

## **09-24-BOD Amended Agenda (December)**

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Friday, December 13, 2024 at 9:00 AM EST to Friday, December 13, 2024 at 12:00 PM EST

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Events**

##### **Winter Camp Tiffin**

Our staff have been excited to plan some winter camp activities for Winter Camp Tiffin which will be full of outdoor adventures.

Led by NVCA's environmental educators, Camp Tiffin is an outdoor camp designed to enhance your child's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our amazing planet.

**Dates:** December 30, 2024, January 2 & 3, 2025

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

##### **Christmas Bird Count for Kids**

Christmas Bird Count for Kids is a fun, family friendly bird watching event that contributes to scientific bird count data.

Learn how to watch birds from our local nature enthusiasts, Nature Barrie. After their presentation inside, we will take to the trails on a guided hike to find and practice identifying the birds at Tiffin!

Hot chocolate is included. Please bring your own reusable mug.

**Date:** January 2, 2025

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

##### **Tiffin Nature School**

At Tiffin Nature School, children aged 2.5 to 10 are invited to explore and connect with the natural world. We nurture their innate curiosity, offering immersive outdoor experiences that inspire discovery and growth.

**Dates:** Tuesdays & Thursdays until May 29, 2025

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

#### **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:

Moved by: Cllr. Joe Belanger

Seconded by: Cllr. Joel Loughhead

**RESOLVED THAT:** the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting #09-24-BOD dated on December 13, 2024 be approved as amended.

#### **6. Announcements**

Chair Little and Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services will inform members of Fred Dobbs, Manager, Stewardship Services' retirement.

#### **7. Deputations**

There are no deputations at this time.

#### **8. Hearings**

There are no hearings at this time.

#### **9. 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.

#### **10. Adoption of Consent List and Identification of Items Requiring Separate Discussion**

Recommendation:

Moved by: Cllr. Nicole Cox

Seconded by: Cllr. Christopher Baines

**RESOLVED THAT:** agenda item number(s), 11.2.4 was identified as requiring separate discussion, be referred for discussion under Agenda Item #11; 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.

#### **11. Consent List**

##### **11.1. Adoption of Minutes**

Recommendation:

Moved by: Mayor Darren White

Seconded by: Cllr. Patricia Clark

**RESOLVED THAT:** the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting 08-24-BOD dated on November 22, 2024 be approved.

##### **11.2. Staff Reports**

**11.2.1. Staff Report No. 42-09-24-BOD from Tyler Mulhall, Planner regarding 2024 BOD Permits**

Recommendation:

Moved by: Cllr. Joe Belanger

Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Eisses

**RESOLVED THAT:** NVCA Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 42-09-24-BOD that summarizes the permits and approvals issued by staff for the period of July 24, 2024 to November 15, 2024.

**11.2.2. Staff Report No. 43-09-24-BOD from Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning and Permits regarding 2025 Fees for Planning and Permit Applications**

Recommendation:

Moved by: Cllr. June Porter

Seconded by: Mayor Scott W. Anderson

**RESOLVED THAT:** The Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 43-09-24-BOD regarding proposed changes to planning and permitting review fees; and

**FURTHER THAT:** the Board of Directors approve increase of the planning and permitting fees for 2025 based on cost of living allowance (3.1%) and pending expiring or lifting of the fee freeze by the Minister of Natural Resources.

**11.2.3. Staff Report No. 44-09-24-BOD from Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services regarding Update on Regulatory Deliverables**

Recommendation:

Moved by: Cllr. Ralph Manktelow

Seconded by: Cllr. Phil Fisher

**RESOLVED THAT:** Staff Report No. 44-09-24-BOD related to an update on regulatory deliverables, be received for information.

**11.2.4. Staff Report No. 45-09-24-BOD from Sheryl Flanagan, Director, Corporate Services regarding 2025 Budget**

Recommendation:

Moved by: Cllr. Gary Harvey

Seconded by: Cllr. Nicole Cox

**RESOLVED THAT:** Staff Report No. 45-09-24-BOD regarding the NVCA's 2025 Budget be received; and

**FURTHER THAT:** the 2025 Category 1 budget, operational and capital, as presented in the 2025 Draft Budget booklet be approved; and

**FURTHER THAT:** each watershed member municipality be formally advised of their respective share of the Category 1 levies, operational and capital; and

**FURTHER THAT:** the 2025 Categories 2 & 3 budget, operational and capital, as presented in the 2025 Draft Budget booklet be approved; and

**FURTHER THAT:** each watershed member municipality be formally advised of their respective share of the Categories 2 & 3 levies once the memorandum of understanding with the municipality is signed, operational and capital; and

**FURTHER THAT:** should a member municipality choose not to participate in Categories 2 & 3, that reserves be used to cover the difference in the budgeted levy for the 2025 year.

**11.2.5. Staff Report No. 46-09-24-BOD from Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist regarding Communications Report**

Recommendation:

Moved by: Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink

Seconded by: Cllr. Rick Schell

**RESOLVED THAT:** Staff Report No. 46-09-24-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – November 9, 2024 – November 26, 2024, be received.

**12. Other Business**

**13. In-Camera**

Recommendation:

Moved by: Mayor Scott W. Anderson

Seconded by: Cllr. Nicole Cox

**RESOLVED THAT:** this meeting of the Board of Directors No. 05-24-BOD move into closed session at \_\_\_\_\_ to address matters pertaining to:  
Personal information regarding an identifiable individual, including authority staff.

**14. Out of In-Camera**

Recommendation:

Moved by: Mayor Darren White

Seconded by: Cllr. Phil Fisher

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

**15. Adjourn**

Recommendation:

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren

Seconded by: Mayor Darren White

**RESOLVED THAT:** this meeting adjourn at \_\_\_\_\_ to meet again on January 24, 2025 or at the call of the Chair.



08-24-BOD Agenda Minutes (**Draft**)  
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority  
Friday November 22, 2024 at 9:00AM EDT

**Attendance**

**Present:**

Cllr. Joe Belanger, Wasaga Beach (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. Richard Schell, Oro-Medonte (Township); Cllr. Joel Loughhead, Grey Highlands (Municipality); Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink, Essa (Township); Mayor Scott W. Anderson, Adjala-Tosorontio (Township); Cllr. Christopher Baines, Collingwood (Town); Cllr. Nicole Cox, New Tecumseth (Town); Cllr Phil Fisher, Springwater (Township); Cllr. Kevin Eisses, Innisfil (Town)

**NVCA Staff:**

Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services; Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer; Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services; Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services; Dalia Al-Ali, Manager, Engineering Services; Tyler Boswell, Planner; Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning and Permits; Greg Marek, Senior Planner; Kerry Jenkins, Administrative Assistant/Recorder

**Absent:**

Mayor Darren White, Melancthon (Township); (Town); Cllr. Ralph Manktelow, Mono (Town); Cllr. Gary Harvey, Barrie (City); Cllr. Kyle Fegan, Shelburne (Town); Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer

**1. Events**

**Tiffin Nature School**

At Tiffin Nature School, children aged 2.5 to 10 are invited to explore and connect with the natural world. We nurture their innate curiosity, offering immersive outdoor experiences that inspire discovery and growth.

**Dates:** Tuesdays & Thursdays until May 29, 2025

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

**2. Call to Order**

Chair Little called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

**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: 56-24*

Moved by: Cllr. Patricia Clark

Seconded by: Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink

**RESOLVED THAT:** the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting #08-24-BOD dated on November 22, 2024 be approved.

**Carried;**

**6. Announcements**

There were no announcements at this time.

**7. Deputations**

There were no deputations at this time.

**8. Hearings**

There were no hearings at this time.

**9. 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.

**10. Adoption of Consent List and Identification of Items Requiring Separate Discussion**

Recommendation:

*RES: 57-24*

Moved by: Cllr. Patricia Clark

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Belanger

**RESOLVED THAT:** agenda item number(s), 11.2.1, 11.2.2 and 11.2.3 were identified as requiring separate discussion, be referred for discussion under Agenda Item #11; 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;**

**11. Consent List**

**11.1. Adoption of Minutes**

Recommendation:

*Approved by Consent*

Moved by: Cllr. June Porter

Seconded by: Cllr. Nicole Cox

**RESOLVED THAT:** the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting 07-24-BOD dated on October 25, 2024 be approved.

**11.2. Staff Reports**

**11.2.1. Staff Report No. 36-08-24-BOD from Hendrik Amo, Manager, Information Services and Technology regarding Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy**

Recommendation:

*RES: 58-24*

Moved by: Cllr. Kevin Eisses

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren

**RESOLVED THAT:** the Board of Directors approve Staff Report No. 36-08-24-BOD regarding NVCA's submission of the Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy.

**Carried;**

**11.2.2. Staff Report No. 37-08-24-BOD from Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services regarding Updated 2025 Conservation Services Fees**

Recommendation:

*RES: 59-24*

Moved by: Cllr. Christopher Baines

Seconded by: Mayor Scott W. Anderson

Discussion around camp fire fees agreement to move 3hr minimum to the event section.

**RESOLVED THAT:** The Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 37-08-24-BOD regarding proposed 2025 and select 2026 changes to Conservation Services fees, and;

**FURTHER THAT:** the Fee Schedule, which includes Appendices A to C be approved as attached and as amended.

**Carried;**

**11.2.3. Staff Report No. 38-08-24-BOD from Dalia Al-Ali, Manager, Engineering Services regarding Award of Contract for Request for Proposal (RFP) #01/2024**

Recommendation:

*RES: 60-24*

Moved by: Cllr. Phil Fisher

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Belanger

**RESOLVED THAT:** the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 38-08-24-BOD regarding the award of a contract for the completion of the scope of work presented in Request for Proposal (RFP) #01/2024.

**Carried;**

**11.2.4. Staff Report No. 39-08-24-BOD from Dalia Al-Ali, Manager, Engineering Services regarding Review and Approval of Natural Hazard Infrastructure & Ice Management Plans**

Recommendation:

*Approved by Consent*

Moved by: Cllr. Patricia Clark

Seconded by: Cllr. Joel Loughhead

**RESOLVED THAT:** the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 39-08-24-BOD regarding the mandated Natural Hazard Infrastructure Operational Plan and Ice Management Plan, and;

**FURTHER THAT:** the Board of Directors approve both plans as presented.

**11.2.5. Staff Report No. 40-08-24-BOD from Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services regarding 2024 Year End Surplus/Deficit Allocation**

Recommendation:

*Approved by Consent*

Moved by: Cllr. Nicole Cox

Seconded by: Cllr. Rick Schell

**RESOLVED THAT:** the Staff Report No. 40-08-24-BOD regarding surplus/deficit allocations be approved; and

**FURTHER THAT:** The NVCA Auditor be directed to place any 2024 surplus/ deficit funds in/out of the following reserves as specified in the report.

**11.2.6. Staff Report No. 41-08-24-BOD from Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist regarding Communications Report**

Recommendation:

*Approved by Consent*

Moved by: Cllr. Kevin Eisses

Seconded by: Cllr. June Porter

**RESOLVED THAT:** Staff Report No. 41-08-24-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – *October 11, 2024 – November 8, 2024*, be received.

**12. Other Business**

There were no Other Business at this time.



### **13. Adjourn**

Recommendation:

*RES: 61-24*

Moved by: Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink

Seconded by: Cllr. Phil Fisher

**RESOLVED THAT:** this meeting adjourn at 9:56am to meet again on December 13, 2024 or at the call of the Chair.

**Carried;**



Staff Report: 42-09-24-BOD  
Date: 13/12/2024  
To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors  
From: Tyler Mulhall  
Planner

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**SUBJECT: Permits/Approvals under the *Conservation Authorities Act* for the Period July 24, 2024 to November 15, 2024.**

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### **Recommendation**

**RESOLVED THAT: NVCA Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 42-09-24-BOD that summarizes the permits and approvals issued by staff for the period of July 24, 2024 to November 15, 2024.**

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### **Purpose of the Staff Report**

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

### **Background**

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

### **Previous Reporting**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[https://conservationontario.ca/fileadmin/pdf/policy-priorities\\_section/PlanRegs\\_Client\\_Client\\_Service\\_Standards\\_for\\_Conservation\\_Authority\\_Plan\\_and\\_Permit\\_Review\\_As\\_Amended.pdf](https://conservationontario.ca/fileadmin/pdf/policy-priorities_section/PlanRegs_Client_Client_Service_Standards_for_Conservation_Authority_Plan_and_Permit_Review_As_Amended.pdf)

## **New Reporting**

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

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

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

It is important to note; this new way of reporting removes the “Conservation Ontario Best Practices and CALC” timelines.

## Issues/Analysis

Given the unique nature of this report – looking at two different timelines, staff have included an overall summary of the permits issued between July 24, 2024 to November 15, 2024. Below this table, staff have broken down the timelines for the Chair and Members of the Board for reference.

