

06-24-BOD Agenda (September Meeting)

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Friday, September 27, 2024 at 9:00 AM EDT to Friday, September 27, 2024 at 12:00 PM EDT

Agenda

1. Events

Festival at Fort Willow

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

Date & Time: October 5, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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

[Buy tickets here](#)

TD Tree Days

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

Date & Time: October 19, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

[Register here](#)

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 #06-24-BOD dated on September 27, 2024 be approved.

6. Announcements

There are no announcements at this time.

7. Presentations

7.1. 2025 Draft Budget Presentation

Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services will conduct a presentation regarding NVCA's 2025 Draft Budget.

Please note resolution for this presentation is in with agenda item 12.4.2.

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), 12.4.2 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 05-24-BOD dated on August 23, 2024 be approved.

12.2. Adoption of Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting 02-24-BOD dated on June 27, 2024 be approved.

12.3. Correspondence

Motions from Vice-Chair Scott, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, regarding recycling.

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: This correspondence be placed on file.

12.4. Staff Reports

12.4.1. Staff Report No. 26-06-24-BOD from Dalia Al-Ali, Manager, Engineering Services regarding Engineering Review Process Follow-up

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 26-06-24-BOD regarding the follow-up from Staff Report No. 21-05-24-BOD Engineering Review Process

12.4.2. Staff Report No. 27-06-24-BOD from Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services regarding 2025 Draft Budget

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 27-06-24-BOD regarding the NVCA's 2025 Draft Budget be approved; and

FURTHER THAT: the Board of Directors receive the 2025 draft budget for consideration; and

FURTHER THAT: staff be directed to distribute the 2025 Draft Budget booklet to municipalities for the consultation period.

12.4.3. Staff Report No. 28-06-24-BOD from Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services regarding Review of Conservation Areas Strategy Vision & Objectives

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 28-06-24-BOD for information.

12.4.4. Staff Report No. 29-06-24-BOD from Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist regarding Communications Report – August 10, 2024 – September 12, 2024

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 29-06-24-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – *August 10, 2024 – September 12, 2024*, be received.

13. Notice of Motion

Cllr. Joe Belanger's motion regarding Provincial government temporary funding duration of the Honda Electrical Vehicle.

Recommendation:

WHEREAS: the Provincial and Federal governments were successful in attracting and securing a massive 15 billion Honda electric vehicle expansion project in Alliston Ontario; and

WHEREAS: the NVCA, and the 18 municipalities of the watershed, all energetically support the project and clearly understand the need to prioritize this important project; and

WHEREAS: the unintended result of the prioritization of this project will create a bottleneck within the NVCA engineering department, which will negatively impact the NVCA's ability to review, approve and issue permits for the applications received from the 18 municipalities we serve; and

WHEREAS: we know that the Provincial governments mandate is also to build more homes faster and Simcoe County is growing at an unpresidential pace; now

THEREFORE: we request that the Provincial government consider providing temporary funding for the duration of the Honda Electrical Vehicle project to facilitate the addition of further engineering support, estimated at an annual cost of \$100,000.00.

14. Adjourn

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting adjourn at _____ to meet again on October 25, 2024 or at the call of the Chair.



2025 Draft Budget

Sheryl Flannagan | Director, Corporate Services | September 27, 2024



2025 Budget Guideline

Approved at the August 23, 2024 Board meeting

Staff brought forward a \$200,000 general levy plus an additional \$200,000 for two new staff for a total of \$400,000.

Following Board discussion, the following was approved:

Moved by: Cllr. Rick Schell, Seconded by: Cllr. Gary Harvey

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 2025 budget using option #1, for consideration by the Board of Directors.

Carried;

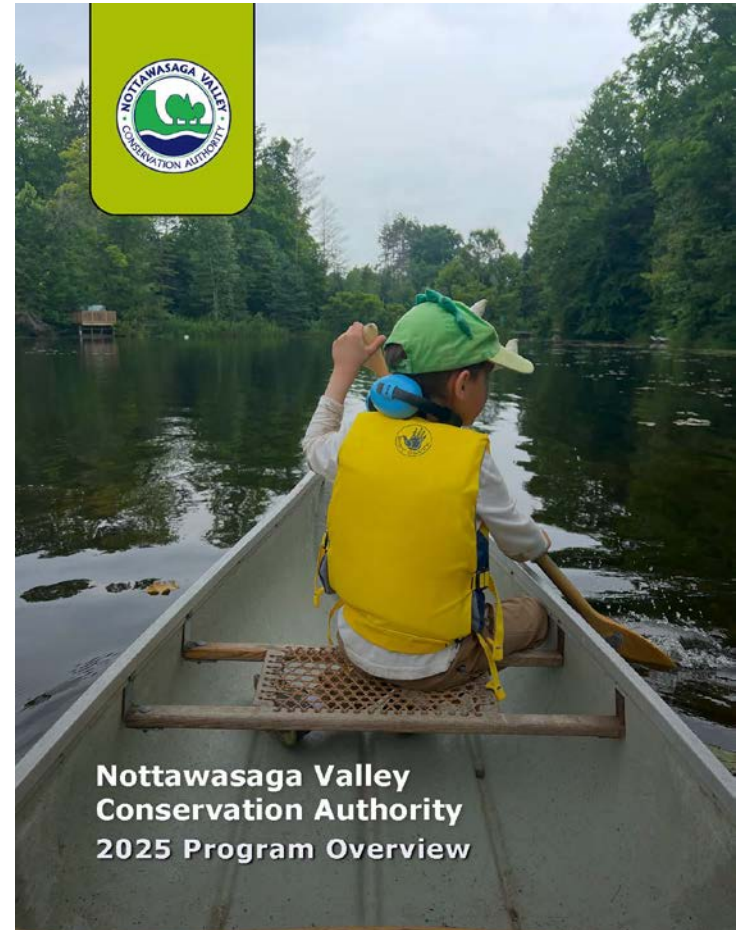


2025 Draft Budget

2025 Program Overview

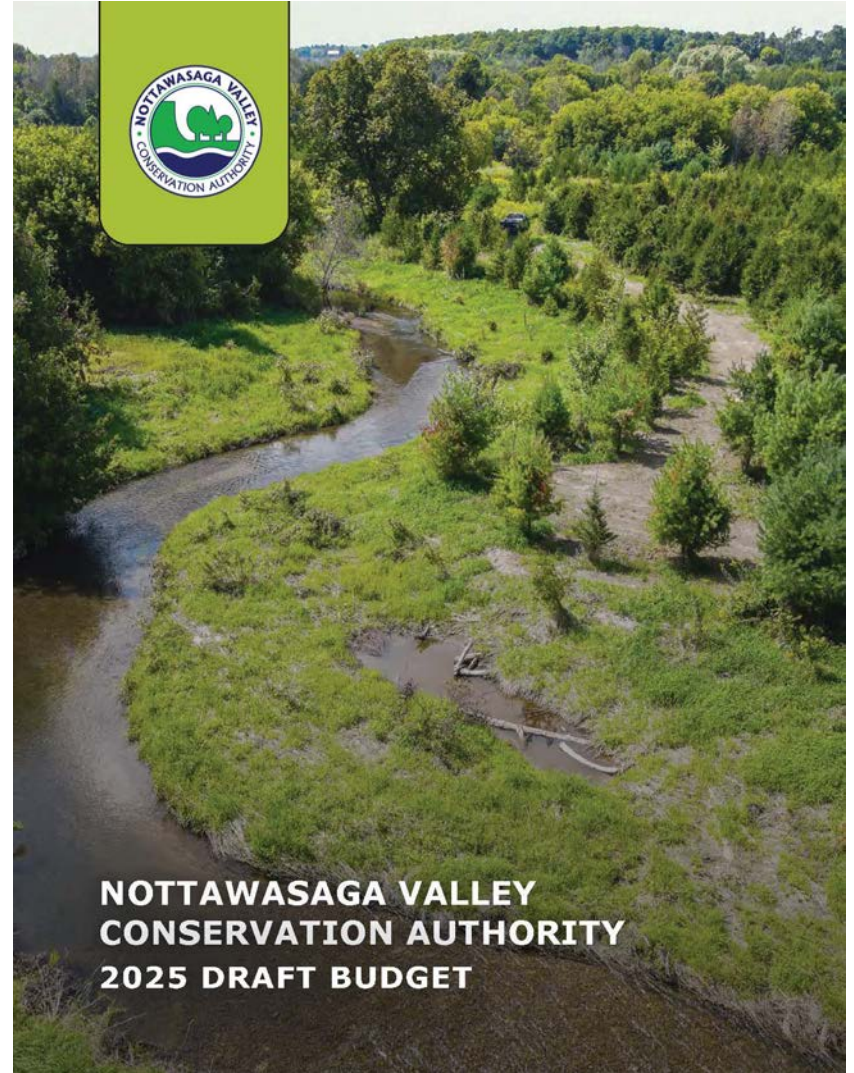
Sustaining the watershed is not our work alone. It is what we do together with municipalities, our neighbours, universities and colleges, donors, local and regional agencies, and the many other partners we work with. We need to celebrate our successes, but we also need to increase the scope, scale and intensity of our joint efforts to create a place we can be proud of and celebrate – one we can call home. For life.

- Highlights each program
- Attachment # 2 in agenda package



2025 Draft Budget Process

- Once approved for circulation – circulated to Municipalities for 30-day review period
- Final Budget Vote – December 2024
- Attachment #1 in agenda package



2025 Draft Budget

Budget Pressures

- The provincial transfer payment to the NVCA through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR)
- 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.
- Benefits, Insurance Premiums & Software support - costs not contained at the inflation rate
- Canada Pension Plan (CPP) enhancement and other employment costs
- Other uncontrollable costs like property taxes
- Maintenance, material & supply costs – high inflation
- The need for more Engineering and Flood staff to keep up with the increased workloads



2025 Draft Budget

How did we address these pressures?

Staff worked very hard to come up with a responsible budget for our municipalities:

- As mentioned at August meeting – starting point was \$650,000 increase to general levy (\$450,000 of uncontrollable costs & \$200,000 for two additional staff)
 - Look at three-year trends
 - Looked at all expenditures to see where savings could be found
 - Increased potential revenues wherever possible, including applying for as many grants as possible
-
- ❖ Staff were able to figure out ways to cover \$250,000 of the uncontrollable costs and are now presenting a budget with a total increase of \$393,658.04 to the general levy (\$193,658.04 for costs & \$200,000 for two staff)
 - ❖ **Levy increase just below Board approved guideline of \$400,000**



2025 Draft Budget

A Quick Reminder



Category 1
Draft
Budget



NVCA
Draft
Budget



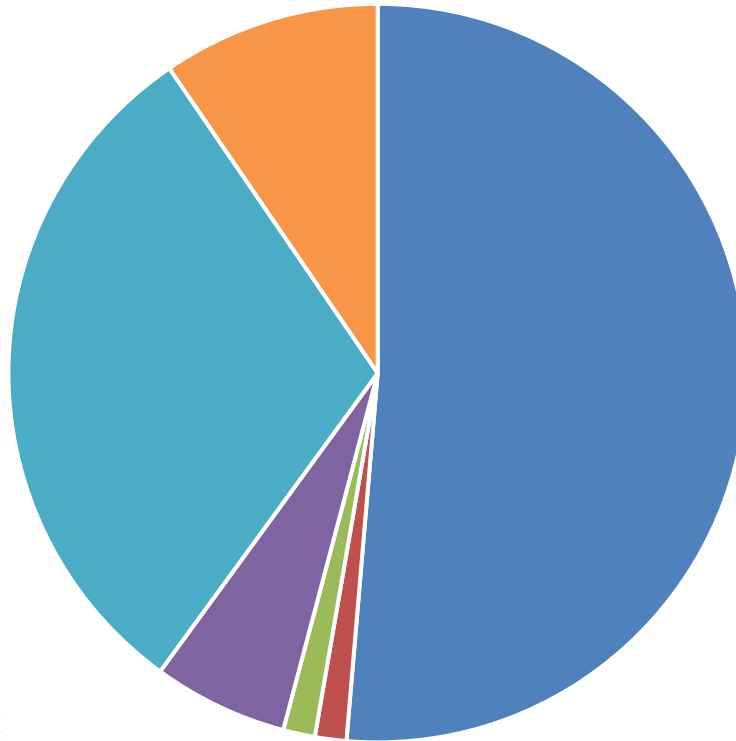
Categories
2 & 3 Draft
Budget



2025 Draft Budget – Combined

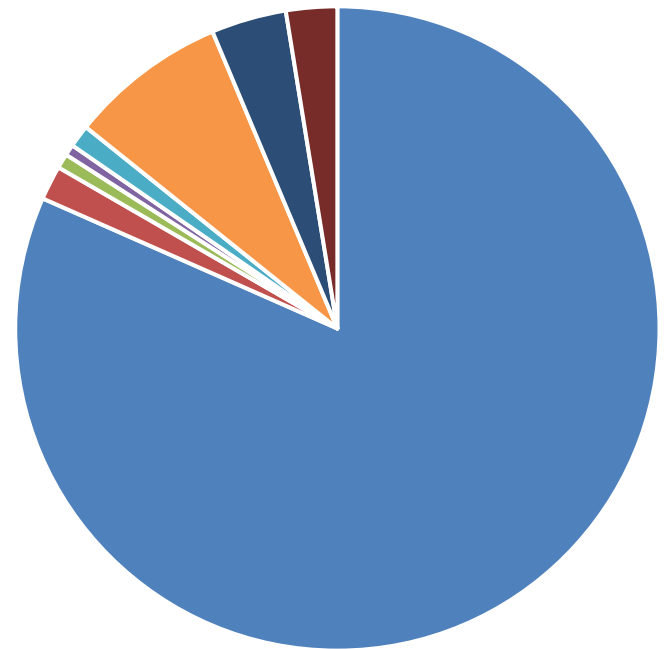
Revenue & Expenditure Breakdown

Combined Revenues



- Levy
- Municipal Projects
- Provincial
- Grants written by NVCA
- Revenue Generated by Authority
- Contributions

Combined Expenses



- Wages and Benefits
- Transfer to Reserve
- Travel & Vehicle
- Interest & Bank
- Training/Membership Dues
- Office supplies & Project Material Costs
- Occupancy Costs/Utilities
- Professional & Consulting Fees



2025 Draft Budget – Combined

2025 Apportionment from MNRF

Municipality	2024 MCVA Apportionment Percentage	2025 MCVA Apportionment Percentage	2024 Operating Levy	2025 Draft Operating Levy	\$ Increase
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	4.01%	4.04%	\$ 27,720.98	\$ 144,967.28	\$ 17,246.29
Township of Amaranth	0.22%	0.22%	\$ 6,950.33	\$ 7,826.67	\$ 876.34
City of Barrie	14.80%	14.75%	\$ 471,529.55	\$ 528,796.77	\$ 57,267.22
Town of The Blue Mountains	1.45%	1.47%	\$ 46,272.86	\$ 52,631.93	\$ 6,359.08
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury	4.29%	4.28%	\$ 136,687.61	\$ 153,292.30	\$ 16,604.70
Clearview Township	4.92%	4.93%	\$ 156,780.48	\$ 176,897.80	\$ 20,117.32
Town of Collingwood	10.35%	10.27%	\$ 329,624.43	\$ 368,186.91	\$ 38,562.48
Township of Essa	6.86%	6.80%	\$ 218,431.97	\$ 243,627.06	\$ 25,195.09
Municipality of Grey Highlands	0.34%	0.34%	\$ 10,740.83	\$ 12,017.86	\$ 1,277.03
Town of Innisfil	7.22%	7.30%	\$ 229,943.64	\$ 261,851.04	\$ 31,907.40
Township of Melancthon	0.48%	0.47%	\$ 15,142.92	\$ 17,019.33	\$ 1,876.41
Town of Mono	3.67%	3.58%	\$ 116,776.29	\$ 128,496.49	\$ 11,720.20
Mulmur Township	1.61%	1.59%	\$ 51,203.70	\$ 56,851.81	\$ 5,648.11
Town of New Tecumseth	13.57%	13.40%	\$ 432,165.61	\$ 480,320.18	\$ 48,154.57
Township of Oro-Medonte	7.38%	7.36%	\$ 235,199.39	\$ 263,901.83	\$ 28,702.44
Town of Shelburne	2.13%	2.17%	\$ 67,996.60	\$ 77,951.19	\$ 9,954.59
Township of Springwater	7.56%	7.76%	\$ 240,827.81	\$ 278,117.47	\$ 37,289.65
Town of Wasaga Beach	9.15%	9.27%	\$ 291,305.27	\$ 332,527.70	\$ 41,222.44

2025 Draft Budget

NVCA draft 2025 Total Budget Impacts



2025 Draft Budget – Category 1

Revenue & Expenditure Highlights

REVENUE:

- Other Provincial Sources – increase of \$30,000
- Contributions – decrease of \$10,000

User Fees:

- Conservation Lands – increase of \$10,200
- Planning – increase of \$106,700

EXPENDITURE:

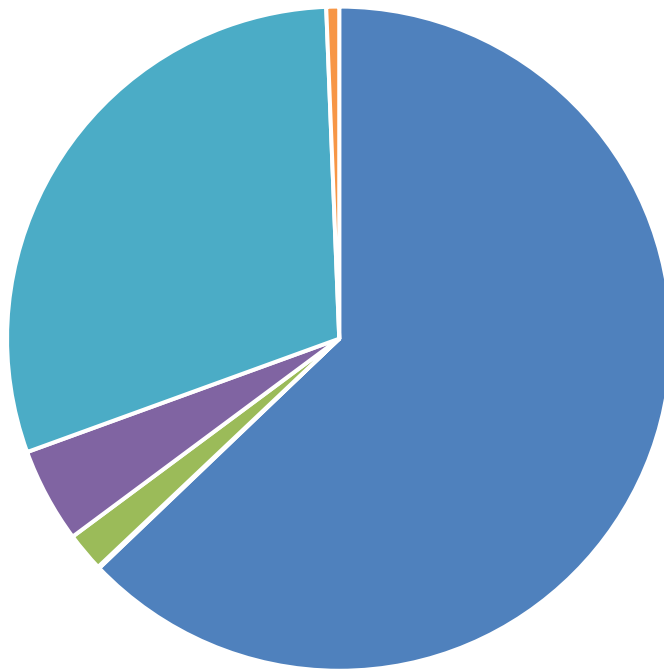
- Wages – increase of \$503,868 (including two additional staff at a cost of \$200,000)
- Materials & Supplies – General – decrease of \$12,500



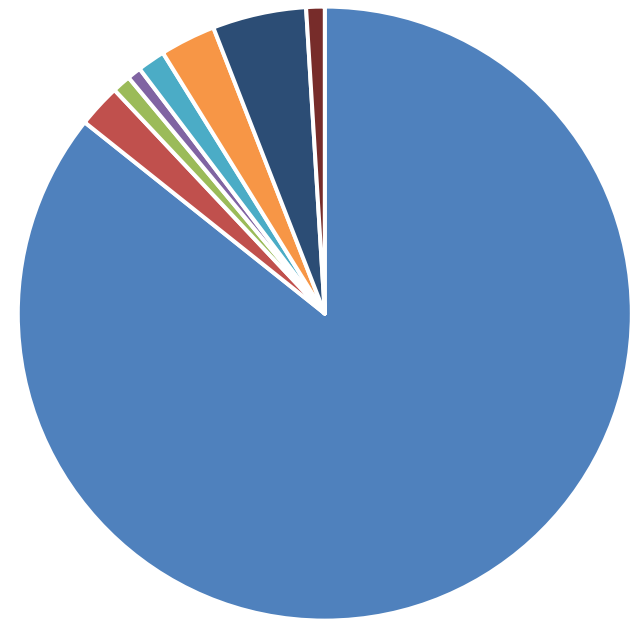
2025 Draft Budget – Category 1

Revenue & Expenditure Breakdown

Category 1 Revenues



Category 1 Expenses



- Levy
- Municipal Projects
- Provincial
- Grants written by NVCA
- Revenue Generated by Authority
- Contributions

- Wages and Benefits
- Transfer to Reserve
- Travel & Vehicle
- Interest & Bank
- Training/Membership Dues
- Office supplies & Project Material Costs
- Occupancy Costs/Utilities
- Professional & Consulting Fees



2025 Draft Budget – Category 1

Category 1 Budget Impacts



2025 Draft Budget – Category 1

2025 Apportionment from MNRF

Municipality	2024 MCVA Apportionment Percentage	2025 MCVA Apportionment Percentage	2024 Operating Levy	2025 Draft Operating Levy	\$ Increase
			2,856,357.59	\$ 3,224,466.02	\$ 368,108.43
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	4.01%	4.04%	\$ 114,531.37	\$ 130,378.06	\$ 15,846.69
Township of Amaranth	0.22%	0.22%	\$ 6,232.57	\$ 7,039.01	\$ 806.44
City of Barrie	14.80%	14.75%	\$ 422,835.18	\$ 475,579.72	\$ 52,744.53
Town of The Blue Mountains	1.45%	1.47%	\$ 41,494.31	\$ 47,335.16	\$ 5,840.85
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury	4.29%	4.28%	\$ 122,572.02	\$ 137,865.27	\$ 15,293.25
Clearview Township	4.92%	4.93%	\$ 140,589.92	\$ 159,095.15	\$ 18,505.23
Town of Collingwood	10.35%	10.27%	\$ 295,584.45	\$ 331,133.31	\$ 35,548.86
Township of Essa	6.86%	6.80%	\$ 195,874.72	\$ 219,108.92	\$ 23,234.19
Municipality of Grey Highlands	0.34%	0.34%	\$ 9,631.64	\$ 10,808.41	\$ 1,176.77
Town of Innisfil	7.22%	7.30%	\$ 206,197.60	\$ 235,498.88	\$ 29,301.28
Township of Melancthon	0.48%	0.47%	\$ 13,579.12	\$ 15,306.54	\$ 1,727.42
Town of Mono	3.67%	3.58%	\$ 104,716.93	\$ 115,564.86	\$ 10,847.94
Mulmur Township	1.61%	1.59%	\$ 45,915.95	\$ 51,130.36	\$ 5,214.41
Town of New Tecumseth	13.57%	13.40%	\$ 387,536.32	\$ 431,981.71	\$ 44,445.40
Township of Oro-Medonte	7.38%	7.36%	\$ 210,910.59	\$ 237,343.27	\$ 26,432.68
Town of Shelburne	2.13%	2.17%	\$ 60,974.67	\$ 70,106.34	\$ 9,131.67
Township of Springwater	7.56%	7.76%	\$ 215,957.77	\$ 250,128.28	\$ 34,170.51
Town of Wasaga Beach	9.15%	9.27%	\$ 261,222.47	\$ 299,062.77	\$ 37,840.30

