & Bank Chgs 680	8,695.90	8,750.00	12,682.27	17,500.00	(4,817.73)	35,000.00
Uniform & Special Clothing Expense 680	2,963.98	1,500.00	2,963.98	3,000.00	(36.02)	6,000.00
Advertisement 680	783.39	3,625.00	4,775.95	7,250.00	(2,474.05)	14,500.00
Transfer to Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	120,000.00
	<u>35,719.45</u>	<u>33,875.00</u>	<u>61,205.42</u>	<u>64,750.00</u>	<u>(3,544.58)</u>	<u>254,000.00</u>
S	<u>175,312.33</u>	<u>175,073.21</u>	<u>309,251.48</u>	<u>350,146.42</u>	<u>(40,894.94)</u>	<u>700,292.84</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)						
	<u>(7,957.29)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,503.59</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,503.59</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE						



Staff Report: 24-05-24-BOD

Date: 23/08/2043

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Sheryl Flannagan
Director, Corporate Services

SUBJECT: 2025 Preliminary Budget Guidelines

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 24-05-24-BOD regarding guidelines for the development of the 2025 NVCA draft budget be received; and

FURTHER THAT: staff be directed to prepare a draft 2024 budget using option #1, 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 2025 draft budget.

Background

In discussion with various municipalities, staff understand that budget development commences during the summer 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.

Issues/Analysis

There are a number of budget assumptions and challenges each year and staff address them below.

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 (MNR) currently remains at \$97,307 – almost 50% less than 2018 but there is no guarantee on how much longer this will continue.
- Source Water Protection funding is starting to be decreased but costs continue to increase like what the flood department goes through each year with the above.
- 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 \$30,000. Other employment costs like WSIB, EI, OMERS, etc. we also have no control over their increases and are forecasting an additional \$105,000 in costs.
- Benefits & Insurance – The NVCA is part of the Conservation Ontario group with approximately 29 other CAs to obtain the best prices. However, insurance and benefits costs continue to rise. It is forecast that an additional \$60,000 is required to cover the increases.
- As per a Board resolution, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Ontario average from June 2023 to May 2024 is what is used to calculate cost of living increases and is \$128,000 for 2025.
- 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.

- 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 is looking to hire two additional staff to deal with some 2025 challenges that will be explained below at a cost of approximately \$200,000.

The first position required is in our Flood department. As the Board knows, flooding is one of the top priorities for conservation authorities. However, funding from the province continues to decline. The NVCA has several dams that require ongoing maintenance that due to cost have been delayed as long as possible. This additional work requires another person to be able to assist with ensuring that the regular flood monitoring/prevention work continues while the maintenance work is completed. Previously, some of this work had been completed by the Manager, Engineering Services, however given the increased workload in plan review, it is no longer feasible or sustainable for that position to do it.

The second position required is for our engineering plan review team. With the announcement in April by Honda, there will be construction of a new Electric Vehicle (EV) assembly plant as well as a facility to produce the batteries within the Town of New Tecumseth to prepare for increased EV demand in North America. The plants are expected to be online by the end of 2028. There is a compressed 4-year timeline that will cause significant pressures on the NVCA's engineering team given the locations of these proposed plants. A new K-12 school in Wasaga Beach, future beach front development in Wasaga Beach, further Midhurst developments and Grain Elevators within Collingwood, along with the increasing growth within the rest of the watershed are further challenges anticipated within the next year. Complexities of files are increasing as a result of continuing legislative changes and accessibility of hazard free (unregulated) land. In order to be prepared, the NVCA is requesting that a one-year contract engineering technologist position be brought on board to better position the NVCA review team to meet compressed timelines and development pressures.

Based on all the above information, staff are anticipating an increase of over \$450,000 of uncontrollable costs & \$200,000 for the two additional positions. Staff are working very hard preparing for the 2025 budget. After the first draft of the budget, the levy increase request was sitting at approximately \$600,000 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 2025. Staff have reviewed revenues and looked at controllable

expenditures and anticipate being able to deal with close to 40% of the \$650,000 need.

After much review and many drafts, staff are requesting that the draft budget be developed based on an approximately \$400,000 increase to general levy, \$368,250 in Category 1 and \$31,750 in Category 3. Municipal general levy, not including Asset Levy, currently stands at \$3,185,300 for 2024.

The NVCA understands that this is an investment and are offering two different options for the budget creation.

Option #1 – this is the recommended option, which is to create a draft budget at \$400,000 increase to levy.

Option #2 – this option would allow for the use of reserves (\$100,000) for the second position which would reduce the levy ask to \$300,000. Reserves are currently in a good position, however, given some of the dam work that is required, approximately ½ of the reserves may be depleted once the works are completed in the next 4-5 years. If successful in getting funding from the province, that number could go down by as much as half, but it is unknown how much, if any, that the province will contribute. Additionally, capital asset request continues to be higher than what the asset levy is (this is normal with a 10-year averaging plan), which further reduces the reserves each year. Reserves are only grown when the NVCA is in a surplus position at the end of the year, along with an annual \$120,000 contribution to help offset the cost of amortization (amortization is estimated at approximately \$200,000) each year.

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 2025 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: 25-05-24-BOD

Date: 23/08/2024

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Maria Leung
Senior Communications Specialist

SUBJECT: Communications Report – May 11, 2024 – August 9, 2024

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 25-05-24-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – May 11, 2024 – August 9, 2024, be received.

Purpose of the Staff Report

This staff report presents a summary of NVCA media coverage and public outreach during the period of April 12, 2024 – May 10, 2024.

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

1. Flood Messages

Watershed Condition Statement: Water Safety, issued on June 23, 2024

Title	Media Outlet	Date
Flood risk low, but watercourses 'above seasonal,' NVCA says	Barrie Today	June 23, 2024
Flood risk low, but watercourses 'above seasonal,' NVCA says	Bradford Today	June 24, 2024
Flood risk low, but watercourses 'above seasonal,' NVCA says	Innisfil Today	June 24, 2024

Communications Report – May 11, 2024 – August 9, 2024
 Staff Report No. 25-05-24-BOD

NVCA Warns Heavy Rainfall Creates Unsafe Flow Conditions On Waterways	Bayshore Broadcasting	June 24, 2024
NVCA Warns Heavy Rainfall Creates Unsafe Flow Conditions On Waterways	Country 105	June 24, 2024
NVCA issues high water level warning	New Tecumseth Times	June 27, 2024

Flood Outlook Statement, issued on July 9, 2024

Title	Media Outlet	Date
Heavy rainfall expected over next 12 to 72 hours: NVCA	Bradford Today	July 9, 2024
Flood Outlook Statement with Hurricane Beryl Remnants	Country 105	July 9, 2024
Heavy rainfall expected over next 12 to 72 hours: NVCA	Innisfil Today	July 9, 2024
No Major Flooding Anticipated – NVCA	FM 92 South Simcoe	July 10, 2024
No Major Flooding Anticipated – NVCA	FM 101 Milton	July 10, 2024
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority urges caution as heavy rains expected for Simcoe County	Simcoe.com	July 10, 2024

Watershed Condition Statement: Flood Watch, issued on July 11, 2024

Title	Media Outlet	Date
Rainfall triggers flood watch for Nottawasaga watershed	Barrie Today	July 11, 2024
Rainfall triggers flood watch for Nottawasaga watershed	Bradford Today	July 11, 2024
Flood watch issued for Nottawasaga watershed	Collingwood Today	July 11, 2024

Title	Media Outlet	Date
Barrie receives most rainfall in Ontario in 24 hours from Beryl's remnants	CTV Barrie	July 11, 2024
Flood watch issued for Nottawasaga watershed	Innisfil Today	July 11, 2024
All rainfall warnings ended for Nottawasaga watershed	Collingwood Today	July 12, 2024
Flood Outlook has been Updated	FM92 South Simcoe Today	July 11, 2024
Flood Watch Downgraded for Nottawasaga Watershed	FM 101 Milton	July 15, 2024

2. Media coverage of NVCA news releases

Column: Hurricane Hazel's Legacy: Remembering the Perfect Storm, issued on May 27, 2024

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
Hurricane Hazel devastated region 70 years ago	Collingwood Today	May 29, 2024	<i>Dalia Al-Ali is the Manager of engineering services</i>
Hurricane Hazel devastated region 70 years ago	Innisfil	May 30, 2024	<i>Dalia Al-Ali is the Manager of engineering services</i>
Hurricane Hazel devastated region 70 years ago	Orillia Matters	May 30, 2024	<i>Dalia Al-Ali is the Manager of engineering services</i>
Hurricane Hazel devastated region 70 years ago	Bradford Today	May 30, 2024	<i>Dalia Al-Ali is the Manager of engineering services</i>

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
Hurricane Hazel devastated region 70 years ago	Midland Today	May 31, 2024	<i>Dalia Al-Ali is the Manager of engineering services</i>

Province of Ontario invests \$125,000 to restore and enhance wetlands in the Nottawasaga Watershed, issued on June 10, 2024

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
Hundreds of new trees, shrubs to restore deciduous swamp forest	Barrie Today	June 10, 2024	CAO Hevenor Fred Dobbs, Manager of Stewardship Services Ian Ockenden, Manager of watershed science Sarah Campbell, Aquatic Biologist
Hundreds of new trees, shrubs to restore deciduous swamp forest	Bradford Today	June 10, 2024	CAO Hevenor Fred Dobbs, Manager of Stewardship Services Ian Ockenden, Manager of watershed science Sarah Campbell, Aquatic Biologist
8 wetland restoration projects will help boost health of Nottawasaga River watershed	Alliston Herald	June 11, 2024	Fred Dobbs, Manager of Stewardship Services

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
Hundreds of new trees, shrubs to restore deciduous swamp forest	Innisfil Bradford Today	June 11, 2024	CAO Hevenor Fred Dobbs, Manager of Stewardship Services Ian Ockenden, Manager of watershed science Sarah Campbell, Aquatic Biologist
NVCA receives provincial grant to restore wetlands	New Tecumseth Times	June 20, 2024	Fred Dobbs, Manager of Stewardship Services
Province of Ontario invests \$125,000 to restore and enhance wetlands in the Nottawasaga Watershed	Creemore Echo	June 28, 2024	Fred Dobbs, Manager of Stewardship Services

NVCA to host public meeting seeking landowners interested in partnering on river restoration in Adjala-Tosorontio, issued on June 19, 2024

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
NVCA hosts meeting for landowners interested in river restoration	New Tecumseth Times	June 27, 2024	Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist Fred Dobbs, Manager Stewardship Services

Column: Heat waves and life in our rivers, issued on June 28, 2024

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
COLUMN: Dealing with algae blooms a balancing act	Barrie Today	July 1, 2024	Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
COLUMN: Dealing with algae blooms a balancing act	Bradford Today	July 2, 2024	Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist
COLUMN: Dealing with algae blooms a balancing act	Collingwood Today	July 1, 2024	Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist
COLUMN: Dealing with algae blooms a balancing act	Innisfil Today	July 1, 2024	Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist
COLUMN: Dealing with algae blooms a balancing act	Orillia Matters	July 1, 2024	Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist

Column: Exploration is for Everyone in NVCA Conservation Areas, issued on July 30, 2024

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
COLUMN: Conservation areas offer unique opportunities to explore	Collingwood Today	July 31, 2024	Mike Bacon, <i>Manager of Lands Operations</i>
COLUMN: Conservation areas offer unique opportunities to explore	Orillia Matters	July 31, 2024	Mike Bacon, <i>Manager of Lands Operations</i>
COLUMN: Conservation areas offer unique opportunities to explore	Barrie Today	August 3, 2024	Mike Bacon, <i>Manager of Lands Operations</i>
COLUMN: Conservation areas offer unique opportunities to explore	Bradford Today	August 3, 2024	Mike Bacon, <i>Manager of Lands Operations</i>

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
COLUMN: Conservation areas offer unique opportunities to explore	Innisfil Today	August 3, 2024	Mike Bacon, <i>Manager of Lands Operations</i>