Below is a summary of the permits and clearances issued during the period July 24, 2024 to November 15, 2024. A total of 175 permits and clearances were approved by staff for this time period.

Permits/Approvals under the Conservation Authorities Act Report  
Staff Report No. 42-09-24-BOD

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Summary of Permits and Clearances by Municipality	Total Permits	Total Clearances
CITY OF BARRIE	4	0
MUNICIPALITY OF GREY HIGHLANDS	1	0
TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS	2	0
TOWN OF BRADFORD WEST GWILLIMBURY	6	0
TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD	27	0
TOWN OF INNISFIL	3	0
TOWN OF MONO	6	0
TOWN OF NEW TECUMSETH	9	0
TOWN OF SHELBURNE	3	0
TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH	19	0
TOWNSHIP OF ADJALA-TOSORONTIO	13	0
TOWNSHIP OF AMARANTH	0	0
TOWNSHIP OF CLEARVIEW	20	1
TOWNSHIP OF ESSA	19	0
TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON	0	0
TOWNSHIP OF MULMUR	4	0
TOWNSHIP OF ORO-MEDONTE	13	0
TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWATER	25	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>1</b>

To understand where NVCA falls with our timelines under the previous timelines and our new timelines; Staff manually identified permits issued post-April 1, 2024 that had an application received pre-April 1, 2024 and added this data to a table outlining the old timelines. The results are listed in the table below. Out of the 174 permits, a total of 32 were identified and put into the old timeline reporting structure.

Number of Permits Issued Within Policy and Procedure timeline			Number of Permits Issued Outside of Policy and Procedure Timeline		
Major		Minor	Major		Minor
25		6	0		1
Number of Permits Issued Within CO Guideline timeline			Number of Permits Issued Outside of CO Guideline timeline		
Major	Minor	Routine	Major	Minor	Routine
24	6	0	1	1	0

In the majority of instances (97%) NVCA staff met the prescribed timelines as outlined in the MNRF guideline document and noted in the "Background" section of this staff report.

In the majority of instances (94.0%), NVCA staff met the prescribed timelines as outlined in the Conservation Ontario Client Service Standard document and noted in the "Background" section of this staff report.

Given the nature of how this report had to be generated, staff determined it was difficult to accurately compare results from a similar time frame before, however, in the August 2024 Staff Report, NVCA issued a total of 334 permissions (permits/clearances), and met the mandated timelines in 92.0% (CALC) and 85.0% (Conservation Ontario Client Service Standard).

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

Number of Permits Issued Within Policy and Procedure timeline (90 days)	Number of Permits Issued Outside of Policy and Procedure Timeline (90 days)	Number of Applicants Provided Written Notification within 21 days	Number of Applicants Provided Written Notification outside 21 days
141	1	140	2

Since April 1, 2024, under the new timeline framework NVCA staff met timelines 99% of the time when issuing permits. NVCA staff have also achieved 98.5% when providing written notification status within prescribed timelines with two applicants receiving a late notice. This is explained further in the section below regarding file intake.

### File Intake

The August 2024 report outlined the new file intake system Staff have implemented. Staff are pleased to note that with the implementation of pre-screening an application, Staff been able to cut down on review time as most applications are found not to require further technical information and are contenders for direct issuance. This has allowed Technical Staff to focus efforts more on complex files.

Further, Staff have developed standard Terms of Reference for each hazard that is supplied to the applicant after pre-screening is completed and deemed warranted. Staff have found that with supplying the Applicant these Terms of Reference, Staff review time of resubmissions are reduced and more complete resubmissions are provided. Terms of Reference's are in Appendix A.

### Starting and Stopping the Clock

Staff have been tracking internally the "Run Time" of permit when it is in house vs. with the Applicant. Due to technical issues this function is not fully operational.

### Relevance to Authority Policy

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

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

### Impact on Authority Finances

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

### Climate Change Implications

NVCA assesses climate implications in all staff reports using the Clean Air Partnership's '[Municipal Climate Lens Tool](#)' to consider climate impacts or benefits associated with any project, program, or initiative. The following is a summary of the results.

Permits/Approvals under the Conservation Authorities Act Report  
Staff Report No. 42-09-24-BOD

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<b>Municipal Climate Lens Tool</b>	<b>Results</b>
Mitigation	This staff report does not result in an increase in green house gases
Temperature	This staff report does not result in an increase temperature
Precipitation	This staff report does not result in an increase in precipitation exposure

Submitted by:  
*Original Signed by*

Approved for Submission by:  
*Original Signed by*

Chris Hibberd  
Director, Watershed Management  
Services

Doug Hevenor  
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- A). Flood Terms of Reference
- B). Erosion Terms of Reference
- C). Coastal Terms of Reference





## Terms of Reference

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### Submission Requirements for Erosion Prone Areas and Understanding Site Conditions

\*\* Some activities/studies are pre-selected (☒) as they are a minimum requirement for Erosion Hazard submissions.

NVCA File #:

Application Title:

Civic Address:

ARN:

*Please be advised that NVCA's Planning and Regulation Guidelines (2009) state that in general, stabilization works within the erosion hazard of an apparent river or stream system to allow for future/proposed development or an increase in the development envelope or area shall not be permitted.*

### General Erosion Hazard

☒ Please confirm the potential for surficial erosion has been addressed through adequate drainage, erosion and sediment controls and site stabilization/restoration.

☒ Please indicate the extent of grading if there is any grading associated with the proposed works.

☒ Please ensure the drawings and reports are signed and stamped by a qualified professional.

☐ Please indicate the Erosion Access Allowance: The NVCA requires a minimum erosion access allowance of 6 metres from the erosion limit as defined by the erosion assessment.

☐ Please have a qualified professional complete an Erosion Hazard Assessment to determine type of erosion hazard present and the extent of the erosion hazard.

☐ Please clearly show the top of bank on drawings and the location of the erosion and sediment control features. This is necessary to show ESCs will be placed outside of the channel.

☐ Please include a note on the appropriate drawings stating that concentrated runoff from the pool is not allowed to drain onto the slope face or saturate the crown of the slope.

### Provide Erosion and Sediment Control Plan

☒ Please confirm there will be no stockpiling in the erosion hazards.

☒ Please confirm no equipment will be stored in the erosion hazards.

☒ Please indicate the use of NVCA [Approved Silt Fencing](#) and the silt fence must be installed as per BSD-23.

### Meander Erosion

☐ Please have a qualified professional (fluvial geomorphologist) assess the existing meander erosion hazard and determine the extent of the meander belt width. Please indicate the current status of the banks of the watercourse and prospected movement of the watercourse over the next 100 years.



## Terms of Reference

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☐ Please have a qualified professional (fluvial geomorphologist) demonstrate the proposed development will not have an impact on the form and function of the meander belt and natural fluvial processes.

☐ Please have a qualified professional provide any mitigation measures that can ensure the proposed development will not negatively impact the natural form and function of the watercourse.

### Slope Erosion

☐ Please have a qualified geotechnical professional complete Tables 4.1 and 4.2 of the MRNF Erosion Hazard Limit Guide.

☐ Please have a qualified geotechnical professional complete a Slope Erosion Hazard Assessment. Please document and support the application of toe erosion, stable slope and include 6m emergency access.

**If the Assessment is approved by the NVCA through the engineering review process then the applicant will need to demonstrate that the proposed development is outside the hazard and complies with all applicable setbacks.**

☐ Please have a qualified geotechnical professional review the existing slope erosion hazard and prepare a Slope Stability Analysis to determine Long Term Stable Top of Slope.

☐ Please document and support the bearing capacity of the soil as it applies to the proposed development. Please provide any mitigation measures to ensure the proposed development will not aggravate the existing slope erosion hazard.

☐ Please have a qualified geotechnical professional review the proposed development and confirm the proposed development will not have a negative impact to the existing slope erosion hazard. Please document and support the use of selected toe erosion component, inclination and 6m emergency access allowance. Additionally, please identify the location of the Long-Term Stable Top of Slope.

☐ Please provide any and all recommendations for construction and mitigation

### Additional notes:

Please note that changes to the scope of work may require a new permit application and applicable fee paid.



## Terms of Reference

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### Submission Requirements for Areas Prone to Riverine Flooding and Understanding Site Conditions

\*\* Some activities/studies are pre-selected (☒) as they are a minimum requirement for Riverine Flood Hazard submissions.

NVCA File #:

Application Title:

Civic Address:

ARN:

### Introduction

The NVCA Planning and Regulations Guidelines define the Regulatory Flood Hazard as follows:

In Ontario, either storm-centred events, flood frequency-based events, or an observed event may be used to determine the extent of the Regulatory Floodplain. These events are:

- a) A storm-centred event, either Hurricane Hazel storm (1954) or Timmins storm (1961). A storm-centred event refers to a major storm of record which is used for land use planning purposes. The rainfall actually experienced during a major storm event can be transposed over another watershed and when combined with the local conditions, Regulatory floodplains can be determined. This centred concept is considered acceptable where the evidence suggests that the storm event could have potentially occurred over other watersheds in the general area.
- b) 100-year flood event is a frequency-based flood event that is determined through analysis of precipitation, snow melt, or a combination thereof, having a return period (or a probability of occurrence) of once every 100 years on average (or having a 1% chance of occurring or being exceeded in any given year). The 100-year flood event is the minimum acceptable standard for defining the Regulatory floodplain.
- c) An observed event, which is a flood that is greater than the storm-centred events or greater than the 100-year flood and which was actually experienced in a particular watershed, or portion thereof, for example as a result of ice jams, and which has been approved as the standard for that specific area by the Minister of Natural Resources.

***The flood standard used to define floodplain limits for the NVCA is a "Flood produced by the Timmins Storm (1961) or the 100-year Flood, whichever is greater."***

### General Flood Hazard

- ☒ The subject property is located in the Regulatory Storm Floodplain. Based on NVCA's [approved Flood Study for the area]-OR-[Generic Regulations floodplain modelling], the [engineered]-OR-[estimated] Regulatory Flood elevation is [exactly]-OR-[approximately] \_\_\_\_\_ masl (meters above sea level).
- ☒ Please provide a topographic survey for including a minimum of 30 elevation points, to assist NVCA staff in determining whether an adjustment factor is required for the Regulatory Flood elevation. The topographic survey must note the vertical datum that was used to collect this information (i.e., CGVD28 or CGVD2013). **Please note, the survey-based vertical datum adjustment may or may not result in a reduction to the Regulatory Flood elevation.**



## Terms of Reference

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A comparison in topographic data sets (surveyed data versus NVCA's 2012 DEM) may need to be performed. Applying a median adjustment factor may result in a change to the Regulatory Flood elevation.

☐ Please note, development within the hydraulic floodway is not permitted. NVCA staff will need further information listed in this term of reference document to determine if the works are located outside the hydraulic floodway.

☐ NVCA requires that a flood study be completed to better understand the extents of the floodplain and potentially refine the Regulatory flood elevation. Please ensure the flood study follows the minimum standards identified in Section 3.2 of NVCA's Natural Hazards Technical Guide (December 2013). **Please note, the flood study may or may not result in a different Regulatory Flood elevation.**

The NVCA can provide a copy of our generic regulation HEC-RAS model to support the completion of the flood study if required. The study should include a topographic survey, with a datum comparison / adjustment to confirm that the survey and DEM used in the generic regulation HEC-RAS model are consistent. The qualified professional completing this work should also confirm that the flows used in the NVCA generic regulation model are appropriate.

**If the Regulatory Flood elevation is approved by the NVCA through the approval process of the Flood Study then the applicant will need to demonstrate that the proposed development is outside the floodplain.**

☒ Please ensure the drawings and reports are signed and stamped by a qualified professional.

☒ Please provide a drawing showing the flood hazard and 15 m setback.

☐ Please document and support/ confirm the proposed works have been located in the area of "least risk" on the site, such that it is set back from the riverine flood hazard as far as possible.

☐ For applications deemed allowable based on the 2009 NVCA Planning and Regulation Guidelines with structures located in estimated flood depths greater than 0.8m, qualified engineering (typically, structural for building and structural for foundation) is required, as per NVCA [Natural Hazards Technical Guidelines](#), Section 5.6 Structural Engineering. Please have a qualified structural professional determine the most adequate measure to be taken to ensure the structure can withstand hydrostatic pressures associated with the flood depths.

☐ Please note, safe access for vehicles and people during a flood event will need to be demonstrated. Section 5.1: NVCA Access/Egress Criteria from The Natural Hazards Technical Guide outlines the following;

The NVCA applies the following criteria to determine safe access/egress as;

- Maximum depth of flooding of 0.3m for vehicular access
- Velocities less than or equal to 1.7 m/s
- A depth-velocity product less than or equal to 0.4 m<sup>2</sup>/s

Please provide additional information to confirm that there is a route that provides safe access/egress to the site. Please include supporting evidence/calculations demonstrating the velocities and depth-velocity product is within the acceptable range. Additionally, please note that NVCA recommends permanent driveway markers be used for driveways with any flood depth associated with the Regulatory Flood event.



