

12-23-BOD (2023 Business)

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Jan 26, 2024 at 9:00 AM EST to Jan 26, 2024 at 12:00 PM EST

Agenda

1. Events

Elopement Giveaway:

NVCA has partnered with Lauren Andrew Events and a team of local vendors to giveaway elopement experience at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation Area. Couples can bring up to 2 guests to witness you tie the knot!

Date: February 22, 2024

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

Tiffin Nature Program (for preschoolers):

Tiffin Nature Program will help preschoolers gain knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our amazing planet. Children learn about risky play, and develop a better understanding of their relationship with the land.

Half Day Dates: Tuesdays December 5, 2023 – March 5, 2024

Full Day Dates: Thursdays December 7, 2023 – March 7, 2024

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

PA/PD Day Camp Tiffin:

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

Date: Friday, January 26, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

2. Call to Order

3. Land Acknowledgement

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg. The Anishinaabeg include the Odawa, Saulteaux, Anishinaabeg, Mississauga and Algonquin who spoke several languages including Anishinaabemowin and Potawatomi. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture and committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect with all First Nation, Métis and Inuit people.

4. Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflict of Interest

5. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting #12-23-BOD dated on January 26, 2024 be approved.

6. Announcements

There are no announcements at this time.

7. Presentations

Chair Little, will be conducting a presentation regarding NVCA's 2023 Year in Review.

8. Deputations

There are no deputations at this time.

9. Hearings

There are no hearings at this time.

10. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

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

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

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: agenda item number(s), _____ was identified as requiring separate discussion, be referred for discussion under Agenda Item #12; and

FURTHER THAT: all Consent List Agenda Items not referred for separate discussion be adopted as submitted to the board and staff be authorized to take all necessary action required to give effect to same; and

FURTHER THAT: any items in the Consent List not referred for separate discussion, and for which conflict has been declared, are deemed not to have been voted on or discussed by the individual making the declaration.

12. Consent List

12.1. Adoption of Minutes

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting 11-23-BOD dated on December 8, 2023 be approved.

12.1.1. Adoption of Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting 03-23-AAC dated on December 7, 2023 be approved.

12.2. Staff Reports

12.2.1. Staff Report No. 57-12-23-BOD from Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 57-12-23-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – *November 25, 2023 – January 12, 2024*, be received.

13. Other Business

14. Adjourn to Board of Directors 2024 Annual General Meeting and Elections

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting adjourn at _____ and the position of the Chair be vacant.



11-23-BOD Minutes **(Draft)**
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Dec 8, 2023 at 9:00 AM EST
8195 8th Line, Utopia ON, L0M 1T0

Attendance

Present:

Mayor Scott W. Anderson, Adjala-Tosorontio (Township); Cllr. Joe Belanger, Wasaga Beach (Town); Chair Gail Little, Amaranth (Township); Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren, Clearview (Township); Mayor Darren White, Melancthon (Township); Cllr. June Porter, The Bule Mountains (Town)-arrived at 9:20am; Cllr. Ralph Manktelow, Mono (Town); Cllr. Richard Schell, Oro-Medonte (Township); Cllr. Christopher Baines, Collingwood (Town); Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink, Essa (Township); Cllr. Joel Loughhead, Grey Highlands (Municipality); Cllr. Kevin Eisses, Innisfil (Town); Cllr. Gary Harvey, Barrie (City); Cllr. Nicole Cox, New Tecumseth (Town); Cllr. Phil Fisher, Springwater (Township)

NVCA Staff:

Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services; Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer; Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services; Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services; Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits; Meagan Kieferle, Senior Regulations Officer; Fred Dobbs, Manager, Stewardship Services; Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist; Kerry Jenkins, Administrative Assistant/Recorder

Absent:

Mayor Janet Horner, Mulmur (Township); Vice-Chair Jonathan Scott, Bradford West Gwillimbury (Town); Cllr. Kyle Fegan, Shelburne (Town)

1. Events

There are no upcoming events at this time.

2. Call to Order

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

3. Land Acknowledgement

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg. The Anishinaabeg include the Odawa, Saulteaux, Anishinaabeg, Mississauga and Algonquin who spoke several languages including Anishinaabemowin and Potawatomi. 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: 71-23

Moved by: Cllr. Nicole Cox

Seconded by: Mayor Scott W. Anderson

RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting #11-23-BOD dated on December 8, 2023 be approved.

Carried;

6. Announcements

There were no announcements at this time.

7. Presentations

Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits conducted a presentation regarding NVCA's Planning and Permits.

Recommendation:

RES: 72-23

Moved by: Cllr. Joe Belanger

Seconded by: Cllr. Gary Harvey

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

Carried;

8. Deputations

There were no deputations at this time.

9. Hearings

There were no hearings at this time.

10. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

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

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

Recommendation:

RES: 73-23

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Paul Staveren

Seconded by: Cllr. Ralph Manktelow

RESOLVED THAT: agenda item number(s), 12.2.3 and 12.2.4 were identified as requiring separate discussion, be referred for discussion under Agenda Item #12; and

FURTHER THAT: all Consent List Agenda Items not referred for separate discussion be adopted as submitted to the board and staff be authorized to take all necessary action required to give effect to same; and

FURTHER THAT: any items in the Consent List not referred for separate discussion, and for which conflict has been declared, are deemed not to have been voted on or discussed by the individual making the declaration.

Carried;

12. Consent List

12.1. Adoption of Minutes

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting 10-23-BOD dated on November 24, 2023 be approved.

12.2. Staff Reports

12.2.1. Staff Report No. 50-11-23-BOD from Meagan Kieferle, Senior Regulations Officer

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: the NVCA Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 50-11-23-BOD that summarizes the permits and approvals issued by staff for the period of June 10, 2023 to November 27, 2023.

12.2.2. Staff Report No. 51-11-23-BOD from Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: the Staff Report No. 51-11-23-BOD regarding the creation and allocation of funds to the categories 2 & 3 capital reserve be approved; and

FURTHER THAT: The NVCA Auditor be directed to 14% of the end of year balance in the current capital reserve, into the new Categories 2 & 3 capital reserve.

12.2.3. Staff Report No. 52-11-23-BOD from Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services

Recommendation:

RES: 74-23

Moved by: Cllr. Gary Harvey

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Belanger

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 52-11-23-BOD regarding the NVCA's 2024 Budget be received; and

FURTHER THAT: the 2024 Category 1 budget, operational and capital, as presented in the 2024 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 2024 Categories 2 & 3 budget, operational and capital, as presented in the 2024 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 2024 year.

Recorded Vote:

Yay:

Mayor Scott W. Anderson, Deputy Mayor Gail Little, Cllr. Gary Harvey, Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren, Cllr. Christopher Baines, Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink, Cllr. Joel Loughhead, Cllr. Kevin Eisses, Mayor Darren White, Cllr. Ralph Manktelow, Cllr. Nicole Cox, Cllr. Rick Schell, Cllr. Phil Fisher, Cllr. Joe Belanger

Nay:

Cllr. June Porter

Absent:

Cllr. Jonathan Scott, Cllr. Kyle Fegan, Mayor Janet Horner

Carried;

12.2.4. Staff Report No. 53-11-23-BOD from Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services

Recommendation:

RES: 75-23

Moved by: Cllr. Christopher Baines

Seconded by: Cllr. Rick Schell

RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 53-11-23-BOD regarding proposed 2024 and select 2025 changes to Conservation Services fees, and;

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

Carried;

12.2.5. Staff Report No. 54-11-23-BOD from Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors approve Staff Report No. 54-11-23-BOD regarding an Update of MOU Cost Apportioning Agreement Programs and Services

12.2.6. Staff Report No. 55-11-23-BOD from Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 55-11-23-BOD as information.

12.2.7. Staff Report No. 56-11-23-BOD from Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist

Recommendation:

Approved by Consent

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 56-11-23-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – *November 11, 2023 – November 24, 2023*, be received.

13. Other Business

CAO, Doug Hevenor informed the members that Conservation Ontario is submitting an application on December 8, 2023 on behalf of several conservation authorities (NVCA being one of them), to hopefully receive 75% federal funding to complete Shoreline Evaluations on all the Great Lakes, including Georgian Bay with the exception of Lake Erie. He also provided an update on the MOU's.

Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren gave an update to the members regarding the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting that was held yesterday. He also strongly urged members to come forward if they see opportunities for grants.

Chair Little wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

14. Adjourn

Recommendation:

RES: 76-23

Moved by: Cllr. Phil Fisher

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting adjourn at 10:11am to meet again on January 26, 2024 or at the call of the Chair.

Carried;



03-23-AAC Minutes (**Draft**)
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
December 7, 2023 at 10:00 AM EST

Attendance

Members Present:

Dave Spring, Simcoe County Federation of Agricultural
Ted Woods, Christian Farmers Assoc.
Chair, Donna Jebb, Simcoe County Federation of Agricultural
Hugh Simpson, Grey County FA
Andy Vanniekerk, North Simcoe Soil and Crop Association
Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren, NVCA Member
Vice-Chair, Cllr. Kevin Eisses, NVCA Member
Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink, NVCA Member

Members Absent:

Colin Elliot, North Simcoe Soil and Crop Assoc.
Dave Ritchie, Simcoe County Federation of Agricultural
Jody Mott, Holland Marsh Growers Association

NVCA Staff:

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Donna Jebb called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

2. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Recommendation:

RES: 08-23

Moved by: Dave Spring

Seconded by: Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink

RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Agricultural Advisory Committee 03-23-AAC dated December 7, 2023 be approved.

Carried;

3. Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflict of Interest

None declared.

4. Approved Minutes

The minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting 02-23-AAC dated on June 29, 2023 was approved by the Board of Directors during the 08-23-BOD meeting dated on September 22, 2023.

5. Presentations

5.1. NVCA Planning Services Fee Schedule

Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits conducted the presentation on behalf of Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services regarding NVCA Planning Services Fee Schedule (2024 Draft).

Recommendation:

RES: 09-23

Moved by: Hugh Simpson

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren

RESOLVED THAT: the Agricultural Advisory Committee receive the presentation as presented.

Carried;

Discussion:

Members raised questions about the feedback NVCA received regarding the proposed fee increases.

NVCA staff informed the members that feedback from the municipalities were pretty consistent. Staff also received really good feedback from Watson and Associates as well as agricultural communities.

Questions were asked regarding why the fee's are doubled and what was the reasoning for doubling them.

Staff informed the members that NVCA froze their fees from 2016 to 2019, therefore, they are playing "catch-up."

NVCA Board Member mentioned to the committee how most people are aware that NVCA's budget comes from user fees, as well as help from the municipalities. He also noted that NVCA's number one goal is better service for their applicants and agreed with NVCA staff that this is "catch-up" time and is much needed.

Questions were asked regarding where NVCA came up with the price increases and if staff took into consideration the populations of other municipalities in other Conservation Authorities.

NVCA staff informed the members that the Watson review looked into NVCA's neighbouring conservation authorities to ensure they were consistent with the price increases. Staff also noted that they tried to find as much commonality in demographics among municipalities in neighbouring conservation authorities.

Members asked when the proposed fees will go into effect.

NVCA staff told the members that the proposed fees will go into effect when the MNR lifts their freezes, which will then allow NVCA to enter into phase one of the proposed fee schedule for 2024. Staff also informed members that communication regarding the proposed fee schedule 2024 will be on their website for the public to see once NVCA receives more news.

NVCA staff as well as members all agreed that once the Board of Directors approve the fee increases, staff will circulate all the information to the Agricultural Advisory Committee members for them to see and distribute to their agricultural community.

6. Other Business

Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren informed the members of an issue that is going on in the Township of Clearview. He asked if it was possible to put on NVCA's website to contact their drainage supervisor in their area, should a resident have any issues with their drainage. AAC Members also agreed to ask if NVCA can input the difference between municipal drains and farm drains.

CAO, Doug Hevenor informed the members that Conservation Ontario is submitting an application on December 8, 2023 on behalf of several conservation authorities (NVCA being one of them), to hopefully receive 75% federal funding to complete Shoreline Evaluations on all the Great Lakes, including Georgian Bay with the exception of Lake Erie.

7. Adjourn

Recommendation:

RES:10-23

Moved by: Hugh Simpson

Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Eisses

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting adjourn at 11:08am, to meet again on March 28, 2024 or at the call of the Chair.

Carried;



Staff Report: 57-12-23-BOD

Date: 26/01/2024

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Maria Leung
Senior Communications Specialist

SUBJECT: Communications Report – November 25, 2023 – January 12, 2024

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 57-12-23-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – November 25, 2023 – January 12, 2024, be received.

Purpose of the Staff Report

This staff report presents a summary of NVCA media coverage and public outreach during the period of November 25, 2023 – January 12, 2024.

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

1. Flood Messages

No flood messages were issued in this reporting period.

2. Media coverage of NVCA news releases

Column: Share your memories of Tiffin Centre for Conservation this holiday season, issued on December 15, 2023

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
COLUMN: Popular conservation area shows power of foresight	Barrie Today	December 30, 2023	Elise Barr-Klouman, Events Facilitator
COLUMN: Popular conservation area shows power of foresight	Midland Today	December 30, 2023	Elise Barr-Klouman, Events Facilitator
COLUMN: Popular conservation area shows power of foresight	Orillia Matters	December 30, 2023	Elise Barr-Klouman, Events Facilitator
COLUMN: Popular conservation area shows power of foresight	Collingwood Today	December 30, 2023	Elise Barr-Klouman, Events Facilitator

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

3. Other Media Coverage

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
Support your local rivers, conservation areas and youth this Giving Tuesday	Creemore Echo	November 24, 2023	CAO Hevenor
Regional conservation authority sets \$10K GivingTuesday goal	Orillia Matters	November 26, 2023	CAO Hevenor
Local environmentalist wins coveted award for forest stewardship	Orillia Matters	November 27, 2023	
Local Environmentalist Wins Award for Forest Stewardship	Springwater News	November 27, 2023	
GivingTuesday: 7 ways you can give in Barrie, Orillia, and Simcoe County	Simcoe.com	November 28, 2023	
NVCA still waiting on funding decisions from local townships	Orillia Matters	November 30, 2023	CAO Hevenor

Communications Report – November 25, 2023 – January 12, 2024
 Staff Report No. 57-12-23-BOD

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
Seniors' medical campus gets full support of Springwater council	Barrie Today	December 7, 2023	
Springwater mayor says budget places 'zero value' on plans, vision	Barrie Today	December 7, 2023	
Springwater council to vote on support for Sadlon development	Barrie Today	December 18, 2023	
LICO Update: A drain done differently	Drainage Contractor	December 18, 2023	Fred Dobbs, Manager, Stewardship Services
Springwater council to vote on support for Sadlon development	Hamilton Spectator	December 19, 2023	
Local council to vote on plan for 2,000-home Sadlon development	Innisfil Today	December 19, 2023	
Paul Sadlon's massive proposed development driving forward	Midland Today	December 19, 2023	
Paul Sadlon's massive proposed development driving forward	Barrie Today	December 19, 2023	
Trail bridge dedicated to volunteer, late Ed Christie	Creemore Echo	December 22, 2023	
NVCA searching for landowners to plant trees	New Tecumseth Times	January 4, 2024	
When do you require an NVCA building permit?	New Tecumseth Times	January 4, 2024	
Things to do in Simcoe County this weekend (Jan. 5-7)	Simcoe.com	January 4, 2024	Shannon Stephens, Healthy Waters Coordinator
Freeze-thaw conditions create hazards around local waterways	Burlington Today	January 11, 2024	

Communications Report – November 25, 2023 – January 12, 2024
Staff Report No. 57-12-23-BOD

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 28, 2023 - GivingTuesday
- January 2 – 4, 2024 – Winter Camp Tiffin
- January 5, 2024 – Winter Bird Count for Kids

Issues/Analysis

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

Impact on Authority Finances

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

Climate Change Implications

This staff report does not result in an increase in green house gases, temperature or precipitation exposure.