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

3. Other Media Coverage

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
Mink Creek's elusive tufa rock sustains endangered dragonfly	Bradford Today	June 23, 2024	
Mink Creek's elusive tufa rock sustains endangered dragonfly	Collingwood Today	June 19, 2024	
Mink Creek's elusive tufa rock sustains endangered dragonfly	Hamilton Spectator	June 19, 2024	
Mink Creek's elusive tufa rock sustains endangered dragonfly	Innisfil Today	June 19, 2024	
Mink Creek's elusive tufa rock sustains endangered dragonfly	Orillia Matters	June 20, 2024	
'Wild swings,' more 'extremes' in weather could be new normal	Bradford Today	July 24, 2024	Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist
'Wild swings,' more 'extremes' in weather could be new normal	Innisfil Today	July 24, 2024	Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist

Communications Report – May 11, 2024 – August 9, 2024
 Staff Report No. 25-05-24-BOD

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
'Wild swings,' more 'extremes' in weather could be new normal	Newmarket Today	July 24, 2024	Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist
Changes to the new Official Plan 'minor': planning director	Collingwood Today	July 25, 2024	
Hidden gem: New Lowell Campground, day use park	Creemore Echo	July 26, 2024	
EVERGLADES OF THE NORTH	Escarpment Magazine	July 2024	
Springwater dredging up NVCA permit delays directly with ministry	Barrie Today	August 7, 2024	CAO Hevenor
Springwater dredging up NVCA permit delays directly with ministry	Hamilton Spectator	August 7, 2024	CAO Hevenor
Springwater dredging up NVCA permit delays directly with ministry	Orillia Matters	August 7, 2024	CAO Hevenor
Springwater dredging up NVCA permit delays directly with ministry	Penticton Herald	August 7, 2024	CAO Hevenor
'Not accountable': Business owners push back on NVCA amid permit delays	Barrie Today	August 8, 2024	CAO Hevenor

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

- May 2024 – Stewardship team hosted volunteer tree plants. More than 500 community volunteers and partners planted more than 8,000 native trees and shrubs were planted throughout the watershed.
- May 11, 2024 – Arbour Day Tree Sale
- May 26, 2024 – Friends of the Mad River held a benefit concert in Creemore that raised \$3,500 for habitat restoration and bank stabilization
- May 30, 2024 – Sheri Steinginga presented to 3rd year Georgian College class on Flood Forecasting & Warning
- June 7, 2024 – PD/PA Day
- June 10, 2024 – Wetland restoration announcement with Minister of the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Park
- June 25, 2022 – Learn About Ecological Restoration Projects on the Nottawasaga River
- June 28, 2024 – PD/PA Day
- June 28, 2024 – Board of Directors Bus Tour
- July & August 2024 – Camp Tiffin
- July 17 – 19, 2024 – Volunteers installing Christmas trees along Willow Creek with NVCA and the Nature Conservancy of Canada
- July 23, 2024 – Volunteer river restoration event in Sheldon Creek

Issues/Analysis

1. General media coverage

- In general, the media coverage and public outreach/communications covered a variety of topics. Coverage included flood messages, wetland, river and stream restoration efforts, ways to explore NVCA's conservation areas, and NVCA permits.

2. Motion from the Township of Springwater

- On July 3, 2024, the Township of Springwater council passed the following motion:

C423-2024

Moved by: Thompson

Seconded by: Garwood

Whereas members of Council have received concerns from residents, business owners and stakeholders who are frustrated with the permitting approvals process of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA); and,

Whereas, specifically, the concerns raised surrounded the timelines for receiving permit approvals and the studies being requested as part of permit approvals.

Be It Therefore Resolved That a letter be sent to the Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Hon. Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, and the Hon. Mike Harris Jr., Minister of Red Tape Reduction requesting a meeting to discuss the ongoing concerns.

And Further That a copy of the letter be sent to the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, all NVCA member municipalities and the County of Simcoe.

Carried.

- In response, NVCA's Chair and Vice Chair sent the following letter to the Mayor and Council of the Township of Springwater, copying the Minister of Natural Resources, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and Minister of Red Tape Reduction. The letter was also shared with the NVCA Board of Directors.

July 5, 2024

Mayor and Council
Township of Springwater
(Sent via email.)

We are writing in response to a motion recently passed by your council expressing concerns related to the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA).

NVCA has a legal responsibility to carefully review development applications in the watershed to protect human health and safety as well as property from the potential impacts of flooding, erosion and other natural hazards. As with most municipal planning departments, NVCA offers pre-submission consultation services to guide applicants through the process. If additional studies are known to be necessary, our staff outline the requirements at the onset of the process and proactively communicate the nature and rationale of the study request.

The Township of Springwater is one of eighteen municipalities served by NVCA in an area of significant residential and commercial growth. In order to improve our ability to consistently meet provincial standards, NVCA has recently expanded its planning department to better service our customers and shorten response timelines. Specifically in the Township of Springwater, 243 permits were processed between November 2020 and July 2024. Of those applications, 223 or 92% were processed on time as defined under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. It is important to note that legally, if a proposed development is not in compliance, a permit cannot be issued until compliance is achieved. Staff continue to work with property owners to rectify these situations.

As part of Ontario's natural hazard management framework, NVCA encourages and welcomes dialogue with members of our watershed. As we are currently not aware of any specific complaints or concerns that have not been addressed arising from residents, business owners or other stakeholders, we would appreciate being sent copies of any correspondence of the outstanding issues.

We would be pleased to schedule a meeting with Springwater Council members or other interested parties for further discussion on these matters.

Yours truly,



Gail Little
Chair

Jonathan Scott
Vice-Chair

cc

Hon. Graydon Smith MPP

Hon. Andrea Khanjin MPP

Hon. Mike Harris Jr MPP

Impact on Authority Finances

Staff time to prepare this report is addressed in the 2024 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

Hurricane Hazel devastated region 70 years ago

Storm drenched already soaked
southern Ontario, killed 81 people

May 30, 2024 by Dalia Al-Ali

Bradford Today



1 / 7 Hurricane Hazel caused
extensive damage in 1954.Photo
supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority



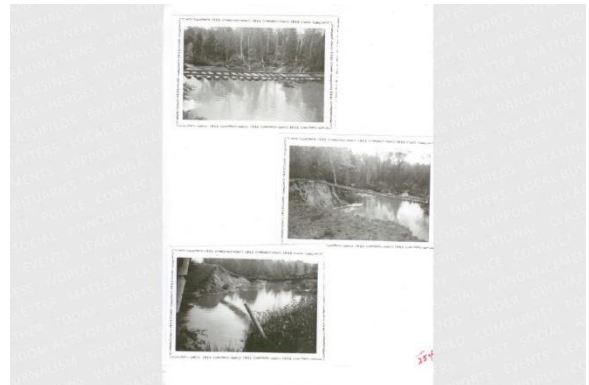
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bridge in New Tecumseth in
1954.Photo supplied by the
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation
Authority



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Authority



4 / 7 Hurricane Hazel caused
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6 / 7 Hurricane Hazel caused
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7 / 7 Hurricane Hazel damaged a dam in Tottenham in 1954. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

On the night of Oct. 15, 1954, Hurricane Hazel swept across southern Ontario, depositing more than 200 millimetres of rain and killing 81 people.

The Nottawasaga watershed was not spared from Hurricane Hazel's destructive path; 18 bridges and dams were damaged or destroyed.

In the days leading up to Hazel's arrival, southern Ontario had been drenched by days of rain. The first two weeks of October had been the wettest in recent memory, and the soil was saturated. Over the span of those two weeks, flood infrastructure in the province was tested but was still holding up to the near-constant rainfall.

Hurricane Hazel made landfall over the coast of South Carolina on Oct. 14, after battering the Caribbean the previous day. Meteorologists expected the tropical storm to quickly lose momentum and peter out once it made landfall, or follow the eastern coast as other comparable hurricanes had in times past. Hazel, however,

had other plans. Instead of pushing away from land or continuing to track along the east coast of the continent, it continued straight, accelerating north through the Virginias, across Pennsylvania, and straight toward our region.

When it arrived, it collided with another storm that had settled over the province earlier in the day on Oct. 15. While Hazel had depleted herself enough to be downgraded from a hurricane to an extratropical storm by the time it arrived, meeting another low-pressure system acted like fuel on an already raging fire.

Winds picked up as the two storms danced their destructive tango over our region. Temperatures dropped by several degrees and the wind accelerated to more than 120 km/h in several areas. Over the next few hours, more than 200 mm of rain was dropped on an already soggy southern Ontario.

In the Nottawasaga watershed, 350 people were stranded at a service station near the cloverleaf exit of Highway 400 at Cookstown. A 20-foot section of road to the south had washed out completely, leaving travellers with nowhere to go.

Highway 12 from Midland to Orillia was under four feet of water, and one officer noted there were several inches of water covering the ground at the top of the hill on Bayfield Street.

Across southern Ontario, many natural waterways, dams, crossings, and stormwater infrastructure had reached their breaking point around the evening hours of Oct. 15. As bridges

collapsed and dams gave way, floodwater derailed trains and swept vehicles into streams. Entire houses were lifted and carried hundreds of metres from their foundations.

By the morning of Oct. 16, Hazel had expelled its energy but left behind the equivalent of more than \$1 billion in damage to southern Ontario, impacting the lives of countless residents.

As we approach the 70-year anniversary of this extreme storm event, the stakes have only gotten higher. Our watershed's population has increased, and so has the amount of developed land that is no longer as effective at infiltrating and slowing water from rainfall or snowmelt events. As a result, the need for flood forecasting and monitoring, as well as robust infrastructure designed to handle these events, has grown.

Since 1960, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) has been working to improve our watershed's ability to handle large storm events. Today, the NVCA's flood forecasting and warning program is responsible for monitoring the capacity of our rivers and streams during storm events, and maintaining critical infrastructure like our dams and dikes that help to control surges in flow and limit the chance for flooding. The NVCA also works with property owners to ensure development is not implemented in areas prone to flooding, erosion or other natural hazards.

The memory of Hazel is a stark reminder of the important role

conservation authorities like the NVCA play in helping to keep communities safe from flooding and other natural hazards, and the significance of the work we do to protect the people and places of the Nottawasaga watershed.

Dalia Al-Ali is the manager of engineering services with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.