## Terms of Reference

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### Dry Floodproofing (habitable structures, attached structures)

☐ The subject property is located in the Regulatory Storm Floodplain. The structure must be flood-proofed to the Regulatory Storm elevation plus a 0.3 m freeboard. To ensure that the proposed structure will be flood-proofed to NVCA standards, please address the following:

- a. Please ensure all openings (i.e. both doors and windows) are to be located above the required flood-proofing elevation. Please provide the relevant plans showing all openings are located at or above the Regional Storm elevation plus a 0.3 m freeboard.
- b. Please include the Regulatory Flood elevation on the necessary drawings.

### Wet Floodproofing (accessory structures)

☐ The subject property is located in the Regulatory Storm Floodplain. The structure must be wet flood-proofed to the Regulatory Storm elevation plus a 0.3 m freeboard. To ensure that the proposed structure will be wet flood-proofed to NVCA standards, please add the following notes to the construction drawing(s):

- a. The proposed accessory building must remain non-habitable.
- b. The accessory structure, as a result of being in the flood hazard, must not be used for storage of immovable or hazardous materials that are buoyant, flammable, explosive or toxic.
- c. The interior space below the Regulatory Storm elevation plus a 0.3 m freeboard should remain unfinished, be non-habitable and be free of service units and panels, thereby ensuring minimal damage.
- d. All mechanical and electrical systems should be designed and installed so that the heating, lighting, ventilation, air conditioning and other systems are not vulnerable to flood damage during a flood event and are located at a minimum 0.3 metres above the Regulatory floodplain elevation. The appropriate height is  m (including the 0.3 m freeboard) for all mechanical and electrical systems.

### Fill in the Floodplain

☒ Please provide the volume of fill proposed. The amount of fill, if required, must be minimized to the extent possible. Please note, for fill volumes greater than one truck load some of the below fill comments may apply.

☐ Please keep in mind NVCA's large fill guidelines are triggered when 250m<sup>3</sup> of fill or greater is proposed. Our Procedural Guideline for the Placement of Large Quantities of Fill can be found [here](#).

☐ Further information regarding the volume of fill within the floodplain is required prior to assessing whether cut/fill may be entertained and whether a hydraulic assessment is required.

☐ NVCA staff have concerns regarding the loss of flood storage that would occur when the building is elevated. All efforts should be made to reduce the volume of fill to be imported and placed within the Regulatory floodplain. The fill pad should not be extended beyond the recommended width around the building. Consideration should also be given to use of existing material onsite (if deemed suitable) to reduce or balance import fill volumes. Please have a qualified engineer assess and confirm the proposed fill will not impact the floodplain on adjacent property. Please provide a response indicating how fill volumes will be reduced on site to the extent possible.



## Terms of Reference

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☐ Please provide a hydraulic assessment to quantify the impacts of the proposed fill on flow and conveyance within the floodplain.

☐ Please provide a detailed cut/fill analysis. Note: cut/fill volumes should be assessed at incremental 0.3m elevations for each cross-section.

An equivalent active floodplain storage under existing conditions must be provided. This should be verified through storage-discharge calculations, which confirms that a similar floodplain storage is provided at various flood discharges (not elevations). To accomplish this, the floodplain storage should be calculated at 0.3 m increments for the subject area for both existing and proposed conditions using a digital terrain modelling approach that reflects the sloped floodplain surface. The HEC-RAS model should be run with flows from the 2 year to Regional Storm events. At each discharge, the flood elevations across the site should be determined based on model output.

### Additional Considerations

☒ Retaining walls are not entertained to hold back flood waters. Obstructions to the conveyance of flood flows (i.e., retaining walls, berms, or other) are not permitted in the floodplain.

☐ A basement would not be supported in the proposed structure. A crawlspace may be permitted, however a letter from a qualified structural engineer would be required in support of a crawlspace confirming that the Regulatory flood level would not cause damage to the structure through seepage and/or can withstand the hydrostatic pressures of elevated water tables and lateral pressures exerted upon them by the Regulatory flood. Plans must be signed, stamped and dated by a registered professional engineer who specializes in structural design.

☐ Construction materials located below the Regulatory Flood elevation are to be of a type, which are not subject to deterioration by water or by alternate drying and wetting.

☐ Drains are to be equipped with valves which are capable of being closed manually or automatically to prevent the backup of floodwaters into the building.

☐ As per Section 5.5.1 of the NVCA Natural Hazards Technical Guide, NVCA engineering staff will require the septic system be designed such that the septic tank is located at or above the floodplain elevation to minimize buoyancy forces. Please include the septic tank elevation on the drawing.

☐ Construction of in-ground swimming pools may be permitted in flood susceptible areas provided that all of the following conditions are demonstrated to be satisfied by the applicant:

- a. The swimming pool plus the associated filter, heater, electrical connections and chemical storage facilities are dry floodproofed to a minimum of 0.3 metres above the Regulatory flood elevation;
- b. The change rooms are wet floodproofed;
- c. The side walls and pool bottom of in ground pools are capable of withstanding the anticipated hydrostatic pressures; and
- d. The placement of fill associated with the flood-proofing of the pool does not have an adverse impact on flood levels within that portion of the flood plain.



## Terms of Reference

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### **Provide Erosion and Sediment Control Plan**

- ☒ Please provide a drawing with the appropriate Erosion and Sediment Controls
- ☒ Please confirm there will be no stockpiling in the flood hazards.
- ☒ Please confirm no equipment will be stored in the flood hazards.
- ☒ Please indicate the use of NVCA [Approved Silt Fencing](#) and the silt fence must be installed as per BSD-23.
- ☒ Please include the following ESC note: The contractor shall monitor the weather several days in advance of the onset of the project to ensure that the works will be conducted during favourable weather conditions. Should an unexpected storm arise, the contractor will remove all unfixed items (i.e., fuel tanks, porta-potties, machinery) from the Regulatory Storm Floodplain and slope that may jeopardize the health or safety of persons in the vicinity of a natural hazard by creating an obstruction to flow or other adverse impact. Prior to a forecasted precipitation event, all ESC measures will be inspected and confirmed to be in good condition.

### **Additional notes:**

Please note that changes to the scope of work may require a new permit application and applicable fee paid.





## Terms of Reference

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### Submission Requirements for Areas Prone to Coastal Hazards and Understanding Site Conditions

\*\* Some activities/studies are pre-selected (☒) as they are a minimum requirement for Shoreline Hazard submissions.

NVCA File #:

Application Title:

Civic Address:

ARN:

### Introduction

The NVCA Planning and Regulations Guidelines define the Regulatory Coastal Hazard as follows:

- Shorelines are comprised of three components: 1) flooding hazards, 2) erosion hazards, and 3) dynamic beach hazards.

In general, **flooding** is a phenomenon influenced by and sensitive to water level fluctuations. Inundation of low-lying Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River system shorelines in and of itself does not necessarily constitute a significant hazard. The hazard is dependant on the type, design, location and density of any development in or near the flood inundated shorelines. However, where flooded lands are coupled with storm events, the cumulative impact can and frequently does pose significant degrees of risk. Of importance in managing a potential flood-susceptible shoreline is the need to understand the interrelationship between pre-storm flooding, storm setup, wave height, wave uprush and other water related hazards (i.e., wave spray, ice).

**Erosion** within the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River system is a concern, particularly within the lower Great Lakes. Erosion rates are dependent upon a number of lake and land processes as well as the composition and morphology of the shore. In general terms, identification of erosion susceptible shorelines is rather simple in that erosion of bedrock and cohesive shores involves a unidirectional process. In general, the shoreline along Georgian Bay in the Nottawasaga River Watershed is not composed of bluffs and as such does not meet the requirements to apply the erosion hazard guidelines as set for in the MNR's "Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River System and Large Inland Lakes – Technical Guides."

Given the naturally complex and dynamic nature of the beach environment, determining hazard susceptibility of a given beach formation requires careful assessment of a wide range of parameters. Over the short term, beach environments, impacted by flood and erosion processes, may undergo alternating periods of erosion and accretion as they attempt to achieve a dynamic equilibrium with the forces acting upon them. Over the long term, beaches experiencing a positive sediment budget (i.e., more sand and gravel is incoming than outgoing) are generally in fact accreting shore forms while those experiencing a negative sediment budget are eroding. As such, the depiction and evaluation of the hazard susceptibility of **dynamic beaches** should be dependent on the level of information, knowledge and understanding of the beach sediment budget and the cross-profile width over which most of the dynamic profile changes are taking place.

### General Coastal Hazard

- ☐ Please have a qualified Coastal Engineer assess the existing Coastal Flooding and Dynamic Beach hazards and determine the extent of the hazards.
- ☐ Please have a qualified Coastal Engineer demonstrate the proposed development will not have an impact to neighbouring properties and to natural coastal processes.





## Terms of Reference

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- ☐ Please have a qualified Coastal Engineer design the proposed development to withstand the Coastal processes associated with Georgian Bay.

### Coastal Flooding Hazard

- ☐ Based on the 2017 Shoreplan Engineering Study, it has been determined the property is subject to Coastal flooding with a flooding elevation of \_\_\_\_\_masl (includes 100-year Georgian Bay high lake level of 178.0m and wave uprush).
- ☐ Please have a qualified Coastal Engineer comment on the existing Coastal Flooding Hazard and discuss any impact to neighbouring properties.
- ☐ Please have a qualified Coastal Engineer design the proposed Shorewall to ensure that it is of adequate design to withstand Coastal processes. Furthermore, please ensure the proposed shorewall will not negatively impact the natural coastal processes.
- ☐ The proposed development must be dry flood proofed, with all openings elevated 0.3m above the Coastal Flooding hazard of \_\_\_\_\_masl.
- ☐ The proposed development must be wet flood proofed, with all electrical and mechanical servicing elevated 0.3m above the Coastal Flooding hazard of \_\_\_\_\_masl. Furthermore, the proposed development must remain non-habitable.

### Dynamic Beach Hazard

- ☐ Please have a qualified Coastal Engineering Professional review the existing dynamic beach hazard. Please include detailed drawings showing the extent of the dynamic beach hazard.
- ☐ Please have a qualified Coastal Engineer design the proposed Shorewall to ensure that it is of adequate design to withstand Coastal processes. Furthermore, please ensure the proposed shorewall will not negatively impact the natural coastal processes.
- ☐ It is understood the vegetation on the beach is acting in such a way so as to reduce the impact of Dynamic Beach on the existing/proposed development. Please be advised the NVCA does not support the removal of vegetation on the beach.

### Coastal Engineer Certification

- ☐ Please be advised, NVCA Engineering staff request documentation of qualifications. A Curriculum Vitae (CV) is required as part of the submission to be reviewed by the Engineering team.

### Erosion and Sediment Control Plan

- ☐ Please provide a drawing with the appropriate Erosion and Sediment Controls.
- ☐ Please confirm there will be no stockpiling in the flood hazards.
- ☐ Please confirm no equipment will be stored in the flood hazards.
- ☐ Please indicate the use of NVCA [Approved Silt Fencing](#) and the silt fence must be installed as per BSD-23.

### Erosion and Sediment Standard Notes

- ☒ Please include the following ESC note: The contractor shall monitor the weather several days in advance of the onset of the project to ensure that the works will be conducted during favourable weather conditions. Should an unexpected storm arise, the contractor will remove all unfixed items (i.e., fuel tanks, porta-potties, machinery) from the Regulatory Storm Floodplain and slope that may



## **Terms of Reference**

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jeopardize the health or safety of persons in the vicinity of a natural hazard by creating an obstruction to flow or other adverse impact. Prior to a forecasted precipitation event, all ESC measures will be inspected and confirmed to be in good condition.

### **Additional Notes or Requirements**

**Please note that changes to the scope of work may require a new permit application and applicable fee paid.**

**Reviewer:**

**Date:**



Staff Report: 43-09-24-BOD

Date: 13/12/2024

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Ben Krul  
Manager, Development Planning and Permits

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**SUBJECT: 2025 Fees for Planning and Permit Applications**

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**Recommendation**

**RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 43-09-24-BOD regarding proposed changes to planning and permitting review fees; and**

**FURTHER THAT: the Board of Directors approve increase of the planning and permitting fees for 2025 based on cost of living allowance (3.1%) and pending expiring or lifting of the fee freeze by the Minister of Natural Resources.**

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**Purpose of the Staff Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of changes to the planning and permitting review fees, and next steps.

**Background**

In June 2023, staff presented a comprehensive review of NVCA's planning and regulation program rates and fees to the Board of Directors. The review was completed by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

In the review, Watson & Associates provided recommendations on updates to program rates and fees to ensure costs can be fully recovered. This was the result of reviewing NVCA's current planning and development costs, while considering legislative changes (i.e., Bill 23) and impacts of current legislation and provincial guidelines. NVCA staff engaged stakeholders in summer of 2023 with the intent of implementing the [Watson Report](#). A draft fee schedule was brought to the October 2023 Board or Director's meeting and subsequently posted for 30 days in November 2023 for public input.