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by

Sheryl Flannagan

Director, Corporate Services

Approved for submission by:

Original Signed by

Doug Hevenor

Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment 1 – Media Clippings for the period

Support your local rivers, conservation areas and youth this Giving Tuesday

November 24, 2023

Creemore Echo

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) is inviting watershed residents to show support for local conservation efforts by helping NVCA meet their GivingTuesday goal of \$10,000.

GivingTuesday is the world's largest generosity movement. It is an opportunity for people around the world to stand together and support their communities or give to the causes they believe in. This year, GivingTuesday Canada will celebrate its 11th anniversary and millions of Canadians are expected to take part.

To participate in NVCA's GivingTuesday, funds can be donated through [Canada Helps](#), by cheque or by visiting [NVCA's Administration office](#).

Funds raised from GivingTuesday helps protect and restore our rivers and streams. Children will have opportunities to learn and appreciate the natural world. More resources will be available for trail maintenance. Staff can continue to monitor streams, rivers, wetlands, forests and groundwater so residents can learn about their local environment.

"Our staff have many years of experience in using donations as leverage to raise even more funding through grants and partnerships," said Doug Hevenor, CAO of NVCA. "Some

programs can use \$1 to generate \$4 to support their programs!"

Looking for more ways to support? NVCA has a line of Tiffin and Nottawasaga Bluffs themed apparel. The clothing features designs by local artists and proceeds go to NVCA's GivingTuesday campaign. Those seeking a more hands-on approach to contribute are encouraged to join the team of dedicated NVCA volunteers.

"NVCA's inaugural GivingTuesday campaign in 2022 raised over \$10,000." continued Hevenor, "Just this year alone, over 500 volunteers donated their time. This generous support has allowed us to continue to protect and preserve our watershed. On behalf of all the staff from NVCA, I would like to thank our watershed residents for their continued generosity and support."

For more information or to donate, [please visit NVCA's Giving Tuesday website](#).

Regional conservation authority sets \$10K GivingTuesday goal

Conservation authority encouraging residents to chip in with donations
Nov. 28

November 26, 2023

Orillia Matters



Volunteers learn about tree planting with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

NEWS RELEASE

**NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

Nov. 28 is GivingTuesday.

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) is inviting watershed residents to show support for local conservation efforts by helping NVCA meet their GivingTuesday goal of \$10,000.

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their communities or give to the causes they believe in. This year, GivingTuesday Canada will celebrate its 11th anniversary and millions of Canadians are expected to take part.

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“Our staff have many years of experience in using donations as leverage to raise even more funding through grants and partnerships,” said Doug Hevenor, CAO of NVCA. “Some programs can use \$1 to generate \$4 to support their programs.”

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“NVCA’s inaugural GivingTuesday campaign in 2022 raised over \$10,000,” continued Hevenor. “Just this year alone, over 500 volunteers donated their time. This generous support has allowed us to continue to

protect and preserve our watershed.
On behalf of all the staff from NVCA, I
would like to thank our watershed
residents for their continued
generosity and support.”

For more information or to
donate, [please visit NVCA's
GivingTuesday website.](#)

Local environmentalist wins coveted award for forest stewardship

Sandy Agnew wins White Pine Award from Huronia Woodlot Owners Association

November 27, 2023

Orillia Matters



1 / 2 Cam Douglas (left), Sandy Agnew and Doug Frost Photo supplied



2 / 2 Cam Douglas (left), Chris Ellsmere and David Hawke Photo supplied

NEWS RELEASE
HURONIA WOODLOT OWNERS
ASSOCIATION

The Huronia Woodlot Owners Association recently held their 43rd White Pine Award meeting, and

the 2023 recipient is Oro-Medonte resident Sandy Agnew.

Agnew is a Certified Engineering Technician, a graduate of Niagara College's Ecosystem Restoration program and a Managed Forest Plan Approver. He has been involved in ecological restoration for over 35 years with such groups as Black Creek Project of Toronto, Trout Unlimited Canada and the Severn Sound Environmental Association.

He is a former councillor in Oro-Medonte Township and former member of the Lake Simcoe and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authorities boards and the Couchiching Conservancy land trust board.

Agnew holds memberships and has held Board positions in numerous environmental groups including the Ontario Society for Ecological Restoration, the Ontario Woodlot Association (Huron Chapter), Forests Ontario and Ontario Nature.

Upon accepting his award, Agnew responded that he has known many of the earlier recipients and has always held them up as "stewardship heroes" and is very proud to be acknowledged in this manner.

The White Pine Award is given to a deserving person to recognize and celebrate their dedication to good forestry practices.

Agnew has written 124 Forest Management Plans for woodlot owners through the Ontario Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP), and

has operated his own habitat restoration company called EcoMedic.

The guest speaker for this meeting was David Hawke, a well-known naturalist and writer, who spoke of the lumbering history of the Copeland Forest. From 1792 to 1978 this 4,400-acre tract of forested land was at the forefront of lumber production. A series of family dynasties were both made rich and devastated by the ebb and flow of lumber demands around both World Wars.

In 1978 the sole surviving member, John Copeland, sold the property to the Ontario government to be used as a resources management area.

Should anyone like to learn more about forest stewardship please contact the Huronia Woodland Owners Association (www.huronwoodlandowners.ca) or the Ontario Woodlot Association (www.ontariowoodlot.com).

Local Environmentalist Wins Award for Forest Stewardship

November 27, 2023

Springwater News

Nov. 27, 2023 - The Huronia Woodlot Owners Association recently held their 43rd White Pine Award meeting, and the 2023 recipient is Oro-Medonte resident Sandy Agnew.

Agnew is a Certified Engineering Technician, a graduate of Niagara College's Ecosystem Restoration program and a Managed Forest Plan Approver. He has been involved in ecological restoration for over 35 years with such groups as Black Creek Project of Toronto, Trout Unlimited Canada and the Severn Sound Environmental Association.

He is a former councilor in Oro-Medonte Township and former member of the Lake Simcoe and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authorities boards and the Couchiching Conservancy land trust board.

Sandy holds memberships and has held Board positions in numerous environmental groups including the Ontario Society for Ecological Restoration, the Ontario Woodlot Association (Huronian Chapter), Forests Ontario and Ontario Nature. Upon accepting his award, Agnew responded that he has known many of the earlier recipients and has always held them up as "stewardship heroes" and is very proud to be acknowledged in this manner.

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celebrate their dedication to good forestry practices. Sandy Agnew has written 124 Forest Management Plans for woodlot owners through the Ontario Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP), and has operated his own habitat restoration company called EcoMedic.

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In 1978 the sole surviving member, John Copeland, sold the property to the Ontario Government to be used as a Resources Management Area.

Should anyone like to learn more about forest stewardship please contact the Huronia Woodland Owners Association (www.huronianwoodlandowners.ca) or the Ontario Woodlot Association (www.ontariowoodlot.com). By David J. Hawke, Board Member of the Huronia Woodlot Owners Association.

GivingTuesday: 7 ways you can give in Barrie, Orillia, and Simcoe County

Today is GivingTuesday, a global movement for giving and volunteering which takes place each year after Black Friday.

November 28, 2023 by Sara Carson

Simcoe.com



It's time to give! After Black Friday and Cyber Monday comes GivingTuesday. This global movement is dedicated to giving back. Donate to a local charity of your choice, or join them as a volunteer.

Here are seven groups you can help through this year's event:

HOSPITALS

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre Foundation, Collingwood General and Marine Hospital Foundation, Georgian Bay General Hospital Foundation, Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation, Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Foundation, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care.

EDUCATION

Lakehead University.

ENVIRONMENT

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, Forests Ontario, Living Green Barrie.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

[Epilepsy Simcoe County](#), [Deaf Access Simcoe Muskoka](#), [Canadian Mental Health Association Simcoe County Branch](#), [Empower Simcoe Foundation](#), [Down Syndrome Association of Simcoe County](#), [E3 Community Services](#), [Wendat Community Programs](#), [CONTACT Community Services](#), [Seasons Centre for Grieving Children](#), literacy councils, hospices and public libraries.

ART GROUPS

[Talk is Free Theatre](#), [MaLaren Art Centre](#), [Theatre Collingwood](#), [Midland Cultural Centre](#), [Huron Museum](#), [The Orillia Museum of Art and History](#), [Quest Art School and Gallery](#), [Huron Players](#), [The Gibson Cultural Centre](#), [Mariposa Folk Foundation](#), [Mariposa Arts Theatre](#).