Hurricane Hazel devastated region 70 years ago

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southern Ontario, killed 81 people

May 29, 2024 by Dalia Al-Ali

Collingwood Today



1 / 7 Hurricane Hazel caused
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Conservation Authority



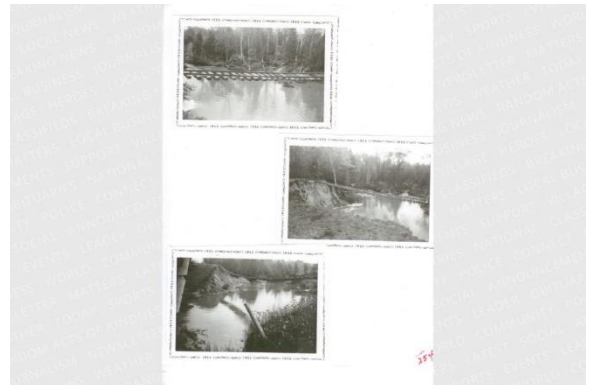
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May 30, 2024 by Dalia Al-Ali

Innisfil Today



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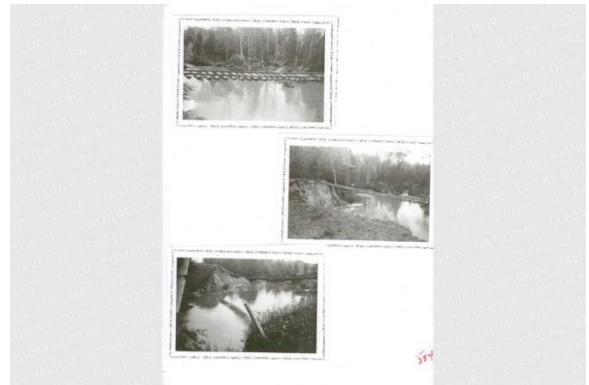
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May 31, 2024 by Dalia Al-Ali

Midland Today



1 / 7 Hurricane Hazel caused
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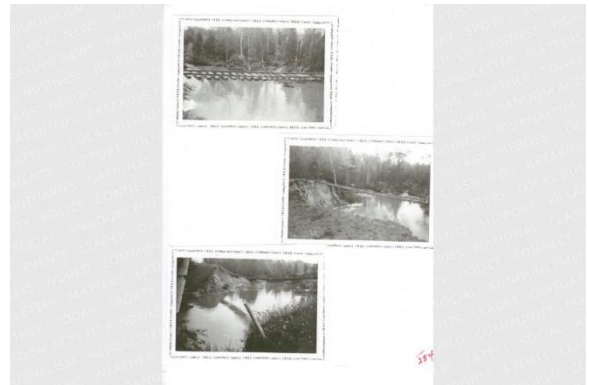
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May 30, 2024 by Dalia Al-Ali

Orillia Matters



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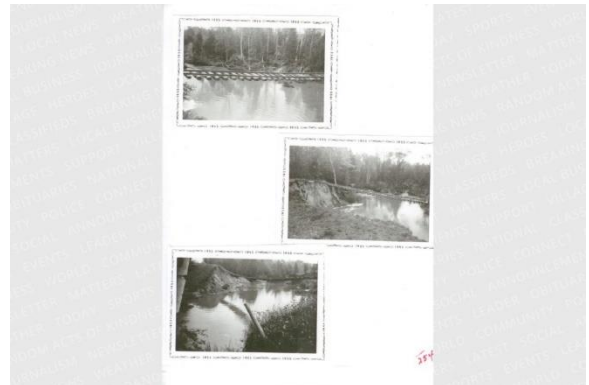
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Hundreds of new trees, shrubs to restore deciduous swamp forest

'Over the last 60 years, more than 60 per cent of the deciduous swamp forest has been lost in the Minesing Wetlands due to water levels and land use,' says NVCA official

June 10, 2024 by Wayne Doyle

Barrie Today



Ian Ockenden, manager of watershed science with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, demonstrates taking a water sample during a news conference at the Willow Creek Canoe Launch on George Johnston Road, Monday morning. Wayne Doyle/BarrieToday

Editor's note: The following story has been updated from its original version after an incorrect number of trees being planted was provided. BarrieToday apologizes for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

Water is to the planet what blood is to the human body. Without it, it's impossible to live.

"Watersheds are our future," said Doug Hevenor, chief administrative

officer for the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA).

That proclamation came shortly after announcing the receipt of a \$125,000 grant from the provincial government's Wetlands Conservation Partner Program on Monday morning during a news conference at the Willow Creek Canoe Launch on George Johnston Road, west of Barrie.

"When you look at the human body and you look at veins, think of a watershed," he said. "You look at a river and you look at the tributaries — those are the capillaries that are in our veins that transfer that blood.

"The water is the blood of the landscape and that's what's so important. We can't see what's happening but it connects the aquifer, provides fresh water, provides transportation and recreation," Hevenor added. "So yeah, we really want to save it."

According to the news release that accompanied the announcement, approximately 70 per cent of wetlands in the Nottawasaga watershed have been lost.

Dubbed as the "return of the wetlands," this project will restore and enhance 2.55 hectares of wetland habitat, providing links between larger existing wetland blocks and controlling invasive species, such as Phragmites, that threaten shoreline wetland ecosystems.

"Over the last 60 years, more than 60 per cent of the deciduous swamp forest has been lost in the Minesing Wetlands due to water levels

and land use," said Sarah Campbell, aquatic biologist at NVCA. "This grant provides essential funding to engage community volunteers in the planting of [1,200] native trees and shrubs."

Often called the everglades of the north, Campbell said, the Minesing wetlands is a gem in the NVCA watershed.

At 6,000 hectares, it's one of the largest intact wetlands in southern Ontario.

In addition to providing life-sustaining support for more than 30 species at risk, the wetlands provide numerous recreational opportunities and play a critical role in flood control, protecting downstream communities like Springwater and Wasaga Beach.

"Our government really does share your vision to ensure watersheds in the province are preserved and protected," said Barrie-Innisfil MPP Andrea Khanjin, who is also the province's minister of the environment, conservation and parks, who was on hand at the early morning announcement.

"That's why over the last five years you've seen our government making historic investments, restoring and enhancing wetlands across the province," she added. "We established the Wetland Conservation Partner Program in 2020 and since then our government has been able to provide a total of \$31 million to preserve and restore wetland ecosystems throughout the Great Lakes watershed."

Since launching the program, Khanjin said 560 wetland projects have been initiated or completed, resulting in restoration and enhancement of approximately 3700 hectares of wetlands across the province.

"Thanks to this grant from the province, we are able to work with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, South Simcoe Streams Network, local environmental associations, rural landowners and corporate partners," said Fred Dobbs, manager of stewardship services at NVCA.

"Wetland restoration projects help improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and flood resiliency across the watershed."

The data collected from this monitoring network and other NVCA monitoring programs allows staff to develop a better understanding of the condition and health of the watershed as well as identify priority restoration sites and provides information on impacts and changes after restoration and enhancement projects are complete.

Hundreds of new trees, shrubs to restore deciduous swamp forest

'Over the last 60 years, more than 60 per cent of the deciduous swamp forest has been lost in the Minesing Wetlands due to water levels and land use,' says NVCA official

June 11, 2024 by Wayne Doyle

Bradford Today



Ian Ockenden, manager of watershed science with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, demonstrates taking a water sample during a news conference at the Willow Creek Canoe Launch on George Johnston Road, Monday morning. Wayne Doyle/BarrieToday

Editor's note: The following story has been updated from its original version after an incorrect number of trees being planted was provided. BarrieToday apologizes for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

Water is to the planet what blood is to the human body. Without it, it's impossible to live.

"Watersheds are our future," said Doug Hevenor, chief administrative

officer for the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA).

That proclamation came shortly after announcing the receipt of a \$125,000 grant from the provincial government's Wetlands Conservation Partner Program on Monday morning during a news conference at the Willow Creek Canoe Launch on George Johnston Road, west of Barrie.

"When you look at the human body and you look at veins, think of a watershed," he said. "You look at a river and you look at the tributaries — those are the capillaries that are in our veins that transfer that blood.

"The water is the blood of the landscape and that's what's so important. We can't see what's happening but it connects the aquifer, provides fresh water, provides transportation and recreation," Hevenor added. "So yeah, we really want to save it."

According to the news release that accompanied the announcement, approximately 70 per cent of wetlands in the Nottawasaga watershed have been lost.

Dubbed as the "return of the wetlands," this project will restore and enhance 2.55 hectares of wetland habitat, providing links between larger existing wetland blocks and controlling invasive species, such as Phragmites, that threaten shoreline wetland ecosystems.

"Over the last 60 years, more than 60 per cent of the deciduous swamp forest has been lost in the Minesing Wetlands due to water levels

and land use," said Sarah Campbell, aquatic biologist at NVCA. "This grant provides essential funding to engage community volunteers in the planting of [1,200] native trees and shrubs."

Often called the everglades of the north, Campbell said, the Minesing wetlands is a gem in the NVCA watershed.

At 6,000 hectares, it's one of the largest intact wetlands in southern Ontario.

In addition to providing life-sustaining support for more than 30 species at risk, the wetlands provide numerous recreational opportunities and play a critical role in flood control, protecting downstream communities like Springwater and Wasaga Beach.

"Our government really does share your vision to ensure watersheds in the province are preserved and protected," said Barrie-Innisfil MPP Andrea Khanjin, who is also the province's minister of the environment, conservation and parks, who was on hand at the early morning announcement.

"That's why over the last five years you've seen our government making historic investments, restoring and enhancing wetlands across the province," she added. "We established the Wetland Conservation Partner Program in 2020 and since then our government has been able to provide a total of \$31 million to preserve and restore wetland ecosystems throughout the Great Lakes watershed."

Since launching the program, Khanjin said 560 wetland projects have been initiated or completed, resulting in restoration and enhancement of approximately 3700 hectares of wetlands across the province.

"Thanks to this grant from the province, we are able to work with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, South Simcoe Streams Network, local environmental associations, rural landowners and corporate partners," said Fred Dobbs, manager of stewardship services at NVCA.

"Wetland restoration projects help improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and flood resiliency across the watershed."

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The data collected from this monitoring network and other NVCA monitoring programs allows staff to develop a better understanding of the condition and health of the watershed as well as identify priority restoration sites and provides information on impacts and changes after restoration and enhancement projects are complete.

8 wetland restoration projects will help boost health of Nottawasaga River watershed

Grant will fund projects in Collingwood, Oro-Medonte, Springwater, and Mulmur

More than 300 volunteers will be involved in planting 5,000 native trees, shrubs and wetland plants.

June 11, 2024 by Ian Adams

Alliston Herald



Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority vice-chairperson Jonathan Scott (left) and Barrie-Innisfil MPP Andrea Khanjin (Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks) plant a tree in the Minesing Wetlands, as NVCA chief administrative officer Doug Hevenor looks on.

NVCA photo

The health of the Nottawasaga River watershed will be given a boost thanks to eight wetland restoration projects that will be funded by the province.

On June 10, Barrie-Innisfil MPP and Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Andrea Khanjin announced the [Nottawasaga](#)

[Valley Conservation Authority](#) would receive \$125,000 from the [Wetlands Conservation Partner Program](#).

According to an NVCA spokesperson Maria Leung, seven project sites have been selected, including three in Adjala-Tosorontio, and one project each in Oro-Medonte, Mulmur, Springwater, and in Collingwood.

The eighth project site is still to be confirmed, she stated in an email.

According to NVCA, approximately 70 per cent of wetlands in the Nottawasaga River watershed have been lost. Dubbed 'Return of the Wetlands', this project will restore and enhance 2.55 hectares of wetland habitat, providing links between larger existing wetland blocks, and controlling invasive species that threaten shoreline wetland ecosystems.

"For decades, NVCA has worked to restore rivers and wetlands in the Nottawasaga watershed," said Fred Dobbs, Manager of Stewardship Services at NVCA. "Wetland restoration projects help improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and flood resiliency across the watershed."



Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Board members Nicole Cox (left) and Christopher Baines, NVCA vice-chairperson Jonathan Scott, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Andrea Khanjin, and NVCA chief administrative officer Doug Hevenor stand beside a newly-planted tree in the Minesing Wetlands.

NVCA photo

More than 300 volunteers will be actively engaged through the projects, including the planting of 5,000 native trees, shrubs and wetland plants, and [the removal of invasive phragmites](#) (common reed).

At the announcement, NVCA's Watershed Science team also demonstrated how water samples are collected from rivers and streams for the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network. This program was established by the province in 1964 and is celebrating its 60th anniversary on June 10, 2024.

The data collected from this monitoring network and other NVCA monitoring initiatives allows staff to develop a better understanding of the condition and health of the watershed.

The information also helps identify priority restoration sites and provides information on impacts and changes after restoration and enhancement projects are complete.

The projects are also expected to have downstream benefits as well.

For example, new wetland and native tree and shrub planting in the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio will improve fish habitat around the project site, as well as in downstream communities such as the Town of New Tecumseth and the Township of Essa.

The establishment of a new wetland in the Township of Oro-Medonte will help reduce the amount of sediment at Little Lake in the City of Barrie

In 2020, Ontario introduced the Wetlands Conservation Partner Program. Over the past five years, the program has invested \$31 million in funding to restore and enhance wetlands across the province.

"It's great to see conservation leaders working together to help enhance and restore wetlands, preventing flooding and improving water quality," said Khanjin.

"Our government is proud to work with partners like the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority who are engaging with hundreds of volunteers to plant thousands of new native trees and remove invasive species to protect wetland ecosystems and support a healthy and prosperous Ontario."