2025 Draft Budget – Categories 2&3

Revenue & Expenditure Highlights

REVENUE:

- Other Provincial Sources – \$20,000 increase
- Federal Sources - \$30,000 increase

User Fees:

- Education - \$38,500 increase

EXPENDITURE:

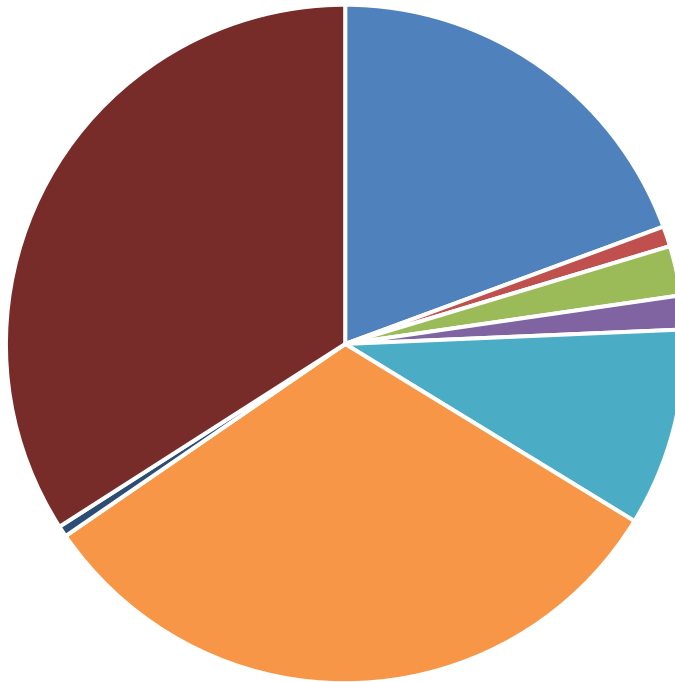
- Wages – increase of \$91,739
- Materials & Supplies – General – decrease of \$10,325
- Materials & Supplies – Cost of Trees – decrease of \$45,000



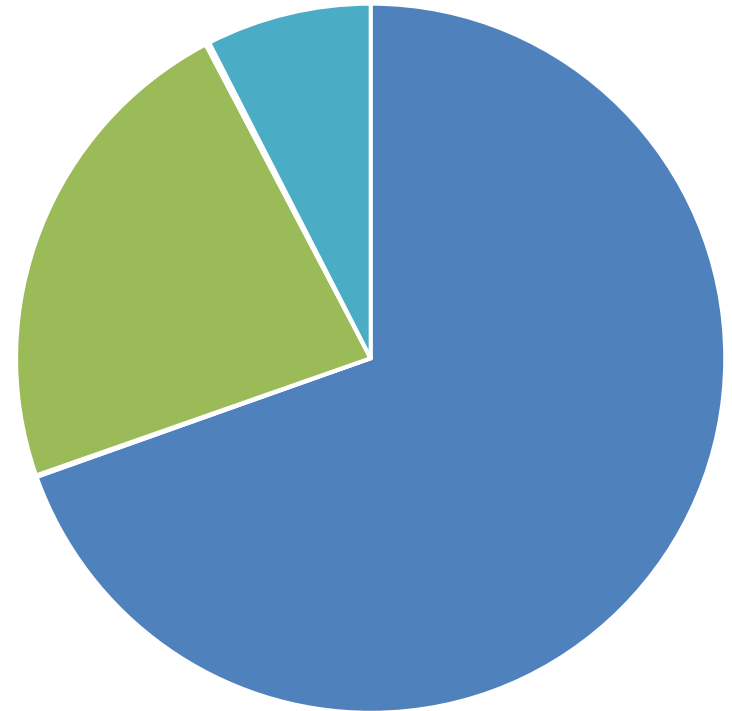
2025 Draft Budget – Categories 2&3

Revenue & Expenditure Breakdown

Categories 2 & 3 Revenues



Categories 2 & 3 Expenses



- Levy
- Municipal Contributions
- Grants written by NVCA
- Operational Reserves
- Special Benefitting Levy
- Municipal Projects
- Revenue Generated by Authority
- Contributions
- Wages and Benefits
- Training/Membership Dues
- Office supplies & Project Material Costs
- Occupancy Costs/Utilities
- Professional & Consulting Fees

2025 Draft Budget – Categories 2&3

Categories 2 & 3 Impact



2025 Draft Budget – Categories 2&3

2025 Apportionment from MNRF

Municipality	2024 MCVA Apportionment Percentage	2025 MCVA Apportionment Percentage	2024 Operating Levy	2025 Draft Operating Levy	\$ Increase
			328,942.68	\$ 360,815.61	\$ 31,872.94
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	4.01%	4.04%	\$ 13,189.61	\$ 14,589.22	\$ 1,399.60
Township of Amaranth	0.22%	0.22%	\$ 717.75	\$ 787.66	\$ 69.91
City of Barrie	14.80%	14.75%	\$ 48,694.37	\$ 53,217.06	\$ 4,522.68
Town of The Blue Mountains	1.45%	1.47%	\$ 4,778.55	\$ 5,296.77	\$ 518.22
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury	4.29%	4.28%	\$ 14,115.59	\$ 15,427.03	\$ 1,311.44
Clearview Township	4.92%	4.93%	\$ 16,190.56	\$ 17,802.64	\$ 1,612.08
Town of Collingwood	10.35%	10.27%	\$ 34,039.98	\$ 37,053.60	\$ 3,013.62
Township of Essa	6.86%	6.80%	\$ 22,557.24	\$ 24,518.14	\$ 1,960.90
Municipality of Grey Highlands	0.34%	0.34%	\$ 1,109.19	\$ 1,209.45	\$ 100.26
Town of Innisfil	7.22%	7.30%	\$ 23,746.04	\$ 26,352.17	\$ 2,606.13
Township of Melancthon	0.48%	0.47%	\$ 1,563.79	\$ 1,712.79	\$ 149.00
Town of Mono	3.67%	3.58%	\$ 12,059.37	\$ 12,931.63	\$ 872.26
Mulmur Township	1.61%	1.59%	\$ 5,287.75	\$ 5,721.45	\$ 433.70
Town of New Tecumseth	13.57%	13.40%	\$ 44,629.30	\$ 48,338.47	\$ 3,709.17
Township of Oro-Medonte	7.38%	7.36%	\$ 24,288.80	\$ 26,558.55	\$ 2,269.76
Town of Shelburne	2.13%	2.17%	\$ 7,021.94	\$ 7,844.85	\$ 822.91
Township of Springwater	7.56%	7.76%	\$ 24,870.04	\$ 27,989.19	\$ 3,119.15
Town of Wasaga Beach	9.15%	9.27%	\$ 30,082.79	\$ 33,464.93	\$ 3,382.13

2025 Draft Budget

Asset Management Plan

Municipality	2025 MCVA %	2024 Capital Levy	2025 Category 1	2025 Categories 2&3	Total	Difference from 2024
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	4.04%	\$6,125.08	\$ 7,111.81	\$ 1,227.07	\$ 8,339	\$2,213.80
Township of Amaranth	0.22%	\$333.31	\$ 387.28	\$ 66.82	\$ 454	\$120.79
City of Barrie	14.75%	\$22,613.00	\$ 25,965.16	\$ 4,480.02	\$ 30,445	\$7,832.18
Town of The Blue Mountains	1.47%	\$2,219.09	\$ 2,587.71	\$ 446.48	\$ 3,034	\$815.11
Bradford/West Gwillimbury	4.28%	\$6,555.09	\$ 7,534.30	\$ 1,299.96	\$ 8,834	\$2,279.17
Clearview Township	4.93%	\$7,518.67	\$ 8,678.53	\$ 1,497.39	\$ 10,176	\$2,657.24
Town of Collingwood	10.27%	\$15,807.70	\$ 18,078.79	\$ 3,119.31	\$ 21,198	\$5,390.40
Township of Essa	6.80%	\$10,475.28	\$ 11,970.38	\$ 2,065.36	\$ 14,036	\$3,560.46
Municipality of Grey Highlands	0.34%	\$515.09	\$ 598.52	\$ 103.27	\$ 702	\$186.70
Town of Innisfil	7.30%	\$11,027.34	\$ 12,850.56	\$ 2,217.23	\$ 15,068	\$4,040.44
Melancthon Township	0.48%	\$726.20	\$ 844.97	\$ 145.79	\$ 991	\$264.56
Town of Mono	3.58%	\$5,600.21	\$ 6,302.05	\$ 1,087.35	\$ 7,389	\$1,789.20
Mulmur Township	1.59%	\$2,455.56	\$ 2,798.96	\$ 482.93	\$ 3,282	\$826.33
Town of New Tecumseth	13.40%	\$20,725.24	\$ 23,588.69	\$ 4,069.98	\$ 27,659	\$6,933.43
Township of Oro-Medonte	7.36%	\$11,279.39	\$ 12,956.18	\$ 2,235.45	\$ 15,192	\$3,912.24
Town of Shelburne	2.17%	\$3,260.89	\$ 3,819.96	\$ 659.09	\$ 4,479	\$1,218.16
Township of Springwater	7.76%	\$11,549.31	\$ 13,660.32	\$ 2,356.94	\$ 16,017	\$4,467.95
Town of Wasaga Beach	9.28%	\$13,970.04	\$ 16,336.05	\$ 2,818.61	\$ 19,155	\$5,184.62

2025 Draft Budget

Capital Requirements - \$704,900

** a number of items were deferred from 2024 so some funds are already approved in the 2024 budget and therefore already accounted for.

- Some major work to be done at the Pretty River Dam in Collingwood, the New Lowell Dam in Clearview and Tottenham Dam in New Tecumseth
- Dam Safety Review for the Utopia Dam as well as the Tiffin ponds
- Parts replacement on lands, flood and monitoring equipment to extend life as well as replacement of some end-of-life equipment
- Computers and server upgrades and network hardware
- Replacement of 1 vehicle, 1 ATV and mounted snowplow for a truck



2025 Draft Budget

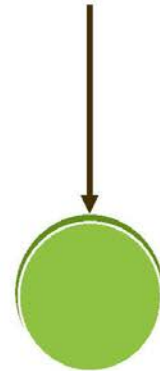
Leveraging your Funds

Municipal Investment:
\$3,585,282

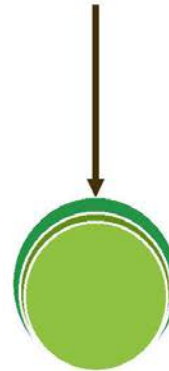
Other Partners Investment
\$3,386,927



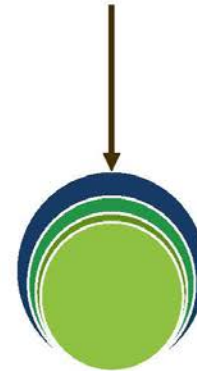
Provincial



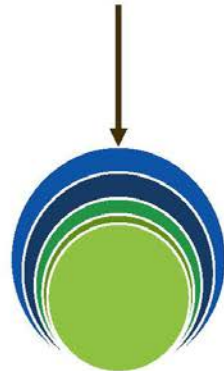
Federal



Grants



User Fees



=

Total Investment: \$6,972,209



2025 Draft Budget Questions?





05-24-BOD Agenda Minutes (**Draft**)
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Friday, August 23, 2024 at 9:00 AM EDT

Attendance

Present:

Cllr Phil Fisher, Springwater (Township); Cllr. Gary Harvey, Barrie (City); Mayor Darren White, Melancthon (Township); Cllr. Joe Belanger, Wasaga Beach (Town); Cllr. Nicole Cox, New Tecumseth (Town); Cllr. Kyle Fegan, Shelburne (Town); 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); 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; Ben Krul, Manager Development Planning & Permits; Tyler, Mulhall, Planner; Dalia Al-Ali, Manager, Engineering Services; José Courtemanche, Water Resource Engineer; Kerry Jenkins, Administrative Assistant/Recorder

Absent:

Mayor Scott W. Anderson, Adjala-Tosorontio (Township); Cllr. Christopher Baines, Collingwood (Town); Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink, Essa (Township); Cllr. Kevin Eisses, Innisfil (Town)

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

Chair Little called the meeting to order at 9:08am.

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: 37-24

Moved by: Cllr. Rick Schell

Seconded by: Cllr. Phil Fisher

RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting #05-24-BOD dated on August 23, 2024 be approved.

Carried;

6. Announcements

Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren informed the members that Cllr. Kevin Eisses was absent today due to public open house for family dairy farm and asking all to attend if can.

7. Presentations

There were no presentations at this time.

8. Deputations

There were no deputations at this time.

9. Hearings

There were no hearings at this time.

10. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Board members are requested to identify items from the Consent List that they wish to have considered for separate discussion.

11. Adoption of Consent List and Identification of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Recommendation:

RES: 38-24

Moved by: Cllr. Patricia Clark

Seconded by: Cllr. Kyle Fegan

RESOLVED THAT: agenda item number(s), 12.2.1, 12.2.2, 12.2.3, 12.2.4 and 12.2.6 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 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:

RES: 39-34

Moved by: Cllr. Joe Belanger

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren

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

Carried;

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

Recommendation:

RES: 40-24

Moved by: Cllr. Gary Harvey

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren

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.

Carried;

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

Recommendation:

RES: 41-24

Moved by: Cllr. Nicole Cox

Seconded by: Cllr. Ralph Manktelow

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

Carried;

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:

RES: 42-24

Moved by: Cllr. Gary Harvey

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren

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

Carried;

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

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

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:

RES: 43-24

Moved by: Cllr. Rick Schell

Seconded by: Cllr. Gary Harvey

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 2025 budget using option #1, for consideration by the Board of Directors.

Carried;

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

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

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

13. Other Business

Cllr. Joe Belanger has put forth a Notice of Motion for the September meeting in regards to funding related to new planning projects.

14. In-Camera - Board decided there was no need to go in-camera and proceeded with the below resolution

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

Recommendation:

RES: 44-24

Moved by: Cllr. Gary Harvey

Seconded by: Cllr. Phil Fisher

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

Carried;

15. Adjourn

Recommendation:

RES: 45-24

Moved by: Cllr. Nicole Cox

Seconded by: Mayor Darren White

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting adjourn at 10:40am to meet again on September 27, 2024 or at the call of the Chair.

Carried;



02-24-AAC Minutes (**Draft**)
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
June 27, 2024

Attendance

Members Present:

Vice-Chair, Cllr. Kevin Eisses, NVCA Member
Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink, NVCA Member
Colin Elliot, Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture
Jody Mott, Holland Marsh Growers Association
Dave Ritchie, Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture
Andy Vanniekerk, North Simcoe Soil and Crop Association

Members Absent:

Dave Spring, Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture
Ted Woods, Christian Farmers Assoc.
Chair, Donna Jebb, Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture
Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren, NVCA Member

NVCA Staff:

Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer
Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services
Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services
Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits
Tyler Mulhall, Planner
Kerry Jenkins, Administrative Assistant/Recorder

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Kevin Eisses called the meeting to order at 10:01am.

2. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Recommendation:
RES: 05-24

Moved by: Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink

Seconded by: Jody Mott

RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Agricultural Advisory Committee 02-24-AAC dated June 27, 2024 be approved.

Carried;

3. Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflict of Interest

None declared.

4. Approved Minutes

The minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting 01-24-AAC dated on March 28, 2024 was approved by the Board of Directors during the 3-24-BOD dated on April 26, 2024.

5. Drainage

Manager, Development Planning and Permits, Ben Krul and Planner, Tyler Mulhall informed the members that any tile drains within 30 metres of a wetland, watercourse, river, stream or valley will require a permit.

NVCA staff informed the members that the interactive map on NVCA's website is now up to date regarding the Act changes. NVCA strives to update their mapping system on a yearly basis using the best resources (i.e. municipality updates, site visits, etc.).

6. Meeting Date for Proposed Drainage Meeting

Jody informed the members that Frank has confirmed and will speak regarding the Tile Drainage Act as well as trying to secure a second speaker. Both members and NVCA staff agreed that an evening meeting will be suitable for members, NVCA staff, as well as the audience. It was all agreed that the target audience would be agricultural, Board of Directors and Municipalities. Once NVCA and committee members can confirm where can host a potential hybrid meeting, the location and time will be set as well as the date. Jody and Kerry will be working closely with one another to create the agenda, create the invitations, and finalize the details. NVCA staff has noted the date needs to be confirmed no later than 6 weeks prior to the meeting date.

7. Other Business

NVCA staff spoke regarding the challenges they have with creating the agenda's for the meeting. Staff informed the members these meetings are for them and they are strongly encouraged to send in topics they wish to discuss no later than the due date that is set out for them to ensure these meetings will always be fullsome.

Vice-Chair asked to have the idea of having four meetings a year or only hosting two meetings a year and/or at the call of the Chair/Vice-Chair during the September agenda.

8. Adjourn

Recommendation:

RES: 06-24

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee 02-24-AAC adjourn at: 10:30am.

Carried;

Sheryl Flannagan

From: Tara Reynolds <treynolds@townofbwg.com>
Sent: September 13, 2024 3:51 PM
To: Jonathan Scott; Sheryl Flannagan
Cc: Angela Coleman
Subject: RE: Recycling resolutions

Hello there,

To follow up on Councillor Scott's previous email, here are the recycling motions for your information:

Council passed the following motion at their May 7, 2024 Regular Meeting:

WHEREAS the current Ontario Regulation 391/21 defines the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) sector as 'ineligible sources' (with the exception of schools and not-for-profit homes for the aged) for the purposes of producer responsibility for recycling, and as such the producers are not responsible for collecting recycling from these locations including businesses, municipal buildings, places of worship and non-profit organizations;

WHEREAS the County of Simcoe has collected recycling from IC&I properties as part of its residential recycling collection program to date;

WHEREAS County Council made the decision to cease curbside recycling collection from IC&I properties effective as of January 1, 2026, and instead allow continued drop-off of recycling at the County's waste management facilities; and

WHEREAS this decision was taken despite County Council's strong desire to continue to facilitate the greatest amount of recycling possible, expressly because of the consequences arising from provincial regulations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Town Council call upon the Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and our local MPP, to:

Amend Ontario Regulation 391/21 to include small IC&I locations (those generating similar quantities of waste as a residential unit) as eligible sources to ensure Producer Responsibility Organizations are required to service these locations as part of their residential collection contract; and

Amend Ontario Regulation 103/94 to expand the application of the IC&I waste regulatory framework to additional businesses and institutions so those IC&I locations not included as eligible sources in Reg 391/21 are required to source separate.

Further, that should the above changes in provincial regulations or similar occur, Town Council call upon Simcoe County Council to continue to collect smaller IC&I properties' recycling as much as practicable.

Council passed the following motion at their August 3 Regular Meeting:

Whereas the Ontario Deposit Return Program offers rebates for alcoholic beverage containers returned for recycling;

Whereas that program has helped remove over 204,000 tonnes of greenhouse-gas emissions;

Whereas the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks wrote in a June 2023 letter that they “are considering the adoption of a deposit-and-return system that has proven to be successful in other jurisdictions...Such a system would enable consumers to receive a refund for returning used [nonalcoholic] beverage containers, promoting recycling, reducing litter, and encouraging sustainable practices”;

Therefore, be it resolved that Council:

1. Endorse an expansion of the Ontario Deposit Return Program to cover nonalcoholic beverages; and
2. The Mayor write a letter expressing the same to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Minister of Finance; York—Simcoe’s MPP; Opposition environment critics; and Ontario’s municipal councils and conservation authorities.

Thanks,

Tara Reynolds (*she/her*), CMM III

Clerk, Corporate Services

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

905-775-5366 x 1104, Cell: 905-251-7208



Staff Report: 26-06-24-BOD
Date: 27/09/2024
To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
From: Dalia Al-Ali, Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Engineering Review Process Follow-up

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 26-06-24-BOD regarding the follow-up from Staff Report No. 21-05-24-BOD Engineering Review Process.

Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report is to inform the Board of the expedited hiring of the contract engineering technologist position recommended as an immediate priority for improvement in Staff Report No. 21-05-24-BOD Engineering Review Process. The expedited hiring of the position would allow the engineering team to be better positioned to meet review expectations in the short term.

Background

In Staff Report No. 21-05-24-BOD Engineering Review Process, the Manager of Engineering Services presented a bouquet of 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. The report noted that the engineering team continues to deal with a backlog of files requiring engineering review, and further stated that the current engineering review process is presenting a bottleneck that is limiting the overall efficiency of the broader review process led by the Development Planning & Permits team. Finally,

the report presented direct and indirect opportunities for improving the engineering review process and, from the list of opportunities identified immediate priorities for improvement which had been advanced through the 2025 budget: the addition of a full-time Engineering Technologist (CET) on a 1-year contract plus another full-time permanent Flood Operations Specialist. These two positions were flagged as crucial to supporting engineering review requirements over the next year or so and allowing 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.