CHARITIES

[Barrie and District Christmas Cheer](#), [Women and Children's Shelter of Barrie](#), [Habitat for Humanity South Georgian Bay](#), food banks.

ANIMALS

[COPE Service Dogs](#), [Georgian Triangle Humane Society](#), [Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre](#).

For more information, and a full list of groups to help, visit givingtuesday.ca/partners.

There's also an interactive
map: [givingtuesday.ca/discover#inter
active-map](http://givingtuesday.ca/discover#interactive-map)

NVCA still waiting on funding decisions from local townships

'The work that we do extends beyond municipal boundaries as rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater, forests and wildlife habitats span across multiple municipalities,' says official

November 30, 2023 by Wayne Doyle

Orillia Matters



File photo. Marg. Bruineman/BarrieToday

When Doug Hevenor talks about the Nottawasaga watershed, he talks about the whole watershed, not just the part that runs by his backdoor.

As the chief administrative officer for the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), Hevenor sees the watershed and its value from a broader perspective than most.

"The work that we do extends beyond municipal boundaries as rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater, forests and wildlife habitats span across multiple municipalities," he said.

"Natural areas can also extend outside of the watershed into other parts of the province. NVCA's natural areas provide global ecosystem benefits, such as habitat for migratory birds."

A not-for-profit organization, the NVCA relies on government funding, grants and donations to accomplish its work.

Until a couple of years ago, the organization would go to their municipal funders with a simple, uncomplicated request for money. It was one number and it included everything the NVCA needed.

Today, the organization has to make a pitch that is more complicated and puts funding in three buckets — Category 1, 2 and 3.

For Category 1 funding, all municipalities within the Nottawasaga watershed are required to provide funds for items such as development planning, passive recreation and restoration on NVCA-owned properties.

The total for Category 1 funding for 2024, according to the NVCA's budget, will be \$2,856,000. Oro-Medonte residents will have a bill for \$211,000, Springwater Township residents will contribute about \$216,000 and Essa Township residents will pay \$196,000.

There are currently no Category 2 projects planned for Essa, Springwater or Oro-Medonte.

Category 3 funding supports services like monitoring, tree planting, environmental restoration on properties not owned by NVCA, events

and environmental education. These programs require signed agreements and the funds required to support these programs are above and beyond the mandatory funding that is provided for Category 1 services.

According to Hevenor, Essa, Springwater and Oro-Medonte have made no commitments yet to receiving Category 3 services.

He said he expects Essa Township will decide at the Dec. 20 council meeting. Springwater will make a decision at the Nov. 22 Budget 2024 meeting.

Oro-Medonte has indicated they are in support, but have still not made a final decision.

If the townships move ahead and agree to receive Category 3 services, Springwater Township's fee in 2024 would be almost \$25,000 and Essa Township's cost would be \$22,500. Oro-Medonte's cost would be about \$24,000.

So far, NVCA has received six signed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and five municipalities have approved the MOUs supporting Category 1 and Category 3 at the committee of the whole.

"The signed MOUs are in effect for four years, and each municipality has the option to end the agreement prior to the first year and each year of the ensuing four-year term" said Hevenor.

During the annual budgeting process, Hevenor added, NVCA will provide a fiscal update to the MOU outlining the actual yearly budgeted costs for all programs and services outlined in Category 1, 2 and 3.

"NVCA has relied on municipal levy in the past to provide seed funding for these projects and we are currently in discussion with municipalities on these agreements," Hevenor said.

"Without Category 3 funding from municipalities, NVCA staff may prioritize restoration efforts in municipalities that have provided levy support. NVCA may impose increased fees to residents, such as for tree planting through the forestry program."

If the townships do not support Category 3 items, residents may still be able to receive Category 3 services.

For some programs, Hevenor said, fees may be increased for residents who live in Essa, Springwater or Oro-Medonte. In other programs, the program delivery or services may be reduced. In some cases, programs or services may have to be cancelled.

All education programs, including day camp, recreation, community, and outreach programming are covered by user fees. Unless a program is sponsored through a partnership or the department has secured a grant to provide the program for free, all watershed residents support environmental education programming.

"The levy dollars that the education program receives from municipalities only costs \$0.08 per watershed resident per year," Hevenor said. "We may consider adding a surcharge to our day camp, and possibly our educational programs for residents from municipalities that do not

support Category 3 services to help us make up the difference of lost revenue.”

The NVCA works with 18 municipalities that are within the Nottawasaga watershed — Barrie, Springwater, Essa, Oro-Medonte, Innisfil, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Collingwood, Wasaga Beach, Clearview, Adjala-Tosorontio, and New Tecumseth, as well as The Blue Mountains and Grey Highlands in Grey County, and Amaranth, Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur, and Shelburne in Dufferin County.

“Since its inception, we have worked with approximately 324,000 students within our watershed and beyond,” said Hevenor. “The environmental education program has provided high quality programming for close to four decades.”

Seniors' medical campus gets full support of Springwater council

'It's a great use of the land up on top of Bayfield Street,' says councillor; proposal, subject to MZO request, includes 471 units devoted to seniors' care

December 7, 2023 by Wayne Doyle

Barrie Today



The Remington Group has received Springwater Township council's support for its bid for a minister's zoning order to build a seniors' medical campus on Bayfield Street, just beyond the City of Barrie's northern boundary. Submitted by The Remington Group

Springwater Township council needed less than five minutes at Wednesday night's council meeting to unanimously pass a motion supporting the Remington Group's planned medical campus for seniors on Bayfield Street, just beyond Barrie's northern boundary.

"I definitely think our council should endorse this," said Coun. Phil Fisher. "It's a great use of the land up on top of Bayfield Street. It creates jobs and it contributes to our tax base."

As the 727 Bayfield St. N. property is located outside of a settlement area and does not have access to municipal

servicing, township staff say they were unable to support the typical land-use applications required for this type of proposal.

In response, the Remington Group prepared an application under the township's minister's zoning order (MZO) request protocol seeking council support in order to apply to the province for an MZO.

While the minister does not require council's support to issue an MZO, council's endorsement of a request can assist the minister in prioritizing projects that have political support.

According to the report, prepared by senior township planner Chris Russell, the Remington Group has completed the requirements of the township's MZO protocol by providing written notice to landowners within 120 metres of the proposed project, posting a general notice of the application in a local newspaper, and by hosting a public information centre (PIC) meeting to obtain public comments.

"I'm happy to see this process actually did provide for public input," said Deputy Mayor George Cabral. "I read some of the comments from the public and I found the vast majority of them to be quite positive."

The Remington Group's proposal is for a seniors-related medical campus, including long-term care facilities, retirement residences, hospice care, life leases and associated medical office and retail opportunities.

The original proposal, presented during a deputation to council on

Sept. 15, 2021, outlined the company's plans for its 47-acre property on the east side of Bayfield Street. It consisted of a 160-bed long-term care facility, a 145-unit retirement home, 145 life-lease ambulatory apartments and a 50-bed hospice.

It also included a 20,000-square-foot medical complex with services ranging from offices to physiotherapy, as well as a seniors' community centre.

The current proposal is slightly modified and includes a total of 471 units devoted to seniors' care — 145 retirement home units, 160 long-term care units, 115 life-lease apartments and 51 hospice care units.

The proposal would include a total of 437,000 sq. ft. of institutional floor area across five multi-storey buildings, a two-storey medical office, pharmacy and community centre.

The site contains a conservation area at the back of the property and roughly half (28 acres) of the site is not being considered for development.

"It fits in very, very well with the MZO process, which is geared specifically at the higher end for housing," said Cabral. "And it not only provides seniors' housing but also eventually palliative care and medical facilities on site.

"I'm happy to support this," he added.

The City of Barrie and Ainley Group, an engineering and planning firm, have submitted their comments on the proposal, most of which are focused on servicing the site (water,

wastewater, sewers, etc), traffic on Bayfield Street, emergency access as well as roads and sidewalks inside the development area.