Mink Creek's elusive tufa rock sustains endangered dragonfly

'The Hine's emerald is found here and nowhere else in the country,' local naturalist says of stream running through Historic Fort Willow

June 23, 2024 by Wayne Doyle

Bradford Today



Tufa rock grows in Mink Creek near Historic Fort Willow. Wayne Doyle/BarrieToday

Recognized as both a provincial and national historic site, Fort Willow sits within the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority watershed and is generally protected from land-use changes through provincial, municipal and conservation authority planning policies and regulations.

It was used as a supply depot during the War of 1812.

The area was also actively used for centuries by First Nations, the fur trade, and French explorers as part of a major transportation route known as the Nine Mile Portage.

Mueller theorizes the water from Mink Creek was a huge benefit to the

soldiers who were stationed at Fort Willow.

"The soldiers who came here were drinkers — likely a bottle of rum every day and they'd wake up hung over," he said.

"I'm sure they would have taken water straight from the Mink. It would have settled them down like an antacid."

While not widely known for its medicinal benefits, the water that flows through Mink Creek powers the development of tufa and supports the existence of untold numbers of plant and animal species.

In 2018, the Nature Conservancy of Canada acquired the Patrick W.E. Hodgson property, a 43-hectare piece of land in the Minesing Wetlands that contains a variety of habitat types that are important for this particular dragonfly.

In 2020, the Nature Conservancy of Canada acquired the Baldwick Bluff property, which is connected to the Patrick W.E. Hodgson property. The Baldwick Bluff property serves as another 33 hectares of habitat for the Hine's emerald dragonfly.

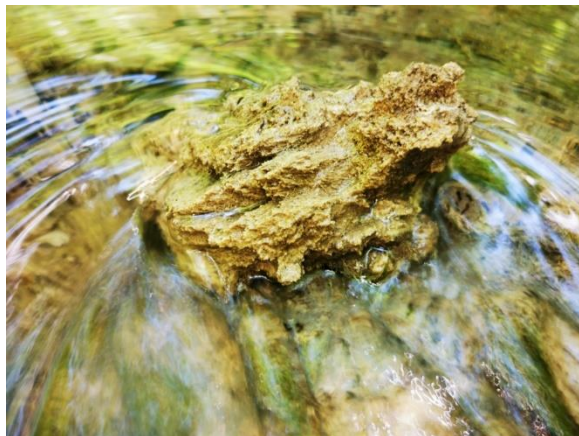
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June 19, 2024 by Wayne Doyle

Collingwood Today



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June 19, 2024 by Wayne Doyle
Hamilton Spectator



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NVCA receives provincial grant to restore wetlands

June 20, 2024

New Tecumseth Times



Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority will be receiving a grant for \$125,000 to restore and enhance eight wetlands in the Nottawasaga Watershed through the Wetlands Conservation Partner Program.

Around 70 per cent of wetlands have been lost in the Nottawasaga Watershed. This is comparable to other areas in Southern Ontario.

Dubbed 'Return of the Wetlands,' this project will restore and enhance 2.55 hectares of wetland habitat, providing linkages between larger existing wetland blocks and controlling invasive species that threaten shoreline wetland ecosystems.

"For decades, NVCA has worked to restore rivers and wetlands in the Nottawasaga Watershed," said Fred Dobbs, Manager of Stewardship Services at NVCA. "Thanks to this grant from the province, we are able to work with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, South Simcoe Streams Network, local environmental

associations, rural landowners and corporate partners. Wetland restoration projects help improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and flood resiliency across the watershed."

More than 300 volunteers will be actively engaged as part of this initiative through the planting of 5,000 native trees, shrubs, and wetland plants and the removal of invasive Phragmites.

"It's great to see conservation leaders working together to help enhance and restore wetlands, preventing flooding and improving water quality," said Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "Our government is proud to work with partners like the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority who are engaging with hundreds of volunteers to plant thousands of new native trees and remove invasive species to protect wetland ecosystems and support a healthy and prosperous Ontario."

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June 20, 2024 by Wayne Doyle

Orillia Matters



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Flood risk low, but watercourses 'above seasonal,' NVCA says

Flows in Barrie-area area watercourses expected to be high over next few days, says conservation authority

June 23, 2024

Barrie Today



Stock imageFrom Pexels by Victoria Akvarel

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) says the flood risk remains low for the area, despite recent rain.

In a news release, the conservation authority said the watershed has received 25 to 70 millimetres of rain over the past 36 hours.

"As a result, flows in area watercourses are expected to be high over the next few days," the NVCA says. "Area watercourses are currently flowing above seasonal levels and soils are wet from recent precipitation."

Any additional rainfall will result in elevated flows in all watercourses over the next few days.

"Flooding may occur in low lying areas, however no major flooding is anticipated," the NVCA says.

Hazardous conditions exist around all water bodies, as there is a high risk of life-threatening injury if a person falls into fast-flowing water, the conservation authority noted.

The public, and especially children, are advised to stay away from all water bodies.

The conservation authority says it continues to monitor river and stream conditions and will issue additional messages as conditions warrant.

Flood risk low, but watercourses 'above seasonal,' NVCA says

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June 24, 2024

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NVCA Warns Heavy Rainfall Creates Unsafe Flow Conditions On Waterways

June 24, 2024 by Jill Charlebois

Bayshore Broadcasting

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority says that local watercourses are expected to have a higher flow over the next few days.

The advisory says it's because of the 25-70 mm of rain that fell over the weekend.

The NVCA says that safety hazards exist around all bodies of water, as there is a high risk of life-threatening injury if someone falls into fast-flowing water.

Everyone is advised to keep away from fast-flowing waterways, as the NVCA continues to monitor river and stream conditions.

NVCA Warns Heavy Rainfall Creates Unsafe Flow Conditions On Waterways

June 24, 2024 by Jill Charlebois

Country 105

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NVCA hosts meeting for landowners interested in river restoration

June 27, 2024 by Brian Lockhart

New Tecumseth Times



The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority invited landowners interested in partnering on river restoration and stream bank stabilization to attend a public meeting to learn more about the Nottawasaga River Restoration Project.

Held at the Hockley Historic Community Hall and Church on Tuesday, June 25, the event featured river restoration experts and landowners who have previously participated in restoration efforts.

Restoration works are proposed for the upper Nottawasaga River, east of the Village of Hockley where excellent water quality from the Niagara Escarpment deteriorates quickly. The decline in water quality is caused by soil and nutrients released from eroding river banks and surrounding lands. Summer stream temperatures also rise quickly in this section as there are gaps in the forest cover which provides shade to the river.

Since 2019, NVCA and the South Simcoe Streams Network have worked with landowners and volunteers to stabilize eroding riverbanks and enhance fish habitat in the upper Nottawasaga River and Sheldon Creek.

“Thanks to our volunteers, and funders such as Bass Pro Shops Cabela’s and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, we are able to provide cost share opportunities for landowners interested in partnering on river restoration,” said Fred Dobbs, Manager Stewardship Services at NVCA. “These restoration efforts help improve water quality and fish habitat, reduce the potential for flooding and increase property values.”

River restoration works are intended to improve water quality and fish habitat, and are not for the purposes of protecting infrastructure threatened by erosion.

NVCA issues high water level warning

June 27, 2024 by Brian Lockhart

New Tecumseth Times



The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority has issued a high water level warning after the watershed received 25-70mm of rain over 36 hours on June 22 and 23.

As a result, flows into waterways are expected to be high. More rain is forecasted for this week.

Area watercourses are currently flowing above seasonal levels and soil is wet from recent precipitation.

Additional rainfall will result in elevated flows in all watercourses over the next few days.

Flooding may occur in low-lying areas. However, no major flooding is anticipated.

As a result of higher than normal water levels, hazardous conditions exist around all waterbodies. There is a high risk of life-threatening injury if a person falls into fast-flowing water.

The public is advised to stay away from all waterbodies. Parents should be especially vigilant in keeping children away from water.

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority continues to monitor river and stream conditions and will issue additional messages as conditions warrant.

Province of Ontario invests \$125,000 to restore and enhance wetlands in the Nottawasaga Watershed

June 28, 2024 by Trina Berlo

Creemore Echo



The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) is receiving \$125,000 to restore and enhance eight wetlands in the Nottawasaga Watershed through the Wetlands Conservation Partner Program.

Similar to the rest of Southern Ontario, approximately 70 per cent of wetlands have been lost in the Nottawasaga Watershed. Dubbed 'Return of the Wetlands', this project will restore and enhance 2.55 hectares of wetland habitat, providing linkages between larger existing wetland blocks, and controlling invasive species that threaten shoreline wetland ecosystems.

"For decades, NVCA has worked to restore rivers and wetlands in the Nottawasaga Watershed," said Fred Dobbs, Manager of Stewardship Services at NVCA. "Thanks to this grant from the province, we are able to work with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, South Simcoe Streams Network, local environmental associations, rural landowners and corporate partners. Wetland

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More than 300 volunteers will be actively engaged as part of this initiative, through the planting of 5,000 native trees, shrubs and wetland plants and the removal of invasive Phragmites (common reed).

"It's great to see conservation leaders working together to help enhance and restore wetlands, preventing flooding and improving water quality," said Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "Our government is proud to work with partners like the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority who are engaging with hundreds of volunteers to plant thousands of new native trees and remove invasive species to protect wetland ecosystems and support a healthy and prosperous Ontario."

In 2020, Ontario introduced the Wetlands Conservation Partner Program. Over the past five years, the program has invested \$31 million in funding to restore and enhance wetlands across the province.

NVCA's Watershed Science team is also taking water samples from rivers and streams for the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network. This program was established by the province in 1964 and is celebrating its 60th anniversary on June 10, 2024.

The data collected from this monitoring network and other NVCA monitoring initiatives allows staff to develop a better understanding of the

condition health of the watershed. The information also helps identify priority restoration sites and provides information on impacts and changes after restoration and enhancement projects are complete.

Wetlands provide many benefits such as reducing the risk of flooding and drought, improving water quality and providing recreation opportunities and important fish and wildlife habitats. In addition, wetlands create resiliency against the impacts of climate change and stormwater.

Photo: Nicole Cox (NVCA Board Member), Christopher Baines (NVCA Board Member), Jonathan Scott (NVCA Vice Chair), Andrea Khanjin (Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks), Doug Hevenor (CAO of NVCA) stands beside a newly planted tree in the Minesing Wetlands.

COLUMN: Dealing with algae blooms a balancing act

Algae serve as food sources for insects and small animals but can be harmful to humans, NVCA official explains

July 1, 2024

Barrie Today



1 / 6 Blue-green algae Photo courtesy of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks



2 / 6 Blue-green algae Photo courtesy of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks



3 / 6 Before and after river restoration. Images supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



4 / 6 Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority staff catch aquatic insects to determine the health of a stream. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



5 / 6 Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority staff measure water quality with a multiparameter sonde. It

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6 / 6 Rainbow trout are shown at the Loewen Mill Dam on the Boyne River. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

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Unfortunately, there are other organisms that live in the river that thrive in the heat, like algae. Algae are important to life in our rivers as they are a food source for many insects and small animals. However, too much algae can have devastating impacts to the river and on human health.

For algae to thrive, there must be three components: sunlight, heat and nutrients such as phosphorus. Areas without shade or cold-water sources, and with excess nutrients, can create the perfect conditions for rapid algae growth, causing algae blooms.

Not only can algae blooms be gross to look at; some algae species, such as blue-green algae, can cause serious harm to humans and pets. Also known as cyanobacteria, blue-green algae occur naturally in many of our favourite swimming areas such as lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. Swimming in blue-green algae can cause itchy, irritated eyes and skin, and swallowing it can cause headache, fever, diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting.

Local public health units regularly test select beaches for blue-green algae, *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) and other factors that are not safe for humans. It's always a disappointment when trips are cancelled because the water is not safe for swimming, but a cancelled trip is better than a trip to the hospital.