Also, in the 05-24-BOD agenda, item 12.2.6 Staff Report No. 24-05-24-BOD regarding the 2025 Preliminary Budget Guidelines presented two different options for the budget creation to ensure that this position was included (levy or reserves). However, it is for the 2025 draft budget and therefore, 2025 staffing, and does not address the immediate need.

Issues/Analysis

After subsequent review, discussions with senior management, the Chair & Vice-Chair, it was determined that this position was needed immediately, given that many of the projects have already begun.

Therefore, this contract position is currently being advertised, with the hopes of hiring someone and having them in place by the beginning of November. That will help to ensure that they will be onboarded and in place for the beginning of 2025. If staff were to wait until the 2025 budget was approved, the earliest a new member would be brought in would be the beginning of March. Therefore, by doing it this way, there will be approximately an additional five months of increased engineering review to address the current backlog. This is important given the increased review expectations relating to files of strategic importance to municipal proponents and the Province, including the Honda Electric Vehicle assembly and battery production plants (New Tecumseth), new K-12 school in Wasaga Beach, further Midhurst developments and the Grain Terminals redevelopment in Collingwood.

Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

This hiring will support the NVCA's Customer Service Strategy. It will also ensure NVCA staff continue to meet file review requirements related to Planning Act development applications and permits while ensuring conformity with provincial natural hazards policies, the Conservation Authorities Act and O. Reg. 41/24.

Impact on Authority Finances

The cost for the approximate two months of this position is between \$14,000 and \$16,000 and will be absorbed into the 2024 approved budget and should any deficit occur, reserves will be utilized at the end of the year.

Climate Change Implications

This report has no climate change implications.

Reviewed by:

Approved for submission by:

Original Signed by
Sheryl Flannagan
Director Corporate
Services

&

Original Signed by
Chris Hibberd
Director Watershed
Management Services

Original Signed by
Doug Hevenor
Chief Administrative Officer



Staff Report: 27-06-24-BOD
Date: 27/09/2024
To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
From: Sheryl Flannagan
Director, Corporate Services

SUBJECT: 2025 Draft Budget

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 27-06-24-BOD regarding the NVCA's 2025 Draft Budget be approved; and

FURTHER THAT: the Board of Directors receive the 2025 draft budget for consideration; and

FURTHER THAT: staff be directed to distribute the 2025 Draft Budget booklet to municipalities for the consultation period.

Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report is to obtain approval to distribute the 2025 draft budget for consideration.

Background

At the August Board meeting, the Board approved the below recommendation, in support of a 2025 levy increase guideline of \$400,000.

Resolution#: 43-24

MOVED BY: Cllr. Rick Schell

SECONDED BY: Cllr. Gary Harvey

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 2025 budget using option #1, for consideration by the Board of Directors.

This increase is made up of \$200,000 in general uncontrollable increases (explained later in this report) as well as an additional \$200,000 for two additional staff (also explained later in this report).

NVCA Staff are also completing the 2025 budget with the assumption that all municipalities will be supportive of the MOU's given there are a few municipalities that signed 1-year agreements that are currently being negotiated for signing. If this is not the case, reserves will be used for the 2025 year to cover the potential gaps, and the 2026 budget will be corrected. We are not able to wait until all MOU's are finalized to do our budget given the timelines municipalities have.

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 are 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 by freeing up some of the more senior staff's time to focus on these projects.

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 worked very hard preparing for the 2025 budget. After many drafts of the budget, the levy increase request is currently at \$399,981.36. This is an increase of \$368,108.43 for the Category 1 budget (this is also where the two positions are located) and \$31,872.93 for the Category 3 budget.

This increase represents a \$0.49 increase per \$100,000 of current value assessment for category 1 (now at \$5.46 compared to \$4.97 in 2024) and a \$0.04 increase per \$100,000 of current value assessment for category 3 (now at \$0.61 compared to \$0.57 in 2024).

Additionally, as you can see in the 2025 Program Overview (Attachment #2), the combined budgets correspond to a \$17.09 per resident, up from \$15.31 per resident in 2024. The category 1 budget makes up \$15.42 per resident of that cost and the category 3 budget represents \$1.68 per resident.

The introduction of Categories 1, 2, & 3 in 2024, drastically changed how the budget was created and viewed. This is the second year of this change which hopefully makes it easier to follow and understand. As a reminder, category 1 are the required services that the NVCA offers. Category 2 are services that the NVCA provides to a municipality that only impacts that municipality and is completed on a fee for service formula. An example of that is the Risk Management work that the NVCA does for several of our partner municipalities. Category 3 services are services that the NVCA offers that benefits all our partner municipalities but are not a required service. These services require a signed MOU with each individual municipality agreeing to support and have these services in their municipality.

The NVCA is presenting our budget in 3 separate ways. The first is showing just what category 1's budget is. The second shows what categories 2 & 3 budget is. The third and final shows what the combined budget is overall so that the Board can still compare to what previous budgets looked like.

The category 1 and categories 2 & 3 budgets are still very much intermingled. In fact, some of the category 3 revenues, help to decrease the levy requirement needed for category 1 which is one of the objectives the province was hoping for. You will see this through the surplus in the categories 2 & 3 budget along with the deficit in the category 1 budget.

Also, all revenue generating departments (both in categories 1, 2, & 3) pay cross charges for overhead costs. This is broken down by the number of FTE's in each department (that determines their % of the cross charges they pay). Therefore, changes in staffing in any department affects the % of cross charges that all of the other departments pay.

Staff have also included for the Boards' perusal a breakdown of each department's individual budgets in attachment #3 (note - the individual budgets contain the capital purchases).

Budget Explanations – Category 1

The following highlights the impacts and percentage changes to the 2025 draft category 1 budget. A \$5,000 swing in either direction was used as a threshold for explanations. There were very few highlights in the category 1 budget, however it does need to be noted that there is a deficit in this budget that is covered by the surplus in the category 3 budget as described above.

REVENUES – GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Other Provincial Sources:

This revenue source has increased \$30,000 due to grants received for stewardship to complete category 1 services in 2025 along with reallocation of source water protection money as our fiscal years are different.

Contributions:

This has decreased \$10,000 due to the conclusion of a project in restoration services.

User Fees:

Conservation Lands – This increase of \$10,200 is related to projected increases in parking revenues and hunting permits.

Planning – the increase of \$106,700 is primarily due to the continued increase in Section 28 permits and some increase in planning revenue recognition and the hopes that our fees will be unfrozen for 2025.

EXPENSES – GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Wages:

Wages and employment costs have increased \$503,868 for 2025 which includes the two additional staff for flood and engineering at a cost of \$200,000. The rest is due mostly to the cost of annual step and cost of living increases and increases in employments costs.

Materials & Supplies – General – The decrease of \$12,500 is mostly from restoration services where less material is required for projects. There was also a small decrease in the lands department.

Budget Explanations – Category 2 & 3

The following highlights the impacts and percentage changes to the 2025 draft categories 2 & 3 budget. A \$10,000 swing in either direction was used as a threshold for explanations. There are also few highlights in this budget. The categories 2 & 3 budget has a surplus of \$150,398, which is transferred to cover the deficit in category 1's budget, subsequently reducing the amount of levy required by category 1.

REVENUES – GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Other Provincial Sources:

This \$20,000 increase is expectation of a provincial grant for a stewardship project.

Federal Sources:

The \$30,000 increase is for Federal funding that has been secured by our stewardship team for projects in 2025.

User Fees:

Environmental Education – the increase of \$38,500 reflects some overall projected increases in revenues around school visits, public programming as well as our forest school, day camps and Tiffin Summer Camp.

EXPENSES – GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Wages:

Wages and employment costs have increased \$91,739 for 2025 which is due to the cost of annual step and cost of living increases and increases in employments costs.

Materials & Supplies – General:

The \$10,325 decrease is related to the stewardship projects which is offset by the revenue brought in.

Materials & Supplies – Cost of Trees:

Less trees are being planted in 2025 which means that the cost of the trees will be lower which accounts for the decrease of \$45,000.

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

The 2025 Draft budget totals \$5,129,673 in revenue as compared to the 2024 approved budget of \$4,638,115.

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 Draft Budget

#2 – 2025 Program Overview

#3 – 2025 Draft Budget by Department



**NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
2025 DRAFT BUDGET**

Table of Contents

OUR WATERSHED	5
ABOUT THE 2025 BUDGET	4
BUDGET PROCESS	6
BUDGET VOTE	7
2025 CATEGORY 1 DRAFT BUDGET	8
2025 CATEGORIES 2 & 3 DRAFT BUDGET	12
ASSET MANAGEMENT	16
CATEGORY 1 CAPITAL ASSET LEVY	16
CATEGORIES 2 & 3 CAPITAL ASSET LEVY	17
RESERVES	18

OUR VISION

A sustainable watershed that is resilient to the effects of climate change, urban growth and other stressors and provides for safe, healthy and prosperous people and communities.

OUR MISSION

Working together to deliver innovative, integrated watershed management that is responsive to the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the Nottawasaga Valley watershed.

WHAT WE VALUE

An abundance of clean water, clean air and fertile soils that provide for healthy people and ecosystems.

Natural heritage systems and the ecosystem services they provide, particularly as they support resilience to the effects of a changing climate.

Distinctive landforms and waterways including the Georgian Bay coastline, Niagara Escarpment, Minesing Wetlands and others that give our watershed a unique sense of place.

Quality recreational opportunities that our hills, forests, meadows, wetlands, waterways and coastline provide for residents and tourists alike.

A wealth of resources within the capacity of our watershed to provide for thriving communities, successful economies and sustainable agriculture, now and in the future.



About the 2025 budget

The 2025 budget represents the second year for the new budgetary framework for NVCA. Through the Province of Ontario, NVCA's program areas are separated into three categories:

- Category 1: Mandatory programs and services, where municipal levy could be used without any agreement
- Category 2: Municipal programs and services provided at the request of a municipality through an agreement
- Category 3: Other programs and services an authority determines are advisable but are not under Categories 1 and 2. Use of municipal levy requires an agreement with participating municipalities.

As we deliver mandatory programs services under Categories 1 to municipalities, NVCA is committed to continuing to manage human activities and natural resources on a watershed basis. Through Categories 2 & 3, we look forward to continuing our collaboration with municipal partners to deliver science based, innovative, watershed-wide services to improve water quality, manage flood and erosion, create more resilient habitats, grow economies through recreational opportunities, and better adapt to climate change.

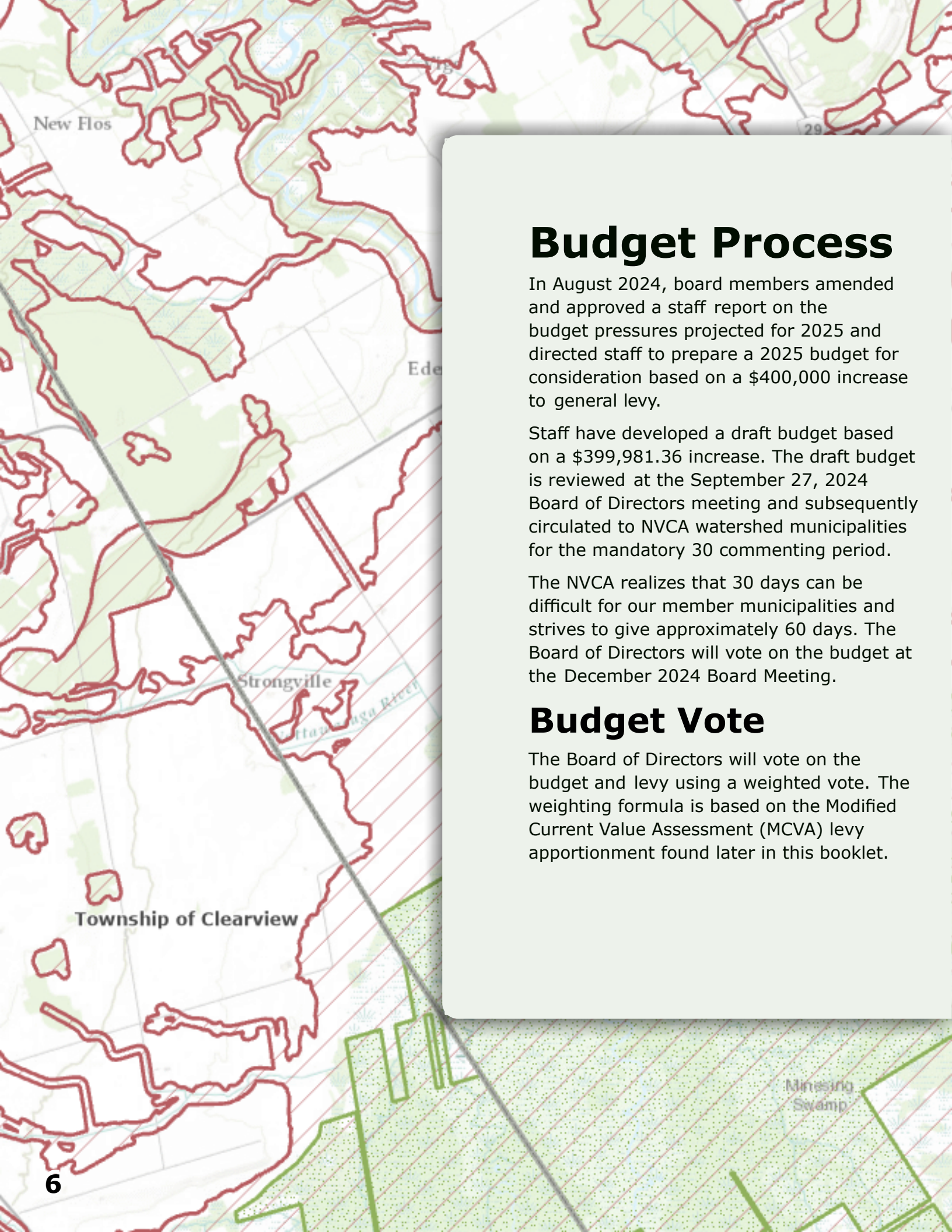


OUR WATERSHED

The Nottawasaga Valley Watershed is approximately 3,700 km², with jurisdiction in 18 municipalities in the counties of Simcoe, Dufferin and Grey. The watershed is the source of watercourses that flow into Georgian Bay at Wasaga Beach, Collingwood and Severn Sound.

NVCA's Board of Directors is comprised of one representative appointed from each of our member municipalities.

Board members have a very important role and responsibility to represent the interests of their municipalities, consider the interests and needs of the conservation authority, and establish an effective reporting relationship with their municipal council and staff.



Budget Process

In August 2024, board members amended and approved a staff report on the budget pressures projected for 2025 and directed staff to prepare a 2025 budget for consideration based on a \$400,000 increase to general levy.

Staff have developed a draft budget based on a \$399,981.36 increase. The draft budget is reviewed at the September 27, 2024 Board of Directors meeting and subsequently circulated to NVCA watershed municipalities for the mandatory 30 commenting period.

The NVCA realizes that 30 days can be difficult for our member municipalities and strives to give approximately 60 days. The Board of Directors will vote on the budget at the December 2024 Board Meeting.

Budget Vote

The Board of Directors will vote on the budget and levy using a weighted vote. The weighting formula is based on the Modified Current Value Assessment (MCVA) levy apportionment found later in this booklet.

Step 1

**September 27,
2024**

**Board of
Directors
approves
circulation of
draft budget**

Step 2

**October 1,
2024**

**Budget to
Municipal
partners**

Step 3

**November 22,
2024**

**Municipal
review
period**

Step 4

**December 13,
2024**

**Board of
Directors
weighted
vote**

2025 Category 1 Draft Budget

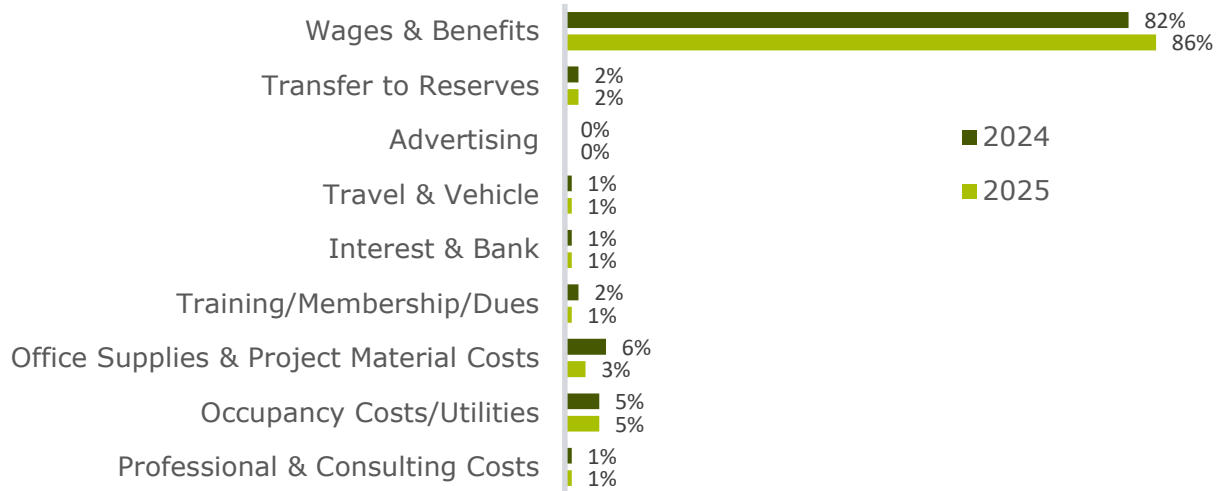
As per the NVCA's Inventory of Programs and Services, Category 1 items are provincially mandated services that NVCA must deliver to our partner municipalities. The 2024 operational budget for Category 1 is organized into business units and departments and is intended to reflect all associated costs. All operating programs, with the exception of planning and regulations with the addition of two new staff, have been maintained at the previous years' service level.

For Category 1's budget, a \$368,108.43 increase in municipal levy is needed to support the operating expenditures. The operating levy is shared by NVCA member municipalities based on the MCVA apportionment percentages provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry.

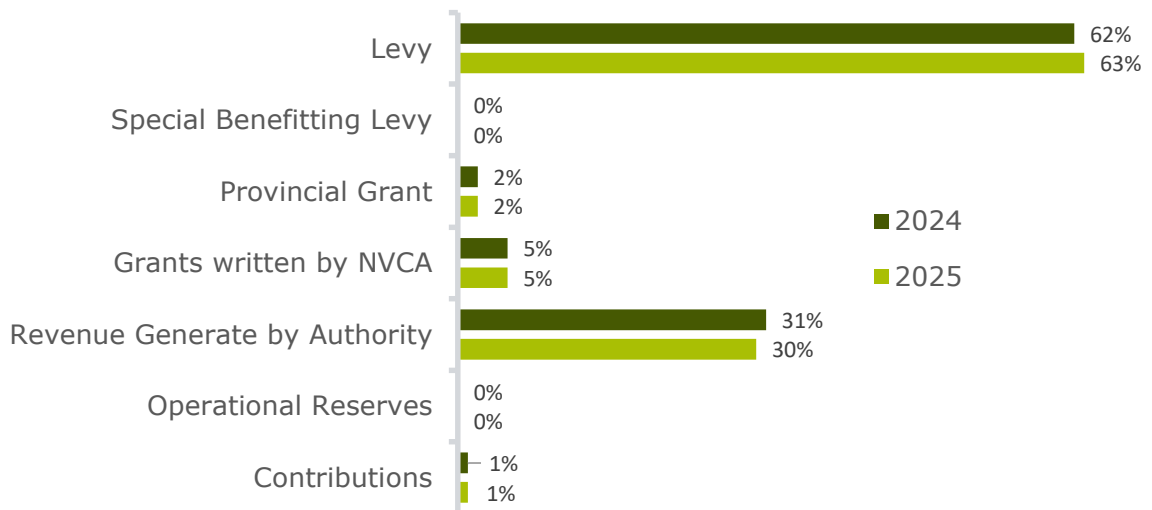
Summary of Category 1 Municipal Levy Contribution

Municipality	2024 MCVA Apportionment Percentage	2025 MCVA Apportionment Percentage	2024 Draft Operating Levy	2025 Draft Operating Levy	\$ Increase
			\$2,856,357.59	\$3,224,466.02	\$368,108.43
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	4.01%	4.04%	\$114,531.37	\$130,378.06	\$15,846.69
Township of Amaranth	0.22%	0.22%	\$6,232.57	\$7,039.01	\$806.44
City of Barrie	14.80%	14.75%	\$422,835.18	\$475,579.72	\$52,744.53
Town of The Blue Mountains	1.45%	1.47%	\$41,494.31	\$47,335.16	\$5,840.85
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury	4.29%	4.28%	\$122,572.02	\$137,865.27	\$15,293.25
Clearview Township	4.92%	4.93%	\$140,589.92	\$159,095.15	\$18,505.23
Town of Collingwood	10.35%	10.27%	\$295,584.45	\$331,133.31	\$35,548.86
Township of Essa	6.86%	6.80%	\$195,874.72	\$219,108.92	\$23,234.19
Municipality of Grey Highlands	0.34%	0.34%	\$9,631.64	\$10,808.41	\$1,176.77
Town of Innisfil	7.22%	7.30%	\$206,197.60	\$235,498.88	\$29,301.28
Township of Melancthon	0.48%	0.48%	\$13,579.12	\$15,306.54	\$1,727.42
Town of Mono	3.67%	3.58%	\$104,716.93	\$115,564.86	\$10,847.94
Mulmur Township	1.61%	1.59%	\$39,589.79	\$51,130.36	\$5,214.41
Town of New Tecumseth	13.59%	13.40%	\$334,317.84	\$431,981.71	\$44,445.40
Township of Oro-Medonte	7.37%	7.36%	\$181,301.29	\$237,343.27	\$26,432.68
Town of Shelburne	2.11%	2.17%	\$51,854.13	\$70,106.34	\$9,131.67
Township of Springwater	7.56%	7.76%	\$185,979.75	\$250,128.28	\$34,170.51
Town of Wasaga Beach	9.04%	9.28%	\$222,347.2	\$299,062.77	\$37,840.30