Staff advised council the developers still have a number of fundamental and technical engineering considerations that need to be addressed, including securing full municipal servicing, examining the possibility of a developer-led servicing initiative or the consideration of servicing through a cross-border agreement with the City of Barrie.

The developers also need to develop and secure an appropriate stormwater outlet, subject to the satisfaction of the municipality and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and they need to develop an appropriate signalized intersection to Bayfield Street, subject to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Transportation.

If the province provides an MZO approval for the project, the developer would still need to supply the township with a detailed site-plan control application that would provide technical details for the noted engineering considerations and would include details such as phasing, any additional fire suppression measures, architectural controls and securities for the township.

Springwater mayor says budget places 'zero value' on plans, vision

'I cannot support this budget, because I believe standing still is moving backward,' says Coughlin

December 7, 2023 by Wayne Doyle

Barrie Today



Springwater Township Mayor Jennifer Coughlin is shown in a file photo. Image supplied

On Wednesday night, and for the first time in her 10 years in municipal politics, Springwater Township Mayor Jennifer Coughlin voted against passing a budget.

"This budget places zero value on approved plans and strategic vision," Coughlin read from a prepared statement ahead of the vote to approve the 2024 budget. "It simply replaces today's responsibilities with tomorrow's burdens.

"I cannot support this budget, because I believe standing still is moving backward," she added.

Coughlin said in its zeal for the smallest possible tax increase, council missed an opportunity to set the township up for future success — and for a relatively small investment.

She said council's position on fiscal responsibility was akin to "trying to save money by not changing the oil in our car."

Despite the mayor's position, Springwater Township council passed an overall (blended tax) increase of 1.83 per cent at the township's council meeting last night, meaning homeowners will have to find an additional \$79.34 annually, roughly \$6.60 per month, based on a home assessed at \$497,000.

The passing of the budget wrapped up a spirited exchange between township councillors that began when Coun. Matt Garwood offered his opinion on council's budget deliberations over the past few weeks. He said council had the opportunity to invest in Springwater, but decided to cut potential items — [like the economic development officer](#) — to meet what he called an "artificial target."

"What we cut from the budget today will cost the taxpayers tomorrow," he said.

Coun. Brad Thompson told council he thought not keeping the economic development officer position was a mistake and "was sending the wrong message" to businesses that may be looking Springwater's way.

Deputy Mayor George Cabral was taken aback by the comments from Garwood and Thompson.

"I'm actually disappointed that two members of council now have turned and decided that they are not supporting what the majority of council did with the budget," he said.

Coun. Danielle Alexander was direct.

“If you are that upset about this budget that you feel the need to lay it all on the line and have your moment to speak about it again, then I hope you can stick with that and vote against it,” she said.

Coun. Phil Fisher said it was his understanding that councillors were there to support the majority decisions of council.

“What I don’t like is feeling like I’ve been chastised for my opinion,” Fisher said.

He said he can disagree, but he understands every councillor is doing their best for the residents they represent.

When all was said and done, council approved 15 program changes that will have an overall net tax impact of \$522,395. Among the program changes are two permanent full-time staff, one new contract position, an improved volunteer firefighter compensation and benefits package and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority’s Category 3 funding.

Next year’s capital budget is \$40.2 million, which includes \$20.9 million worth of projects carried over from 2023. Major projects include the new fire station on Snow Valley Road (\$9.9 million), Phase 1 of Craig Road (\$8.6 million), wastewater treatment plant, filter upgrades and bar screen replacements (\$4.5 million), Kerr Street rehabilitation (\$1.8 million), replacement of Pump 31 (\$1.2 million)

and Mill Street West rehabilitation (\$1 million).

Around \$900,000 of the capital budget funding will come from taxpayers. The majority of funds for will come from development charges, debt, water/wastewater reserve fund, general reserves and grants/contributions.

Springwater council to vote on support for Sadlon development

Project will need to develop plan to accommodate a new elementary school

December 18, 2023 by Wayne Doyle

Barrie Today



The community master plan for the development at 742 Bayfield St. North. Image supplied/ Innovative Planning Solutions

A proposal to build a village of 2,000 homes in Springwater Township on Bayfield Street, just beyond the City of Barrie's northern border, has cleared the first hurdle.

2252841 Ontario Inc., a numbered company owned by Barrie car dealer Paul Sadlon, has completed the three requirements needed for Springwater Township's support of the developer's request for a Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) to build the development at 742 Bayfield St.

Because the proposed development is located outside of a Springwater Township settlement area and does not have access to municipal servicing, township staff were unable to support typical land use

applications that are required for a proposal of this kind.

Per the Township's MZO request protocol, 2252841 Ontario Inc. has provided written notice to landowners within 120 metres of the proposal, posted a general notice of the application within a local newspaper and held a public information centre (PIC) meeting to obtain public comments.

Springwater Township council will vote to endorse or not endorse the proposal Wednesday night at the township's regular council meeting.

"Whether council supports the proposal put forward for 742 Bayfield Street or not, the developers still have a number of fundamental and technical engineering considerations that need to be addressed," wrote Chris Russell, acting director of planning services for Springwater Township, in his report to council.

Russell said the development needs to secure appropriate full water and sewer servicing, which could "include the possibility of a developer-led servicing initiative or the consideration of servicing through a cross-border agreement."

The developers will have to develop and secure an appropriate storm water outlet that meets the standard mandated by the township and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.

They will also have to develop an appropriate signalized intersection to Bayfield Street that meets the

requirements of the Ministry of Transportation.

One last requirement, that the developer was made aware of after it held its public information session, was to develop an appropriate plan to accommodate elementary and secondary students within the development to the satisfaction of the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB).

“Although Planning Department staff are supportive and understand the critical need for additional residential housing forms, the board is concerned about the impact of such development proposals on the ability to provide elementary and secondary pupil accommodation in the Township of Springwater,” wrote Benjamin Craig, planner for the SCDSB.

“Currently, the nine existing public elementary schools in the surrounding community are over capacity and projected to remain over capacity with increasing reliance on portable accommodation. The existing public elementary schools within this area are currently at 126 per cent utilization overall.”

The proposed development at 742 Bayfield St. was not contemplated in the Midhurst Secondary Plan. With the projected growth, the township will need an elementary school site and potentially a secondary school site.

According to Craig, elementary and secondary accommodation needs are going to double.

“Planning department staff request that lands for a new elementary

school site in a campus form (nine hectares) with the option to add a secondary school be identified,” he wrote.

The SCDSB’s concerns were not the only ones noted in the report.

Ainley Group, an engineering and planning company, submitted more than a dozen comments, ranging from site servicing to traffic issues. The firm’s comments took into consideration The Remington Group’s proposal for a seniors-related medical campus, including long-term care facilities, retirement residences, hospice care, life leases and associated medical office and retail opportunities right across the street at 727 Bayfield St.

That proposal includes a total of 471 units devoted to seniors' care — 145 retirement home units, 160 long-term care units, 115 life-lease apartments and 51 hospice care units for its 19-hectare property on the east side of Bayfield Street.

The proposal would include a total of 437,000 square feet of institutional floor area across five multi-storey buildings, a two-storey medical office, pharmacy and community centre.

“Water servicing was reviewed and evaluates an option for municipal servicing with the City of Barrie,” Ainley’s engineers wrote in their submission. “Given the size of the proposed development(s) on both sides of Bayfield Street between the City of Barrie limits and Carson Road fed by a single main on Bayfield Street, the water servicing should explore options for storing water on

one of the sites for the purpose of fire fighting capacity (e.g., a communal water tower).

“Alternatively,” Ainley said, “this development is proposing two connections to the City of Barrie water distribution network. The second connection (i.e. the west connection from Kozlov Street) can be reviewed and extended to act as a second connection into the proposed/potential developments on the east side of Bayfield Street.”

Ainley provided two options for wastewater - discharging wastewater effluent to the City of Barrie infrastructure or discharging wastewater effluent to the Township of Springwater infrastructure.

“At this point, the preferred option is discharging to the City of Barrie infrastructure,” Ainley engineers wrote.