There are many opportunities to reduce the sunlight, heat and nutrients that contribute to algae blooms. For more than 60 years, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) has monitored our rivers and streams and has determined some 'hotspots' where algae blooms can occur, and devised ways to reduce their impact.

For example, ponds are relatively slow moving, and when exposed to the sun, the water is an effective heat

trap. By removing ponds that are connected to rivers and streams, we can greatly reduce the temperature of the water downstream.

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Information about blue-green algae can be found on the [Government of Ontario's website](#).

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Maria Leung is the senior communications specialist at the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.

COLUMN: Dealing with algae blooms a balancing act

July 1, 2024

Collingwood Today



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July 1, 2024

Innisfil Today



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July 1, 2024

Orillia Matters



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July 2, 2024

Bradford Today



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Heavy rainfall expected over next 12 to 72 hours: NVCA

About 40 to 60 millimetres expected as the remnants of Hurricane Beryl move into Southern Ontario

July 9, 2024

Bradford Today



Stock image

NEWS RELEASE
NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority advises that Environment Canada has issued a Rainfall Warning covering our watershed. The remnants of Hurricane Beryl will move into Southern Ontario and may produce localized heavy rainfall over the next 12-72 hours.

Approximately 40 to 60 mm of rain is forecast, with higher amounts possible if thunderstorms or torrential downpours occur. No major flooding is anticipated; however, flooding may occur in low lying areas. Significant hazards may be present due to slippery or unstable stream banks, and fast flowing, turbid water.

Please exercise caution around all bodies of water. The public and

especially children are advised to stay away from all watercourses, bridges, culverts and dams. Alert any children under your care of these dangers and supervise their activities. Please avoid driving through flooded roadways.

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority continues to monitor river and stream conditions and will issue additional messages as conditions warrant. This Watershed Condition Statement will be in effect until 4:00PM, Friday July 12, 2024.

For additional information, please call 705-424-1479 or check our website at: www.nvca.on.ca

Flood Outlook Statement with Hurricane Beryl Remnants

July 9, 2024 by Phil DeLand

Country 105



Monora Park Dam - Credit Valley Conservation

Credit Valley Conservation has issued a Flood Outlook Statement as the area prepares for a few days of heavy rainfall.

This comes as Environment Canada predicts the remnants of Hurricane Beryl could bring torrential downpours in the next 12-72 hours.

Officials from both organizations say the system is set to hit the area tonight with as much as 50mm of rain.

There could be intermittent downpours of 20-40mm per hour.

CVC officials don't expect flooding of major tributaries, there is the potential for overland flooding in urban areas and flooding of smaller local streams.

A similar statement has also been released by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.

Rivers in particular could become dangerous, especially in the vicinity of culverts, bridges, and dams.

They're advising the public to stay away from all watercourses, especially children and pets.

The Flood Outlook Statement will stay in place until at least Thursday July 11 2024, or until further notice.

Heavy rainfall expected over next 12 to 72 hours: NVCA

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July 9, 2024

Innisfil Today



Stock image

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**No Major Flooding Anticipated –
NVCA**

July 10, 2024 by Adrienne Proceviat

FM 92 South Simcoe

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No Major Flooding Anticipated – NVCA

July 10, 2024 by Adrienne Proceviat

FM 101 Milton

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority advises that the Flood Watch issued July 11, has been downgraded to a Flood Outlook statement.

Environment Canada has ended all Rainfall Warnings and Special Weather Statements issued this week.

The Nottawasaga Valley watershed received approximately 60-108mm of rain as the remnants of Hurricane Beryl passed through Southern Ontario.

Water levels are still rising in the Lower Nottawasaga River through Wasaga Beach following the extreme rainfall amounts received in some areas earlier this week.

Any additional forecast rainfall may result in increased water levels throughout the watershed.

No major flooding is anticipated at this time.

Stream banks may be slippery and unstable, which combined with fast-flowing water can create hazardous conditions.

The potential for flooding in low lying and flood-vulnerable areas still exists.

Exercise caution around all rivers and streams.

Hazardous conditions may exist around all waterbodies, as there is a high risk of life-threatening injury if a

person falls into the fast-flowing water.

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority urges caution as heavy rains expected for Simcoe County

The remnants of hurricane Beryl are expected to cause a lot of rain.

July 10, 2024

Simcoe.com

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is warning residents in Simcoe County to exercise caution near waterways in the coming days.

Environment Canada has issued a heavy rainfall warning for the area as the remnants of hurricane Beryl move into southern Ontario and will produce localized heavy rainfall for the next 12-72 hours.

Approximately 40 to 60 mm of rain is forecast, with higher amounts possible if thunderstorms or torrential downpours occur. No major flooding is anticipated, however, flooding may occur in low-lying areas. Significant hazards may be present due to slippery or unstable stream banks, and fast flowing, turbid water.

The public and especially children are advised to stay away from all watercourses, bridges, culverts, and dams.

Rainfall triggers flood watch for Nottawasaga watershed

Region has received up to 107 mm of rain in past 48 hours

July 11, 2024

Barrie Today



Stock photoPixabay via Pexels

NEWS RELEASE
NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) advises that the flood outlook statement issued July 9, 2024, is now upgraded to a flood watch.

Weather conditions

Environment Canada had issued a rainfall warning for our watershed stating that a total of 40 to 80 millimetres of rain was forecast from Wednesday through Thursday as the remnants of Hurricane Beryl passed through southern Ontario. The NVCA watershed has received 62 to 107 mm of rain in the past 48 hours.

Issues

Water levels in rivers and streams are currently elevated as a result of the

rainfall earlier this week. Any additional rainfall on currently saturated ground will further increase water levels in area streams. Water may overflow banks and cause flooding in some areas. Widespread flooding is not anticipated at this time, but low-lying and flood-vulnerable areas may be impacted.

Actions

Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should be on alert.

Exercise extreme caution around all rivers and streams. Hazardous conditions may exist around all water bodies, as there is a high risk of life-threatening injury if a person falls into the fast-flowing water. Please avoid driving through flooded roadways.

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July 11, 2024

Collingwood Today



Stock photoPixabay via Pexels

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Barrie receives most rainfall in Ontario in 24 hours from Beryl's remnants

July 11, 2024 by Kim Phillips

CTV Barrie

Tropical storm Beryl may have weakened considerably by the time it reached southern Ontario on Wednesday, but it still produced significant rainfall.

According to Environment Canada's senior climatologist, David Phillips, the City of Barrie received 99 millimetres of rainfall in the past 24 hours, the most of any municipality in Ontario.

Other notable rainfall totals include Shanty Bay's 70.2mm, Algonquin Park's 65.5mm, Orillia's 55.8mm, and the Muskoka Airport's 35.3mm.

The storm forced the City of Barrie to close soccer fields and knocked out power to thousands of residents in Orillia.

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority upgraded its Flood Outlook Statement to a Flood Watch, noting the watershed received 62 to 107 mm of rain over the last 48 hours.

Still, officials don't believe widespread flooding is a concern but did say low-lying and flood-prone areas could be impacted.

The public is urged to exercise caution around all rivers and streams.

The Flood Watch is in effect until Friday at 4 p.m.

Flood watch issued for Nottawasaga watershed

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July 11, 2024

Innisfil Today



Stock photoPixabay via Pexels

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Issues

Water levels in rivers and streams are currently elevated as a result of the

rainfall earlier this week. Any additional rainfall on currently saturated ground will further increase water levels in area streams. Water may overflow banks and cause flooding in some areas. Widespread flooding is not anticipated at this time, but low-lying and flood-vulnerable areas may be impacted.

Actions

Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should be on alert.

Exercise extreme caution around all rivers and streams. Hazardous conditions may exist around all water bodies, as there is a high risk of life-threatening injury if a person falls into the fast-flowing water. Please avoid driving through flooded roadways.

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority continues to monitor river and stream conditions and will issue additional messages as conditions warrant. This flood watch statement will be in effect until 4 p.m., Friday, July 12, 2024.

For additional information, please call 705-424-1479 or check our website at www.nvca.on.ca.

All rainfall warnings ended for Nottawasaga watershed

Water levels still rising in Lower Nottawasaga River through Wasaga Beach

July 12, 2024

Collingwood Today



Stock photo

NEWS RELEASE
NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Environment Canada has ended all rainfall warnings and special weather statements issued this week.

The Nottawasaga Valley watershed received approximately 60 to 108 millimetres of rain as the remnants of Hurricane Beryl passed through southern Ontario.

Water levels are still rising in the Lower Nottawasaga River through Wasaga Beach following the extreme rainfall amounts received in some areas earlier this week. Any additional forecast rainfall may result in increased water levels throughout the watershed. No major flooding is anticipated at this time.

Stream banks may be slippery and unstable, which combined with fast-flowing water can create hazardous conditions. The potential for flooding in low-lying and flood-vulnerable areas still exists.

Exercise caution around all rivers and streams. Hazardous conditions may exist around all water bodies, as there is a high risk of life-threatening injury if a person falls into the fast-flowing water.

The NVCA continues to monitor river and stream conditions and will issue additional messages as conditions warrant. This flood outlook statement will be in effect until 4 p.m., Monday July 15, 2024.

For additional information, please call 705-424-1479 or check our website at www.nvca.on.ca.

Flood Outlook has been Updated

July 11, 2024 by Adrienne Proceviat

FM92 South Simcoe Today

Flood Potential: Moderate

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority advises that the Flood Outlook Statement issued July 9, 2024, is now upgraded to a Flood Watch.

Weather Conditions

Environment Canada had issued a Rainfall Warning for our watershed stating that a total of 40-80mm of rain was forecast from Wednesday through Thursday as the remnants of Hurricane Beryl passed through Southern Ontario.

The NVCA watershed has received 62-107mm of rain in the past 48 hours.

Issues

Water levels in rivers and streams are currently elevated as a result the rainfall earlier this week.

Any additional rainfall on currently saturated ground will further increase water levels in area streams.

Water may overflow banks and cause flooding in some areas.

Widespread flooding is not anticipated at this time, but low-lying and flood-vulnerable areas may be impacted.

Actions

Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should be on alert.

Exercise extreme caution around all rivers and streams.

Hazardous conditions may exist around all waterbodies, as there is a high risk of life-threatening injury if a person falls into the fast-flowing water.

Please avoid driving through flooded roadways.

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority continues to monitor river and stream conditions and will issue additional messages as conditions warrant.

This Flood Watch Statement will be in effect until 4:00 p.m., Friday July 12, 2024.

Flood Watch Downgraded for Nottawasaga Watershed

July 15, 2024 by Adrienne Proceviat

FM 101 Milton

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority advises that the Flood Watch issued July 11, has been downgraded to a Flood Outlook statement.

Environment Canada has ended all Rainfall Warnings and Special Weather Statements issued this week.

The Nottawasaga Valley watershed received approximately 60-108mm of rain as the remnants of Hurricane Beryl passed through Southern Ontario.

Water levels are still rising in the Lower Nottawasaga River through Wasaga Beach following the extreme rainfall amounts received in some areas earlier this week.

Any additional forecast rainfall may result in increased water levels throughout the watershed.

No major flooding is anticipated at this time.

Stream banks may be slippery and unstable, which combined with fast-flowing water can create hazardous conditions.

The potential for flooding in low lying and flood-vulnerable areas still exists.

Exercise caution around all rivers and streams.

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'Wild swings,' more 'extremes' in weather could be new normal

Senior climatologist with Environment and Climate Change Canada explains position of jet stream leading to 'active weather' patterns

July 24, 2024 by Michael Owens

Bradford Today



Clouds form above the Bradford West Gwillimbury Leisure Centre. | file photo

This is the second of a two-part series on the impacts of this spring's weather on agriculture and the local watersheds. To read Part One, click [here](#).

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As previously reported, spring has been both warmer and wetter than usual, with data from Environment and Climate Change Canada showing that from April through June, Bradford and Innisfil saw about 27 per cent more days with rain than would be normal, which brought about about 72 per cent more rain than normal.