On December 13, 2023 the Minister of Natural Resources directed conservation authorities not to change the amount of the fees it charges, or the way conservation authorities determine how fees are charged. This direction is effective until December 31, 2024. This relates to reviewing and commenting on planning and development related proposals or land use planning policies, or for permits issued by conservation authorities.

At the October 2024 NVCA Board of Directors meeting, NVCA staff brought forward an updated NVCA Fee Policy & Fee Schedules for Board of Directors approval. The fee schedule was updated at that time to bring our fee policy into compliance with legislative changes and eliminate duplication with our procedural guidelines. The fee policy update did not change the fees, but rather the administrative sections within the document.

The 2025 Fee Policy & Fee Schedules includes a Policy Review and Public Notification section noting that the policy shall be evaluated from time to time to evaluate its effectiveness and fairness. Further that the public shall be notified of any changes or amendments to the policy through posting on the NVCA website and/or Board of Director's meeting process. This policy, as a minimum, will be reviewed once annually to include a review of the cost of living adjustment.

### Issues/Analysis

The Minister's "list of classes of programs and services in respect of which conservation authorities may charge a fee" identifies the types of fees that can be charged by conservation authorities. This policy document also identifies a user-pay principle, enabling authorities to charge a fee for programs and services to generate revenue. This may reduce an authority's reliance on municipal levy and help cover program costs.

The key goal of planning and permit user fees is to address program cost recovery. The Watson Report completed and presented to the NVCA Board last year, sets future fee revenue/fee target amounts (table 3-9, Scenario 3, Page 41 of agenda, 06-23-BOD Agenda ([nvca.on.ca](https://nvca.on.ca))). These targets assumed no further Provincial freeze of CAs fees. The projected revenue amounts approximately translate to estimated percentages of 80/20 (fees/levy) for planning and 85/15 for permitting. We would note that our current 2024 budgeted revenues for the overall program (planning and permits) are closer to approximately 70/30 (fees/levy) split.

Based on dialogue with Conservation Ontario leadership, NVCA's Chair and Vice Chair, NVCA staff at this point in time are recommending an increase to planning and permit fees for 2025 by the cost of living allowance (COLA) of 3.1%. Subject to the Board's approval the fees would come into effect pending the freeze on Conservation Authority Fees either expiring or has been lifted by the Ministry of Natural Resources. See attached Draft 2025 Fee Schedule. It is staff's intent to bring forward later in 2025 the implementation of the recommendations of the 2023 Watson Report for Board approval.

#### Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

Conservation authorities (CA) are permitted to charge fees for a program or service that is included in the Minister's list of classes of programs and services ("Minister's Fee Classes Policy") pursuant Section 21.2 of the Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act). CAs must develop a written fee policy and fee schedule for all chargeable programs and services. The policy and fee must include principles and practices regarding fees charged under Section 21.2 of the CA Act. NVCA staff has prepared this fee policy to satisfy this requirement, as well as to identify the principles and practices regarding fees charged under Section 21.2 of the CA Act.

#### Impact on Authority Finances

The approval of the suggested changes will aid in recovering cost of living expenses for the development planning and permits department.

#### Climate Change Implications

The NVCA assesses climate implications in all staff reports using the Clean Air

2025 Fees for Planning and Permit Applications  
Staff Report No. 43-09-24-BOD

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Partnership's '[Municipal Climate Lens Tool](#)' to consider climate impacts or benefits associated with any project, program, or initiative. The following is a summary of the results.

<b>Municipal Climate Lens Tool</b>	<b>Results</b>
Mitigation	Project will not result in the production of green house gases
Temperature	Project can not be affected by temperature
Precipitation	Project can not be affected by precipitation

Reviewed and approved for submission by:

*Original Signed by*

Doug Hevenor

Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment: Proposed 2025 Planning and Permitting fees

Appendix A: NVCA Planning Services Fee Schedule (2025 Draft)

Official Plans and Zonings	Current Fee	Proposed 2025 fee with 2024 COLA (3.1%)
Official Plans and Secondary Plans	General Levy	General Levy
Comprehensive Zoning By-law	General Levy	General Levy
Site Specific Official Plan and Zoning By-Law Amendments	\$530	<b>\$546</b>
Additional fee for technical study review	\$796	<b>\$821</b>
Letter of approval (no technical review or site inspection required)	\$107	<b>\$110</b>
Plan of Subdivision/Condominium (Residential, Commercial, and Industrial)	Current Fee	Proposed 2025 fee
Minimum Fee	\$13,260	<b>\$13,671</b>
Maximum Fee (See Note 1)	\$106,080	<b>\$109,368</b>
Lot/Unit fee and Net hectare fee	\$3,425 per hectare	<b>\$3,531</b>
Design Resubmission surcharge for subdivisions and residential/mixed use site plans	3 <sup>rd</sup> Submission – 25% of original fee (maximum charge of \$13,260)  4 <sup>th</sup> and subsequent submissions – 50% of original fee (maximum fee of \$13,260)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Submission – 25% of original fee (maximum charge of <b>\$13,671</b> )  4 <sup>th</sup> and subsequent submissions – 50% of original fee (maximum fee of <b>\$13,671</b> )
Clearance Fee for Additional Subdivision Phases		
Redline Revisions	Minor (Design Change) 25% of original fee (maximum fee of \$13,770)  Major (Change to Limits of Development) 75% of original fee (not to exceed maximum fee \$106,080)	Minor (Design Change) 25% of original fee (maximum fee of <b>\$14,196</b> )  Major (Change to Limits of Development) 75% of original fee (not to exceed maximum fee <b>\$109,368</b> )
Site Plans	Current Fee	Proposed 2025 Fee

Appendix A: NVCA Planning Services Fee Schedule (2025 Draft)

Letter of Approval (no technical review or site inspection required)	\$556	<b>\$573</b>
Minor: Site Plan Area less than 2 ha	\$1,591	<b>\$1640</b>
Intermediate: Site Plan Area more than 2 ha, less than 4 ha	\$5,824	<b>\$6,005</b>
Major: Site Plan Area more than 4 ha (Additional \$1,250/ha fee charge for sites over 10 ha.)	\$14,285	<b>\$14,728</b>
Site Plan: Residential (multi-unit and/or mixed use)	Use Residential Subdivision Fees	
Design Resubmission surcharge for non-residential site plans	3rd Submission - 25% of original fee	3rd Submission - 25% of original fee
	4th and subsequent submissions – 50% of original fee	4th and subsequent submissions – 50% of original fee
<b>Golf Courses</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed 2025 Fee</b>
New Golf Courses	\$15,912	<b>\$16,405</b>
<b>Aggregate Proposals</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed 2025 Fee</b>
Minimum fee for Below Water Table	\$13,260	<b>\$13,671</b>
Maximum fee for Below Water Table	\$106,080	<b>\$109,368</b>
Net hectare fee for Below Water Table	\$1,352/ha	<b>\$1,394/ha</b>
Above water table proposals or expanded extraction within a licensed area	\$13,260	<b>\$13,671</b>
<b>Consents</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed 2025 Fee</b>
Base Fee	\$321	<b>\$331</b>
Additional fee for technical study review (e.g., SWM Report or EIS)	\$530	<b>\$546</b>
Letter of approval (no technical review or site inspection required)	\$107	<b>\$110</b>
<b>Minor Variances</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed 2025 Fee</b>
Base Fee	\$214	<b>\$221</b>
Additional fee for technical study review (e.g., SWM Report or EIS)	\$530	<b>\$546</b>



## Appendix A: NVCA Planning Services Fee Schedule (2025 Draft)

Letter of approval (no technical review or site inspection required)	\$107	<b>\$110</b>
Niagara Escarpment Commission Applications	Fee	
Base Fee	\$321	<b>\$331</b>
Additional fee for technical study review, for example EIS	\$530	<b>\$546</b>
Letter of approval (no technical review or site inspection required)	\$107	<b>\$110</b>
Conservation Authorities Act	Fee	
Letter of Approval (site inspection not required)	\$102	<b>\$105</b>
Permit Application Minor Works	\$255	<b>\$263</b>
Permit Application Intermediate Works	\$561	<b>\$578</b>
Permit Application Major Works	\$1,591	<b>\$1640</b>
Permit Application Major Works – complex	\$3,182	<b>\$3281</b>
Agricultural Permit Applications (separated in 2016)		
Letter of Approval (site inspection not required)	\$102	<b>\$105</b>
Minor works or works located in regulated adjacent lands	\$255	<b>\$263</b>
Works located within flood and/or erosion hazard	\$561	<b>\$578</b>
Unauthorized works	2 X permit fee	2 X permit fee
Permit application large fill projects: 250 – 1,000 m <sup>3</sup> (Permit application for large fill projects - See procedural guidelines for more detail.)	\$530 plus \$0.82/m <sup>3</sup>	<b>\$546 PLUS \$0.85/m<sup>3</sup></b>
Permit application large fill projects: more than 1000 m <sup>3</sup>	\$1,591 plus \$0.82/m <sup>3</sup>	<b>\$1640 plus \$0.85/m<sup>3</sup></b>
Permit – amendment	50% of original fee	50% of original fee
Additional fee for significant technical review	Varies	Varies
<b>Other</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed 2025 Fee</b>
Legal/Real Estate Inquiries	\$214	<b>\$221</b>

Appendix A: NVCA Planning Services Fee Schedule (2025 Draft)

Legal/Consultant Peer Review Costs (charged on the basis of cost recovery)	Varies	Varies
Provision of Individual Property Information	\$77	<b>\$79</b>
Pre-consultations Fee	\$561 (without site visit) \$1,591 (analysis by one planner and one technical discipline) \$3,182 (analysis by one planner and more than one technical discipline)	<b>\$578</b> (without site visit) <b>\$1,640</b> (analysis by one planner and one technical discipline) <b>\$3,281</b> (analysis by one planner and more than one technical discipline)

Notes:

Fee Schedule Notes:

1. The maximum review fee for plans of subdivision/condominium is \$109,368 (Increase based on COLA).
2. Plans of subdivision/condominium fees may be phased as outlined in NVCA’s policy for charging fees if the total fee meets the minimum threshold of \$50,000.00.
3. The NVCA reserves the right to not allow the phasing of fees for development subject to a Minister’s Zoning Order (MZO) issued by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
4. When processing and reviewing consolidated planning applications (e.g. OPA/ZBA/Subdivisions), the higher fee is applicable (including MZOs).
5. Plans of subdivision/condominium and site plan fees include permitting fees under O. Reg 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits.
6. Notwithstanding note # 5, permit issuance for works occurring two years after the date of the last NVCA comments on a file will be subject to the relevant permit fee for the scale of the works.
7. A net hectare refers to the total area of land available for development. It excludes lands outside of the development limit (e.g., natural hazard, natural heritage areas and buffers).
8. NVCA reserves the right to reassess the review fee after 5 years of receipt of the application based on timing and receipt of technical information.
9. The applicant will be responsible for any external peer review costs necessary to review submitted technical submissions. This can include expedited review of submission is subject to availability of peer reviewers and approval of the Director, Watershed Management or Manager, Development Planning and Permits. The applicant will be responsible for any external peer review costs necessary to review submitted technical submissions.
10. Alterations or expansions to existing golf courses not requiring Planning Act approvals and within a regulated area will be addressed through the Conservation Authorities Act approval fees.
11. Permit approval will not be required from the NVCA for certain small-scale projects as outlined in NVCA’s Policy for Charging Fees.
12. Please see NVCA’s Policy for Charging Fees for further an explanation of the minor, intermediate and major permit fee categories, as well as other matters (e.g., fee exemptions, appeal process, etc.). This document is available at [www.nvca.on.ca](http://www.nvca.on.ca) under Planning & Permits – Policies & Guidelines.



Staff Report: 44-09-24-BOD

Date: 13/12/2024

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Sheryl Flannagan  
Director, Corporate Services

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**SUBJECT: Update on Regulatory Deliverables: *Ontario Regulation 686/21* under the *Conservation Authorities Act***

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### **Recommendation**

**RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 44-09-24-BOD related to an update on regulatory deliverables, be received for information.**

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### **Purpose of the Staff Report**

The purpose of this Staff Report is to give the Board information related to the NVCA's completion of the requirements under *Ontario Regulation 686/21* (O. Reg. 686/21) under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA).