LICO Update: A drain done differently

December 18, 2023 by Mel Luymes
Drainage Contractor



Members of the project team at a two-stage drain (L-R) Julia and Dan Rice (R&D Excavating Ltd), Jeff Dickson (Burnside), Fred Dobbs (NVCA), Jeremy Nyenhuis (Town of Innisfil) and Chris Pfohl (Burnside) Image courtesy of Mel Luymes

After decades of drainage issues, public input meetings, engineer reports and various Drainage Act appeals, excavators have rolled through most of the South Innisfil Creek Drain (SICD) and farmers finally have the drainage they need. But, to an average passerby, the drain may look more like a beautiful creek that had always been that way. In this case, the drain is being restored and upgraded using innovative natural techniques that were designed to improve drainage, while also addressing water quality and enhancing aquatic habitat.

The Innisfil area is home to both intensive farming and development. The main drain is over six miles long, was first constructed in 1903 and drains more than 20,000 acres before emptying into the Innisfil Creek, the

Nottawasaga River and finally Georgian Bay and the Great Lakes.

Jeff Dickson (P.Eng. drainage), Chris Pfohl (CET, EP, sr. aquatic ecologist) and the team at R.J. Burnside & Associates Limited worked on the SICD with Jeremy Nyenhuis, Drainage Superintendent for the Town of Innisfil, in cooperation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA). The contract went to R&D Excavating LTD, and construction began in 2021. Much of the project is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

Because the SICD is classified as fish habitat, improvements were especially tricky. It is often said that necessity is the mother of invention and, in this case, the drainage requirements as well as the environmental restrictions challenged the design team to take drainage to a whole new level.

The most noticeable design innovation is the nearly three miles of two-stage drain. Drainage tiles outlet onto the upper vegetated bench where sediments and nutrients are deposited. This improves water quality, meaning drain cleanouts will be needed less frequently.

The bench of the main drain was vegetated with sod mats that were sourced on-site. The drain was widened by approximately 25 feet, and the native grasses with their root systems intact were carefully removed in mats that were six to 12 inches thick and three to five feet long. The mats were placed onto the bench of the drain once it was constructed to

elevation and width; after placement, the sod mats were watered, instantly revegetating the drain. Within weeks, the job site looked completely naturalized.

Many of the materials used to stabilize the sections of degraded drain bank were also found on site. Trees or woody material (primarily cedar) and root wads, which were cut, salvaged, and removed prior to or during excavation, were anchored or pinned into and along the drain banks and combined with live stakes such as dogwood or willow, effectively stabilizing quite a few eroding outside bends. A French drain was also made of logs at the bottom end of an oxbow which was re-purposed as a wetland to provide additional water holding capacity during larger flows as well as habitat for green frogs, turtles and birds.

Another noticeable feature is a Barefoot Box Culvert that replaced two corrugated steel pipes running under the 4th Line in the upper reach of the watershed. It is an eight-foot high by 20-foot wide precast concrete structure with perforations in the bottom designed to promote and allow groundwater upwelling to support fish habitat. Designed by Burnside's Pfohl, the capacity of this culvert allows for high flows to pass safely under the roadway, and contributes cooler, fresher water into the drain.

Just downstream of this culvert, various sizes of stone substrate were added to the bottom of the drain to enhance existing fish spawning areas, and a number of riffle-pool sequences were created to boost water quality

and provide habitat. A riffle is a shallow gravel area that produces a steeper gradient change in the drain bottom followed by a pool where fish species can rest and find refuge when flows are low.

Dan and Julia Rice of R&D Excavating worked closely with the Burnside Team to bring the engineering drawings to life. They had worked on similar projects, but never one of this size and complexity.

Many of the drain's features will be described in an upcoming video and are detailed in two bulletins in Burnside's series *Drains Done Differently*, available on their website. The team has hosted tours for stakeholders to demonstrate how drainage and habitat can co-exist.

As we look to the future and weirder weather in the forecast for farmers, along with a growing concern for water quality and our natural environment, the South Innisfil Creek Drain demonstrates that drains can be done differently and that both needs can be met. DC

Springwater council to vote on support for Sadlon development

A proposal to build a village of 2,000 homes in Springwater Township on Bayfield Street, just beyond the City of Barrie's northern border, has cleared the first hurdle.

December 19, 2023 by Wayne Doyle
Hamilton Spectator

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2252841 Ontario Inc., a numbered company owned by Barrie car dealer Paul Sadlon, has completed the three requirements needed for Springwater Township's support of the developer's request for a Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) to build the development at 742 Bayfield St.

Because the proposed development is located outside of a Springwater Township settlement area and does not have access to municipal servicing, township staff were unable to support typical land use applications that are required for a proposal of this kind.

Per the Township's MZO request protocol, 2252841 Ontario Inc. has provided written notice to landowners within 120 metres of the proposal, posted a general notice of the application within a local newspaper and held a public information centre (PIC) meeting to obtain public comments.

Springwater Township council will vote to endorse or not endorse the proposal Wednesday night at the township's regular council meeting.

"Whether council supports the proposal put forward for 742 Bayfield Street or not, the developers still have a number of fundamental and technical engineering considerations that need to be addressed," wrote Chris Russell, acting director of planning services for Springwater Township, in his report to council.

Russell said the development needs to secure appropriate full water and sewer servicing, which could "include the possibility of a developer-led servicing initiative or the consideration of servicing through a cross-border agreement."

The developers will have to develop and secure an appropriate storm water outlet that meets the standard mandated by the township and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.

They will also have to develop an appropriate signalized intersection to Bayfield Street that meets the requirements of the Ministry of Transportation.

One last requirement, that the developer was made aware of after it held its public information session, was to develop an appropriate plan to accommodate elementary and secondary students within the development to the satisfaction of the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB).

"Although Planning Department staff are supportive and understand the critical need for additional residential housing forms, the board is concerned about the impact of such development proposals on the ability to provide elementary and secondary pupil accommodation in the Township of Springwater," wrote Benjamin Craig, planner for the SCDSB.

"Currently, the nine existing public elementary schools in the surrounding community are over capacity and projected to remain over capacity with increasing reliance on portable accommodation. The existing public elementary schools within this area are currently at 126 per cent utilization overall."

The proposed development at 742 Bayfield St. was not contemplated in the Midhurst Secondary Plan. With the projected growth, the township will need an elementary school site and potentially a secondary school site.

According to Craig, elementary and secondary accommodation needs are going to double.

"Planning department staff request that lands for a new elementary school site in a campus form (nine hectares) with the option to add a secondary school be identified," he wrote.

The SCDSB's concerns were not the only ones noted in the report.

Ainley Group, an engineering and planning company, submitted more than a dozen comments, ranging from site servicing to traffic issues. The firm's comments took into

consideration The Remington Group's proposal for a seniors-related medical campus, including long-term care facilities, retirement residences, hospice care, life leases and associated medical office and retail opportunities right across the street at 727 Bayfield St.

That proposal includes a total of 471 units devoted to seniors' care — 145 retirement home units, 160 long-term care units, 115 life-lease apartments and 51 hospice care units for its 19-hectare property on the east side of Bayfield Street.

The proposal would include a total of 437,000 square feet of institutional floor area across five multi-storey buildings, a two-storey medical office, pharmacy and community centre.

"Water servicing was reviewed and evaluates an option for municipal servicing with the City of Barrie," Ainley's engineers wrote in their submission. "Given the size of the proposed development(s) on both sides of Bayfield Street between the City of Barrie limits and Carson Road fed by a single main on Bayfield Street, the water servicing should explore options for storing water on one of the sites for the purpose of fire fighting capacity (e.g., a communal water tower).

"Alternatively," Ainley said, "this development is proposing two connections to the City of Barrie water distribution network. The second connection (i.e. the west connection from Kozlov Street) can be reviewed and extended to act as a second connection into the proposed/potential

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“At this point, the preferred option is discharging to the City of Barrie infrastructure,” Ainley engineers wrote.

Local council to vote on plan for 2,000-home Sadlon development

Project will need to develop plan to accommodate a new elementary school

December 19, 2023 by Wayne Doyle
Innisfil Today



The community master plan for the development at 742 Bayfield St. North. Image supplied/ Innovative Planning Solutions

A proposal to build a village of 2,000 homes in Springwater Township on Bayfield Street, just beyond the City of Barrie's northern border, has cleared the first hurdle.