That rain fell consistently too, with relatively few dry days in a row, according to Dave Phillips, senior climatologist at the federal department, who looked at six nearby weather stations as there isn't one in the marsh.

"It was almost like the water-torture test in a way," he said.

The number of days which saw more than 10 millimetres of rain increased to 15 this spring, from the average of nine, and some days brought 60 mm of rain or more.

When it comes to why we're getting walloped by such sopping wet weather, Phillips points to the jet stream as the main culprit.

A band of strong wind in the upper atmosphere blowing from west to east, the jet stream follows the boundary of hot and cold air, but it's been hanging over our region leading to weather systems that are "very active" and "volatile," and contain "a lot" of energy.

Luckily, our area didn't have a heat dome [like last year](#), and few days this spring exceeded 30 C, helping to prevent things from becoming too severe, with Phillips noting there were fewer lightning strikes or tornadoes than usual in Ontario this spring.

While there's still the chance for that hot, dry summer weather in August, the chief climatologist cautioned that it can be hard to predict exactly what to expect in terms of precipitation moving forward.

As an example, Phillips pointed to the storm that [battered Toronto on July](#)

[16](#) with almost 100 mm of rain in one day, flooding major highways and transit routes, leaving people stranded. While not far away, Barrie only saw about six millimetres of rain.

However, when it comes to seasonal patterns, he concedes that often times, “the weather you see is the weather you’re going to continue to get.”



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In addition to potential for flooding in low-lying areas, high water levels can destabilize or erode banks and increase water turbidity, as well as flush pollutants like pesticides, fertilizers or garbage into waterways, damaging fish and wildlife. As runoff flows over warm pavement it can even cause warming in waterways, reducing oxygen levels and promoting the potential for algae blooms.

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but also because awareness of the issue can help residents take precautions to protect their homes and families.

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All this wet weather is a far cry from the [unusually dry spring](#) the area saw just last year, and while climate change may be playing a role, Phillips isn’t ready to draw any conclusions just yet.

“We know climate change produces extremes from one end of the pendulum to the other,” he said. “But next year might be normal.”

Phillips is cognizant that one or two years aren’t a pattern on their own, and in order to assess the potential impact of something like climate change, it would take decades if not half a century of data.

In the meantime, the scientist said it’s becoming more common to have situations similar to what was seen in Manitoba from 2020-22, when all the precipitation over those three years averaged normal “to the millimetre,” but were composed of two of the driest years on record followed by the wettest.

“My sense is what we’re seeing right now and in the last couple of years, these wild swings, might be a dress rehearsal of what we’re going to see more of in the future,” he said.

The best way to prepare for that is to find ways we can adapt, according to Phillips, who points to ski hill operators using snow machines in years of low snowfall, and suggested fields currently being used for corn or wheat could one day be better suited for rice.

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Senior climatologist with Environment and Climate Change Canada explains position of jet stream leading to 'active weather' patterns

July 24, 2024 by Michael Owens

Innisfil Today



Clouds form above the Bradford West Gwillimbury Leisure Centre. | file photo

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July 24, 2024 by Michael Owens
Newmarket Today



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Changes to the new Official Plan 'minor': planning director

Although the Town of Collingwood approved their new Official Plan back in December, the next hurdle of getting County of Simcoe approval has sat in limbo while the province makes multiple planning changes

July 25, 2024 by Jessica Owen

Collingwood Today



Collingwood town hall at 97 Hurontario Street. Jessica Owen/CollingwoodToday

While the Town of Collingwood approved their new Official Plan [back in December](#), the plan sits at the County of Simcoe waiting for approval before going into effect.

But a lot has changed in the provincial landscape since December, so on July 22 councillors gave preliminary approval during their committee of the whole meeting for some changes to the plan, to bring it in line with changing provincial legislation and incorporate some feedback from the County of Simcoe.

"They're mostly minor or positive in nature," the town's planning director,

Summer Valentine, told councillors on Monday. "Modifications are not uncommon. It doesn't mean there was a mistake. It assists to make sure the plan is in its best possible form prior to consideration of approval."

The town's Official Plan (about 200 pages) guides land-use decisions in Collingwood and an update is completed every five to 10 years. The plan is the guide for the town's 20-year growth and directs where, when and how growth should occur.

The town is expected to grow from a population of 22,500 people in 2016 to a projected population of 41,500 by 2041. The new Official Plan will guide land-use decisions into 2051. The last Collingwood Official Plan update was completed in 2004, and although it has been updated multiple times in the years following, this marks the first complete revamp since that time.

The Town of Collingwood approved their new Official Plan at their meeting [on Dec. 11, 2023](#), after four years of work by planning consultant The Planning Partnership, town staff, council, developers, outside agencies such as the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and members of the public who provided feedback at multiple information sessions over that time period.

"Since last December, the province has proposed multiple changes to the provincial policy statement and policy/regulatory framework through Bill 185," explained senior planner Nathan Wukasch. "These changes have some fundamental shifts for

planning and growth management in the province.”

Changes approved on Monday by councillors in committee of the whole include re-instating definitions for affordable and attainable housing due to provincial changes to Bill 185 and the proposed provincial planning statement.

A section on the proposed [Poplar Regional Health and Wellness Village](#) is included to adjust policies due to the Minister’s Zoning Order for the project and to support the overall vision.

New sections had been added to clarify town positions on a variety of matters related to Bill 185 and the changing provincial policy statement, including adding a plan for student housing, supportive redevelopment of underutilized commercial/industrial land, adding clarity for situations where employment lands are converted to other uses and confirming that the town can address servicing capacity allocation of water.

They’ve added new information to the plan regarding allowing four residential units per lot based on mostly positive feedback from the public on those potential changes [earlier this year](#).

Based on feedback from the Ministry of Transportation, the plan now acknowledges future planning for potential improvements and a new provincial highway corridor. They’ve also made minor adjustments to housing policies and climate change sections based on feedback from the County of Simcoe.

At this point, the only concern remaining is whether there will be more provincial changes coming down the road that may necessitate more changes to Collingwood’s Official Plan before it is passed by the county.

“While staff have made best efforts to incorporate existing or proposed provincial legislative, regulatory and policy refinements, uncertainty remains around how that context will continue to change in the near to mid-term,” notes Valentine in the report.

Once the county makes a decision on Collingwood’s Official Plan at their council table, it will issue a subsequent notice, which will be followed by an appeal period. If no appeals are received or once any appeals are resolved, the new Official Plan would come into effect in Collingwood.

“Ultimately, we’ve arrived at what we believe to be a good and nimble document,” said the county’s chief planner Nathan Westendorp during public comments. “In the midst of some fog of policy unclarity, we’re doing our best to navigate those uncharted waters.”

If you would like to request a notice of decision from the County of Simcoe for Collingwood’s Official Plan, email the clerks department at clerks@simcoe.ca.

“We’re getting closer to the finish line,” said Coun. Deb Doherty during discussion.

Councillors unanimously approved the modifications to Collingwood Official Plan. Any decisions made during

Collingwood's committee of the whole need to be ratified at the next regular meeting of council before going to effect.

The Official Plan changes are set to be ratified at council's meeting on July 29.

Hidden gem: New Lowell Campground, day use park

July 26, 2024 by Bonnie MacPherson
Creemore Echo



Nestled on Hogback Road just north of Sunnidale Concession 3 is one of the best kept secrets in the Southern Georgian Bay area. In fact, according to host Jane Kidd, there are people in nearby New Lowell who are unaware of their existence.

Kidd believes the New Lowell Campground and Conservation Park has probably existed since Canada's Centennial in 1967. At that time, the government invested in the creation of Conservation Authorities, including the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA). Kidd and her late husband Willy Ivits were hired to manage the campground 27 years ago.

"Then Walkerton happened and everyone got very concerned about the safety of small water systems," she said. "The NVCA decided to abandon the campground and let it go back to nature. We entered a bid to run the campground as our own business. As part of that, we committed to a major upgrade of the water system including filtration, chlorination and UV filtering, and we

had to become licensed to operate a small water system."

The original campground consisted of 23 sites. Today, there are 117 sites all with water and hydro. Rental for the full season from May 1 to Oct. 15 is \$3,000 for most lots, plus an additional \$150 for waterfront sites.

Kidd said it's a reasonably affordable alternative to cottage ownership.

"People own their trailers and rent the site on a seasonal basis," she said.

"This is a real community. People look out for each other. We have five families who have been here for 30 years and a list of 53 people waiting to move in when something becomes available."

The campground is comprised of 147 acres including a 46-acre body of water which they have named Silver Birch Lake. There are two swimming areas, one at the campsite and another on the opposite shore on the day-use side. There are badminton courts, a Club House plus separate facilities for teens and younger children, a library, a games area with pool table, air hockey, and Foosball, three outdoor playground areas, a baseball diamond and soccer pitch, an off leash dog park and a community garden.

The campground offers canoe, paddleboard and bicycle rentals and an impressive line-up of activities from dances, potlucks and karaoke in the club house to Canada Day fireworks, a Christmas in July celebration for the children, and a New Year's party for adults the following week.

Improvements are constantly being made. The library was one of this year's projects. Next year they are planning improvements to the beach area to enhance the resort feel. For those who wish to enjoy the beach, day and seasonal passes are available.

A limited number of short-term rentals are available for people who wish to try out the New Lowell Campground and Conservation Park lifestyle. The park is open to visitors from the community for the annual Family Fun Day and Yard Sale, this year on the August long weekend.

"When people start rolling in on a Thursday, everyone has a big wave." said Kidd. "It really does feel like a family."

Bonnie MacPherson photo: New Lowell Campground host Jane Kidd, who lives on site through the season, says improvements are constantly being made to the facility, like the new library (above).

COLUMN: Conservation areas offer unique opportunities to explore

Hikers, history buffs, paddlers, and picnickers can all find adventure across region's many conservation areas, official says

July 31, 2024

Collingwood Today

Mike Bacon



A picnic at the Fort Willow Conservation Area's Bernie Longson Memorial Pavilion provides a place to enjoy your lunch while you take in the deep history of the fort that spans centuries. Supplied Photo

We realize some people would rather see our watershed from where the water gathers. If you're searching for a place to paddle, the Nottawasaga River is the place to be. Our namesake's meandering waterway reaches north from New Tecumseth and drains into Georgian Bay, providing plenty of paddling opportunity along the way.

The Edenvale Conservation Area is a great place to launch your canoe or kayak. The calm waters allow paddlers to use most of their energy heading upstream into Minesing Wetlands, where beaver, muskrat and river otter may be spotted. When you're ready to

head home, you can let the current return you to where you started. If you decide to continue downstream, arrange for a ride to pick you up in Wasaga Beach and follow the "Notty" all the way to Georgian Bay as it winds its way through forest and farmland.

We encourage intrepid canoeists to find a guide before heading into Minesing Wetlands, this route may not be suitable for novice paddlers. Many paddlers enjoy the "one-way" paddle beginning at Willow Creek from George Johnston "Canoe Corral" ending at the Edenvale Conservation Area. Paddlers can find themselves treated to a world class display of wilderness, wildlife and rare species. They may also find themselves lost among the weaving and braided waterways that can change with the weather.

For those who are looking for something a bit more relaxed, or a spot to settle down and enjoy a meal with family, the Glencairn Conservation Area offers a well shaded picnic area near the river.

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COLUMN: Conservation areas offer unique opportunities to explore

Hikers, history buffs, paddlers, and picnickers can all find adventure across region's many conservation areas, official says

July 31, 2024

Orillia Matters

Mike Bacon



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EVERGLADES OF THE NORTH

July 2024 by Cara Williams, *by Cara Williams | photography by Clay Dolan*
Escarment Magazine



Navigating the waterways of the Minesing Wetlands is more than an adventure; it's an exploration of one of Southern Ontario's largest and most diverse ecosystems.