### **Background**

Under *Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services*, Conservation Authorities (CAs) are required to complete six (6) legislated deliverables for mandatory programs and services by December 31, 2024. O. Reg. 686/21 prescribes the requirements for the regulatory deliverables. Each CA is required to complete the following:

1. Conservation Areas Strategy (CA Strategy) (to be posted on our website)
2. Land Inventory
3. Ice Management Plan (IMP)
4. Natural Hazard Infrastructure Asset Management Plan(s)
5. Natural Hazard Infrastructure Operational Management Plan(s)

6. Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy (to be posted on our website)

### Issues/Analysis

#### *1. Conservation Areas Strategy and Land Inventory*

O. Reg 686/21 provides the mandatory components of the Conservation and Management of Lands program and service. The objective of the CA Strategy is to ensure the NVCA has a documented and current set of objectives to inform decision-making related to lands owned or controlled by the NVCA.

A detailed overview of the CA Strategy was provided in Board Report No. 32-07-24-BOD, subsequently approved by the Board and is posted on our website.

#### *2. Land Inventory*

O. Reg 686/21 requires the development of a Land Inventory that captures specific information for each parcel of land owned or controlled by the NVCA. The Land Inventory is directly linked to the CA Strategy as the land use categories established in the Strategy will be applied to each parcel of land in the Inventory. Information contained in the Inventory includes details on parcel acquisition, location, categorization, and projects.

Major components of the Land Inventory have been completed and work is in progress to finalize the inventory by December 31, 2024. The inventory is for internal use only.

#### *3. Ice Management Plan*

Ice management is a mandatory program and service that NVCA provides within its jurisdiction to reduce risk associated with natural hazards. O. Reg 686/21 stipulates that the Ice Management Program (IMP) must include how ice within the NVCA's jurisdiction may increase the risk of natural hazards and the necessary steps to mitigate risk, including identifying the equipment and resources needed to carry out said steps.

An IMP was completed and provided in Board Report 39-08-24-BOD, subsequently approved by the Board and is for internal use.

#### *4. Natural Hazard Infrastructure Asset Management Plan*

A Natural Hazard Infrastructure Asset Management Plan is required to support mandatory programs and services related to flood control, low flow augmentation, and erosion control infrastructure.

The Plan includes the identification, location, and specifications of dams and dike and floodwall systems; a condition assessment of major infrastructure components and current maintenance practices, processes, and systems; a review of the maintenance program to identify any modifications or updates required to meet organizational goals; and documents NVCA's water control infrastructure asset management strategy and associated funding needs (e.g., major maintenance, large capital for individual dams and dikes, and an outline of recommended works).

This work is completed through a few facets, including the NVCA's annual review of our Asset Management Plan and through the required Dam Safety Reviews and will be combined into one document for going forward as required by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. This document is for internal use.

#### *5. Natural Hazard Infrastructure Operational Management Plan*

The operation, maintenance, repair, and decommissioning of any water control infrastructure where the purpose of the infrastructure is to mitigate risk to life and damage to property resulting from flooding and/or assist in flow augmentation and erosion control infrastructure is a mandatory program and service. O. Reg 686/21 stipulates that an operational plan be developed and implemented for water control/flow augmentation and erosion control infrastructure.

A Natural Hazard Infrastructure Operational Plan (NHIOP) is completed. The document includes comprehensive information that describes existing key documents relating to operations, maintenance, Emergency Preparedness associated with NVCA flood infrastructure and for long-term planning of capital repairs.

The NHIOP was completed and provided in Board Report 39-08-24-BOD, subsequently approved by the Board and is for internal use.

#### *6. Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy*

O. Reg 686/21 requires CAs to prepare a Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy (WBRMS) that provides watershed context and rationale for NVCA's programs and services and identifies current priorities and future direction.

The WBRMS identifies the risk, issues and challenges in the watershed along with mitigation strategies to address these concerns through an integrated watershed management approach.

The WBRMS was completed and provided in Board Report 36-08-24-BOD, subsequently approved by the Board and is posted on our website.

Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

The completion of these plans meets the requirement under O. Reg 686/21 and ensures compliance with the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Impact on Authority Finances

Staff time to prepare this report is addressed in the 2024 budget.

Climate Change Implications

This report has no climate change implications.

Reviewed by:  
*Original Signed by*  
Sheryl Flannagan  
Director, Corporate Services

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



Staff Report: 45-09-24-BOD

Date: 13/12/2024

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Sheryl Flannagan  
Director, Corporate Services

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**SUBJECT: 2025 Budget**

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**Recommendation**

**RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 45-09-24-BOD regarding the NVCA's 2025 Budget be received; and**

**FURTHER THAT: the 2025 Category 1 budget, operational and capital, as presented in the 2025 Draft Budget booklet be approved; and**

**FURTHER THAT: each watershed member municipality be formally advised of their respective share of the Category 1 levies, operational and capital; and**

**FURTHER THAT: the 2025 Categories 2 & 3 budget, operational and capital, as presented in the 2025 Draft Budget booklet be approved; and**

**FURTHER THAT: each watershed member municipality be formally advised of their respective share of the Categories 2 & 3 levies once the memorandum of understanding with the municipality is signed, operational and capital; and**

**FURTHER THAT: should a member municipality choose not to participate in Categories 2 & 3, that reserves be used to cover the difference in the budgeted levy for the 2025 year.**

---

### Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report is to obtain the Board's approval regarding the NVCA's 2025 budget.

### 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.

The Board subsequently approved the 2025 draft budget for circulation for the 30-day comment period in September 2024. Circulation was extended to November 22<sup>nd</sup> to give councils some extra time. Comments received are listed later in this report.

The levy was apportioned based on the current value assessment (SVA) values received from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), which are based on the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) determined values.

### Issues/Analysis

The draft budget was then sent to all our member municipalities for review and an opportunity to comment. During this time, NVCA staff provided 2025 budget presentations to seven municipal councils: Town of New Tecumseth, Township of Mulmur, Springwater Township, Town of the Blue Mountains, Essa Township, Township of Oro-Medonte, and Town of Innisfil.

Staff also received the below from the Town of Mono:

#### Resolution #5-16-2024

*Moved by Ralph Manktelow, Seconded by Elaine Capes*

*THAT we receive the NVCA 2025 Draft Budget;*



*AND THAT Council for the Town of Mono wishes to express its dissatisfaction with the proposed amount of the overall increase.*

**"Carried"**

The following procedures will occur when considering the 2025 Draft Budget as required by the MNR:

- a) Board Members will have an opportunity to deliberate and ask questions.
- b) A roll call of the members present, and vote will be completed by the Director, Corporate Services.
- c) The budget vote will be recorded, and each Member will be requested to vote yea or nay to the attached budget, done in alphabetical order of Municipality. Further, the vote will be weighted based upon the current value assessment (CVA) percentage as broken down in the 2025 Draft Budget.

The breakdown is as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Municipality/Township</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Mayor Scott Anderson	Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	4.0434%
Chair/Deputy Mayor Gail Little	Township of Amaranth	0.2183%
Councillor Gary Harvey	City of Barrie	14.7491%
Councillor June Porter	Town of the Blue Mountains	1.4680%
Vice-Chair/Councillor Jonathan Scott	Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury	4.2756%
Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren	Clearview Township	4.9340%
Councillor Christopher Baines	Town of Collingwood	10.2694%
Councillor Pieter Kiezebrink	Township of Essa	6.7952%
Councillor Joel Loughead	Municipality of Grey Highlands	0.3352%
Councillor Kevin Eisses	Town of Innisfil	7.3035%
Mayor Darren White	Township of Melancthon	0.4747%
Councillor Ralph Manktelow	Town of Mono	3.5840%
Councillor Patty Clark	Mulmur Township	1.5857%
Councillor Nicole Cox	Town of New Tecumseth	13.3970%
Councillor Richard Schell	Township of Oro-Medonte	7.3607%
Councillor Kyle Fegan	Town of Shelburne	2.1742%
Councillor Phil Fisher	Township of Springwater	7.7572%
Councillor Joe Belanger	Town of Wasaga Beach	9.2748%

### 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





# **NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY 2025 DRAFT BUDGET**



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## **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.





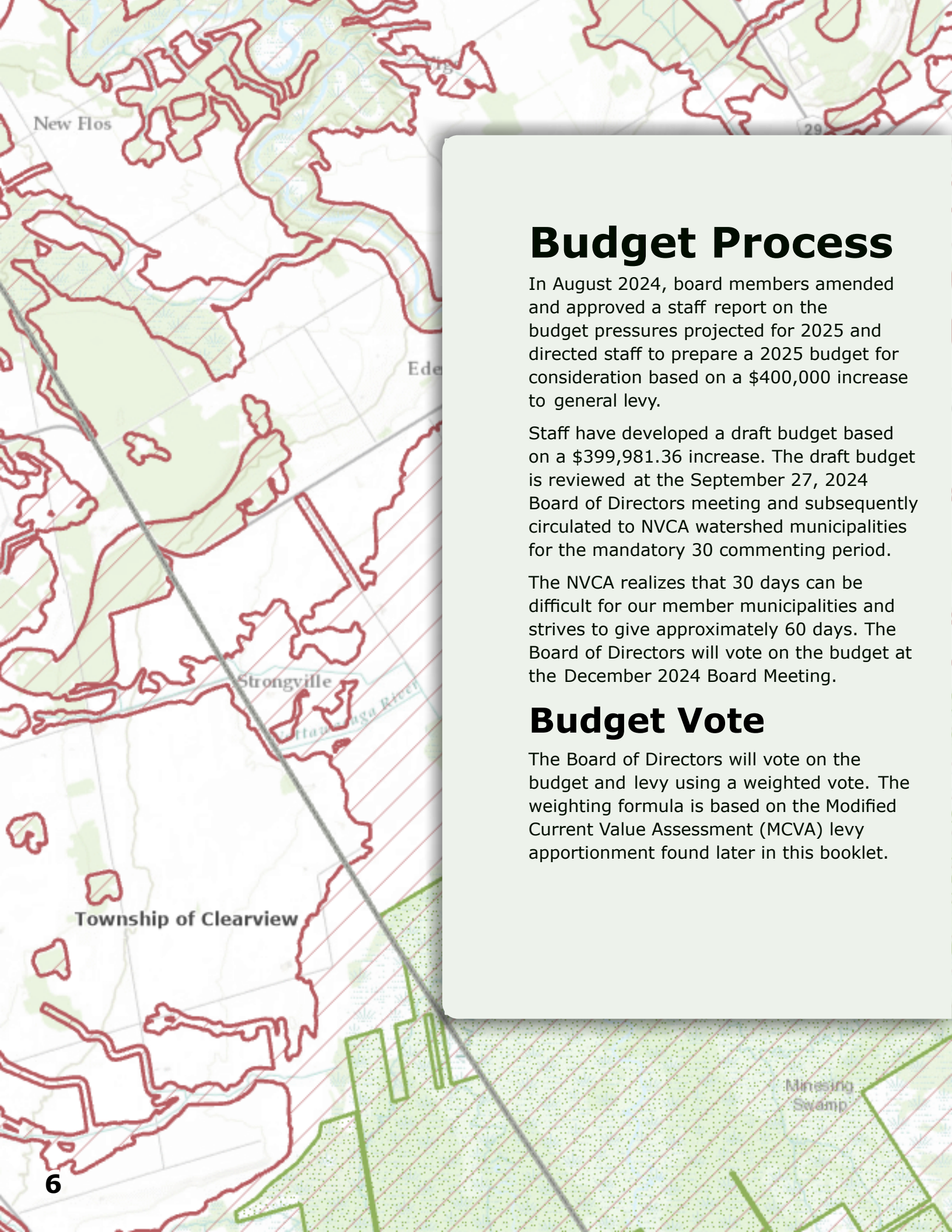
## **OUR WATERSHED**

The Nottawasaga Valley Watershed is approximately 3,700 km<sup>2</sup>, 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

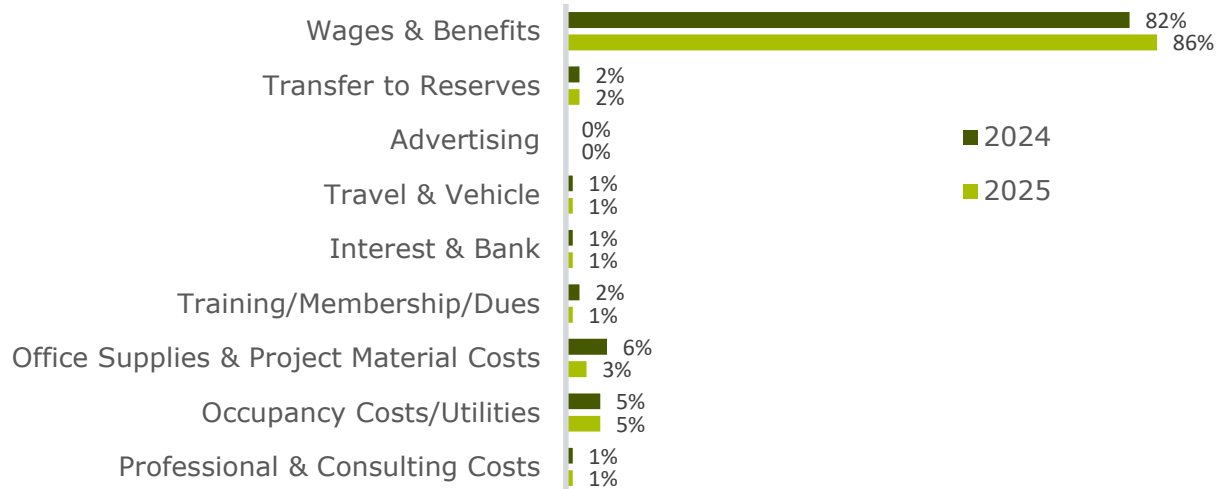
As per the NVCA's Inventory of Programs and Services, Category 1 items are provincially mandated services that NVCA must deliver to our partner municipalities. The 2024 operational budget for Category 1 is organized into business units and departments and is intended to reflect all associated costs. 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.