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“Currently, the nine existing public elementary schools in the surrounding community are over capacity and projected to remain over capacity with increasing reliance on portable accommodation. The existing public elementary schools within this area are currently at 126 per cent utilization overall.”

The proposed development at 742 Bayfield St. was not contemplated in the Midhurst Secondary Plan. With the projected growth, the township will need an elementary school site and potentially a secondary school site.

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Ainley provided two options for wastewater - discharging wastewater effluent to the City of Barrie infrastructure or discharging wastewater effluent to the Township of Springwater infrastructure.

“At this point, the preferred option is discharging to the City of Barrie infrastructure,” Ainley engineers wrote.

Paul Sadlon's massive proposed development driving forward

Project to build 2,000 homes in Springwater Township needs to develop plan to accommodate a new elementary school

December 19, 2023 by Wayne Doyle
Midland Today



The community master plan for the development at 742 Bayfield St. North. Image supplied/ Innovative Planning Solutions

A proposal to build a village of 2,000 homes in Springwater Township on Bayfield Street, just beyond the City of Barrie's northern border, has cleared the first hurdle.

2252841 Ontario Inc., a numbered company owned by Barrie car dealer Paul Sadlon, has completed the three requirements needed for Springwater Township's support of the developer's request for a Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) to build the development at 742 Bayfield St.

Because the proposed development is located outside of a Springwater Township settlement area and does not have access to municipal servicing, township staff were unable

to support typical land use applications that are required for a proposal of this kind.

Per the Township's MZO request protocol, 2252841 Ontario Inc. has provided written notice to landowners within 120 metres of the proposal, posted a general notice of the application within a local newspaper and held a public information centre (PIC) meeting to obtain public comments.

Springwater Township council will vote to endorse or not endorse the proposal Wednesday night at the township's regular council meeting.

"Whether council supports the proposal put forward for 742 Bayfield Street or not, the developers still have a number of fundamental and technical engineering considerations that need to be addressed," wrote Chris Russell, acting director of planning services for Springwater Township, in his report to council.

Russell said the development needs to secure appropriate full water and sewer servicing, which could "include the possibility of a developer-led servicing initiative or the consideration of servicing through a cross-border agreement."

The developers will have to develop and secure an appropriate storm water outlet that meets the standard mandated by the township and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.

They will also have to develop an appropriate signalized intersection to Bayfield Street that meets the

requirements of the Ministry of Transportation.

One last requirement, that the developer was made aware of after it held its public information session, was to develop an appropriate plan to accommodate elementary and secondary students within the development to the satisfaction of the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB).

“Although Planning Department staff are supportive and understand the critical need for additional residential housing forms, the board is concerned about the impact of such development proposals on the ability to provide elementary and secondary pupil accommodation in the Township of Springwater,” wrote Benjamin Craig, planner for the SCDSB.

“Currently, the nine existing public elementary schools in the surrounding community are over capacity and projected to remain over capacity with increasing reliance on portable accommodation. The existing public elementary schools within this area are currently at 126 per cent utilization overall.”

The proposed development at 742 Bayfield St. was not contemplated in the Midhurst Secondary Plan. With the projected growth, the township will need an elementary school site and potentially a secondary school site.

According to Craig, elementary and secondary accommodation needs are going to double.

“Planning department staff request that lands for a new elementary

school site in a campus form (nine hectares) with the option to add a secondary school be identified,” he wrote.

The SCDSB’s concerns were not the only ones noted in the report.

Ainley Group, an engineering and planning company, submitted more than a dozen comments, ranging from site servicing to traffic issues. The firm’s comments took into consideration The Remington Group’s proposal for a seniors-related medical campus, including long-term care facilities, retirement residences, hospice care, life leases and associated medical office and retail opportunities right across the street at 727 Bayfield St.

That proposal includes a total of 471 units devoted to seniors' care — 145 retirement home units, 160 long-term care units, 115 life-lease apartments and 51 hospice care units for its 19-hectare property on the east side of Bayfield Street.

The proposal would include a total of 437,000 square feet of institutional floor area across five multi-storey buildings, a two-storey medical office, pharmacy and community centre.

“Water servicing was reviewed and evaluates an option for municipal servicing with the City of Barrie,” Ainley’s engineers wrote in their submission. “Given the size of the proposed development(s) on both sides of Bayfield Street between the City of Barrie limits and Carson Road fed by a single main on Bayfield Street, the water servicing should explore options for storing water on

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Trail bridge dedicated to volunteer, late Ed Christie

December 22, 2023 by Trina Berlo

Creemore Echo



Members of the snowmobile community gathered at the new Ed Christie Memorial Bridge Tuesday for a dedication ceremony in honour of the man who was instrumental in the artery's planning.

Construction of the bridge over Batteaux Creek, at Concession 6 and 30/31 Sideroad, was completed this month and is an essential snowmobile trail link, said Blue Mountain Snowdrifters Snowmobile Club president Claudio Sulpizi.

"Today, we gather here to celebrate not just the completion of this bridge but also to pay tribute to a man whose legacy will be forever remembered," said Sulpizi. "I stand before you with great pride as we dedicate this bridge to the memory of a true leader, our beloved friend, Mr. Ed Christie."

Sulpizi described Christie as a dedicated and passionate volunteer who contributed countless hours to the snowmobile club.

Christie, a resident of Nottawa, was elected to Clearview council in 2018 and died suddenly in November 2019 at the age of 79. Prior to his death, he

had been working with partners to secure approvals from landowners and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA).

"It was his dream to get this bridge built during his lifetime," said Sulpizi. "He put in a lot of hard work and attended countless meetings and made phone calls to get all the permits in place. His efforts and dedication certainly did not go unnoticed."

"Although he is not here with us today, we all know that Ed is watching over us right now. In fact, we are lucky to have his brother George in attendance," continued Sulpizi. "George Christie has also been an integral part in the creation of many of the trails that we have come to enjoy. We owe the Christie family a big thank you for all the work that have done and continue to do making trails in the local area."

The bridge project was funded by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club with an initial \$565,000 contribution and an additional \$25,000 from the Ontario ATV Club to install the guard rails. Clearview Township also contributed \$10,000 which helped get the project started.

Sulpizi also thanked surrounding landowners who allowed temporary access to their properties until the project was finalized.

He also thanked the NVCA for granting permission for this project

He explained that because the bridge crosses the Batteaux Creek at a curve it needed to be quite long. Mayor

Doug Measures described the process with the NVCA as a battle.

"We kicked them," he said, to a round of applause from the crowd.

COLUMN: Popular conservation area shows power of foresight

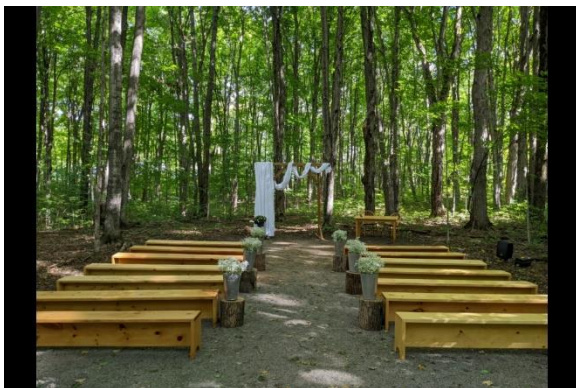
The ponds Dalton Tiffin originally built have benefited generations of novice paddlers and nature lovers and remains a haven for nature enthusiasts

December 30, 2023 by Elise Barr-Klouman

Barrie Today



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2 / 4 The Tiffin Centre for Conservation has an area for wedding ceremonies. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



3 / 4 Ingrid Cochrane is shown with her grandson at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation. Her grandfather often brought her to Tiffin as a child. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



4 / 4 Ingrid Cochrane is shown with her grandfather in 1980. She now brings her grandson with her to the Tiffin Centre for Conservation to attend education programs. Photo supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

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In the years that followed, the NVCA acquired additional, adjacent properties, bringing the size of the conservation area to more than 120 hectares (300 acres). Dalton Tiffin's legacy is not only extended through the name of the conservation area, but also through the ecological features he carefully nurtured during his ownership of the property.