Chances are, you've driven past the Minesing Wetlands a dozen times or more. Highway 26 crosses the Nottawasaga River just east of Edenvale, and if you're travelling at a good pace, you might not even notice the minor overpass. It's particularly easy to miss in the summertime when the river reflects the big sky, and the water levels drop.

Last spring, Escarpment published an article titled "The Cleanest Water on Earth" that highlighted the vital role the Minesing Wetlands play in absorbing and filtering floodwaters during the spring thaw. Despite my familiarity with the wetlands, I had never truly explored the area—then came an opportunity to canoe from Willow Creek to the Nottawasaga River. By all accounts, the 20-kilometre voyage is picturesque, with

wide open vistas framed by tall reeds and bulrushes, but we had been forewarned that navigating the passages that intersect across the unending expanse of the wetlands is tricky.

Indigenous peoples lived on these lands long before European settlers arrived. The wetlands provided abundant resources essential for their survival, with plenty of fish, game, and plant life ensuring a stable food supply. The waterways were also vital for trade and communication, especially during times of conflict. During the War of 1812, the web-like channels made it tough for enemy forces to navigate, giving those who knew the land a significant advantage. British troops and their Indigenous allies, notably the Iroquois Confederacy, utilized the complex river networks for movement and supplies.

Today, the Minesing Wetlands are touted as one of the most diverse and ecologically significant wetlands in Ontario. A living testament to the powerful forces of nature, it was shaped by glacial and post-glacial processes over the past 20 millennia. This incredible journey through time has led to the convergence of the Nottawasaga River, Mad River, Willow Creek, and Coates Creek. Spanning more than 15,000 acres, the wetland's unique hydrology provides for an interconnected network of swamps, fens, bogs and marshes and is a hotspot for conservationists, recreation and tourism—especially for birding and eco-tours.

Even though I consider myself a competent paddler, I had heard stories of people getting lost in the swamp and being rescued by helicopter—or worse, spending a night out there. There were also tales about bloodsucking leeches and mosquito swarms so thick you couldn't even see the canoe in front of you. And then there's the wind...



For our little adventure, we decided to heed the warnings— we enlisted the help of Free Spirit Tours, and our guide Jim met us at the Willow Creek put-in, located at the northeast corner of the wetlands. Free Spirit has been operating since 1998, providing authentic outdoor experiences with expert leaders who equip and teach participants the necessary skills for various activities. Jim arrived with a fleet of canoes, lifejackets, paddles, safety equipment,

and, most importantly, knowledge of the creek, swamp, and river. Oh yeah, he brought bug spray too.

Almost immediately, we were thankful for having an experienced navigator—as the channels that intersect one another are akin to a maze. Occasionally, we spotted yellow, pink, and orange ribbons, but I was grateful we weren't relying on them alone; the thick undergrowth had already swallowed some of the flimsy plastic markers.

The brisk current in Willow Creek worked in our favour, making paddling relatively effortless throughout the first leg of our tour. From time to time, we paused to let the water carry us along and to wait for the other boats to catch up. As soft grasses brushed against us from both sides of the narrow creek, we could almost imagine ourselves in the Florida Everglades.

The Minesing Wetlands are home to a stunning array of flora and fauna, many of which are rare, sensitive and/or near the limits of their geographical range. Over 400 species of plants have been identified here, with 11 considered provincially rare. Among the highlights are the localized patches of prairie white-fringed orchids and the largest pure stand of silver maple in Ontario. The wetlands also play a critical role in moderating flooding in the lower Nottawasaga River and the Town of Wasaga Beach, thanks to their reservoir-like hydrology. You can spot cattails, bulrushes, and sedges, which are crucial for maintaining the ecosystem's health. These plants

provide habitat and food for many species and help improve water quality by filtering pollutants and trapping sediments.

□

About three hours into our paddle, we found ourselves coasting beneath a canopy of healthy deciduous trees.



The wildlife is just as diverse—it's home to over 206 species of birds, including over a hundred known breeders and migrants. As we paddled through the swamp, we encountered a stunning variety of birdlife, from rare Carolinian songbirds like the cerulean and golden-winged prothonotary warbler to northern species such as the sharp-shinned hawk, golden-crowned and ruby-crowned kinglet, myrtle warbler, and magnolia warbler.

At first glance, the long-dead standing trees that line the wetlands might seem forlorn or even out of place, but they actually support Ontario's second-largest great blue heronry, with approximately 200 nests near the confluence of the Mad and Nottawasaga Rivers. One of the day's highlights was spotting a bald eagle soaring overhead, along with several

endangered least bitterns, the smallest members of the heron family in the Americas.

Every so often, there are reports of black bears and moose wandering through, adding a thrilling element to any adventure, although we didn't spot any. The waterways are teeming with around 30 species of fish, mostly from the minnow family, but the Mad River and Nottawasaga River are vital migratory routes for Georgian Bay rainbow trout and Pacific salmon, which head to the upper Nottawasaga River Basin to spawn. The wetlands are also crucial spawning grounds for northern pike and walleye.

Amphibians and reptiles are also plentiful here, with rare species like the wood, Blanding's, and spotted turtles making their homes in the swamp.



About three hours into our paddle, we found ourselves coasting beneath a canopy of healthy deciduous trees. At the confluence of the Nottawasaga River, the waterway became much wider and deeper than the creek. Oversized ferns and dense bushes lined the channels, and lush growth was everywhere—it felt like we were entering Narnia.

Dozens of photographs later, we continued along, ultimately stopping for lunch once the riverbank looked solid and dry enough to stand on. Even after being on the water for so long, we couldn't believe that we were the only group enjoying the pristine wetlands—we didn't see another soul for five hours.

Towards the end of our journey, we faced a moderate headwind sweeping across the farm fields. Given the relaxed pace for the majority of our trip, most of us relished the challenge and effort required to make headway. We soon reached our pick-up point in Edenvale, where our car was waiting.

A word of caution—paddling in the Minesing Wetlands is not for the faint of heart—the waterways are notoriously tricky, with many twists and turns that can easily disorient even experienced navigators. Hiring a guide from Free Spirit Tours was absolutely the right choice for us; Jim's knowledge of the terrain and waterways ensured that we stayed on course and could fully appreciate the journey without the stress of getting lost. Although we found a few leeches on the bottom of one of the canoes, our feet and legs remained blissfully bloodsucker-free.



The experience also underscored the importance of conserving this remarkable area. Southern Ontario has already lost 70% of its natural wetland habitats, making the preservation of the Minesing Wetlands vital for maintaining its ecological integrity and historical significance. Conservation efforts have been ongoing to protect this environment from threats such as pollution, invasive species, and climate change. Organizations such as the Nature

Conservancy of Canada, in partnership with the Nottawasaga Conservation Valley Authority, have been instrumental in these efforts, working to ensure that future generations can continue to experience the beauty and wonder of the wetlands.

Education and awareness are also key components of conservation. Guided tours, like the one we experienced, play a crucial role in fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the wetlands. By learning about the history, culture, and ecology of the Minesing Wetlands, visitors are more likely to support and advocate for their protection. **E**

COLUMN: Conservation areas offer unique opportunities to explore

Hikers, history buffs, paddlers, and picnickers can all find adventure across region's many conservation areas, official says

August 3, 2024

Barrie Today

Mike Bacon



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Springwater dredging up NVCA permit delays directly with ministry

'I don't want to drop the ball for our residents ... We need a solution,' says mayor; NVCA official says 92% of applications processed on time

August 7, 2024 by Wayne Doyle

Barrie Today



Barrie-Innisfil MPP Andrea Khanjin, who is also the province's minister of the environment, conservation and parks, speaks during a media event at the Mining Wetlands recently. Springwater Township officials requested a meeting with the minister to discuss concerns they have with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA). Wayne Doyle/BarrieToday

The relationship between the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) and Springwater Township council continues to erode.

For the second time in eight months, township [council has expressed its concerns over the permit-approval timelines](#) residents are facing for projects that require NVCA approval.

At the last meeting before summer recess, Springwater council voted to send a letter to various provincial ministers requesting a meeting to discuss the municipality's ongoing concerns regarding resident wait times for receiving permit approvals, and the cost and complexity of the studies being requested as part of the permit approvals.

The letter was sent via email on July 10 to Barrie-Innisfil MPP Andrea Khanjin, who is also the province's minister of the environment, conservation and parks, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Graydon Smith and Minister of Red Tape Reduction Mike Harris Jr. A copy was also sent to Premier Doug Ford.

Shelley Westlake-Brown, executive assistant to the mayor, council and chief administrative officer for Springwater Township, confirmed late Tuesday afternoon that there is a virtual meeting scheduled with Minister Smith's policy staff on Aug. 15.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks acknowledged receipt of the letter and confirmed that the minister would consider the request.

Westlake-Brown said there has been no response from the Ministry of Red Tape Reduction.

Coun. Brad Thompson introduced the motion to send the letter after he was contacted by a township resident who was concerned about the length of time it was taking to get an approval from the NVCA for a pole barn and accessory building on his property.

According to Thompson, the resident started the approval process on Aug. 17, 2023. A month later, on Sept. 19, the resident received a letter from the NVCA advising him that the file was deemed complete and gave him a 60- to 90-day timeline for the approval.

A week later, the resident contacted the NVCA and asked when the 60 to 90 days started. He didn't receive a response, Thompson said.

On June 17, 2024, the resident received his approval.

"Three hundred and five days from the original application, 277 days from the time, according to the NVCA, that the file was deemed complete," Thompson said. "I don't think this is good for anybody.

"It's not good for the NVCA and it's certainly not good for our residents," he added.

Thompson said this was not the first time he's heard residents complain about the NVCA. He was thrilled to see the provincial government has accepted the township's invitation to talk.

"I'm very happy that the provincial government is going to assist us with finding solutions to our concerns," Thompson said Wednesday morning. "I would like to find a way to work with the NVCA to see an improvement in services offered to our residents."

Four other members of council — Councillors Matt Garwood and Danielle Alexander, Deputy Mayor George Cabral and Mayor Jennifer Coughlin — noted they had also

received calls from residents who had issues dealing with the NVCA.

Coun. Phil Fisher, who sits on the NVCA board, said he was aware of residents' concerns regarding delays with the NVCA approval process, but it was the first time he's heard of this particular incident.

"I've actually talked to many residents about their experiences with the NVCA," said Fisher. "In a few cases, I've been able to insert myself and we've had some really positive outcomes. I don't doubt there are delays, but it might be a bit premature to write a letter."

Coun. Anita Moore agreed.

"In the six years that I've been sitting here, I can honestly say that I haven't had a single complaint about the NVCA. Not a single complaint," Moore said. "I think this letter is an overreach."

Moore suggested a letter to the NVCA expressing the township's concerns would be a better step.

Coughlin said that's already been done and she doesn't consider the letter to ministers as an overreach.

"I don't want to drop the ball for our residents," the mayor said. "I'm not suggesting conservation authorities across Ontario do not serve a purpose. I think there's a great purpose, but I've been hearing for a decade that the relationship between the NVCA, our residents, stakeholders and businesses is fractured.

"We need a solution," she added.

Doug Hevenor, chief administrative officer for the NVCA, agreed with Coun. Moore. He said in an email to *BarrieToday* that sending a letter to ministers was “a bit of overreach at this time.”

“I would suggest the NVCA encourages and welcomes dialogue with our watershed residents along with staff and members of council to discuss our processes, timelines and issues identification,” Hevenor wrote in his email.

“We would be pleased to schedule a meeting with Mayor Coughlin, Coun. Thompson, NVCA (board of directors) member Fisher and any other interested parties to discuss these matters including CAO (Jeff) Schmidt and staff,” he added.

Hevenor said despite claims to the contrary, the conservation authority is meeting its obligations. He said the NVCA has tracked permit review and approval timelines in the watershed since 2020.

Specifically, he added, there have been 243 permits and clearances under the Conservation Authorities Act in Springwater Township between November 2020 and July 3, 2024. Of those applications, 223 (or 92 per cent) were processed on time, as defined by provincially established timelines.