Expenses



Revenues



Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget - Category 1

Consolidated

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	2,856,357.59	3,224,466.02	368,108.43
Special Benefit Projects	4,000.00	4,000.00	-
Total Municipal Revenue	2,860,357.58	3,228,466.02	368,108.44
MNR Transfer Payment-Flood	97,307.00	97,307.00	-
Other Provincial Sources	197,000.00	227,000.00	30,000.00
Federal Sources	15,000.00	10,000.00	(5,000.00)
Total Government Grants	309,307.00	334,307.00	25,000.00
Contributions	42,150.00	32,150.00	(10,000.00)
Healthy Waters	5,000.00	3,000.00	(2,000.00)
Conservation Lands	34,300.00	44,500.00	10,200.00
Planning	1,260,500.00	1,367,250.00	106,750.00
Tiffin Operations	9,000.00	10,000.00	1,000.00
GIS & Technical Support	12,500.00	10,000.00	(2,500.00)
Investment Income	100,000.00	100,000.00	-
Total Contributions and User Fees	1,463,450.00	1,566,900.00	103,450.00
Operational Reserves	5,000.00	-	(5,000.00)
TOTAL REVENUE	4,638,114.59	5,129,673.02	491,558.43
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	4,008,243.32	4,512,111.11	503,867.79
	4,008,243.32	4,512,111.11	503,867.79
Other Expenses			
Staff Cost	10,300.00	10,100.00	(200.00)
Memberships/Professional Dues	45,600.00	45,600.00	-
Educations and Training	31,500.00	31,500.00	-
Materials & Supplies - General	110,700.00	98,200.00	(12,500.00)
Vehicles & Large Equipment Costs	45,250.00	45,250.00	-
Office Expenses	14,500.00	14,500.00	-
Equipment Costs	8,000.00	7,000.00	(1,000.00)
Transportation Costs	6,000.00	6,000.00	-
Legal	22,000.00	22,000.00	-
Consultants	8,500.00	8,500.00	-
Insurance	155,800.00	155,800.00	-
Taxes	18,860.00	18,860.00	-
Heat and Hydro	30,800.00	30,800.00	-
Telephones and Internet Access	21,000.00	21,000.00	-
Audit Fees	20,500.00	20,750.00	250.00
Interest and Bank Charges	38,500.00	38,500.00	-
Maintenance Expense	32,900.00	35,600.00	2,700.00
Uniform Expense	6,400.00	6,400.00	-
Leases	12,000.00	12,000.00	-
Advertisement and Communications	21,100.00	19,100.00	(2,000.00)
Bad Debt Expense	500.00	500.00	-

**Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Proposed 2025 Budget - Category 1**

Consolidated

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
Transfer to Reserves	120,000.00	120,000.00	-
	<u>780,710.00</u>	<u>767,960.00</u>	<u>(12,750.00)</u>
 TOTAL EXPENSES	 <u>4,788,953.32</u>	 <u>5,280,071.11</u>	 <u>491,117.79</u>
 SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	 <u>(150,838.73)</u>	 <u>(150,398.09)</u>	 <u>440.64</u>

2025 Categories 2 & 3 Draft Budget

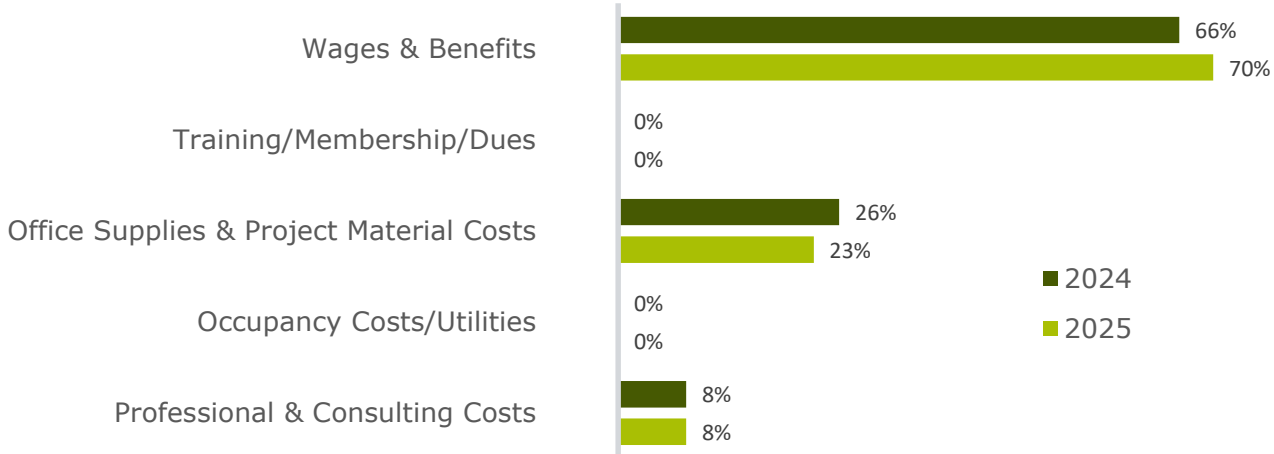
As per the NVCA's Inventory of Programs and Services, NVCA can only deliver items under Categories 2 & 3 if there are agreements in place with our municipalities. Category 2 items do not require levy, and projects are based on agreements with individual municipalities. Category 3 items require some levy to meet eligibility requirements for grants and other revenues, which in turn will help reduce the amount of levy needed under Category 1.

For Categories 2 & 3's budget, a \$2,942.78 decrease in municipal levy is realized to support the operating expenditures. The operating levy is shared by NVCA member municipalities based on the MCVA apportionment percentages provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry.

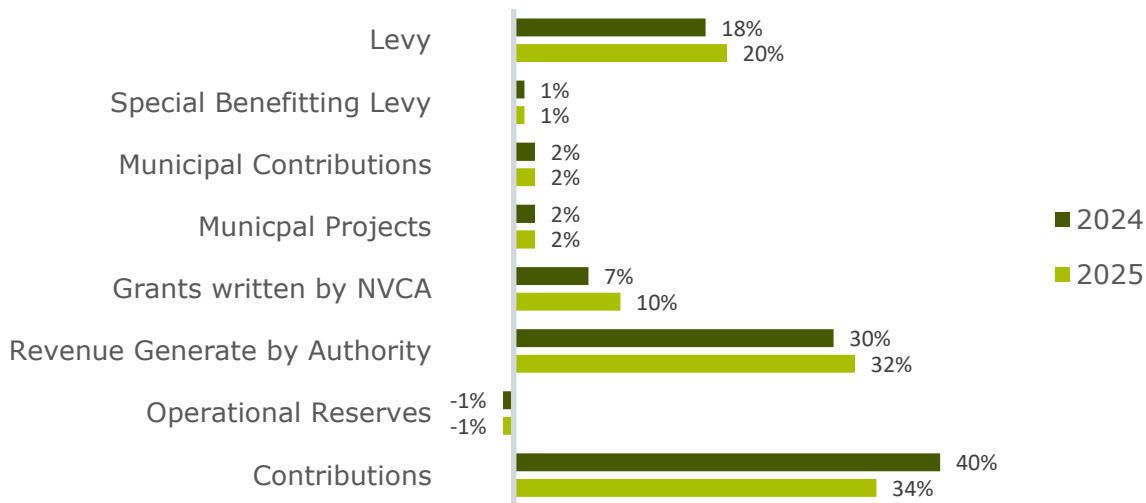
Summary of Category 3 Municipal Levy Contribution

Municipality	2024 MCVA Apportionment Percentage	2025 MCVA Apportionment Percentage	2024 Operating Levy	2025 Draft Operating Levy	\$ Increase
			\$328,942.68	\$360,815.61	\$31,872.93
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	4.01%	4.04%	\$13,189.61	\$14,589.22	\$1,399.61
Township of Amaranth	0.22%	0.22%	\$717.75	\$787.66	\$69.91
City of Barrie	14.80%	14.75%	\$48,694.37	\$53,217.06	\$4,522.69
Town of The Blue Mountains	1.45%	1.47%	\$4,778.55	\$5,296.77	\$518.22
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury	4.29%	4.28%	\$14,115.59	\$15,427.03	\$1,311.44
Clearview Township	4.92%	4.93%	\$16,190.56	\$17,802.64	\$1,612.08
Town of Collingwood	10.35%	10.27%	\$34,039.98	\$37,053.60	\$3,013.62
Township of Essa	6.86%	6.80%	\$22,557.24	\$24,518.14	\$1,960.90
Municipality of Grey Highlands	0.34%	0.34%	\$1,109.19	\$1,209.45	\$100.26
Town of Innisfil	7.22%	7.30%	\$23,746.04	\$26,352.17	\$2,606.13
Township of Melancthon	0.48%	0.48%	\$1,563.79	\$1,712.79	\$149.00
Town of Mono	3.67%	3.58%	\$12,059.37	\$12,931.63	\$872.26
Mulmur Township	1.61%	1.59%	\$5,287.75	\$5,721.45	\$433.70
Town of New Tecumseth	13.57%	13.40%	\$44,629.30	\$48,338.47	\$3,709.17
Township of Oro-Medonte	7.38%	7.36%	\$24,288.80	\$26,558.55	\$2,269.75
Town of Shelburne	2.13%	2.17%	\$7,021.94	\$7,844.85	\$822.91
Township of Springwater	7.56%	7.76%	\$24,870.04	\$27,989.19	\$3,119.15
Town of Wasaga Beach	9.15%	9.28%	\$30,082.79	\$33,464.93	\$3,382.14

Expenses



Revenues





**Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Proposed 2025 Budget - Category 2 and 3**

Consolidated

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	328,942.68	360,815.61	31,872.93
Special Benefit Projects	21,000.00	18,000.00	(3,000.00)
Municipal Contributions	44,050.00	44,050.00	-
Municipal Project - RMO	36,000.00	30,000.00	(6,000.00)
Total Municipal Revenue	<u>429,992.68</u>	<u>452,865.61</u>	<u>22,872.93</u>
Other Provincial Sources	500.00	20,500.00	20,000.00
Federal Sources	125,000.00	155,000.00	30,000.00
Total Government Grants	<u>125,500.00</u>	<u>175,500.00</u>	<u>50,000.00</u>
Contributions	<u>715,130.00</u>	<u>634,130.00</u>	<u>(81,000.00)</u>
User Fees			
Reforestation	39,000.00	40,000.00	1,000.00
Healthy Waters	15,000.00	15,000.00	-
Environmental Monitoring	6,000.00	8,000.00	2,000.00
Environmental Education	285,000.00	323,500.00	38,500.00
Tiffin Operations	167,600.00	169,100.00	1,500.00
Conservation Land Leases	33,140.00	34,240.00	1,100.00
Total Contributions and User Fees	<u>1,260,870.00</u>	<u>1,223,970.00</u>	<u>(36,900.00)</u>
Operational Reserves	<u>(9,800.00)</u>	<u>(9,800.00)</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>1,806,562.68</u>	<u>1,842,535.61</u>	<u>35,972.93</u>
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	1,086,464.09	1,178,203.06	91,738.97
	<u>1,086,464.09</u>	<u>1,178,203.06</u>	<u>91,738.97</u>
Other Expenses			
Staff Cost	300.00	300.00	-
Memberships/Professional Dues	1,250.00	1,250.00	-
Materials & Supplies - General	327,109.87	316,784.46	(10,325.41)
Materials & Supplies - Cost of Trees	110,000.00	65,000.00	(45,000.00)
Equipment Costs	500.00	500.00	-
Consultants	127,500.00	127,500.00	-
Heat and Hydro	200.00	200.00	-
Maintenance Expense	2,300.00	2,300.00	-
Uniform Expense	100.00	100.00	-
	<u>569,259.87</u>	<u>513,934.46</u>	<u>(55,325.41)</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>1,655,723.96</u>	<u>1,692,137.52</u>	<u>36,413.56</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>150,838.72</u>	<u>150,398.09</u>	<u>(440.63)</u>

Asset Management

The capital asset levy, which funds the Asset Management Plan (AMP), is shared by the municipal partners based on their modified apportionment percentage.

The AMP is based on the annual approval of the asset management plan by the Board of Directors.

The AMP for 2025 was approved by the Board of Directors at the August 2024 Board meeting and is also split between Category 1 and Categories 2 & 3.

Below are the contributions for 2025 based on the approved Asset Management Plan:

Category 1 Capital Asset Levy

Municipality	2025 MCVA Apportionment%	2025 Capital Levy
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	4.04%	\$ 7,111.81
Township of Amaranth	0.22%	\$ 387.28
City of Barrie	14.75%	\$ 25,965.16
Town of The Blue Mountains	1.47%	\$ 2,587.71
Bradford/West Gwillimbury	4.28%	\$ 7,534.30
Clearview Township	4.93%	\$ 8,678.53
Town of Collingwood	10.27%	\$ 18,078.79
Township of Essa	6.80%	\$ 11,970.38
Municipality of Grey Highlands	0.34%	\$ 598.52
Town of Innisfil	7.30%	\$ 12,850.56
Melancthon Township	0.48%	\$ 844.97
Town of Mono	3.58%	\$ 6,302.05
Mulmur Township	1.59%	\$ 2,798.96
Town of New Tecumseth	13.40%	\$ 23,588.69
Township of Oro-Medonte	7.36%	\$ 12,956.18
Town of Shelburne	2.17%	\$ 3,819.96
Township of Springwater	7.76%	\$ 13,660.32
Town of Wasaga Beach	9.28%	\$ 16,336.05

Categories 2 & 3 Capital Asset Levy

Municipality	2025 MCVA Apportionment%	2025 Capital Levy
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	4.04%	\$ 1,227.07
Township of Amaranth	0.22%	\$ 66.82
City of Barrie	14.75%	\$ 4,480.02
Town of The Blue Mountains	1.47%	\$ 446.48
Bradford/West Gwillimbury	4.28%	\$ 1,299.96
Clearview Township	4.93%	\$ 1,497.39
Town of Collingwood	10.27%	\$ 3,119.31
Township of Essa	6.80%	\$ 2,065.36
Municipality of Grey Highlands	0.34%	\$ 103.27
Town of Innisfil	7.30%	\$ 2,217.23
Melancthon Township	0.48%	\$ 145.79
Town of Mono	3.58%	\$ 1,087.35
Mulmur Township	1.59%	\$ 482.93
Town of New Tecumseth	13.40%	\$ 4,069.98
Township of Oro-Medonte	7.36%	\$ 2,235.45
Town of Shelburne	2.17%	\$ 659.09
Township of Springwater	7.76%	\$ 2,356.94
Town of Wasaga Beach	9.28%	\$ 2,818.61

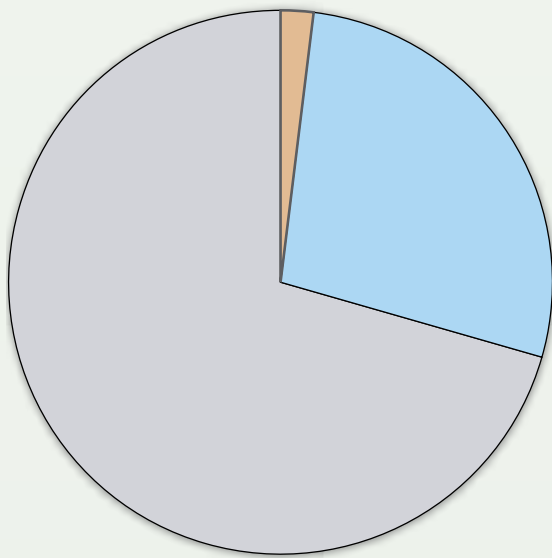


Reserves

These amounts will be put into reserves to pay for the repair maintenance and replacement of the assets as identified in the AMP. The asset levy is funding less than 50% of the purchases, as 2025 is a heavy year and the total levy is spread out over 10 years. Also, some purchases were deferred from 2024 to 2024 and therefore the levy was already received for it and placed into the reserve for 2025.

Some of the 2025 expenditures as per the AMP:

1. Dam safety review for Utopia Dam, urgent repair work to be completed at Tottenham and New Lowell Dams
2. Parts replacement on lands, flood and monitoring equipment to extend life as well as replacement of some end-of-life equipment, specifically some flood loggers & communicators due to cellular upgrade requirements
3. Computers and server upgrades and network hardware
4. Replacement of 1 vehicle.



Funding for Asset Management Plan 2025 Total Cost: \$704,900

Capital Reserves
\$498,492 | 71%

Category 1 Asset Levy
\$176,035 | 25%

Categories 2 & 3 Asset Levy
\$30,373 | 4%

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Consolidated

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	3,185,300.27	3,585,281.63	399,981.36
Special Benefit Projects	25,000.00	22,000.00	(3,000.00)
Municipal Contributions	44,050.00	44,050.00	-
Municipal Project - RMO	36,000.00	30,000.00	(6,000.00)
Total Municipal Revenue	3,290,350.26	3,681,331.63	390,981.37
MNR Transfer Payment-Flood	97,307.00	97,307.00	-
Other Provincial Sources	197,500.00	247,500.00	50,000.00
Federal Sources	140,000.00	165,000.00	25,000.00
Total Government Grants	434,807.00	509,807.00	75,000.00
Contributions	757,280.00	666,280.00	(91,000.00)
User Fees			
Reforestation	39,000.00	40,000.00	1,000.00
Healthy Waters	20,000.00	18,000.00	(2,000.00)
Conservation Lands	34,300.00	44,500.00	10,200.00
Planning	1,260,500.00	1,367,250.00	106,750.00
Environmental Monitoring	6,000.00	8,000.00	2,000.00
Environmental Education	285,000.00	323,500.00	38,500.00
Tiffin Operations	176,600.00	179,100.00	2,500.00
Conservation Land Leases	33,140.00	34,240.00	1,100.00
GIS & Technical Support	12,500.00	10,000.00	(2,500.00)
Investment Income	100,000.00	100,000.00	-
Total Contributions and User Fees	2,724,320.00	2,790,870.00	66,550.00
Operational Reserves	(4,800.00)	(9,800.00)	(5,000.00)
TOTAL REVENUE	6,444,677.27	6,972,208.63	527,531.36
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	5,094,707.40	5,690,314.17	595,606.77
	5,094,707.40	5,690,314.17	595,606.77
Other Expenses			
Staff Cost	10,600.00	10,400.00	(200.00)
Memberships/Professional Dues	46,850.00	46,850.00	-
Educations and Training	31,500.00	31,500.00	-
Materials & Supplies - General	437,809.87	414,984.46	(22,825.41)
Materials & Supplies - Cost of Trees	110,000.00	65,000.00	(45,000.00)
Vehicles & Large Equipment Costs	45,250.00	45,250.00	-
Office Expenses	14,500.00	14,500.00	-
Equipment Costs	8,500.00	7,500.00	(1,000.00)
Transportation Costs	6,000.00	6,000.00	-
Legal	22,000.00	22,000.00	-
Consultants	136,000.00	136,000.00	-
Insurance	155,800.00	155,800.00	-
Taxes	18,860.00	18,860.00	-
Heat and Hydro	31,000.00	31,000.00	-

**Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Proposed 2025 Budget**

Consolidated

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
Telephones and Internet Access	21,000.00	21,000.00	-
Audit Fees	20,500.00	20,750.00	250.00
Interest and Bank Charges	38,500.00	38,500.00	-
Maintenance Expense	35,200.00	37,900.00	2,700.00
Uniform Expense	6,500.00	6,500.00	-
Leases	12,000.00	12,000.00	-
Advertisement and Communications	21,100.00	19,100.00	(2,000.00)
Bad Debt Expense	500.00	500.00	-
Transfer to Reserves	120,000.00	120,000.00	-
	<u>1,349,969.87</u>	<u>1,281,894.46</u>	<u>(68,075.41)</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>6,444,677.27</u>	<u>6,972,208.63</u>	<u>527,531.36</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(0.00)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0.00</u>



Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

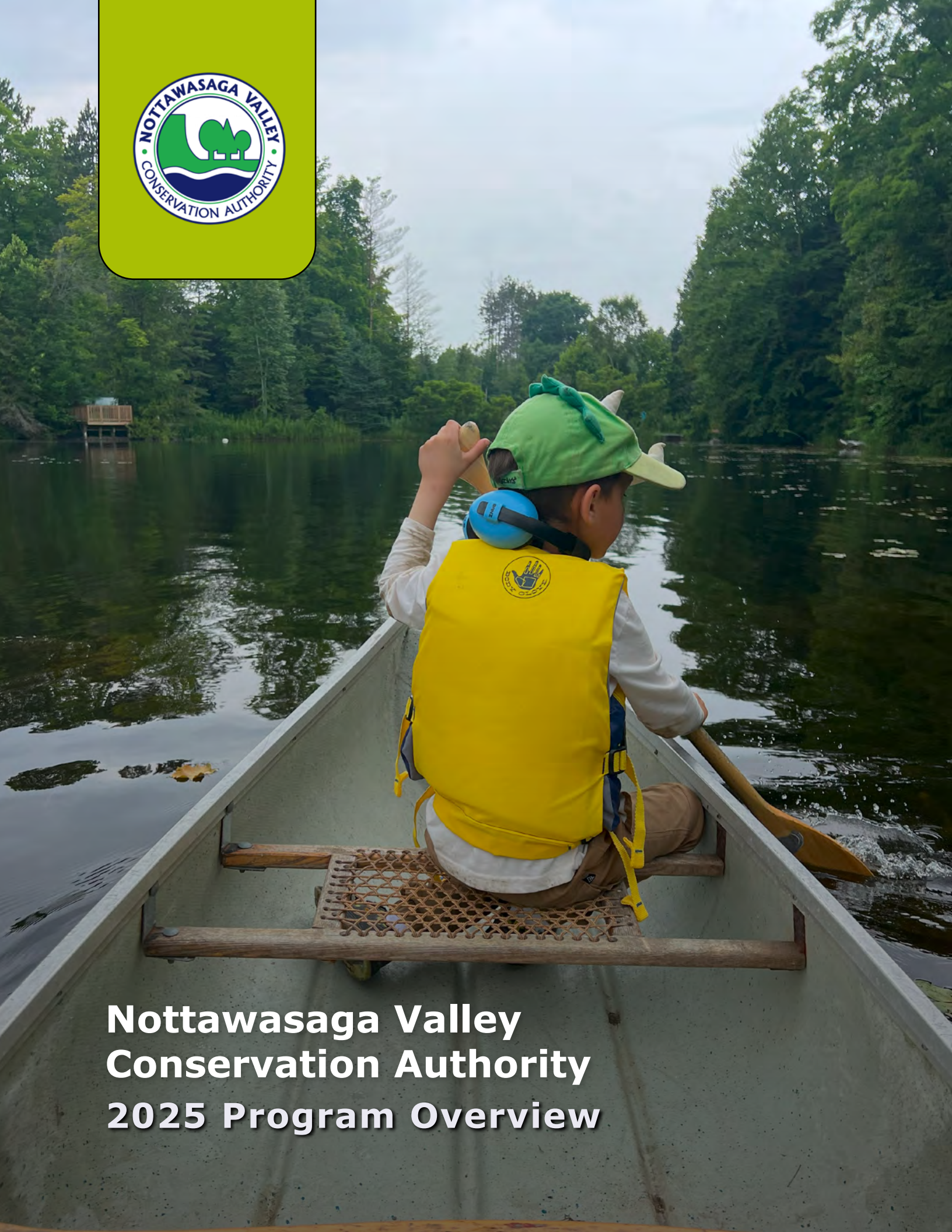
8195 8th Line, Utopia ON L0M 1T0

T: 705-424-1479 • admin@nvca.on.ca



@nottawasagaca





**Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority
2025 Program Overview**

Table of Contents

NVCA Profile	4
FUNDING CONSERVATION	7
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	10
FLOOD MANAGEMENT	12
WATERSHED SCIENCE	14
EDUCATION	18
CONSERVATION LANDS	20
RESTORATION SERVICES	22
CORPORATE SERVICES	26

OUR VISION

A sustainable watershed that is resilient to the effects of climate change, urban growth and other stressors and provides for safe, healthy and prosperous people and communities.