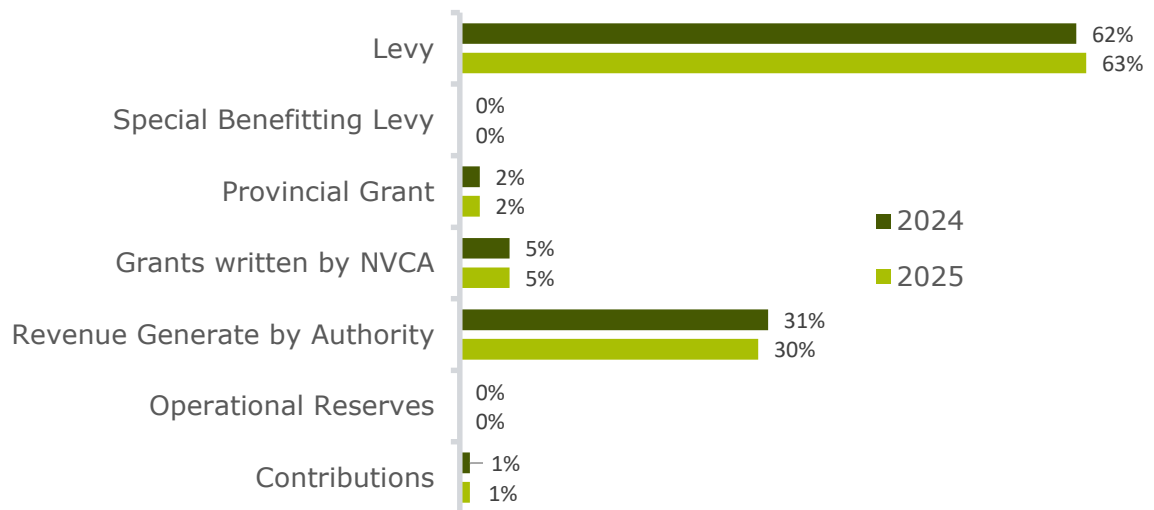
## Summary of Category 1 Municipal Levy Contribution

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
<b>REVENUE:</b>			
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
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
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**

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

# 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.

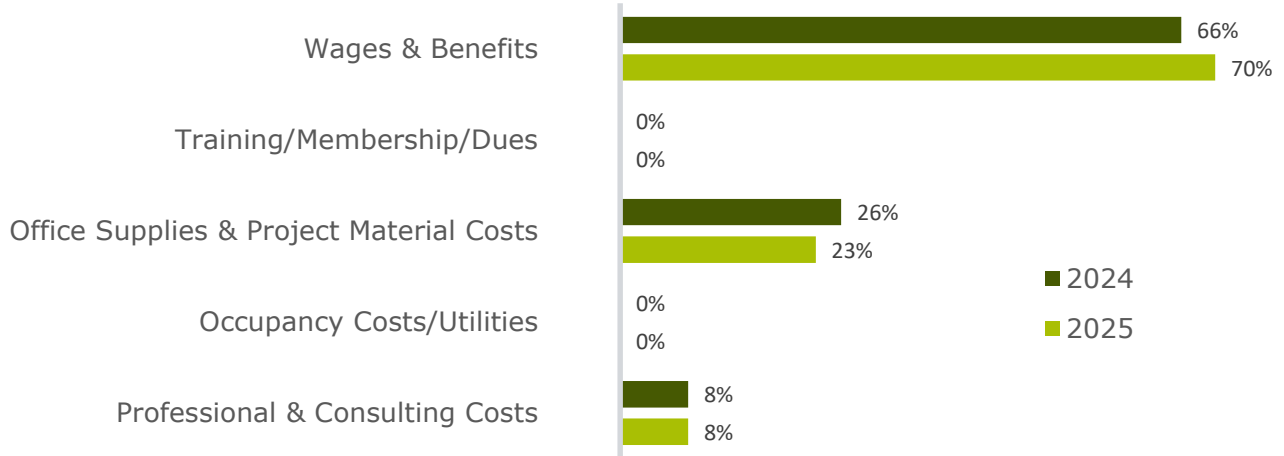
For Categories 2 & 3's budget, a \$2,942.78 decrease in municipal levy is realized to support the operating expenditures. The operating levy is shared by NVCA member municipalities based on the MCVA apportionment percentages provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry.

## Summary of Category 3 Municipal Levy Contribution

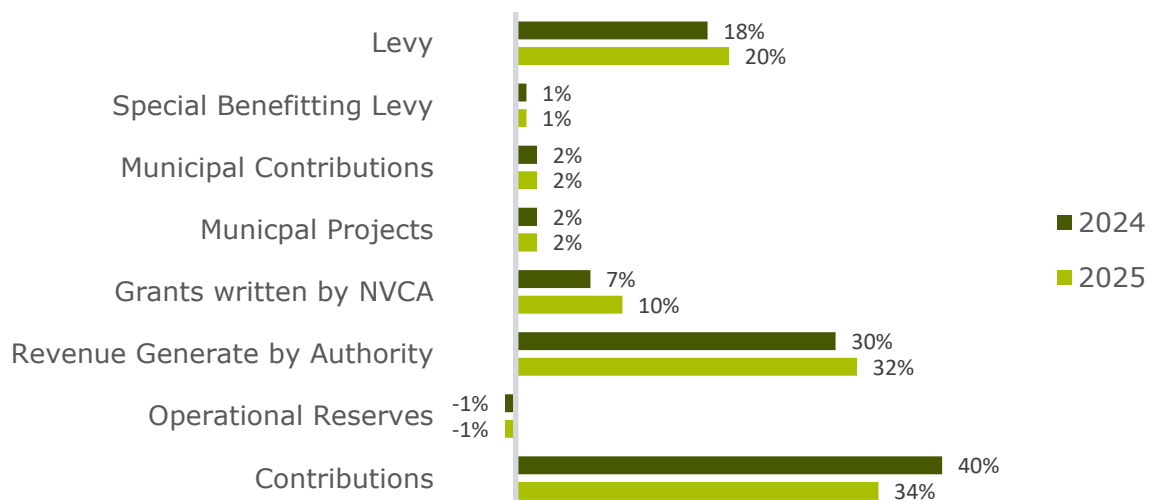
Municipality	2024 MCVA Apportionment Percentage	2025 MCVA Apportionment Percentage	2024 Operating Levy	2025 Draft Operating Levy	\$ Increase
			\$328,942.68	\$360,815.61	\$31,872.93
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	4.01%	4.04%	\$13,189.61	\$14,589.22	\$1,399.61
Township of Amaranth	0.22%	0.22%	\$717.75	\$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**

	<b>BUDGET 2024</b>	<b>BUDGET 2025</b>	<b>\$ CHANGE</b>
<b>REVENUE:</b>			
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	429,992.68	452,865.61	22,872.93
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	125,500.00	175,500.00	50,000.00
Contributions	715,130.00	634,130.00	(81,000.00)
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	1,260,870.00	1,223,970.00	(36,900.00)
Operational Reserves	(9,800.00)	(9,800.00)	-
TOTAL REVENUE	1,806,562.68	1,842,535.61	35,972.93
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Wages and Interprogram Charges	1,086,464.09	1,178,203.06	91,738.97
	1,086,464.09	1,178,203.06	91,738.97
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	-
	569,259.87	513,934.46	(55,325.41)
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,655,723.96	1,692,137.52	36,413.56
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	150,838.72	150,398.09	(440.63)

# 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





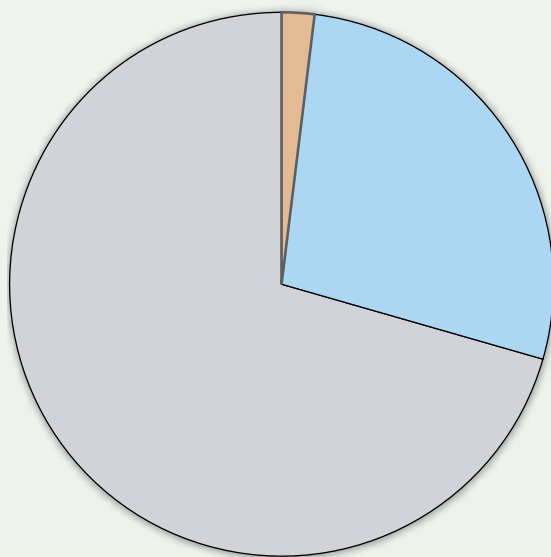


# Reserves

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
<b>REVENUE:</b>			
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
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
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](mailto:admin@nvca.on.ca)



@nottawasagaca







Staff Report: 46-09-24-BOD

Date: 13/12/2024

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Maria Leung  
Senior Communications Specialist

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**SUBJECT: Communications Report – November 9, 2024 – November 26, 2024**

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**Recommendation**

**RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 46-09-24-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – November 9, 2024 – November 26, 2024, be received.**

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Purpose of the Staff Report

This staff report presents a summary of NVCA media coverage and public outreach during the period of November 9, 2024 – November 26, 2024.

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

1. Flood Messages

There were no flood messages issued during this time period

2. Media coverage of NVCA news releases

There were no media releases issued during this time period

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

### 3. Other Media Coverage

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
TD Tree Days plant 800 native trees and shrubs	New Tecumseth Times	November 14, 2024	Sarah Campbell, Aquatic Biologist
Swamped by looming tax hike, Oro-Medonte says no to 'extras' from conservation authority	Orillia Matters	November 15, 2024	CAO Hevenor
Swamped by looming tax hike, Oro-Medonte says no to 'extras' from conservation authority	Hamilton Spectator	November 15, 2024	CAO Hevenor
Ontario's Nottawasaga river is getting a renewed lease on life thanks to massive community effort	Outdoor Canada	November 18, 2024	Fred Dobbs, Managers, Stewardship
Barrie homeowners shouldn't bank on no tax increase in 2025	Barrie Today	November 18, 2024	Councillor Harvey
OPP costs driving huge increase in 2025 for Springwater taxpayers	Barrie Today	November 19, 2024	Councillor Fisher
OPP costs driving huge increase in 2025 for Springwater taxpayers	Collingwood Today	November 19, 2024	Councillor Fisher
OPP costs driving huge increase in 2025 for Springwater taxpayers	Midland Today	November 19, 2024	Councillor Fisher
Owner of narrow Hwy. 26 land parcel proposes townhouses	Collingwood Today	November 21, 2024	
Springwater council given options to reduce budget hike, cover shortfall	Barrie Today	November 22, 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

- November 18, 2024 – Budget presentation at the Township of Springwater
- November 20, 2024 – Budget presentation at the Township of Essa
- November 27, 2024 – Budget presentation at the Township of Oro-Medonte
- November 21, 2024 – Launched 2024 Giving Tuesday Campaign

Issues/Analysis

The majority of media coverage in this reporting period was regarding municipal budgets. 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

## **TD Tree Days plant 800 native trees and shrubs**

November 14, 2024 by Brian Lockhart

New Tecumseth Times



The Nottawasaga River Watershed has an additional 800 native trees and shrubs thanks to the TD Tree Days and the 130 volunteers who planted them at three community planting events held in the fall.

On Sept. 7, 45 volunteers planted 150 trees and shrubs near Little Lake Park in Barrie.

On Sept. 21, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority hosted another TD Tree Days event at the Whitetail Refuge Nature Reserve in Mono Centre. At that event, 50 volunteers turned out to help put 400 trees and shrubs in the ground.

Another 40 volunteers came together on Oct. 19 to plant 275 trees along the Ganaraska Trail in Creemore.

"This much needed restoration was made possible with the help of the volunteers and the support of TD Tree Days," said Sarah Campbell of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), who organized the

planting events. "These events are a great way of engaging our local community in the restoration of natural habitats in our watershed."

Campbell added, "We were excited to continue working with TD Tree Days this year and look forward to working with them in 2025."

The newly planted 800 trees and shrubs will create wildlife habitat, provide shade which will help to cool water temperatures, and naturalize the landscape. The trees act as a buffer to filter excess nutrients and pollutants before rain or snowmelt reaches the rivers, streams, and wetlands.