“The ability to consistently meet provincial timelines for permit application review is a demonstration of the NVCA’s strong commitment to positive and timely client service,” he said.

Hevenor added that since April 1, 2024, when new regulations came into force, the NVCA has received eight permits and met the required Conservation Authority Liaison Committee (CALC) timelines on all eight permits.

According to the new regulations posted on the NVCA website, NVCA will review an application within 21 days, and let the applicant know if their application is complete, or if there is missing information.

Regardless of whether a permit is minor or major, NVCA staff have 90 days to make a decision on the permit application once it has been deemed complete.

Springwater dredging up NVCA permit delays directly with ministry

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August 7, 2024 by Wayne Doyle

Hamilton Spectator

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Springwater dredging up NVCA permit delays directly with ministry

'I don't want to drop the ball for our residents ... We need a solution,' says mayor; NVCA official says 92% of applications processed on time

August 7, 2024 by Wayne Doyle

Orillia Matters



Barrie-Innisfil MPP Andrea Khanjin, who is also the province's minister of the environment, conservation and parks, speaks during a media event at the Mining Wetlands recently. Springwater Township officials requested a meeting with the minister to discuss concerns they have with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA). Wayne Doyle/BarrieToday

The relationship between the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) and Springwater Township council continues to erode.

For the second time in eight months, township [council has expressed its concerns over the permit-approval timelines](#) residents are facing for projects that require NVCA approval.

At the last meeting before summer recess, Springwater council voted to send a letter to various provincial ministers requesting a meeting to discuss the municipality's ongoing concerns regarding resident wait times for receiving permit approvals, and the cost and complexity of the studies being requested as part of the permit approvals.

The letter was sent via email on July 10 to Barrie-Innisfil MPP Andrea Khanjin, who is also the province's minister of the environment, conservation and parks, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Graydon Smith and Minister of Red Tape Reduction Mike Harris Jr. A copy was also sent to Premier Doug Ford.

Shelley Westlake-Brown, executive assistant to the mayor, council and chief administrative officer for Springwater Township, confirmed late Tuesday afternoon that there is a virtual meeting scheduled with Minister Smith's policy staff on Aug. 15.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks acknowledged receipt of the letter and confirmed that the minister would consider the request.

Westlake-Brown said there has been no response from the Ministry of Red Tape Reduction.

Coun. Brad Thompson introduced the motion to send the letter after he was contacted by a township resident who was concerned about the length of time it was taking to get an approval from the NVCA for a pole barn and accessory building on his property.

According to Thompson, the resident started the approval process on Aug. 17, 2023. A month later, on Sept. 19, the resident received a letter from the NVCA advising him that the file was deemed complete and gave him a 60- to 90-day timeline for the approval.

A week later, the resident contacted the NVCA and asked when the 60 to 90 days started. He didn't receive a response, Thompson said.

On June 17, 2024, the resident received his approval.

"Three hundred and five days from the original application, 277 days from the time, according to the NVCA, that the file was deemed complete," Thompson said. "I don't think this is good for anybody.

"It's not good for the NVCA and it's certainly not good for our residents," he added.

Thompson said this was not the first time he's heard residents complain about the NVCA. He was thrilled to see the provincial government has accepted the township's invitation to talk.

"I'm very happy that the provincial government is going to assist us with finding solutions to our concerns," Thompson said Wednesday morning. "I would like to find a way to work with the NVCA to see an improvement in services offered to our residents."

Four other members of council — Councillors Matt Garwood and Danielle Alexander, Deputy Mayor George Cabral and Mayor Jennifer Coughlin — noted they had also

received calls from residents who had issues dealing with the NVCA.

Coun. Phil Fisher, who sits on the NVCA board, said he was aware of residents' concerns regarding delays with the NVCA approval process, but it was the first time he's heard of this particular incident.

"I've actually talked to many residents about their experiences with the NVCA," said Fisher. "In a few cases, I've been able to insert myself and we've had some really positive outcomes. I don't doubt there are delays, but it might be a bit premature to write a letter."

Coun. Anita Moore agreed.

"In the six years that I've been sitting here, I can honestly say that I haven't had a single complaint about the NVCA. Not a single complaint," Moore said. "I think this letter is an overreach."

Moore suggested a letter to the NVCA expressing the township's concerns would be a better step.

Coughlin said that's already been done and she doesn't consider the letter to ministers as an overreach.

"I don't want to drop the ball for our residents," the mayor said. "I'm not suggesting conservation authorities across Ontario do not serve a purpose. I think there's a great purpose, but I've been hearing for a decade that the relationship between the NVCA, our residents, stakeholders and businesses is fractured.

"We need a solution," she added.

Doug Hevenor, chief administrative officer for the NVCA, agreed with Coun. Moore. He said in an email to *BarrieToday* that sending a letter to ministers was “a bit of overreach at this time.”

“I would suggest the NVCA encourages and welcomes dialogue with our watershed residents along with staff and members of council to discuss our processes, timelines and issues identification,” Hevenor wrote in his email.

“We would be pleased to schedule a meeting with Mayor Coughlin, Coun. Thompson, NVCA (board of directors) member Fisher and any other interested parties to discuss these matters including CAO (Jeff) Schmidt and staff,” he added.

Hevenor said despite claims to the contrary, the conservation authority is meeting its obligations. He said the NVCA has tracked permit review and approval timelines in the watershed since 2020.

Specifically, he added, there have been 243 permits and clearances under the Conservation Authorities Act in Springwater Township between November 2020 and July 3, 2024. Of those applications, 223 (or 92 per cent) were processed on time, as defined by provincially established timelines.

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Penticton Herald

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'Not accountable': Business owners push back on NVCA amid permit delays

"(The NVCA) took more than 14 months to approve one document, which was already done and stamped by an engineering firm," says man looking to expand business

August 8, 2024 by Wayne Dyole

Barrie Today



George Begley, president of BMRpro: Brae-Con Building Supplies in Elmvale, says he's been having issues with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority for years. Wayne Doyle/BarrieToday

Next week, Springwater Mayor Jennifer Coughlin will get the opportunity to share her residents' dissatisfaction with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) directly to the minister of natural resources and forestry's policy staff.

Shelley Westlake-Brown, executive assistant to the mayor, council and chief administrative officer for the township, has confirmed that Coughlin and council are scheduled to meet with Minister Graydon Smith's team virtually on Aug. 15.

It's a meeting Coughlin's wanted to have for years.

It came about after [Springwater council voted to send a letter to various provincial ministers](#) requesting a meeting to discuss the township's ongoing concerns regarding resident wait times for receiving NVCA permit approvals, as well as the cost and complexity of the studies being requested as part of the permit approvals.

"I have expressed the concerns I've heard for a decade," Coughlin said at the township's July 3 council meeting during a debate on whether or not council should send the letter.

"Concerns that I took and have gone through numerous avenues to find some sort of accountability and have our resident's questions answered."

In the past, Coughlin said, when she called the appropriate ministers to air her concerns, she would get bounced from one minister to the next, for a variety of reasons.

"Every time we start to get traction or have a minister's ear, there's a cabinet shuffle or election," she said. "When a resident asks me what to do, I have to say I don't know.

"I've had enough."

Municipal politicians in Essa Township have reached a similar conclusion, but they've expressed it in a very different way.

During an appearance before the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy in Orillia on July 8, Essa Mayor Sandie Macdonald told the committee that

"planning and subdivision approvals should be limited to the upper- and lower-tier municipalities only to ensure red tape reduction and build homes faster."

Oro-Medonte Township Mayor Randy Greenlaw said the township has a strong working relationship with the NVCA.

"When issues arise, we quickly respond to ensure the development application continues to move forward," Greenlaw said.

George Begley, president at BMRpro: Brae-Con Building Supplies in Elmvale, said his issue with the NVCA started about six years ago when he bought land from his neighbour to expand his business.

He said his first step was to go to township council.

"It was the previous council and they were very supportive," Begley said during an interview with *BarrieToday* at his Elmvale store. "We started the process and the township was extremely prompt. All of our questions and concerns were addressed quickly."

Begley said working with the township was a breeze.

His experience with the NVCA, he added, was not.

"I had to get the NVCA involved and it took 41 months to sever and rezone the property," Begley said. "They took more than 14 months to approve one document, which was already done and stamped by an engineering firm."

While the NVCA won't comment on specific files, Doug Hevenor, chief administrative officer for the NVCA, said as an approval agency its review of these documents is a similar process that is undertaken by municipalities and ensures an application and associated documentation meets provincial standards and NVCA guidelines from a quality assurance/quality control perspective.

"Under the Conservation Authorities Act, NVCA is responsible for regulating activities in natural and hazardous areas in order to avoid the loss of life and damage to property due to flooding and erosion," he wrote in an email to *BarrieToday*. "There are specific regulations that NVCA need to comply with before issuing a permit."

Proposals must "demonstrate consistency" with provincial/municipal plans and policies in addition to NVCA's policies and guidelines, Hevenor said.

"Depending on the type of project and the location of the project, NVCA may ask for engineered drawings to ensure that the proposed development will not increase the risk of flooding and erosion, for not only the landowner's property, but also neighbouring properties," he added.

Hevenor said the NVCA's technical staff review engineered drawings and reports to assess if the submission has met all the requirements, as well as if the proposed development will have negative impacts on a watershed scale.

Meanwhile, Begley said the delays are costing him thousands of dollars.

"If I could have gotten the permit two and half years ago, the difference in interest over the course of the 15-year term to build my project would have saved me \$500,000," he said.

"But they (NVCA) don't think that way. They don't care about the end user, the end user's costs, and they don't care about the end users savings or business acumen. None of that matters to them. They're not accountable to anyone," Begley added.

According to Sarah Fig, a spokesperson for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, conservation authority decisions can be appealed.

"If a permit is denied or issued subject to conditions, a hearing before the conservation authority's board is available," Fig said in an email. "If a person is not satisfied with the results of the hearing, they can appeal the decision at the Ontario Land Tribunal."

She added that while the Ministry of Natural Resources oversees the Conservation Authorities Act, it is not involved in local permitting or plan review matters.

"We encourage clients to continue working with their local conservation authority and municipality regarding their development concerns," she said. "Conservation authorities are governed by boards of municipally appointed representatives. We encourage the public to contact board

members or their municipalities with concerns."

Fig said conservation authorities must maintain a governance page on their website that includes contact information for their board members, and the process on how the public can request a delegation before the board.

Keith Bartley, owner of KB Electric in Minesing, wanted to build a 700-square-foot apartment in his shop. The shop is in a building on his property that has been standing for around 60 years.

"When I bought this building, we weren't in the flood plain, but now we are," Bartley said. "The NVCA told me it was due to erosion.

"I applied for my permit and I didn't hear back from them for a year. I called them and they told me they made a mistake and they said I should have reached out to them sooner," he added. "Why would I follow up with them? It's their job. I thought there would be some value for the money I paid. The permit cost me \$550."

Hevenor said NVCA staff process more than 700 permit applications per year and achieve over 90 per cent compliance with provincial times.

"The planning and permit program are continuously improving customer service and have recently implemented a process to provide courtesy calls once an application has been deemed complete and again at the 30-day mark to provide an update on the status of the application," Hevenor said.

"The core mandate of conservation authorities is to undertake watershed-based programs to protect people and property from flooding and other natural hazards, and to conserve natural resources for economic, social and environmental benefits," he added. "The regulations and permit department is only one element of the conservation authority's services."

Hevenor said additional NVCA responsibilities include:

- develop and maintain programs that will protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion;
- develop and maintain programs that will conserve natural resources:
- Ensure Ontario's water resources are properly safeguarded, managed and restored (drinking water source protection program, watershed health checks, watershed sciences monitoring program)
- Protect, manage and restore Ontario's woodlands, wetlands and natural habitat (forestry, stewardship, healthy waters landowner granting program, etc.)
- Connect people to the natural environment (environmental education, conservation land program, etc.)