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COLUMN: Popular conservation area shows power of foresight

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Collingwood Today



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Orillia Matters



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NVCA searching for landowners to plant trees

January 4, 2024 by Brian Lockhart

New Tecumseth Times

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) is searching for landowners who want to plant trees this spring.

Each year, the NVCA's forestry program plants around 100,000 trees for property owners in the Nottawasaga Watershed who want to convert their land into forest.

Planting trees helps to provide wildlife habitat, shade rivers and streams, and produce oxygen, among many other benefits. Well-managed forests also contribute to the economy by providing wood for construction and wood fibre for products such as paper.

"In the early 1900s, as settlers established communities in the Nottawasaga Watershed, they started to clear land for farming, but the topsoil quickly eroded, and sand underneath was exposed," said Rick Grillmayer, manager of forestry at NVCA. "Between the 1960's and early 1990's, the Province of Ontario planted millions of trees to restore our forests. Fast forward to today, NVCA is the only organization in the watershed that offers professional tree planting services."

The NVCA has a minimum requirement of one hectare or approximately two acres of planting space to be considered. All properties must be located in the Nottawasaga Watershed. Landowners can use NVCA's Interactive Data Viewer to

determine where their property is located.

Funding support from Forest Ontario's 50 Million Trees Program, the Simcoe County Tree Planting Program, and the Town of New Tecumseth Tree Planting Program provides eligible grants for tree planting. Grant availability depends on property size and location. It ranges between 60 – 80 per cent of the costs for 2024.

Properties over 4.45 hectares, or 11 acres in size, may be eligible for the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program.

If you are interested in planting trees with NVCA, contact Rick Grillmayer via e-mail at rgrillmayer@nvca.on.ca or by phone at 705-424-1479 ext. 230.

For more information on programs, you can visit online at the NVCA website.

When do you require an NVCA building permit?

January 4, 2024 by Brian Lockhart

New Tecumseth Times

If you plan on building, adding an addition, doing work on a shoreline, or just installing an in-ground pool, you may be under the jurisdiction of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA). If this is the case, you may need a permit from the NVCA before you start your project.

The role of NVCA in the development planning process is to protect lives and properties from flooding and erosion in areas around watercourses, wetlands, and shorelines.

NVCA also aims to protect the natural benefits offered by these natural areas.

NVCA staff provides timely environmental planning expertise to guide municipal land-use planning decisions.

Projects that require an NVCA permit include:

- Construction of a dwelling or addition
- Reconstruction of a dwelling
- Construction of any other structure such as shorewall, in-ground pool, or driveway
- Placing or constructing a detached accessory structure such as a barn, shed or pool house
- Changes to a building or structure that alters its use or

increases its size and occupancy, such as enclosing a carport to create a garage or an 'in-law' suite

- Site grading
- Temporary or permanent removal or importation of material such as fill, gravel, and soils, even if the material originated on the site

The NVCA encourages permit applicants to consult with planning and permit staff before applying to ensure their permit application process is smooth, efficient, and on the right track.

Staff are currently developing an e-permitting platform that allows applicants to track the status of permits online.

There will also be database improvements and website updates to improve customer service.

Not all projects require a permit.

Projects that do not require a permit include:

- If your proposed work is not in an NVCA-regulated area
- If NVCA staff have reviewed the regulations associated with the property and determined a permit is not required. E-mail clearance can be given at that time
- Fences and ground-level decks outside natural hazards
- Above-ground swimming pools, temporary pools and hot tubs

- Landscaping activities such as planting trees or garden beds
- Minor limbing of trees, cutting scrub or damaged vegetation outside of wetlands
- Agricultural practices such as cropping and tilling of existing agricultural lands

Things to do in Simcoe County this weekend (Jan. 5-7)

If you're looking for some things to do this weekend, here are a few suggestions

January 4, 2024

Simcoe.com



Shannon Stephens of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority looks into the trees with her binoculars during a walk.

Janis Ramsay Metroland file photo

Looking for something to do this weekend? Here's a look at a few events happening around Simcoe County.

Christmas Bird Count for Kids

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

Learn 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 practise identifying the birds at Tiffin!

When: Friday, Jan. 5, 9 a.m. until noon.

Where: [Tiffin Centre for Conservation, 8195 8th Line, Utopia, ON](#)

Price: \$5 — Includes parking and hot chocolate. Registration require

More info: www.nvca.on.ca/events-and-education/christmas-bird-count-for-kids/

Drop-in Family Storytime

Expect an hour of stories, songs, crafts and playtime for the whole family. Come on out and get to know the other families in your community while nurturing your child's love of books and reading. The 30-minute circle time is followed by 30 minutes of play time/parent social time. All ages welcome.

When: Friday, Jan. 5, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Where: [Innisfil Public Library, Stroud Branch, 7883 Yonge St., Innisfil, ON](#)

Price: Free. No registration required.

More info: innisfil.bibliocommons.com/event/s/657b1bad67e8ac3700b6a489

Orillia Curling Club Pay to Play Sunday Afternoons

Try curling without commitment. Pay-to-play afternoons provide a relaxed and informal setting with instruction on the basics of the game. Loaner equipment is available including brooms and sliders.

You'll need: clean running shoes or similar rubber soled footwear, warm gloves and a great attitude. Come

dressed in layers and in pants that allow for easy movement.

When: Sunday, Jan. 7, 2 to 4 p.m.

Where: [Barnfield Point Recreation Centre — Orillia Curling Club, 500 Atherley Rd., Orillia, ON](#)

Price: \$20 for non-members.

Registration required.

More

info: orilliacurlingclub.ca/index.php/events/event-registrations

Freeze-thaw conditions create hazards around local waterways

Unseasonably warm weather and winter storms have caused abnormal runoff, says Conservation Halton

January 11, 2024

Burlington Today



Julie Slack

NEWS RELEASE

CONSERVATION HALTON

Conservation Halton reminds residents of dangers that can exist near streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes around this time of year and urges people to keep family and pets away from the edges of all waterways.

While temperatures have declined after unseasonably warm weather in December, we are experiencing frequent freeze-thaw cycles and winter storms that bring wet and mixed precipitation. These winter storms have caused abnormal winter runoff that can create hazardous conditions near all waterways, including high water levels and increased velocities in local watercourses.

Fluctuating temperatures can result in thinning ice conditions on local streams and waterbodies. As well, slippery and unstable streambanks and extremely cold water temperatures can lead to hazardous and dangerous conditions close to any body of water.

With the days short and grey, many of us will be itching to get fresh air any way we can. We want to remind all nature seekers to be extremely cautious when outside this winter. We ask that you target trails and steer clear of streams.

Winter safety tips for residents:

- Keep people and pets away from all bodies of water
- Avoid all recreational activities in or around water
- Tailor your outdoor activities to trails at your local parks and Conservation Areas
- If you are in danger, call 911 immediately

For more information, contact your local Conservation Authority.

- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (905) 895-1281
- Toronto & Region Conservation Authority (416) 661-6514
- Conservation Halton (905) 336-1158
- Credit Valley Conservation (905) 670-1615
- Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (905) 579-0411

- Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (905) 885-8173
- Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (705) 424-1479
- Kawartha Conservation (705) 328-2271

Conservation Halton is recognized for its stewardship of creeks, forests and Niagara Escarpment lands through science-based programs and services.

About Conservation Halton's Flood Forecasting and Operations Program

Conservation Halton provides a flood forecasting and operations program to reduce the risk of property damage and loss of life due to flooding.

When flooding is possible or about to occur, Conservation Halton issues flood messages to municipal emergency management officials, school boards, police, EMS, and the media. Municipal officials take action to warn local residents.

Conservation Halton is responsible for the maintenance and operation of four major flood control dams (Kelso, Hilton Falls, Scotch Block and Mountsberg) and over 12 kilometers of flood conveyance channels (Sixteen Mile Creek through Milton, Morrison-Wedgewood diversion in Oakville and the Rambo-Hager diversion in Burlington).

Conservation Halton is the community based environmental agency that protects, restores, and manages the natural resources in its watershed. The organization has staff that includes ecologists, land use planners, engineers, foresters, and educators, along with a network of volunteers, who are guided by a Board of Directors comprised of municipally elected and appointed citizens.