TD Tree Days provides TD employees an opportunity to demonstrate environmental leadership in their local communities. Since TD Tree Days launched in 2010, over 520,000 trees have been planted nationwide.

This year, volunteers will help plan 30,000 more trees and shrubs at various events hosted across the country and around the world.

The NVCA is now booking for 2025 tree planting and stewardship projects.

Landowners who are interested in planting trees and shrubs along streams or wetlands on their property can contact NVCA at 705-424-1479 to arrange a site visit and learn about available funding.

## **Swamped by looming tax hike, Oro-Medonte says no to 'extras' from conservation authority**

'If the matter is as important as is being stressed, then I would suggest that the provincial government intervene,' says deputy mayor

November 15, 2024 by Wayne Doyle  
Hamilton Spectator



*The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's tree-planting programs in Oro-Medonte Township will be coming to an end.*

Oro-Medonte residents should start bracing for what may be a humdinger of a tax hike next year.

Even though council has yet to crack the book on next year's budget, township officials are sounding the alarm, warning residents that costs are going up and there's very little they can do about it.

It's a common refrain across local municipalities.

"We need to take caution right now," Oro-Medonte Deputy Mayor Peter Lavoie told members of township council on Wednesday. "The [county approved a budget increase of 3.625 per cent](#) and we're facing an OPP

(Ontario Provincial Police) wage increase of \$650,000, approximately a 3.5 per cent tax increase.

"This is before we've even considered any of the things we might want to do within the township of our own volition," he added.

(The county's budget still requires ratification, which could happen Nov. 26.)

Lavoie also noted the township may be hit with another cost related to its asset management program. He said council will have to wait for guidance from the municipality's finance director to fully understand the implications.

With that in mind, it should come as no surprise that township council voted to withdraw from the optional programs offered by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) at Wednesday's meeting.

According to a report prepared by Brent Spagnol, director of development services for the township, during the 2024 budget cycle the NVCA made its presentation and informed the township its Category 1 services, which are mandatory, would cost the township \$210,911 in 2024.

The NVCA also pitched its Category 2 and Category 3 services, both of which are optional.

The township said it had no interest in Category 2 services, but it was interested in some Category 3 services. The cost for those services in 2024 was pegged at \$24,289.

However, during the budget process, council raised questions about the costs of those Category 3 services and the potential overlapping of services provided by [NVCA and the Severn Sound Environmental Association \(SSEA\)](#).

At that time, council decided to hold the \$24,289 fee in township reserves until staff had an opportunity to hold discussions with the NVCA to clarify details on the overlap of services and a rebate of \$6,551.63 — in place of a previously understood rebate of about \$40,000 for those overlapping services.

According to the report, staff had those discussions, but due to a number of issues, including the age of the expired agreements, could not qualify how that rebate was achieved.

"Did we numerically ever get that pieced out for full understanding?" Oro-Medonte Mayor Randy Greenlaw asked Spagnol.

"Quick answer," Spagnol said. "Staff were not able to ascertain a dollar amount based on that overlap."

According to a Sept. 19, 2024 letter to the township from Doug Hevenor, chief administrative officer of the NVCA, regarding "the potential duplication of work" with the SSEA, Hevenor said discussions began in the early 2000s when council requested to expand the NVCA's jurisdiction.

On May 7, 2003, Hevenor said, the township passed a resolution that "council authorize the expansion by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority into the remaining 53 per

cent of the township effective Sept. 1, 2003."

On June 13, 2003, Oro-Medonte advised the SSEA and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority of the NVCA's expansion.

"Once the motion had been approved by all parties, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was created," Hevenor said. "The most recent MOU was effective from 2011 until year-end 2013 when Clause 7 was utilized by the township to extend the MOU for the maximum of three additional years.

"Therefore, the most recent MOU expired in December 2016," Hevenor added.

Hevenor said the NVCA continued to offer the levy reduction while the development of a new MOU took place.

"Unfortunately, due to many factors, a new MOU was not finalized," he said.

With no MOU in place, no formal commitments made to support Category 3 services and a significant tax hike on the horizon, Oro-Medonte council ultimately decided to forgo those services.

Lavoie suggested the NVCA look to the province for the money.

"I don't disagree at all with the necessity of the protection of the environment," he said. "However, if the matter is as important as is being stressed, then I would suggest that the provincial government intervene to extend the mandate of the NVCA to include such matters.

"What you face here, with this council, is an extremely high tax-levy obligation that has been imposed by the provincial government by way of the OPP and by way of the asset management program," Lavoie added. "So if the provincial government places as high a value on those things as it does on the environment, then it's their opportunity to speak up."

Council voted to opt out of supporting the NVCA's Category 3 services for the 2024 budget cycle and declined the proposed rebate for Category 3 services.



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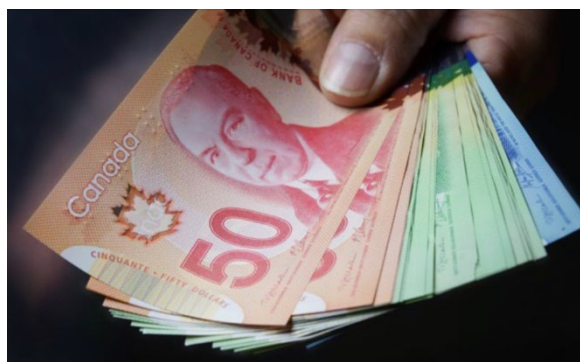
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## **Barrie homeowners shouldn't bank on no tax increase in 2025**

'I am very aware that many are struggling to pay their bills, keep food on the table and a roof over their heads,' says councillor who chairs finance committee

November 18, 2024 by Bob Bruton

Barrie Today



*Stock photo*

It starts at zero, but it likely won't end there.

Property taxes for Barrie homeowners are on city councillors' agenda Wednesday, as the 2025 operating and capital budget process begins in earnest with a presentation at finance and responsible governance committee.

Council's eventual goal is no increase in the city's portion of property taxes.

But almost-certain increases to police spending next year and for the services provided by the County of Simcoe — social housing, ambulances, Ontario works, etc. — mean Barrie homeowners are facing an overall 2025 hike when the tax bill comes.

"As I and many around the (council) table have demonstrated over the last

six years, we do target for minimal to no increases going through the budget line by line," said Coun. Gary Harvey. "I am very aware that many are struggling to pay their bills, keep food on the table and a roof over their heads.

"It is of the utmost importance to me as chair of finance and responsible governance (committee)," he added.

But there are immediate challenges to holding the line on next year's property tax increase.

At this point, [the 2025 police budget is \\$71.43 million](#), which is \$3.9 million or 5.79 per cent more than this year. The police budget is traditionally about 20 per cent of Barrie's operating budget, the largest portion.

Also separated from property taxes for city operations are increases to water and sewer (wastewater) services, which are to increase by 3.96 per cent and 4.92 per cent, respectively, another expense for homeowners.

There's also a two per cent increase for capital rehabilitation — infrastructure investment funding — to repair and replace Barrie's roads, pipes, buildings and bridges.

This year's operating/capital budget called for a 4.82 per cent tax increase to Barrie homeowners, which equals \$228 more this year on a typical city home assessed at \$368,000. That hike was with no increase to the city's operating portion of the budget.

Ontario's Municipal Act provides the head of council with the authority to give direction to city staff in writing, and one this year is a zero per cent

increase in the city's operating budget, according to a budget memo on mayoral direction to city staff, from Mayor Alex Nuttall, dated July 12, 2024.

"With the strong mayors powers, this will be the first budget that is directed by the mayor prior to council seeing it or debating it," Harvey said. "We will not be receiving the budget binders ahead of the presentation.

"This should be a much more effective and streamlined process than past years and as you can see again, we have a zero per cent (increase) on the operational side and a marginal two per cent (increase) on the capital side," he added.

The Ward 7 councillor said he has not seen any service partner budget requests other than one from the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), on which he sits as Barrie's representative.

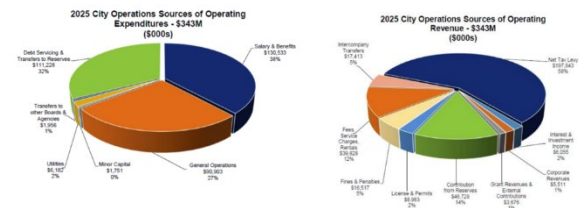
As in the past two budget talks, these ones will be spread out from late November until January's end.

At this point, the schedule calls for the city portion of spending — on more than 60 services such as firefighting, snow clearing, road repairs, transit, parks and recreation and water treatment — to be debated by general committee Dec. 4, then passed by city council Dec. 11.

Councillors will receive 2025 budgets from its service partners — the county, city police and the Barrie Public Library — on Jan. 8, then hear presentations of these budgets Jan. 15.

General committee's budget talks will be Jan. 22, city council approval of the operating and capital budgets on Jan. 29.

From start to finish, Nov. 20 to Jan. 29, that's more than 60 days.



A look at the city's expenditures and revenues, early in the budget process.  
| City of Barrie graphic

## **Ontario's Nottawasaga river is getting a renewed lease on life thanks to massive community effort**

November 18, 2024 by Lou Piacentini

Outdoor Canada

### **RIVER CHAMPIONS**

Ontario's Nottawasaga river gets a renewed lease on life



*Volunteers shore up riverbanks on the Notty*

Known simply as the “Notty” among locals, southern Ontario’s Nottawasaga River, with its plentiful twists, turns and deep pools, is a prime destination for anglers drawn to its renowned trout and salmon runs. With these wild fish reaching many of the river’s tributaries—a watershed that drains more than 3,000 square kilometres just north of Toronto—it would appear to be a self-sustaining fish factory, effortlessly replenishing itself.

With mounting pressures from surrounding urban development and agricultural activity, however, some argue leaving the Notty to fend for itself is a risky move, particularly with

Ontario’s growing demand for more housing.

“We’re seeing very aggressive rates of urban development in the watershed,” says Fred Dobbs, senior fisheries biologist and manager of stewardship services at the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA). “I think if you look at our proximity to Toronto and the northward fringe of development...it’s going to skip protected green lands and basically kind of land in our lap. We still have a lot of pristine habitat, but not much time.”

Enter the Nottawasaga River Restoration Program (NRRP), coordinated by the NVCA and Nottawasaga Futures/South Simcoe Streams Network, a community service organization.

### **RESTORATION WORK**

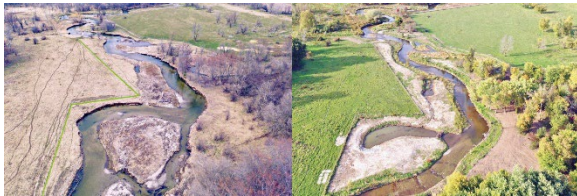
Now in its sixth year, the NRRP aims to restore 10 kilometres of the famed river across multiple locations with the help of public and private funding, as well as the support of rural landowners and dedicated volunteers. The plan entails improving the Nottawasaga’s water quality and enhancing the sportfishery by restoring trout habitat between the village of Hockley and the outskirts of Alliston.

The NVCA calls it one of the largest trout habitat restoration initiatives in southern Ontario, with the work now extended to also include tributaries such as Sheldon Creek, and the Pine and Mad Rivers. The restoration includes shoring up eroded banks, installing in-stream habitat,



constructing floodplains, erecting livestock fencing and planting trees. Already, many sections of the river previously impacted by rural land use practices are now looking like places where fish can grow and thrive.

"One thing that sets the program apart is, instead of trying to build something really good from scratch, we already have high-quality stream habitats coming out of the Niagara Escarpment," says the NVCA's Dobbs. The key, he explains, is to extend as much of the cool water from the river's upper reaches further downstream through restoration, expanding the amount of good habitat for rainbow trout and chinook salmon.



*Before a section of the river system's restoration began (left) and after*

This approach will also benefit resident brown trout, Dobbs adds, as well as two species at risk. Along with providing significant inland spawning habitat for lake sturgeon, the Nottawasaga also supports the northern brook lamprey, a non-parasitic native fish. As a result, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has long been contributing funds to the NRRP.

Other benefactors providing financial support include Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's, the World Wildlife Fund and the Ontario Trillium Foundation, among others. The funding helps cover project costs for machinery, materials and staff, while

volunteers donate their time to give the watershed some TLC. Last year, for example, volunteers planted 2,200 trees along the banks of restored areas, which will stabilize the ground and provide the river with cooling shade.

## **SIGNS OF SUCCESS**

Since the NRRP work got underway in 2019, a quarter of the 10-kilometre restoration has so far been completed. With the plan slated to end in 2031, the full impact will take time to materialize, but the preliminary data is promising. In the areas that have been restored, for example, wild yearling rainbow trout and juvenile chinook salmon numbers have increased by 70 and 100 per cent, respectively.