OUR MISSION

Working together to deliver innovative, integrated watershed management that is responsive to the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the Nottawasaga Valley watershed.

WHAT WE VALUE

An abundance of clean water, clean air and fertile soils that provide for healthy people and ecosystems.

Natural heritage systems and the ecosystem services they provide, particularly as they support resilience to the effects of a changing climate.

Distinctive landforms and waterways including the Georgian Bay coastline, Niagara Escarpment, Minesing Wetlands and others that give our watershed a unique sense of place.

Quality recreational opportunities that our hills, forests, meadows, wetlands, waterways and coastline provide for residents and tourists alike.

A wealth of resources within the capacity of our watershed to provide for thriving communities, successful economies and sustainable agriculture, now and in the future.



NVCA PROFILE

2025 represents NVCA's 65th anniversary of providing services to our watershed. Since 1960, we have worked with our municipal partners to provide programs and services that bring to life our vision of a vibrant watershed that supports healthy environments, communities and lifestyles.

Through the Province of Ontario, NVCA's program areas are separated into three categories:

- Category 1: Mandatory programs and services, where municipal levy could be used without any agreement
- Category 2: Municipal programs and services provided at the request of a municipality through an agreement
- Category 3: Other programs and services an authority determines are advisable but are not under Categories 1 and 2. Use of municipal levy requires an agreement with participating municipalities.

NVCA employs approximately 55 full-time, part-time, contract and seasonal staff across numerous professional fields. Our employees uphold our mandate under the seven service areas listed below and detailed in the pages that follow.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Category 1: \$2.24M / 17.5 FTEs
Category 2 & 3: \$0

CONSERVATION LANDS

Category 1: \$435K / 3.75 FTEs
Category 2 & 3: \$238K / 2 FTEs

FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Category 1: \$443K / 3.48 FTEs
Category 2 & 3: \$0 / 0 FTE

RESTORATION SERVICES

Category 1 \$97.4K / 0.58 FTEs
Category 2 & 3 \$1.07M / 4.62 FTEs

Watershed Science

Category 1: \$382K / 3.05 FTE
Category 2 & 3 \$137K / 1.28 FTE

CORPORATE SERVICES

Category 1: \$1.56M / 12.55 FTEs
Category 2 & 3: \$0 / 0 FTE

EDUCATION

Category 1: \$0 / 0 FTE
Category 2 & 3: \$370K / 4.08 FTEs



FUNDING CONSERVATION

Total Funding

NVCA's 2025 budget is \$6,972,208.63, which includes a total levy contribution of \$3,585,282. When combined with fee for service revenues, 51% of NVCA's budget is funded through non-levy sources of funding.

This corresponds to \$17.09 per watershed resident which is in line with the average conservation authority levy across the Province.

Category 1 Funding

NVCA's 2025 budget is \$5,129,673.02, which includes a total levy contribution of \$3,224,466.02. When combined with fee for service revenues, 37% of NVCA's budget is funded through non-levy sources of funding.

Category 1 budget corresponds to \$15.42 per watershed resident.

Category 2 & 3 Funding

NVCA's 2025 budget is \$1,842,535.61, which includes a total levy contribution of \$360,816. When combined with fee for service revenues, only 20% of NVCA's Category 2 & 3 budget is funded through levy. User fees and leverage of levy makes up the remaining 80%. These categories also subsidize Category 1 programs, helping to reduce the levy required.

Category 2 & 3 corresponds to \$1.68 per watershed resident.

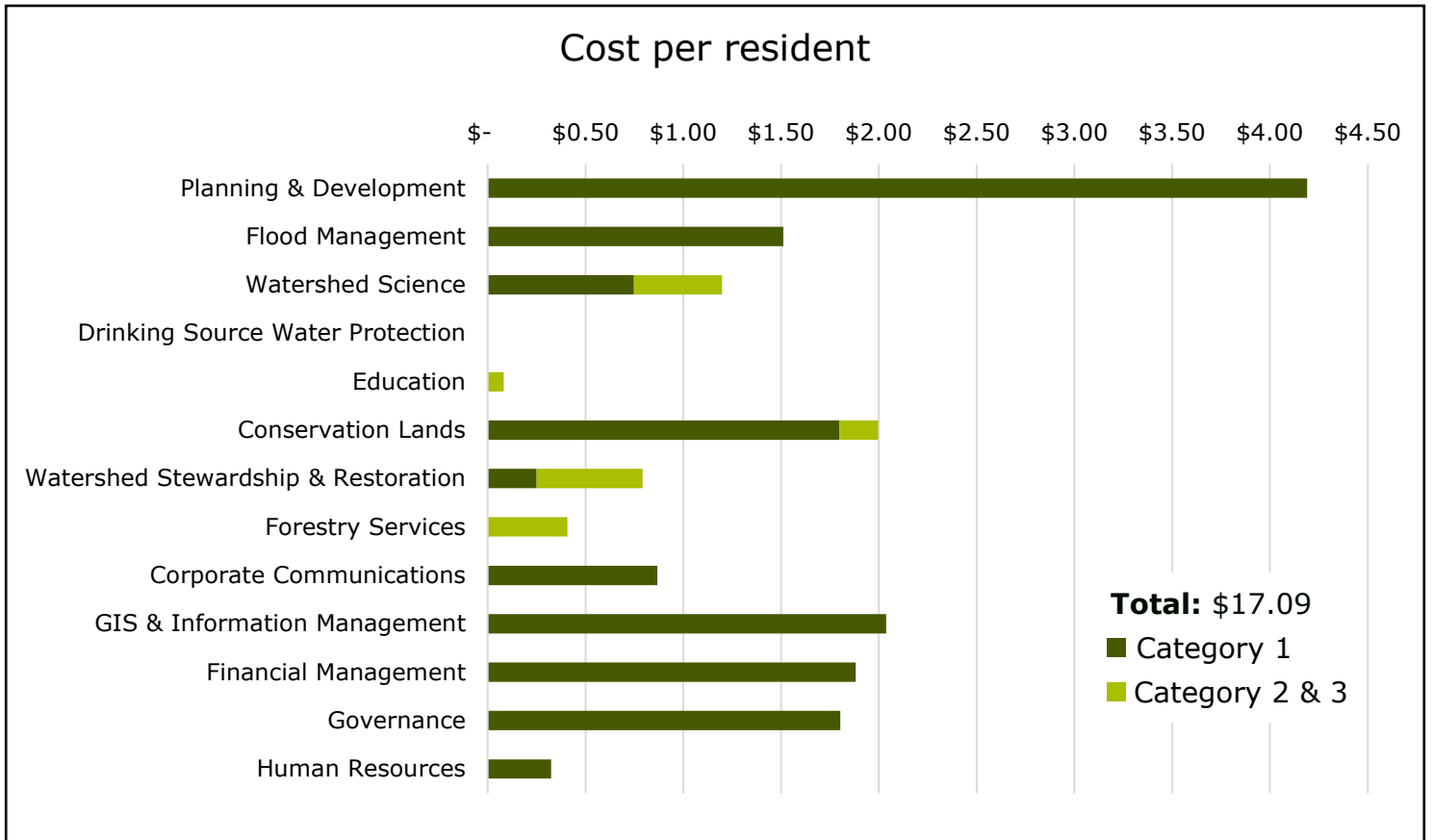
While this builds a strong case for support, it is not enough to improve the health of our watershed, improve water quality, protect from flooding, provide open spaces and trails that are accessible for people to use, and connect and restore forests wetlands and habitats.

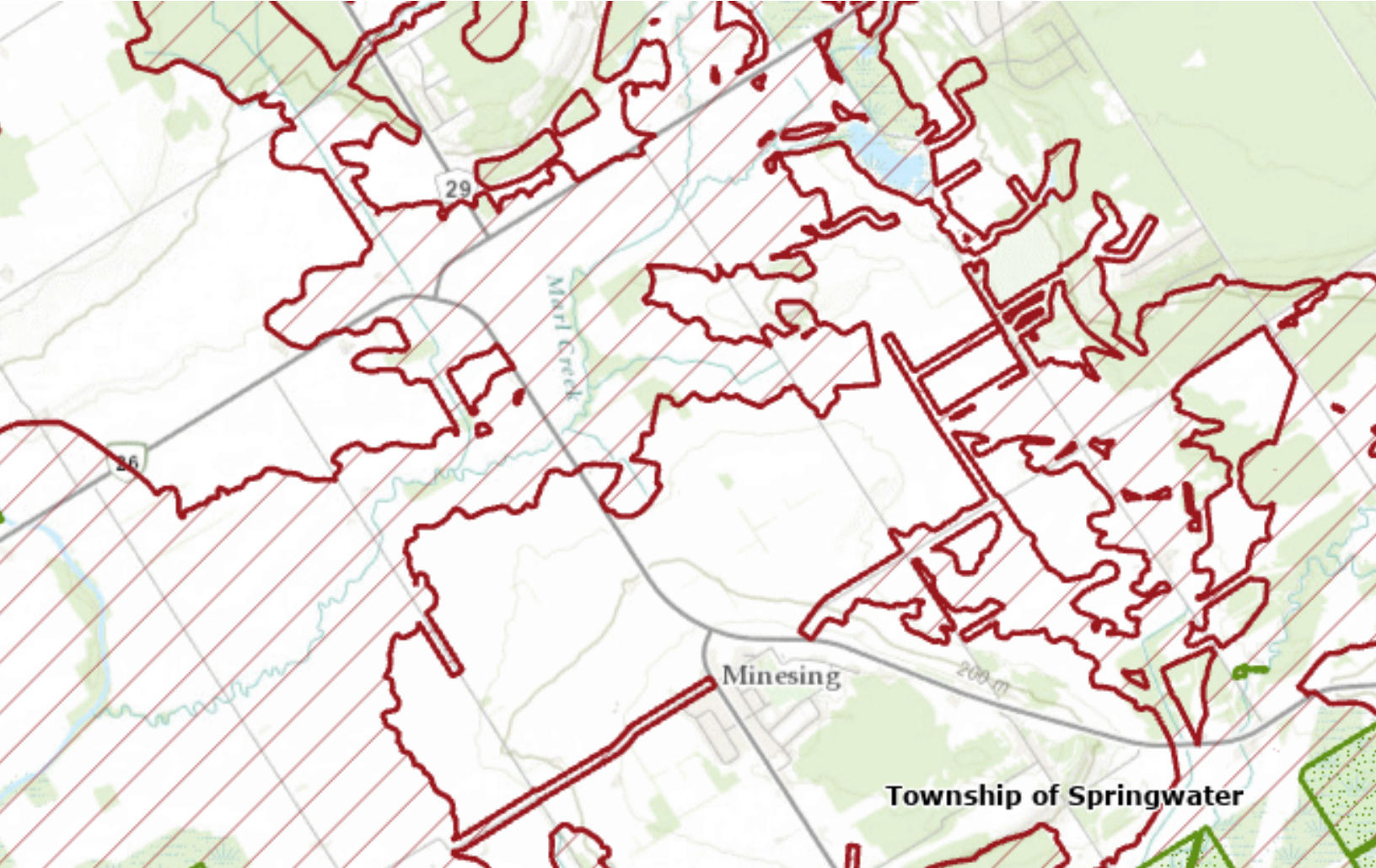
We rely on our partners, funders, landowner and volunteers to help build communities resilient to climate change, and most importantly, attracting and retaining the talent and economic opportunities that this watershed desires.

Sustaining the watershed is not our work alone. It is what we do together with municipalities, our neighbours, universities and colleges, donors, local and regional agencies, and the many other partners we work with. We need to celebrate our successes but we also need to increase the scope, scale and intensity of our joint efforts to create a place we can be proud of and celebrate – one we can call home. For life.



Program Name	Cost/ Resident
Planning & Development	\$4.19
Flood Management	\$1.51
Watershed Monitoring - Category 1	\$0.75
Watershed Monitoring - Category 2 & 3	\$0.45
Drinking Source Water Protection	\$-
Education	\$0.08
Conservation Lands - Category 1	\$1.80
Conservation Lands - Category 2 & 3	\$0.20
Watershed Stewardship & Restoration - Category 1	\$0.25
Watershed Stewardship & Restoration - Category 2 & 3	\$0.54
Forestry Services	\$0.41
Corporate Communications	\$0.87
GIS & Information Management	\$2.04
Financial Management	\$1.88
Governance	\$1.80
Human Resources	\$0.32



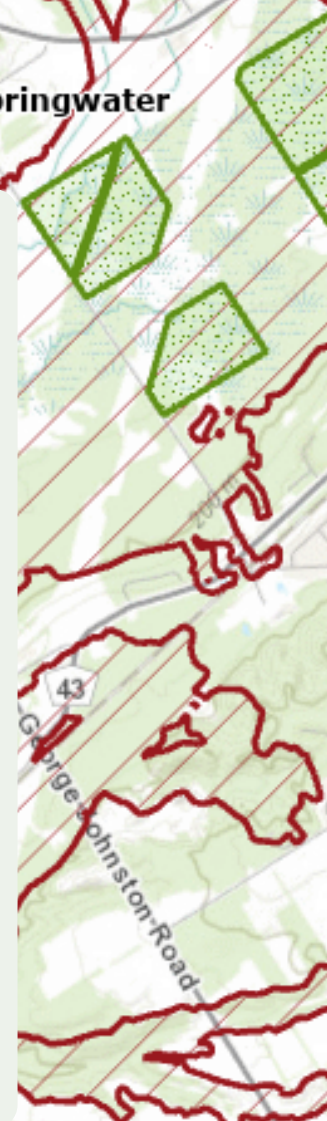


PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Category 1: \$2.24M / 17.5 FTEs

Category 2 & 3: \$0 / 0 FTE

Planning Services, which includes engineering, permitting and enforcement, ensures that development in the watershed progresses in a sustainable manner that will direct development away from natural hazard lands and protect our water resources. NVCA promotes a planning first principle which ensures that planning permissions are in place prior to considering approvals under the Conservation Authorities Act.



2024 Achievements

- Continued to process applications and inquiries under various provincial acts including the Conservation Authorities Act, Planning Act, Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, Aggregate Resource Act, Drainage Act and Environmental Assessment Act.
- Continued to look for opportunities to stream line the application review process.
- Updated Planning and Regulation Guidelines and policy documents to reflect new provincial legislation.
- Worked with the Information Management and Engineering teams to update regulation mapping for the NVCA watershed.
- Began updating planning agreements with member municipalities to ensure the agreement reflect new legislation.
- Worked with the Information Management team to develop a e-permitting platform to allow applicants to make digital permit submissions.
- Mid-year reporting indicated that regulations staff met provincial timelines 92% of the time.

2025 Focus

- Continue to work with municipalities and other partners to streamline the application review process, and ensure timely approvals for development applications.
- Continue to develop a data management strategy, improve internal systems and look for opportunities to continue to automate processes.
- Promote storm water management and Low Impact Development in municipal plans.
- Continue to operate on a cost recovery basis.
- Promote sustainable development and other associated land use changes in the Nottawasaga Watershed.
- Review and investigate the increase of unauthorized fill in NVCA's regulated areas.

Service Pressures

- Program operates on a cost recovery basis.
- Fees increases to recover costs according to Watson Report can only be implemented once the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) lifts the freeze on planning and Regulation fees.
- Increasing growth, development and associated land use changes in the Nottawasaga Watershed.
- Increase in unauthorized fill violations.
- Understand and implement the amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act regarding permit processes and how that will impact service delivery.



FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Category 1: \$443K / 3.48 FTEs

Category 2 & 3: \$0 / 0 FTE

The goals of the Flood Management Program are to reduce the risk to people, property and infrastructure, minimize social disruption due to hazards related to flooding and erosion and to encourage the use of natural flood management practices. This is a delegated responsibility from the Province of Ontario. NVCA also helps maintain the federal-provincial surface water monitoring network.

2024 Achievements

- Monitored flood and low water conditions.
- Updated NVCA's Flood Contingency Plan and updated online website version.
- Inspected and operated flood and erosion control structures.
- Monitored ice conditions throughout the watershed.
- Ongoing maintenance and improvements to NVCA stream and weather gauges to improve data quality and reliability.
- Completed vegetation removal along the embankments of the Pretty River Dike and removed select trees identified for priority removal in the overall tree inventory for the dike.
- Resumed the NVCA Stormwater Management Technical Work Group by hosting one new meeting.
- Continued to maintain the City of Barrie's rain gauge network.
- Conducted Phase 1 of the Pretty River Dike safety study.
- Developed an Ice Management Plan for the Nottawasaga Watershed.
- Developed a Natural Hazard Infrastructure Operational Management Plan for the Nottawasaga Watershed.
- Enhanced data management for flood data including snow survey field work.
- Successfully acquired Provincial WECI funding for New Lowell Dam to begin addressing recommendations from the 2023 dam safety study.
- Updated the Asset Management Plan to reflect priority requirements in 2025 for NVCA's flood and erosion control structures.
- Completed the Upper Mad River Flood Hazard Update Study.

2025 Focus

- Update the watershed hydrology and initiate transfer of flow regime to NVCA's flood hazard models.
- Apply for Federal/Provincial FHIMP funding to continue to gradually update the hydraulic models for key/priority subwatersheds.
- Apply for Provincial 2025-2026 WECI funding to continue to implement recommendations from flood structure safety studies.
- Continue the Pretty River Dike maintenance project (pending funding).
- Conduct Phase 2 of the Pretty River Dike safety study.
- Continue to enhance data management for flood data, including developing an internal Standard Operating Procedure.
- Update NVCA's Low Water Response Contingency Plan.
- Update NVCA's Flood Patrol/River Survey manual, Flood Patrol implementation, and Flood Patrol kit supplies.
- Continue to maintain the City of Barrie's rain gauge network.
- Ongoing maintenance, improvements and state-of-repair replacements to NVCA stream and weather gauges.

Service Pressures

- Increased pressure on staff and resources to respond to flood events.
- Reduced resources due to provincial funding cuts.
- Time and training requirements to build new hydrologic and hydraulic models and analyze large volumes of data.



WATERSHED SCIENCE

Category 1: \$382K / 3.05 FTE

Category 2 & 3: \$137K / 1.28 FTEs

The goal of the Watershed Science Program is to manage water and ecological monitoring and to ensure that the organization has adequate and accurate scientific information to support both internal and external partners.

This program also works to reduce the risks associated with drinking water to ensure that there is safe, clean and adequate supply of water.

Drinking Water Source Protection

Category 1: \$225K / 1.3 FTE

Category 2 & 3: \$30K / 0 FTE

The Source Water Protection Program ensures a sustainable and safe source of clean drinking water to residents within the South Georgian Bay-Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region. NVCA does this by meeting our legislative requirements within the Clean Water Act and ensuring policies in the Source Protection Plan are implemented. This program also includes Risk Management Official duties as prescribed by agreements with several of our municipalities.

2024 Achievement

- Signed a three-year Source Water Protection delivery agreement with the province through 2026-27.
- Ongoing work to complete of Risk Management Plans for the ten delegated municipalities. The Town of Collingwood has prescribed its RMO duties to NVCA.
- Review planning applications under Section 59 of the Clean Water Act to ensure compliance with the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan.
- Complete amendments to the Source Protection Plan to include new drinking water systems, as required by Regulation 205/18 of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Completed efforts to make the Nottawasaga Valley Source Protection Area Assessment Report compliant to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and updated based on Director Technical rules.