*Guide Jesse Wright says the Notty's steelhead are doing well*

According to Dobbs, those numbers are a good indicator of future recruitment into the sportfishery. "I wouldn't take this to the bank and do a scientific paper at this point," he says, "but it's safe to say that there's some positive indicators."

That's certainly good news for people such as Jesse Wright, a veteran fishing guide of 20 years who's spent the last five on the Nottawasaga. To him, the river's allure comes down to its wild trout population. "A measure of a good steelhead fishery is the number of repeat spawners in the system, as well as a diversity of year class," he says. "Over the past five years, I have seen a very good representation of both."

Nonetheless, Wright remains vigilant. "From what I understand, the fishery is quite healthy," he says, "but that's not to say it is not under threat." Whatever lies ahead, the good news is, the Notty is sure to have plenty of ongoing help from its friends.

*Freelance writer Lou Piacentini has been fishing on the Nottawasaga River for 28 years.*

Learn more about the NVCA and NRRP at [www.nvca.on.ca](http://www.nvca.on.ca).

## **OPP costs driving huge increase in 2025 for Springwater taxpayers**

Township council hears 87% of service partners' hike is due to OPP's budget request going from \$2,424,238 in 2024 to just under \$3 million for 2025

November 19, 2024 by Wayne Doyle

Barrie Today



*Stock image. Photo from Ontario Provincial Police*

Municipal budgets have all the mystery and intrigue of a television mini-series — you never know what the ending will be, or how it's going to get there.

During Springwater council's special budget meeting Monday night, the township's finance boss brought a little Hollywood to the proceedings, if only for a minute.

"Welcome to episode two of budget season 2025," finance director Greg Bedard said as he introduced the evening's agenda, which was focused on the township's service-partner budget requests for next year.

"Overall, the base budget impact, without program changes, is an increase of approximately \$658,000," he said of the service partners' combined ask. "To the average taxpayer, with a home assessed at \$497,000, this represents an annual increase in taxes payable of \$72 (annually), or \$6 per month."

Bedard also said it's "important to note" that of this \$72 annual increase, 87 per cent (\$63 per year) is driven by the increased cost of policing the township.

If the policing cost is removed, Bedard said the annual base budget increase for township service partners is \$9.

The evening started with two relatively small funding requests — the first from the Georgian Bay Physician Recruitment group and the second from the Barrie Area Physician Recruitment team.

The Georgian Bay group was looking for \$10,000 for next year, a \$6,000 increase over 2024. while the Barrie team was looking for \$8,000.

For the sake of parity, Coun. Anita Moore suggested both groups request \$10,000.

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) was seeking an increase of almost \$42,000 over last year, and the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) was looking for a marginal bump of about \$5,500.

The biggest hit to Springwater taxpayers will be the OPP increase. Last year, policing cost township residents \$2,424,238. The OPP are



requesting \$2,998,731 — or 24 per cent more — for 2025.

According to Coun. Phil Fisher, the residents he's talked to say they aren't concerned with the cost, as long as there's an equal increase in service.

"The frustrations I hear is, it's not so much the dollar figure but rather 'what are we getting for this \$3 million?' he said. "I think that actually, our residents, if we were spending \$3 million, I don't think there is anybody who would say that policing is not important or put it on the back burner.

"Policing is absolutely important, and with the growth we're experiencing, it's becoming increasingly important to plan for the future," Fisher added.

Fisher said he'd like to see proactive policing become the norm.

"In my ward, we're seeing break-ins into cars on a fairly regular basis and we're seeing speeding come through the area," he said. "These are becoming concerns and what I consistently hear from people is, 'we don't want police to show up after the incident, we want a police presence.'

"If we're spending \$3 million a year, I think that's not too much to ask from our OPP partners."

Council made no decisions on the requests they heard Monday night. All requests will be considered at the Nov. 27 session.

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November 19, 2024 by Wayne Doyle  
Midland Today



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## **Owner of narrow Hwy. 26 land parcel proposes townhouses**

Development plans for 11589 Hwy. 26 include 26 freehold townhouses, outdoor amenity space and a Cranberry Marsh trail connection

November 21, 2024 by Jessica Owen

Collingwood Today



*Drawings of a 26-townhouse development proposed for 11589 Highway 26 (top), with a map showing the land parcel (bottom left) and architectural drawings of the townhouses (right). Contributed images*

A new development proposed for a tiny strip of land on Highway 26 came to Collingwood council this week for approval.

During their Nov. 18 committee of the whole meeting, councillors considered an application to approve a site plan and zoning change for 11589 Highway 26 – called Cranberry Marsh Estates – to remove a holding symbol on the land. This would make way for 26 freehold townhouses, a road and an outdoor amenity space, including a children’s play area.

The proposal would facilitate the developer connecting the Vacation Inn trail to the town’s Cranberry Marsh trail through a three-metre-wide asphalt trail.

Although the provincial Planning Act changed as of 2022 and site-plan approval no longer requires such applications come before council, the applicant started their application for the project in 2021, so this application is grandfathered under the old rules.

Owner Hill Ridge Homes Inc., represented by Colin Travis of Travis and Associates at Monday’s meeting, acknowledged the age of the file during his remarks.

“One of the reasons why we’re here a few years later is we’ve worked extensively with the NVCA (Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority) to address their concerns and comments,” Travis told councillors.

The 1.2-hectare property, which is currently vacant, is on the south side of Highway 26, approximately 190 metres east of Vacation Inn Drive and 280 metres east of Princeton Shores Boulevard. Greentree Gardens and Emporium is to the east of the property.

Mayor Yvonne Hamlin asked if it could be at all possible for both the applicant and the owner of the Greentree property to agree on installing a service road between the two to minimize how many vehicles would have to exit their street onto Highway 26.

Town planner Lindsay Ayers told councillors that the [application for Greentree](#) had been recently withdrawn, with the property going up for sale.

"It's challenging when you have two different property owners," said Ayers. "We did encourage discussions between the property owners to minimize the number of entrances onto (Highway) 26, it just was not feasible."

However, that information didn't ease Hamlin's mind.

"I can't say enough about how worried I am having a lot of developments with their own access points onto a highway in our community," she said.

Coun. Steve Perry raised the issue of parking on the site. All the townhomes will have one parking space in the garage and one parking space in the driveway, for two spots total. There will be no street parking permitted, nor is street parking permitted on Highway 26.

"I understand encouraging active transportation, but I want to know practically how visitors are going to be accommodated here," said Hamlin. "I think, practically, there's going to be a problem."

Ayers said two transit stops are located within 300 metres of the subject property, and there will be wording baked into any purchase agreement for the townhouses that buyers understand there is no visitor or on-street parking available, and they would be sold geared to one-vehicle families.

Coun. Kathy Jeffery said she took issue with paving of the trail connection with asphalt.

The town's planning director, Summer Valentine, clarified that the asphalt treatment for the trail was a staff suggestion to encourage accessibility, so if council wanted a different trail treatment they could take that back and work through that with the developer.

"We were looking at an all-season pathway that could be cleared in the wintertime," explained Travis.

At the end of discussion, councillors voted 7-1 in favour of moving the proposal along to the next regular meeting of council, with Hamlin opposed.

The matter will next come back for approval from council at their Dec. 2 meeting.

To learn more about the proposal, including all the studies completed to support the application, click [here](#).

## **Springwater council given options to reduce budget hike, cover shortfall**

'The township's net expenditures exceed our net revenues in the amount of \$2.8 million,' CAO tells council; labour expected to cost municipality additional \$1 million in 2025

November 22, 2024 by Wayne Doyle

Barrie Today



Raymond Bowe/BarrieToday files

Isaac Newton's third law of motion states that for every action in nature there's an equal and opposite reaction.

This past week, Springwater Township council discovered Newton's third law applies to budgets as well as nature.

Facing a tough slog to keep 2025's tax hike from being onerous, township council directed senior management to deliver multiple budget options following a Nov. 6 budget meeting where staff presented council with a proposed budget that featured a 14.16 per cent increase to the municipal levy.

That levy, when combined with the proposed four per cent increase from

the County of Simcoe (since [reduced to 3.625 per cent](#)), would've resulted in a blended tax bill increase of 8.31 per cent.

Facing an uproar from residents, council directed staff to bring back three budget options that reduced the municipal levy portion from 14.16 per cent to 12 per cent, 10 per cent and eight per cent.

Staff presented the reworked options to council Wednesday afternoon. In all three cases, staff reduced the increase, but they can't stave off the need.

Jeff Schmidt, the township's chief administrative officer, took a few minutes near the beginning of the meeting to lay out some unvarnished realities.

First, he defended the proposed budget that was presented at the Nov. 6 meeting.

"By no means did senior management want to bring forward a budget that included a tax increase at the level you saw on Nov. 6," Schmidt said in his preamble. "That being said, I respectfully submit, senior management is responsible for providing our best professional advice to council and it's council that has the ultimate responsibility to make the final decision and provide direction.

"What was presented to members of council was a direct result of decisions and directions that have been previously made around this table," he added.

With that out of the way, Schmidt started to present the numbers.

"The township's net expenditures exceed our net revenues in the amount of \$2.8 million," he said.

The CAO listed six key influencers affecting the \$2.8-million shortfall — labour, general operating expenses, the township's one per cent infrastructure levy, its investment in capital funding from taxation, service-partner costs and assessment growth.

Labour, Schmidt said, will cost the township an additional \$1 million in 2025.

The second major pressure is general operating expenses of \$310,000, which basically help the township maintain 2024 service levels.

The third item is the township's one per cent infrastructure levy which amounts to \$190,000. The municipality has a portfolio of assets worth \$1.07 billion that it's required to maintain, and this money is earmarked for that purpose.

Next up is the township's investment in capital funded from taxation — the amount of money that is funded from the township's operating budget to support its capital budget.

"In our capital budget, we have a number of different funding sources — development charges, reserves, reserve funds, debt. If we don't have any other money then it essentially comes out of taxation or operating budget," Schmidt explained. "So of the \$2.8-million shortfall, we have \$1.3 million that's in our operating budget to fund capital."

Schmidt reminded council that it provided direction earlier this year to

increase the township's annual investments in road resurfacing projects to \$3.5 million.

"As a result, the annual capital and operating budget for this area has increased by just over a million dollars, which is what you're seeing here," he said.

Next on the list of impacts is the township's facilities assessment study. It recommends significant investments in the township's corporate and community facilities. It's a roughly \$200,000 impact on the budget.

The final pressure at play in Springwater is the cost of service partners: Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, Severn Sound Environmental Association, Springwater Public Library and Ontario Provincial Police.

Of the \$657,610 needed to fulfill the requests from the township's service partners, about 85 per cent of it — \$575,000 — is for the increased cost of policing.

Schmidt closed on an optimistic note, advising council that the township should realize about \$713,000 in revenue based on estimated assessment growth.

Greg Bedard, the township's finance director, took council through the three new budget options after providing the guidelines staff used to arrive at the new options.

The first consideration was to maintain 2024 service levels.

"To that extent, currently we are not presenting any changes to the

operating budget that impact service levels," he said.

Next criteria was council's resolution with respect to the roads rehabilitation capital plan spending target of \$3.5 million.

"This represents council's endorsement of the roads need study and the tax-increase scenario to maintain the required \$3.5-million investment that the council resolution requires," Bedard noted.

The last criteria was to defer 2025 capital projects that were funded through taxation.

"This speaks to CAO Schimdt's previous comment with respect to looking to bring down the tax increase," Bedard said. "This is primarily achievable through a reduction in the capital plan that is funded through taxation. When staff looked to defer or reduce 2025 capital projects to a future year, this included a prioritization of projects funded through taxation."

Bedard cautioned that doing so would further build on the township's current infrastructure deficit. He then presented the three options.

He started off on a positive note by advising council that the township will receive \$115,000 from the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) next year. The money will be used to offset operating expenses and represents a savings against the \$2.8-million shortfall.

To achieve a 12.62 per cent increase in the municipal levy, the township would apply the \$115,000 to the

shortfall and remove the one per cent compounding of the infrastructure levy of \$190,000.

This would result in a blended tax increase of 7.42 per cent.

To achieve a 10.51 per cent increase in the municipal levy, the township would apply the \$115,000 to the shortfall, remove the one per cent compounding of the infrastructure levy of \$190,000 and remove taxation funding from roads capital for a realized savings of \$418,000.

This would result in a blended tax increase of 6.38 per cent.

In the final scenario, which would result in an 8.29 per cent increase in the municipal levy, the township would apply the \$115,000 to the shortfall, remove the one per cent compounding of the infrastructure levy of \$190,000, remove taxation funding from roads capital and fund from debt for a realized savings of \$418,000 and remove taxation funding from facilities capital and reduce the scope of the facility condition assessment program in the amount of \$210,000.

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Springwater council will continue with budget deliberations on Monday, starting at 5 p.m.



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