2025 Focus

- Complete the outstanding Risk Management Plans for the ten delegated municipalities.
- Review planning applications under Section 59 of the Clean Water Act to ensure compliance with the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan.
- Complete amendments to the source protection plan to include new drinking water systems, as required by Regulation 205/18 of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Service Pressures

- This source water protection program (not including Risk Management) has always been fully funded by the Province but there is uncertainty about continued funding in the long term.

Watershed Monitoring

Category 1: \$157K / 1.75 FTE

Category 2 & 3: \$107K / 1.28 FTEs

The Watershed Monitoring Program monitors the natural resources in the Nottawasaga River watershed including the status of surface water, groundwater, natural heritage and climate. These programs aim to identify emerging issues and document environmental trends to support science-based adaptive management. A growing focus of Watershed Monitoring is supporting our municipal partners with the inspection and monitoring of stormwater management facilities.

2024 Achievements

- Onboarded new program manager, full time monitoring and part time ecology staff.
- Continued to monitor the state of the Nottawasaga River watershed.
- Continued to update and refine regulatory wetland inventories.
- Conducted natural heritage inventories of Petun and Minesing conservation areas in support of land management planning
- Conducted performance monitoring of Ecological Net Gains policy projects.
- Implemented the Watershed Monitoring Strategy – surface water discipline.
- Completed the Watershed Monitoring Strategy – climate discipline.
- Completed externally funded projects with the Town of Collingwood (stream health), Town of Shelburne (wastewater treatment plant stream health) and Township of Oro-Medonte (stormwater management).
- Began implementing the NVCA Climate Change Strategy through a review of internal programs and development of a monitoring approach.

2025 focus

- Integrate the Watershed Monitoring Strategy – climate discipline recommendations into the monitoring program.
- Develop the Watershed Monitoring Strategy – natural heritage and groundwater disciplines.
- Develop a watershed-scale natural heritage system.
- Expand stormwater technical service delivery to support municipal partners.
- Conduct externally funded projects with the Town of Collingwood (stream health & wetland hydroperiod) and Town of Shelburne (wastewater treatment plant stream health).
- Continue to monitor the Nottawasaga River watershed.
- Continue to update wetland inventories.
- Conduct natural heritage inventories of Nottawasaga Bluffs conservation area in support of land management planning.

Service Pressures

- There are challenges around the predictability and certainty of project-specific funding agreements with municipalities, the province and other partners.





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Category 1: \$0 / 0 FTE

Category 2 & 3: \$370K / 4.08 FTEs

The Environmental Education program focuses on connecting watershed residents with the natural world for the mutual benefit of public health, conservation, and our member municipalities. Citizens that use green spaces close to home and are aware of ecosystem benefits will champion green changes, help reduce pollution, support conservative efforts and protect nature for our shared future.

2024 Achievements

- Delivered programming to almost all 18 municipalities in the watershed, including some of the far reaches in Township of Mulmur, Township of Melancthon and Township of Oro-Medonte.
- Worked with 11,000 + individuals from 2.5 to 90 years old by September 2024.
- Partnered with Simcoe County District School Board for the new grade 5 Indigenous Education program, seeing 900 students.
- Day camp opportunities expanded from 60 campers a week to 80, as well as offering all PD Days. Further, we saw 490 external visiting campers.
- Workshops sponsored by Georgian Bay Forever for microplastics and Enviroscape lessons were reinstated in June of 2024 seeing 201 students across four events.
- Launched several iterations of our new climate change programming, and pursued funding to enhance and expand these opportunities.
- Filed our Notice of Intention to be an uninspected private school. To necessitate the operation of the Tiffin Nature School, offerings have been expanded to include children between the ages of 2.5 – 10.
- Hired more French educators and began developing program resources in French and secured free French tutoring for Tiffin Educators.

2025 Focus

- Reaching all 18-member municipalities with at least 1 educational opportunity each.
- Fully launch forest school program with 2nd Forest School Practitioner Course completed.
- Expand and market French programming.
- Expand day camp programming.

Service Pressures

- Geographic expanse of watershed service area has resource implications.
- Sharing the educational building with other departments limits current service capacity.
- Most positions are casual or part-time, in part, due to the nature of the program, resulting in higher-than-normal staff turnover.
- Program fees must stay competitive, resulting in inadequate funding for competitive wages.



CONSERVATION LANDS

Category 1: \$435K / 3.75 FTEs

Category 2 & 3: \$238K / 2 FTEs

Conservation Lands ensures that valuable greenspace is protected and that recreational opportunities are provided in safe, well maintained natural settings so that watershed residents can enjoy a high quality of life. NVCA manages 5,260 hectares of conservation land, including the internationally significant Minesing Wetlands.

2024 Achievements

- Improved infrastructure at multiple conservation areas including Tiffin, Fort Willow, Edenvale and Utopia.
- Ensured continued safe access to NVCA conservation areas.
- Provided interdepartmental support for NVCA programs, including Forestry, Stewardship, Education, Regulations and Flood.
- Collaborated with community partners to hold two successful public outreach events.
- Completed exterior repairs on the Utopia Grist Mill.
- Implemented upgrades at Edenvale Conservation Area based on the 2023 hazard assessment. This included hazard tree removals, road improvements and decommissioning the pavilion.
- Installed a boardwalk at the canoe coral in partnership with the Rotary Club of Barrie.
- Installed the initial phase of a self-guided, interactive tour at Fort Willow Conservation Area in partnership with Tourism Simcoe County.
- Continued hazard tree removals resulting from Emerald Ash Borer infestation and major weather events.
- Hosted multiple charity fundraising events at Tiffin and Fort Willow, establishing new community partnerships.
- Assisted in the development of the NVCA's Watershed-based Resource Management Plan.
- Development of the Conservation Areas Strategy and Conservation Lands Inventory.

2025 Focus

- Increase focus on external fundraising through public engagement opportunities.
- Project planning for external funding opportunities.
- Improvements to infrastructure at multiple conservation areas including bridges and boardwalks at Tiffin, extension of the canoe coral boardwalk and trail enhancements at Utopia and Petun Conservation Areas.
- Complete second and final stage of Fort Willow interactive, self-guided tour.
- Continue to maintain a positive experience for members of the public visiting our conservation areas.

Service Pressures

- Balance infrastructure development in NVCA's properties with conservation values.
- Proximity to large urban centers increases guest expectations on facilities in conservation areas. Combined with increased population density within the watershed, NVCA faces increasing land management challenges and higher maintenance needs.
- Inflationary costs on all expenditures including materials, supplies, fleet maintenance and purchases.
- Changing climate resulting in noticeable impacts on infrastructure and recreational opportunities.
- Balance land management needs with interdepartmental support.
- Aging infrastructure and additional new infrastructure creating increased maintenance needs.



RESTORATION SERVICES

Category 1: \$97.4K / 0.58 FTEs

Category 2: & 3 \$1.07M / 4.62 FTEs

The goal of NVCA's Restoration Services Programs is to manage natural heritage systems in the watershed by identifying and implementing restoration programs.

Forestry Services

Category 1 \$0 / 0 FTEs

Category 2 & 3 \$389K / 1.23 FTEs

The Forestry Services Program contributes to watershed and community health by implementing best forest management practices, including managing forested land and expanding forest cover. Well managed forests protect, enhance and restore land by helping to achieve water quality targets mitigate floods and build resilience to climate change. NVCA is now the only agency providing this service to watershed residents.

2024 Achievements

- Planted 74,800 trees on 24 properties across the watershed, creating 38 hectares of new forest including 1 km of windbreaks, and protected 3 km of streams with permanent tree cover.
- Received financial contributions (outside of levy) from Federal, Provincial and municipal governments, Simcoe County, Forests Ontario, corporations and private landowners totaling \$266,562.18.
- Managed over 578 hectares of forest.
- Worked with 36 landowners to develop their Managed Forest Plans.

2025 Focus

- Plant approximately 70,000 trees on properties throughout the watershed.
- Create more than 45 hectares of new forest including 1 km of windbreaks, and protect 1 km of streams with permanent tree cover.
- Assist landowners in managing over 300 hectares of forest to maintain forest health.
- Hold the 34th Annual Arbor Day Tree Sale, helping landowners to create their own forests.
- Begin securing agreements for the 2026 tree planting. Continue to diversify possible sources of funding.

Service Pressures

- Rapid urbanization and competing land use interests impact available land for tree planting.
- Accelerating ash tree mortality due to the expansion of the Emerald Ash Borer will greatly impact both rural and urban forest cover throughout the watershed.
- Arrival and spread of new invasive species such as Oak Wilt, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, and 1000 Cankers disease will further reduce forest cover and forest diversity.
- Accelerating costs for tree planting are not being met by equal financial resources (grants) which create barriers for landowner participation and reduce numbers of trees planted.

Watershed Stewardship and Restoration

Category 1: \$97.4K / 0.58 FTEs

Category 2 & 3: \$680K / 3.40 FTEs

The Watershed Stewardship and Restoration Program aims to restore river and wetland habitats and support agricultural and urban water quality improvement projects. This enhances the ecological health of the watershed and provides enhanced economic and recreational opportunities.

2024 Achievements

- Coordinated volunteer tree planting of approximately 8,000 seedlings and seeded native grasslands in the Nottawasaga Watershed.
- Implemented a wide range of water quality and habitat improvement projects by working with external partners, private landowners and volunteers.
- Controlled and harvested Phragmites along the Georgian Bay Shoreline in the Town of Collingwood and the Town of Wasaga Beach.
- Completed a larval sturgeon assessment project in the Township of Essa with Saugeen Ojibway Nation and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- Worked with the South Simcoe Streams Network to complete 300 m of stream bank stabilization and aquatic habitat restoration on Sheldon Creek in the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio.
- Completed a river bank stabilization and habitat improvement project on the Mad River at Carruthers Park, working with the Friends of the Mad River and Township of Clearview.
- Worked with the Midhurst Landowners group and Napoleon to complete a bank stabilization project on Willow Creek in the Township of Oro-Medonte.

2025 Focus

- Continue to implement a wide range of volunteer tree planting, water quality enhancement and habitat improvement projects throughout the watershed by engaging external partners, private landowners and volunteers.
- Expand river restoration programs in the watershed using the momentum generated through implementing of 2024 projects and emerging indigenous partnerships.
- Expand habitat restoration work on the Mad River
- Develop plans and implement wetland habitat compensation projects.
- Collaborate with municipalities and community groups in the Town of Collingwood and Town of Wasaga Beach to remove Phragmites.
- Continue to partner with the Midhurst Landowners Group to implement phosphorus offsetting work in the Willow Creek sub-watershed.

Service Pressures

- Accessing funding for project costs, permanent staff and contract staff. This program generates approximately 85% of its budget through external revenue sources. Levy support is key to leveraging these external funds, including supporting billable staff hours that provide matching funds to support grant applications.
- Balancing the needs of field work, developing and submitting funding applications, reporting to funders and expanding partnerships. The deadline for several grant applications is now in September when stewardship staff are still working in the field wrapping up large-scale river restoration projects.





Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Working together to lead, promote, support and inspire innovative watershed management

Flood & Watershed Monitoring

Stewardship & Forestry



Programs & Services

Healthy Waters

Grants and Technical Advice for your



Barn eaves & berms to divert clean water from manure sources

Large-scale tree planting & Managed Forest Plans

Manure storage improvements

Well decommissioning

Information & designs for pollinator gardens, fence rows & bird, fish & turtle habitats

Program

Stewardship Projects



Fencing to keep livestock out of waterways & alternate watering

Stream ponds: fishways, dam bottom draws & stream by-pass channels

Creating & enhancing wetlands, stream buffers, & special habitats

Erosion control measures

Nutrient management plans & manure strategies

Tile drain control boxes: reduce run-off & increase yield

Your parking fees at work

Volunteer



Volunteer to Restore the Nottawasaga River!

Help improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in the Nottawasaga Watershed! Families and high school volunteers welcome!

SCAN HERE



CORPORATE SERVICES

Category 1: \$1.56M / 12.55 FTEs

Category 2 & 3: \$0

Corporate Services plays a critical supportive role to the Board of Directors and across the organization, providing finance, human resources, communications and administrative leadership. This department is an enabling service, supporting the other six service areas in the organization.

Corporate Communications

Category 1: \$181K / 2 FTEs

Category 2 & 3: \$0

Corporate Communications provides strategic advice and communications services to other NVCA department, as well as inspire, influence and motivate municipal, provincial, federal partners and watershed residents communities to support the work of NVCA.

2024 Achievements

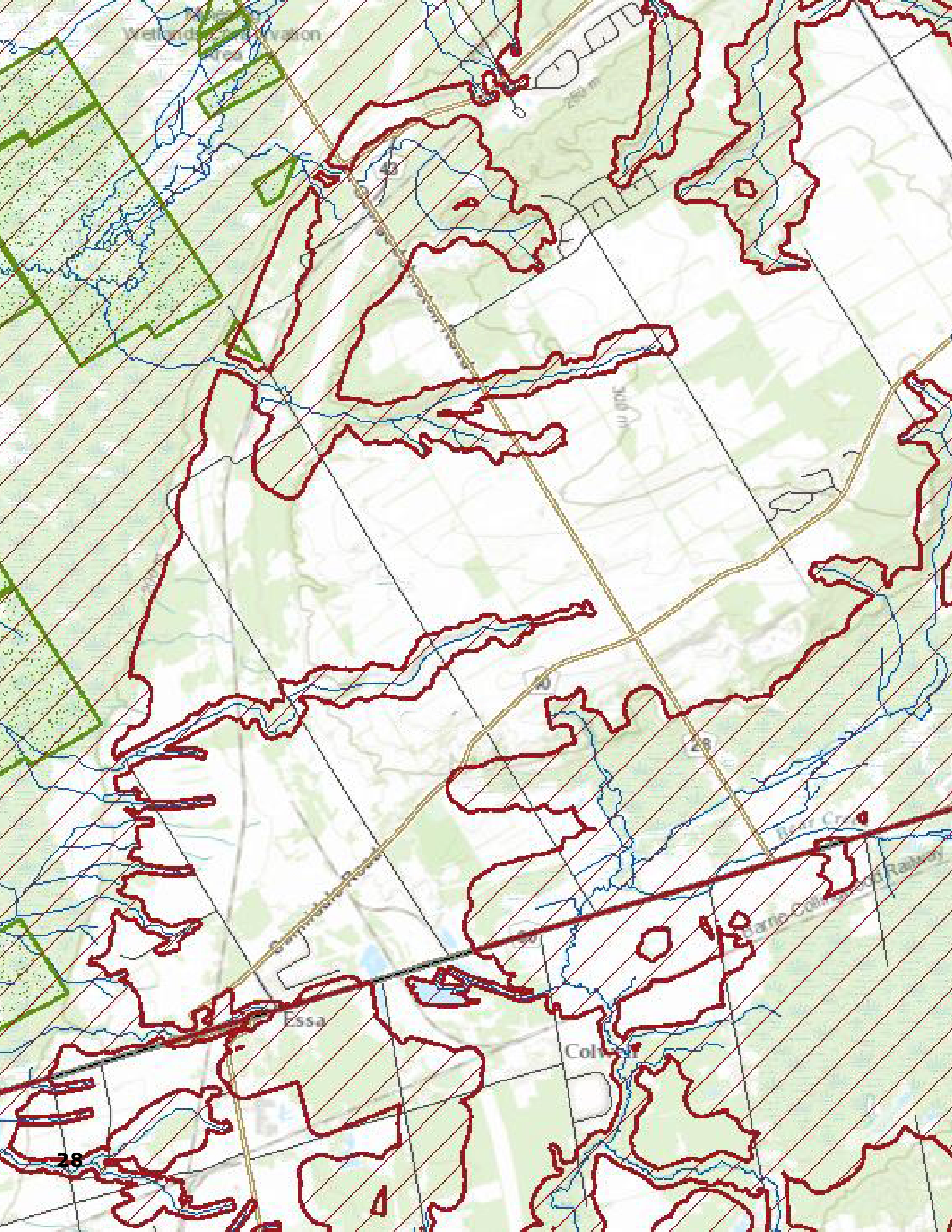
- Continued to create a corporate communications and engagement plan to increase visibility and understanding of NVCA throughout the Nottawasaga Watershed.
- Support the creation of the Resource Based Watershed Management Strategy.
- Coordinated public consultations for the Resource Based Watershed Management Strategy, Conservation Areas Strategy and other program areas as necessary.
- Coordinated a wetland grant announcement with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.
- Updated NVCA's website design and content, including creating online registration forms.
- Setup vendor booths in seven community events in the Nottawasaga Watershed
- Improved social media presence through increased online engagement.
- Increased newsletter subscription numbers.
- Expanded video and photo library, designed graphics, brochures, reports and other materials to help promote programs.

2025 Focus

- Complete corporate communications and engagement plan to increase visibility and understanding of NVCA throughout the watershed.
- Continue to vendor booths in communities in the Nottawasaga Watershed
- Continue to grow social media engagement and outreach.
- Continue to ensure AODA compliance with provincial standards.
- Improve NVCA's visibility throughout the watershed.

Service Pressures

- Effectively reaching audiences in a watershed with changing population while keeping in mind the geographic, demographic and socio-economic span and diversity of the watershed.
- Rapid changes to how watershed residents consume information.
- Resources to be more visible in the watershed.



Information Services & Technology

Category 1: \$426K / 3.75 FTEs

Category 2 & 3: \$0

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Information Management is responsible for providing data integrity while managing a secure, reliable, and integrated information technology environment that aligns our business and strategic goals.

2024 Achievements

- Continued to develop a Watershed Science data management platform that provides viewing, uploading and querying capabilities linked to the GIS system.
- Maintained and updated core datasets.
- Developed software allowing workflow efficiencies for the planning application process.
- Continued to carry out IT Infrastructure replacement strategy including new servers and back-up hardware.
- Updated and implement data for Regulation mapping and planning department
- Introduced new GIS platform.

2025 Focus

- Digital data migration to new server and file structure.
- Core data management and GIS modelling support.
- Continued development of applications supporting NVCA operations.
- Replace IT infrastructure as per the Asset Management Strategy.
- Network security and WiFi infrastructure.
- GIS Tools and online applications development.

Service Pressures

- Systems security is a constant threat that must be balanced with the costs to keep the network running smoothly and safely.
- Maintaining larger and more complex data holdings as the need for program support and analysis continues to increase. There has been a significant increase in provincial, municipal, and public expectations for information, data analysis tools and predictive modeling.
- As technology advances so does the need to bring the organization forward with innovative solutions.

Financial Management

Category 1: \$394K / 4.28 FTEs

Category 2 & 3: \$0

Financial Management is responsible for all of our day-to-day financial operations, such as payroll and accounts payable/receivable. Other areas include budgeting, procurement, risk management, legal, quarterly and annual financial reporting, records management, reception, and freedom of information requests/reporting.

2024 Achievements

- Processed Freedom of Information requests.
- Continued the paperless initiative to reduce our environmental impact.
- Produced clean 2023 Audit.
- Monitored the effectiveness of new budget template to ensure accurate amendments were made for the 2025 draft budget.

2025 Focus

- Monitor for any potential changes to PSAB accounting rules and address accordingly.
- Ensure clean 2024 audit.

Service Pressures

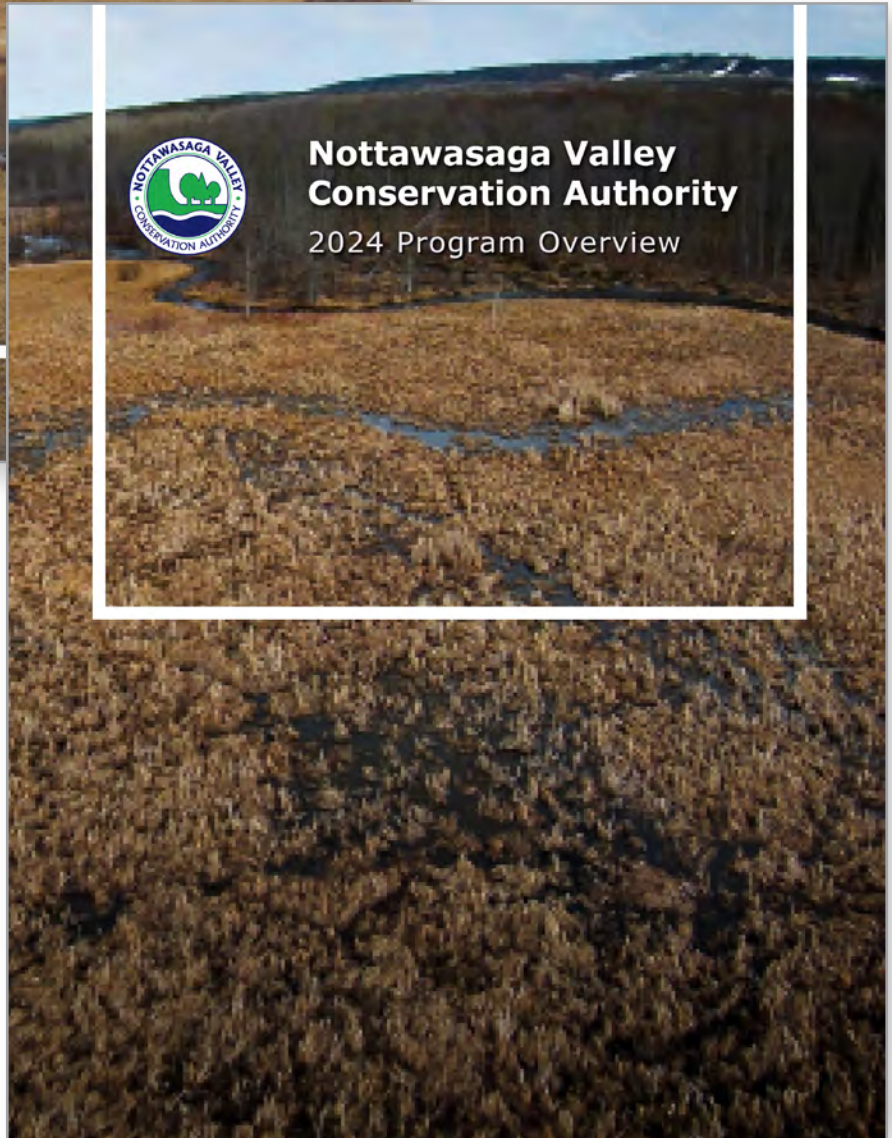
- Budget pressures to minimize levy requirements from member municipalities while still achieving integrated watershed management plan activities.
- Financial management requires continued compliance with changing external legislation for reporting, payroll and tax.



**NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**
2024 BUDGET



**Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority**
2024 Program Overview





Human Resources

Category 1: \$68K / 0.43 FTEs

Category 2 & 3: \$0

Responsible for the effective management of people in the organization through the provision of services such as staff recruitment, health and safety, diversity, inclusion and accessibility, employee learning and development, benefit and insurance administration and performance management.

2024 Achievements

- Followed human resources management best practices through connections with other conservation authorities and municipalities.
- Updated or created employment policies as required.
- Completed recruitment as required.

2025 Focus

- Respond to unknown and emerging recruitment needs and challenges.
- Review and update employment policies.

Service Pressures

- Finding talent to replace positions in current labour market.
- Continuing to respond to matters resulting from the Provincial government's amendments to Conservation Authorities Act and subsequent regulations.



Governance

Category 1: \$356K / 2.1 FTEs

Category 2 & 3: \$0

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) provides expert knowledge, strategic advice and recommendations to the Board of Directors with regard to policy, program and budget decisions. The CAO also provides operational leadership to staff, guiding and influencing processes, decisions and implementation, with the goal of advancing NVCA's mission.

The Governance Team supports Board Member decision making and leadership by promoting and facilitating the participation of municipal members on the Board of Directors. NVCA staff provide timely professional support, information and recommendations, through meetings with members of the Board, who guide NVCA into the future.

2024 Achievements

- Efficiently and effectively managed water resources in the Nottawasaga Watershed for current and future generations through essential and integrated programs.
- Ensured the NVCA Board of Directors acts in the long-term best interests of NVCA by providing an overarching perspective in managing strategic, structural, cultural, economic and technological changes while ensuring that new initiatives are well aligned with NVCA's portfolio and abilities.
- Built new partnerships and new business models while continuing to develop relationships with existing partners such as businesses, watershed stakeholders.
- Reviewed necessary Memorandums of Understanding with member municipalities related to Provincial legislation.

2025 Focus

- Continue to cultivate partnerships with the private sector, watershed municipalities, ENGOs and provincial and federal governments to ensure NVCA continues to implement programs and services.
- Continue to lead and advocate for innovative approaches and projects to support the Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

Service Pressures

- Regulatory and mandated changes to conservation authority programs and services.



Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

8195 8th Line, Utopia ON L0M 1T0

T: 705-424-1479 • F: 705-424-2115



@nottawasagaca

Member of



**Conservation
ONTARIO**

**Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Proposed 2025 Budget**

Division

110 Reforestation - Category 2 & 3

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	78,678.99	85,113.19	6,434.20
Municipal Grants	14,250.00	14,250.00	-
Contributions	295,000.00	245,000.00	(50,000.00)
Federal Sources	-	5,000.00	5,000.00
User Fees	39,000.00	40,000.00	1,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	426,928.99	389,363.19	(37,565.80)
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	145,346.92	152,466.86	7,119.94
	145,346.92	152,466.86	7,119.94
Other Interprogram Charges			
Cost Recovery	38,932.07	39,246.33	314.26
	38,932.07	39,246.33	314.26
Other Expenses			
Staff Cost	300.00	300.00	-
Memberships/Professional Dues	750.00	750.00	-
Materials & Supplies - General	6,000.00	6,000.00	-
Materials & Supplies - Cost of Trees	110,000.00	65,000.00	(45,000.00)
Equipment Costs	500.00	500.00	-
Consultants	125,000.00	125,000.00	-
Uniform Expense	100.00	100.00	-
	242,650.00	197,650.00	(45,000.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	426,928.99	389,363.19	(37,565.80)
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-	-

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Division

120 Stewardship Services - Category 1

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	78,888.77	52,463.80	(26,424.97)
Municipal Grants	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
Contributions	40,000.00	30,000.00	(10,000.00)
Federal Sources	15,000.00	10,000.00	(5,000.00)
User Fees	5,000.00	3,000.00	(2,000.00)
TOTAL REVENUE	140,888.77	97,463.80	(43,424.97)
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	92,677.49	61,381.60	(31,295.89)
	92,677.49	61,381.60	(31,295.89)
Other Interprogram Charges			
Cost Recovery	27,661.28	24,532.20	(3,129.08)
	27,661.28	24,532.20	(3,129.08)
Other Expenses			
Staff Cost	800.00	800.00	-
Materials & Supplies - General	18,000.00	9,000.00	(9,000.00)
Uniform Expense	150.00	150.00	-
Advertisement and Communications	1,600.00	1,600.00	-
	20,550.00	11,550.00	(9,000.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	140,888.77	97,463.80	(43,424.97)
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-	-

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Division

121 Stewardship Services - Category 2 & 3

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	81,766.20	123,167.44	41,401.24
Provincial Grants	-	20,000.00	20,000.00
Municipal Grants	18,000.00	15,000.00	(3,000.00)
Contributions	410,000.00	367,000.00	(43,000.00)
Federal Sources	115,000.00	140,000.00	25,000.00
User Fees	15,000.00	15,000.00	-
TOTAL REVENUE	639,766.20	680,167.44	40,401.24
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	309,624.15	358,997.55	49,373.40
	309,624.15	358,997.55	49,373.40
Other Interprogram Charges			
Cost Recovery	30,692.05	31,719.89	1,027.84
	30,692.05	31,719.89	1,027.84
Other Expenses			
Materials & Supplies - General	299,450.00	289,450.00	(10,000.00)
	299,450.00	289,450.00	(10,000.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	639,766.20	680,167.44	40,401.24
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-	-

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Division

150 Conservation Lands - Category 1

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	184,328.24	194,375.63	10,047.39
Provincial Grants	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
Contributions	2,150.00	2,150.00	-
User Fees	34,300.00	44,500.00	10,200.00
Use of Reserves	6,500.00	-	(6,500.00)
TOTAL REVENUE	229,278.24	243,025.63	13,747.39
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	131,623.76	151,263.75	19,639.99
	131,623.76	151,263.75	19,639.99
Other Interprogram Charges			
Cost Recovery	52,474.48	54,781.88	2,307.40
	52,474.48	54,781.88	2,307.40
Other Expenses			
Staff Cost	400.00	200.00	(200.00)
Materials & Supplies - General	10,500.00	9,000.00	(1,500.00)
Legal	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
Insurance	12,800.00	12,800.00	-
Taxes	16,060.00	16,060.00	-
Interest and Bank Charges	3,500.00	3,500.00	-
Maintenance Expenses	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
Advertisement and Communications	2,000.00	500.00	(1,500.00)
Capital Asset Purchases	5,000.00	-	(5,000.00)
	52,760.00	44,560.00	(8,200.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	236,858.24	250,605.63	13,747.39
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(7,580.00)	(7,580.00)	0.00

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Division

151 Conservation Lands - Category 2 & 3

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	12,063.50	26,702.80	14,639.30
Provincial Grants	500.00	500.00	-
Contributions	2,130.00	2,130.00	-
User Fees	33,140.00	34,240.00	1,100.00
Use of Reserves	(9,800.00)	(9,800.00)	-
TOTAL REVENUE	38,033.50	53,772.80	15,739.30
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	26,732.80	41,255.55	14,522.75
	26,732.80	41,255.55	14,522.75
Other Interprogram Charges			
Cost Recovery	2,520.70	3,737.25	1,216.55
	2,520.70	3,737.25	1,216.55
Other Expenses			
Materials & Supplies - General	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
Hydo	200.00	200.00	-
	1,200.00	1,200.00	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	30,453.50	46,192.80	15,739.30
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	7,580.00	7,580.00	-

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Division

310 Planning - Category 1

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	688,180.13	876,524.56	188,344.43
User Fees	1,260,500.00	1,367,250.00	106,750.00
TOTAL REVENUE	1,948,680.13	2,243,774.56	295,094.43
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	1,671,827.68	1,965,954.62	294,126.94
	1,671,827.68	1,965,954.62	294,126.94
Other Interprogram Charges			
Cost Recovery	187,252.45	187,719.94	467.49
	187,252.45	187,719.94	467.49
Other Expenses			
Staff Cost	500.00	500.00	-
Memberships/Professional Dues	4,600.00	4,600.00	-
Materials & Supplies - General	500.00	1,000.00	500.00
Legal	20,000.00	20,000.00	-
Consultants	5,500.00	5,500.00	-
Insurance	57,500.00	57,500.00	-
Office Expenses	500.00	500.00	-
Bad Dept Expense	500.00	500.00	-
	89,600.00	90,100.00	500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,948,680.13	2,243,774.56	295,094.43
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-	-

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Division

410 Information Management Services - Ca

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	398,702.92	426,360.50	27,657.58
User Fees	12,500.00	10,000.00	(2,500.00)
Use of Reserves	44,800.00	33,000.00	(11,800.00)
TOTAL REVENUE	456,002.92	469,360.50	13,357.58
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	398,702.92	426,360.50	27,657.58
	398,702.92	426,360.50	27,657.58
Other Interprogram Charges			
Cost Recovery	(10,600.00)	(13,600.00)	(3,000.00)
	(10,600.00)	(13,600.00)	(3,000.00)
Other Expenses			
Staff Cost	100.00	100.00	-
Materials & Supplies - General	27,000.00	22,500.00	(4,500.00)
Consultants	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
Capital Asset Purchases	39,800.00	33,000.00	(6,800.00)
	67,900.00	56,600.00	(11,300.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	456,002.92	469,360.50	13,357.58
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-	-

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Division

420 Watershed Science - Category 1

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	125,215.00	156,579.16	31,364.16
Provincial Grants	195,000.00	225,000.00	30,000.00
Use of Reserves	24,000.00	31,000.00	7,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	344,215.00	412,579.16	68,364.16
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	252,452.59	309,447.42	56,994.83
	252,452.59	309,447.42	56,994.83
Other Interprogram Charges			
Cost Recovery	55,662.41	60,031.74	4,369.33
	55,662.41	60,031.74	4,369.33
Other Expenses			
Staff Cost	2,500.00	2,500.00	-
Memberships/Professional Dues	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
Materials & Supplies - General	6,500.00	6,500.00	-
Insurance	2,100.00	2,100.00	-
Capital Asset Purchases	24,000.00	31,000.00	7,000.00
	36,100.00	43,100.00	7,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	344,215.00	412,579.16	68,364.16
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	0.00	0.00

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Division

421 Watershed Science - Category 2 & 3

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	122,849.38	93,938.28	(28,911.10)
Municipal Grants	41,000.00	35,000.00	(6,000.00)
User Fees	6,000.00	8,000.00	2,000.00
Use of Reserves	50,970.00	19,400.00	(31,570.00)
TOTAL REVENUE	220,819.38	156,338.28	(64,481.10)
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	153,888.84	122,895.42	(30,993.42)
	153,888.84	122,895.42	(30,993.42)
Other Interprogram Charges			
Cost Recovery	13,460.54	11,542.86	(1,917.68)
	13,460.54	11,542.86	(1,917.68)
Other Expenses			
Consultants	2,500.00	2,500.00	-
Capital Asset Purchases	50,970.00	19,400.00	(31,570.00)
	53,470.00	21,900.00	(31,570.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	220,819.38	156,338.28	(64,481.10)
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-	-

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Consolidated

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

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	232,771.51	316,206.48	83,434.97
Provincial Grants	97,307.00	97,307.00	-
Municipal Grants	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
Use of Reserves	153,000.00	485,500.00	332,500.00
TOTAL REVENUE	485,078.51	901,013.48	415,934.97
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	259,190.41	335,083.20	75,892.79
	259,190.41	335,083.20	75,892.79
Other Interprogram Charges			
Corp Fleet Charge	11,629.03	12,162.94	533.91
Cost Recovery	25,459.07	32,467.34	7,008.27
	37,088.10	44,630.28	7,542.18
Other Expenses			
Materials & Supplies - General	157,000.00	472,000.00	315,000.00
Insurance	12,600.00	12,600.00	-
Taxes	1,200.00	1,200.00	-
Capital Asset Purchases	18,000.00	35,500.00	17,500.00
	188,800.00	521,300.00	332,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	485,078.51	901,013.48	415,934.97
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-	-

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Division

630 Tiffin Education - Category 2 & 3

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	16,295.57	17,105.67	810.10
Contributions	8,000.00	20,000.00	12,000.00
Federal Sources	10,000.00	10,000.00	-
User Fees	285,000.00	323,500.00	38,500.00
TOTAL REVENUE	319,295.57	370,605.67	51,310.10
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	274,291.25	321,982.90	47,691.65
	274,291.25	321,982.90	47,691.65
Other Interprogram Charges			
Cost Recovery	39,504.32	41,622.77	2,118.45
	39,504.32	41,622.77	2,118.45
Other Expenses			
Memberships/Professional Dues	500.00	500.00	-
Materials & Supplies - General	5,000.00	6,500.00	1,500.00
	5,500.00	7,000.00	1,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	319,295.57	370,605.67	51,310.10
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	(0.00)	(0.00)

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Division

650 Workshop,Vehicle&Equip - Category 1

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Use of Reserves	176,400.00	106,000.00	(70,400.00)
TOTAL REVENUE	176,400.00	106,000.00	(70,400.00)
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	101,529.02	109,156.29	7,627.27
	101,529.02	109,156.29	7,627.27
Other Interprogram Charges			
Cost Recovery	(166,129.02)	(173,756.29)	(7,627.27)
	(166,129.02)	(173,756.29)	(7,627.27)
Other Expenses			
Materials & Supplies - General	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
Insurance	10,800.00	10,800.00	-
Hydo	2,300.00	2,300.00	-
Heat	2,500.00	2,500.00	-
Maintenance Expenses	25,150.00	22,750.00	(2,400.00)
Uniform Expense	250.00	250.00	-
Gas & Oil	24,500.00	24,500.00	-
Capital Asset Purchases	174,000.00	106,000.00	(68,000.00)
	241,000.00	170,600.00	(70,400.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	176,400.00	106,000.00	(70,400.00)
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	0.00	0.00

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Division

660 Office Infrastructure - Category 1

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
TOTAL REVENUE	-	-	-
EXPENSES:			
Other Interprogram Charges Cost Recovery	(143,900.00)	(141,900.00)	2,000.00
Other Expenses			
Materials & Supplies - General	3,000.00	3,000.00	-
Equipment Costs	7,000.00	6,000.00	(1,000.00)
Insurance	53,800.00	53,800.00	-
Taxes	1,100.00	1,100.00	-
Hydo	26,000.00	26,000.00	-
Telephone	16,000.00	16,000.00	-
Office Expenses	14,000.00	14,000.00	-
Maintenance Expenses	6,000.00	5,000.00	(1,000.00)
Leases	12,000.00	12,000.00	-
Internet Access	5,000.00	5,000.00	-
	143,900.00	141,900.00	(2,000.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	-	-	-
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-	-

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Division

661 Tiffin CA & Maintenance - Category 1

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	179,908.83	181,651.18	1,742.35
User Fees	9,000.00	10,000.00	1,000.00
Use of Reserves	21,000.00	13,000.00	(8,000.00)
TOTAL REVENUE	209,908.83	204,651.18	(5,257.65)
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	131,877.24	133,159.01	1,281.77
	131,877.24	133,159.01	1,281.77
Other Interprogram Charges			
Cost Recovery	24,031.59	22,292.17	(1,739.42)
	24,031.59	22,292.17	(1,739.42)
Other Expenses			
Materials & Supplies - General	10,700.00	12,700.00	2,000.00
Equipment Costs	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
Insurance	1,400.00	1,400.00	-
Taxes	500.00	500.00	-
Maintenance Expenses	20,600.00	24,300.00	3,700.00
Advertisement and Communications	1,000.00	500.00	(500.00)
Waste Services	2,800.00	2,800.00	-
Capital Asset Purchases	16,000.00	6,000.00	(10,000.00)
	54,000.00	49,200.00	(4,800.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	209,908.83	204,651.18	(5,257.65)
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-	-

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Division

662 Tiffin CA & Maintenance - Category 2 &

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	17,289.04	14,788.23	(2,500.81)
User Fees	167,600.00	169,100.00	1,500.00
Use of Reserves	1,000.00	1,500.00	500.00
TOTAL REVENUE	185,889.04	185,388.23	(500.81)
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	153,640.00	155,839.24	2,199.24
	153,640.00	155,839.24	2,199.24
Other Interprogram Charges			
Cost Recovery	18,149.04	14,948.99	(3,200.05)
	18,149.04	14,948.99	(3,200.05)
Other Expenses			
Materials & Supplies - General	10,800.00	12,300.00	1,500.00
Maintenance Expenses	2,300.00	2,300.00	-
Capital Asset Purchases	1,000.00	-	(1,000.00)
	14,100.00	14,600.00	500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	185,889.04	185,388.23	(500.81)
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	0.00	0.00

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Division

670 Corporate Governance - Category 1

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	368,069.36	377,209.62	9,140.26
TOTAL REVENUE	368,069.36	377,209.62	9,140.26
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	368,069.36	377,209.62	9,140.26
	368,069.36	377,209.62	9,140.26
Other Interprogram Charges			
Cost Recovery	(52,800.00)	(52,800.00)	-
	(52,800.00)	(52,800.00)	-
Other Expenses			
Memberships/Professional Dues	36,000.00	36,000.00	-
Education and Training	2,500.00	2,500.00	-
Materials & Supplies - General	3,500.00	3,500.00	-
Transportation Costs	6,000.00	6,000.00	-
Insurance	4,800.00	4,800.00	-
	52,800.00	52,800.00	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	368,069.36	377,209.62	9,140.26
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-	-

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Proposed 2025 Budget

Division

680 Corporate Administration - Category 1

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2025	\$ CHANGE
REVENUE:			
Municipal Levy	600,292.84	643,095.08	42,802.24
Investment Income	100,000.00	100,000.00	-
TOTAL REVENUE	700,292.84	743,095.08	42,802.24
EXPENSES:			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	600,292.84	643,095.08	42,802.24
	600,292.84	643,095.08	42,802.24
Other Interprogram Charges			
Cost Recovery	(154,000.00)	(154,750.00)	(750.00)
	(154,000.00)	(154,750.00)	(750.00)
Other Expenses			
Staff Cost	6,000.00	6,000.00	-
Memberships/Professional Dues	4,000.00	4,000.00	-
Education and Training	29,000.00	29,000.00	-
Materials & Supplies - General	16,000.00	16,500.00	500.00
Legal	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
Consultants	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
Audit Fees	20,500.00	20,750.00	250.00
Interest and Bank Charges	35,000.00	35,000.00	-
Uniform Expense	6,000.00	6,000.00	-
Advertisement and Communications	14,500.00	14,500.00	-
Transfer to Reserves	120,000.00	120,000.00	-
	254,000.00	254,750.00	750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	700,292.84	743,095.08	42,802.24
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-	-



Staff Report: 28-06-24-BOD

Date: 27/09/2024

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Kyra Howes
Director, Conservation Services

SUBJECT: Review of Conservation Areas Strategy Vision & Objectives

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 28-06-24-BOD for information.

Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this staff report is to provide NVCA's Board of Directors the opportunity to review and comment on the overarching vision and 4 objectives for NVCA's Conservation Areas Strategy.

NVCA will be accepting feedback from the public on the below noted vision and objectives prior to the completion of the draft document. NVCA staff would like to encourage the Board of Directors and stakeholders to provide feedback through the survey available on our website.

Background

As part of the changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, NVCA is required to prepare a Conservation Areas Strategy. The purpose of the Strategy is to outline current uses on NVCA conservation lands and develop a framework for long-term decision-making process to support the management of NVCA's Conservation Areas.

Since 1960, NVCA has secured 5,240 hectares of mostly environmentally sensitive areas within the watershed. NVCA operates 11 active conservation areas that provide passive recreational opportunities and environmental education programming and community engagement opportunities while also balancing protection of environmentally significant and natural hazard features.

NVCA's conservation lands portfolio also includes properties that are undeveloped natural areas and properties that are managed for flood control. NVCA works with community partners, volunteers, municipalities and public agencies to maintain these conservation lands.

Issues/Analysis

NVCA's Board of Directors will have the opportunity to review and approve the entire draft document prior to the December 31, 2024, deadline.

Draft Vision:

The vision of NVCA's Conservation Lands program is to provide long-term protection to the significant ecological features and functions of the watershed while balancing the recreational needs of the community.

Draft Objectives:

1. Protection

Ensure that the ecological integrity, climate change resiliency and biological diversity of the natural heritage systems on conservation lands are maintained long-term through sustainable uses, naturalization, wildlife habitat enhancement, or maintenance.

2. Education

Foster an appreciation for the natural environment through engaging, curriculum-based programming, suitable for all ages and all abilities.

3. Engagement

Provide accessible, recreational opportunities for watershed residents, visitors and stakeholders that balance the cultural and natural heritage features and hazards, while also providing opportunities for research and monitoring.

4. Financial sustainability

Provide high value for dollar on infrastructure development to support conservation lands goals. Ensure properties generate revenue while balancing protection of natural heritage features and maintaining safe public access.

Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

The Conservation Areas Strategy is intended to fulfil the requirements of [Ontario Regulation 686/21 under the Conservation Authorities Act](#). This document is intended to inform decision making as it relates to NVCA conservation lands and for all lands owned or controlled by the authority.

Impact on Authority Finances

The development of this staff report, as well as the Conservation Areas Strategy will be developed through the approved 2024 budget.

Climate Change Implications

There are no climate change implications related to this report.

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

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



Staff Report: 29-06-24-BOD

Date: 27/09/2024

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Maria Leung
Senior Communications Specialist

SUBJECT: Communications Report – August 10, 2024 – September 12, 2024

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 29-06-24-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – August 10, 2024 – September 12, 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 August 10, 2024 – September 12, 2024.

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

1. Flood Messages

There were no flood messages issued in this time period

2. Media coverage of NVCA news releases

Column: Enjoying nature after kids go back to school, issued on August 30, 2024

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
COLUMN: Enjoying nature is a four-season affair	Collingwood Today	August 31, 2024	Naomi Saunders, Manager, Environmental Education
GUEST COLUMN: Enjoying nature is a four-season affair	Barrie Today	August 31, 2024	Naomi Saunders, Manager, Environmental Education
COLUMN: Enjoying nature is a four-season pursuit locally	Orillia Matters	September 4, 2024	Naomi Saunders, Manager, Environmental Education
COLUMN: Enjoying nature is a four-season affair	Bradford Today	September 4, 2024	Naomi Saunders, Manager, Environmental Education

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

3. Other Media Coverage

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
'Not accountable': Business owners push back on NVCA amid permit delays	Orillia Matters	August 9, 2024	CAO Hevenor
'Not accountable': Business owners push back on NVCA amid permit delays	Midland Today	August 11, 2024	CAO Hevenor
'I'm so frustrated': Few answers for Alliston resident who fears home will slide into Nottawasaga River	Simcoe.com	September 6, 2024	
Getting ready for the fall season with some fresh air	Ontario Morning	September 6, 2024	Naomi Saunders, Manager, Environmental Education

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
New plan coming for High St. roadwork as approval lapses on commercial district	Collingwood Today	September 11, 2024	

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

- August 27, 28, 2024 – Black Ash Creek Fish Community Monitoring
- August 30, 2024 – Last week of Camp Tiffin
- September 4, 5, 2024 - Hop in and Help Rehabilitate Willow Creek!
- September 12, 2024 - Wetland Plug Planting and Seeding
- September 3, 2024 – Tiffin Nature School began

Issues/Analysis

The media coverage and public outreach/communications in this reporting period was positive with regard to NVCA work and programs. There are no issues of concern at this time.

Impact on Authority Finances

Staff time to prepare this report is addressed in the 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

'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 9, 2024 by Wayne Doyle

Orillia Matters



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.)

'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 11, 2024 by Wayne Doyle

Midland 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.)

GUEST COLUMN: Enjoying nature is a four-season affair

'Even though the days will get colder, there really isn't a reason to stop spending time outdoors,' says Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority official

August 31, 2024

Barrie Today



1 / 4 Students and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's environmental educator investigate nature. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



2 / 4 A woman and her grandson are shown pond dipping at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



3 / 4 A girl investigates something she found in nature. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



4 / 4 Animal footprints are shown in snow. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

The weather is changing and the break in the heat and humidity is lovely, but we all know where this is leading, and it can have us trying to hold onto sunny days and sandals.

Whether you had a lot of time off during the summer months, or you just appreciate the amount of time you spent outside enjoying the season, many of us cannot help wishing summer wouldn't end.

In outdoor environmental education, we have a saying: "There is no such

thing as bad weather, just bad clothing choices." If you love fresh air, being active outside, and you know you will miss the calm connection you can feel with nature when you are outside more, why stop? Even though the days will get colder, there really isn't a reason to stop spending time outdoors. Just keep adding layers to your clothing and you will be covered, literally and figuratively.

If you are not sure what you can do in fall or winter outside, keep reading.

If you live in an urban area that does not have naturalized walking trails, you can still go for neighbourhood walks, but we suggest creating a focus for these walks to make it interesting. Why should you cultivate your focus? Well, the older we get, and the more a road or path is travelled by us, the less we pay attention to our surroundings.

We have all driven to a place we go to often, such as our place of work, and wondered how we even got there because the time spent travelling is not even remembered. That's because we no longer look around and notice our surroundings, as everything is familiar. This sets our focus and attention into nap mode as we go on autopilot. Time flies when you are on autopilot, and our senses become dull. If you try to be more intentional about what you are noticing around you, time will slow down, you will become more attentive, connected and grounded in the present moment.

If you do live near naturalized trails or forests, becoming engaged outside is a little easier. Natural changes in our

surroundings happen all the time and there is always something new to notice. Each tree species has a different colour, pattern and shape on its bark, and the leaves and branching patterns are generally predictable. That being said, within the same species, trees have different shapes and sizes and can lean a little too much to the left at times.

Have you ever noticed a weirdly positioned branch on a tree and wondered what happened to it decades ago to make that happen? You could point it out to your walking partner, child, or friend and create stories as to why the branch is pointing down and then back up. There is so much to enrich our lives when out in nature; we just have to notice and consider their stories.

To aid you in your future journeys, there are fun digital apps that can also help us connect with nature as we walk along, cultivating our sense of wonder with our surroundings, which we can now easily find answers to. Have you ever noticed a new plant, fungus, or bug and wondered what it was? SEEK or iNaturalist are free apps that can help you discover the other life around you. Did you hear a bird sing and you are not sure what species it is? There is an app for that, too. Merlin can help you identify what you see, and even what you hear by recording the sounds and showing you a picture of the bird you are hearing.

That being said, knowing the exact name of a plant or animal may not be important to you, and that's OK, too. Instead, refine your own descriptive talents and name the plant or animal

so you can recognize it in future. The most important takeaway from naming species for you and your family is to be familiar with them so you feel connected to the space you are visiting.

Other ideas to catch your eyes are noticing patterns in the grass that show a 'runway' or trail taken by wildlife on their own journeys. Is it a beaten path used daily, or an infrequent bending of grass that hints at a path occasionally used? This is especially fun when the snow falls and you can daily see fresh tracks that tell us what lives there.

So, if you like to destress and breathe easier at least once a day or once a week, while creating meaningful memories for yourself and your family, pick a trail or natural space you would like to visit, something reasonably close so you can create a healthy habit for your family's body, soul and mind. It is low cost and carries many benefits for today and the future.

Naomi Saunders is the manager of environmental education at the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.

COLUMN: Enjoying nature is a four-season affair

'Even though the days will get colder, there really isn't a reason to stop spending time outdoors,' says Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority official

September 4, 2024

Bradford Today



1 / 4 Students and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's environmental educator investigate nature. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



2 / 4 A woman and her grandson are shown pond dipping at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



3 / 4 A girl investigates something she found in nature. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



4 / 4 Animal footprints are shown in snow. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

The weather is changing and the break in the heat and humidity is lovely, but we all know where this is leading, and it can have us trying to hold onto sunny days and sandals.

Whether you had a lot of time off during the summer months, or you just appreciate the amount of time you spent outside enjoying the season, many of us cannot help wishing summer wouldn't end.

In outdoor environmental education, we have a saying: "There is no such

thing as bad weather, just bad clothing choices." If you love fresh air, being active outside, and you know you will miss the calm connection you can feel with nature when you are outside more, why stop? Even though the days will get colder, there really isn't a reason to stop spending time outdoors. Just keep adding layers to your clothing and you will be covered, literally and figuratively.

If you are not sure what you can do in fall or winter outside, keep reading.

If you live in an urban area that does not have naturalized walking trails, you can still go for neighbourhood walks, but we suggest creating a focus for these walks to make it interesting. Why should you cultivate your focus? Well, the older we get, and the more a road or path is travelled by us, the less we pay attention to our surroundings.

We have all driven to a place we go to often, such as our place of work, and wondered how we even got there because the time spent travelling is not even remembered. That's because we no longer look around and notice our surroundings, as everything is familiar. This sets our focus and attention into nap mode as we go on autopilot. Time flies when you are on autopilot, and our senses become dull. If you try to be more intentional about what you are noticing around you, time will slow down, you will become more attentive, connected and grounded in the present moment.

If you do live near naturalized trails or forests, becoming engaged outside is a little easier. Natural changes in our

surroundings happen all the time and there is always something new to notice. Each tree species has a different colour, pattern and shape on its bark, and the leaves and branching patterns are generally predictable. That being said, within the same species, trees have different shapes and sizes and can lean a little too much to the left at times.

Have you ever noticed a weirdly positioned branch on a tree and wondered what happened to it decades ago to make that happen? You could point it out to your walking partner, child, or friend and create stories as to why the branch is pointing down and then back up. There is so much to enrich our lives when out in nature; we just have to notice and consider their stories.

To aid you in your future journeys, there are fun digital apps that can also help us connect with nature as we walk along, cultivating our sense of wonder with our surroundings, which we can now easily find answers to. Have you ever noticed a new plant, fungus, or bug and wondered what it was? SEEK or iNaturalist are free apps that can help you discover the other life around you. Did you hear a bird sing and you are not sure what species it is? There is an app for that, too. Merlin can help you identify what you see, and even what you hear by recording the sounds and showing you a picture of the bird you are hearing.

That being said, knowing the exact name of a plant or animal may not be important to you, and that's OK, too. Instead, refine your own descriptive talents and name the plant or animal

so you can recognize it in future. The most important takeaway from naming species for you and your family is to be familiar with them so you feel connected to the space you are visiting.

Other ideas to catch your eyes are noticing patterns in the grass that show a 'runway' or trail taken by wildlife on their own journeys. Is it a beaten path used daily, or an infrequent bending of grass that hints at a path occasionally used? This is especially fun when the snow falls and you can daily see fresh tracks that tell us what lives there.

So, if you like to destress and breathe easier at least once a day or once a week, while creating meaningful memories for yourself and your family, pick a trail or natural space you would like to visit, something reasonably close so you can create a healthy habit for your family's body, soul and mind. It is low cost and carries many benefits for today and the future.

Naomi Saunders is the manager of environmental education at the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.

COLUMN: Enjoying nature is a four-season affair

'Even though the days will get colder, there really isn't a reason to stop spending time outdoors,' says Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority official

August 31, 2024

Collingwood Today



1 / 4 Students and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's environmental educator investigate nature. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



2 / 4 A woman and her grandson are shown pond dipping at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



3 / 4 A girl investigates something she found in nature. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



4 / 4 Animal footprints are shown in snow. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

The weather is changing and the break in the heat and humidity is lovely, but we all know where this is leading, and it can have us trying to hold onto sunny days and sandals.

Whether you had a lot of time off during the summer months, or you just appreciate the amount of time you spent outside enjoying the season, many of us cannot help wishing summer wouldn't end.

In outdoor environmental education, we have a saying: "There is no such

thing as bad weather, just bad clothing choices." If you love fresh air, being active outside, and you know you will miss the calm connection you can feel with nature when you are outside more, why stop? Even though the days will get colder, there really isn't a reason to stop spending time outdoors. Just keep adding layers to your clothing and you will be covered, literally and figuratively.

If you are not sure what you can do in fall or winter outside, keep reading.

If you live in an urban area that does not have naturalized walking trails, you can still go for neighbourhood walks, but we suggest creating a focus for these walks to make it interesting. Why should you cultivate your focus? Well, the older we get, and the more a road or path is travelled by us, the less we pay attention to our surroundings.

We have all driven to a place we go to often, such as our place of work, and wondered how we even got there because the time spent travelling is not even remembered. That's because we no longer look around and notice our surroundings, as everything is familiar. This sets our focus and attention into nap mode as we go on autopilot. Time flies when you are on autopilot, and our senses become dull. If you try to be more intentional about what you are noticing around you, time will slow down, you will become more attentive, connected and grounded in the present moment.

If you do live near naturalized trails or forests, becoming engaged outside is a little easier. Natural changes in our

surroundings happen all the time and there is always something new to notice. Each tree species has a different colour, pattern and shape on its bark, and the leaves and branching patterns are generally predictable. That being said, within the same species, trees have different shapes and sizes and can lean a little too much to the left at times.

Have you ever noticed a weirdly positioned branch on a tree and wondered what happened to it decades ago to make that happen? You could point it out to your walking partner, child, or friend and create stories as to why the branch is pointing down and then back up. There is so much to enrich our lives when out in nature; we just have to notice and consider their stories.

To aid you in your future journeys, there are fun digital apps that can also help us connect with nature as we walk along, cultivating our sense of wonder with our surroundings, which we can now easily find answers to. Have you ever noticed a new plant, fungus, or bug and wondered what it was? SEEK or iNaturalist are free apps that can help you discover the other life around you. Did you hear a bird sing and you are not sure what species it is? There is an app for that, too. Merlin can help you identify what you see, and even what you hear by recording the sounds and showing you a picture of the bird you are hearing.

That being said, knowing the exact name of a plant or animal may not be important to you, and that's OK, too. Instead, refine your own descriptive talents and name the plant or animal

so you can recognize it in future. The most important takeaway from naming species for you and your family is to be familiar with them so you feel connected to the space you are visiting.

Other ideas to catch your eyes are noticing patterns in the grass that show a 'runway' or trail taken by wildlife on their own journeys. Is it a beaten path used daily, or an infrequent bending of grass that hints at a path occasionally used? This is especially fun when the snow falls and you can daily see fresh tracks that tell us what lives there.

So, if you like to destress and breathe easier at least once a day or once a week, while creating meaningful memories for yourself and your family, pick a trail or natural space you would like to visit, something reasonably close so you can create a healthy habit for your family's body, soul and mind. It is low cost and carries many benefits for today and the future.

Naomi Saunders is the manager of environmental education at the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.

COLUMN: Enjoying nature is a four-season pursuit locally

'Even though the days will get colder, there really isn't a reason to stop spending time outdoors,' says Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority official

September 4, 2024

Orillia Matters



1 / 4 Students and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's environmental educator investigate nature. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



2 / 4 A woman and her grandson are shown pond dipping at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



3 / 4 A girl investigates something she found in nature. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



4 / 4 Animal footprints are shown in snow. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

The weather is changing and the break in the heat and humidity is lovely, but we all know where this is leading, and it can have us trying to hold onto sunny days and sandals.

Whether you had a lot of time off during the summer months, or you just appreciate the amount of time you spent outside enjoying the season, many of us cannot help wishing summer wouldn't end.

In outdoor environmental education, we have a saying: "There is no such

thing as bad weather, just bad clothing choices." If you love fresh air, being active outside, and you know you will miss the calm connection you can feel with nature when you are outside more, why stop? Even though the days will get colder, there really isn't a reason to stop spending time outdoors. Just keep adding layers to your clothing and you will be covered, literally and figuratively.

If you are not sure what you can do in fall or winter outside, keep reading.

If you live in an urban area that does not have naturalized walking trails, you can still go for neighbourhood walks, but we suggest creating a focus for these walks to make it interesting. Why should you cultivate your focus? Well, the older we get, and the more a road or path is travelled by us, the less we pay attention to our surroundings.

We have all driven to a place we go to often, such as our place of work, and wondered how we even got there because the time spent travelling is not even remembered. That's because we no longer look around and notice our surroundings, as everything is familiar. This sets our focus and attention into nap mode as we go on autopilot. Time flies when you are on autopilot, and our senses become dull. If you try to be more intentional about what you are noticing around you, time will slow down, you will become more attentive, connected and grounded in the present moment.

If you do live near naturalized trails or forests, becoming engaged outside is a little easier. Natural changes in our

surroundings happen all the time and there is always something new to notice. Each tree species has a different colour, pattern and shape on its bark, and the leaves and branching patterns are generally predictable. That being said, within the same species, trees have different shapes and sizes and can lean a little too much to the left at times.

Have you ever noticed a weirdly positioned branch on a tree and wondered what happened to it decades ago to make that happen? You could point it out to your walking partner, child, or friend and create stories as to why the branch is pointing down and then back up. There is so much to enrich our lives when out in nature; we just have to notice and consider their stories.

To aid you in your future journeys, there are fun digital apps that can also help us connect with nature as we walk along, cultivating our sense of wonder with our surroundings, which we can now easily find answers to. Have you ever noticed a new plant, fungus, or bug and wondered what it was? SEEK or iNaturalist are free apps that can help you discover the other life around you. Did you hear a bird sing and you are not sure what species it is? There is an app for that, too. Merlin can help you identify what you see, and even what you hear by recording the sounds and showing you a picture of the bird you are hearing.

That being said, knowing the exact name of a plant or animal may not be important to you, and that's OK, too. Instead, refine your own descriptive talents and name the plant or animal

so you can recognize it in future. The most important takeaway from naming species for you and your family is to be familiar with them so you feel connected to the space you are visiting.

Other ideas to catch your eyes are noticing patterns in the grass that show a 'runway' or trail taken by wildlife on their own journeys. Is it a beaten path used daily, or an infrequent bending of grass that hints at a path occasionally used? This is especially fun when the snow falls and you can daily see fresh tracks that tell us what lives there.

So, if you like to destress and breathe easier at least once a day or once a week, while creating meaningful memories for yourself and your family, pick a trail or natural space you would like to visit, something reasonably close so you can create a healthy habit for your family's body, soul and mind. It is low cost and carries many benefits for today and the future.

Naomi Saunders is the manager of environmental education at the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.

Getting ready for the fall season with some fresh air

September 6, 2024

Ontario Morning

[Listen here](#)

As the weather cools down, sometimes it can be very easy to keep indoors for comfort. But there are benefits to getting outside in all seasons. We spoke to Naomi Saunders about its benefits and what I can do to help boost health levels. She is the manager of environmental education at the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.

New plan coming for High St. roadwork as approval lapses on commercial district

'It's pretty clear that the owner is not working on this currently. Nothing is happening,' says Collingwood mayor

September 11, 2024 by Jessica Owen

Collingwood Today



The subject land for the Regional Commercial District proposed for 20 High St. and 530 Third St. in Collingwood. Contributed image

Council gave preliminary approval this week to pump the brakes on a major development that has held up roadwork and lights on High Street for eight years while the land sits empty.

At their committee of the whole meeting on Sept. 9, councillors voted in favour of letting a plan of subdivision for 20 High St. and 530 Third Street lapse, which was originally granted back in 2016 and was extended once already by the town in 2021. Developer Dunn Capital Corporation's plan is currently set to expire on Sept. 29.

While staff were recommending granting an 18-month extension, council chose a different direction.

"I'm inclined to support letting this application lapse," said Coun. Deb

Doherty during Monday's meeting. "The lateness of the request for the extension was a message from the developer that they are not overly enthused by the application as it sits right now."

Officially called the Regional Commercial District, the original draft plan from 2016 for 21 hectares on west side of High Street includes five blocks for commercial/industrial uses, one block for road widening, three blocks to facilitate protection of a natural heritage feature, and a future extension of Cambridge Street connecting to Third Street. The land abuts both the Collingwood Walmart and Home Depot.

Draft plans of subdivision are typically reserved for large-scale developments that seek to develop entire neighbourhoods at once. These plans include an overall plan for the entire land parcel, as well as a future phasing plan.

Staff noted in their presentation that the developer provided comment as part of the work the town did on [the Official Plan last year](#) to ask that the land in question be rezoned as a mixed-use designation to combine residential and commercial.

"(Letting it lapse) would take some of the workload away from our staff until such time as they're ready to come back and resubmit," said Doherty.

Coun. Christopher Baines agreed.

"There's a lot left undone by this application at this point," he said.

According to the report compiled by Collingwood planner Steve Stone,

town staff have characterized the progress toward clearing the conditions of draft approval as "limited" since 2016.

The report notes the applicant admits that engineering work on the site remains incomplete, a firm agreement with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is outstanding, and co-ordination between the town and EPCOR is needed to address matters related to hydro pole re-alignment on High St.

"The applicant indicates delays were related to a challenging and evolving commercial retail market, including a shift towards online stores, and the ongoing municipal water constraints within the Town of Collingwood, leading to a level of uncertainty," wrote Stone in the report. "Further, limited progress has been demonstrated since the last extension in 2021 and the policy and legislative landscapes are changing significantly."

Baines reiterated the still-to-do list during his remarks.

"It seems like a better and more rational use of the town's and applicant's resources to get their ducks in a row before coming back," he said.

Coun. Kathy Jeffery said she was in support of extending approval for another 18 months.

"I think after 18 months, then we consider lapsing it. We're waiting for all of these other things anyway and I don't think it speeds it up," she said, adding that she gets a lot of

comments about a lack of lights at High and Third St.

"The slower this moves, the worse it is," said Jeffery.

Coun. Chris Potts said he was under the impression that any redevelopment of High St. hinged on this development, and asked how lapsing the draft plan would impact High St. improvement timelines.

Director of Public Works, Engineering and Environment Peggy Slama said Potts was correct in his assumptions.

"For many years, staff have been pausing work on this intersection and parts of High St. with the understanding that this development would move forward," said Slama.

She said as part of the 2025 budget, a new plan would be proposed for the town to move forward with improvements on High St. between Second and Fifth in the shorter term, likely by 2028.

"It's pretty clear that the owner is not working on this currently. Nothing is happening," said Mayor Yvonne Hamlin. "It's a different proposal that will come forward. There will have to be a different layout of the subdivision, and different services. This will be a complete overhaul. I think we should put this to an end and let the applicant start fresh when he's ready."

Representatives for Dunn Capital Corporation did not make comments at the meeting on Monday.

At the end of discussion, council voted 5-3 in favour of allowing the approval

to lapse on Sept. 29, with Jeffery, Potts and Coun. Brandon Houston opposed. Deputy Mayor Tim Fryer declared a conflict on the matter.

Decisions made during committee of the whole must be ratified at the next regular council meeting before going into effect, which is expected on Sept. 23.