



NVCA April 2024 Board Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting: May 24, 2024, held virtually

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

NVCA Vice Chair acclaimed as Vice Chair on Conservation Ontario Board of Directors

On April 15, 2024, Jonathan Scott, the Vice Chair of NVCA's Board of Directors was acclaimed as vice chair of Conservation Ontario during the association's annual general meeting in Richmond Hill.

2023 Financial Statement

NVCA receives clean audit for 2023.

Board members received the 2023 NVCA audited financial statements as presented by KPMG LLP Chartered Accountants. [The financial statement is available on NVCA's website](#).

Presentation on Enforcement and Compliance

Meagan Kieferle, NVCA's Senior Regulations Officer gave a presentation regarding NVCA's enforcement and compliance.

Through the *Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act)*, NVCA is responsible for protecting life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion.

Enforcement tools and compliance measures play a vital role in achieving this goal by ensuring the requirements *CA Act* and associated regulations are enforced.

If activities contravene the *CA Act*, NVCA's regulations officers work with the parties involved to mitigate impacts to the environment and obtain compliance.

NVCA's regulation officers assess the violation to determine where the potential for risk is

highest, and focus efforts on resolving matters that have the most significant impacts.

Although every person who is convicted of an offence would be liable for a penalty, NVCA prefers to resolve non-compliance through voluntary compliance when possible.

Where voluntary compliance is possible, NVCA will work with the landowner to restore the work area to pre-existing conditions to avoid further enforcement action. Depending on the activity, NVCA may consider retroactive approvals.

With recent changes to the *CA Act*, NVCA officers now have additional tools such as stop work orders to reduce negative impacts to the environment.

Deputation

Andrew Pascuzzo from Pascuzzo Planning Inc. gave a presentation regarding NVCA Permits for Wood Avenue Semis.

Customer Satisfaction Report

In 2013, NVCA adopted a Customer Service Charter and Strategy that sets out the authority's commitment to providing excellence in customer service. Continuous improvement is a key element of the charter.

[Please visit NVCA's website to view the 2023 Customer Service Satisfaction Report.](#)

Regulations

In 2023, 67 individuals and organizations completed a client survey on the NVCA permit application process. The survey is sent to all those receiving NVCA permits.

The responses that were ranked as good or excellent in 2023 was 73%, slightly higher than the 68% rating received in 2022.

In 2023, NVCA contracted Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. to review planning and regulation program rates and assess the full cost of providing plan review and permitting services, applicant affordability, competitiveness, and industry best practices.

Based on the recommendations received, NVCA staff have developed and presented an updated fee structure to the Board of Directors. The draft fees have been circulated to the development community, member municipalities, the agriculture community, aggregate industry and members of the public for comment.

Once the province lifts the freeze on conservation authority planning and development fees, and subject to the Board's approval, the new fees will be phased in over a two-year period.

Lands

NVCA's conservation areas received 89 reviews in 2023, one from a customer satisfaction survey, and 88 reviews on Google's business listings.

Ninety-three (93%) of the reviews received on Google were 4-star or 5-star reviews. The conservation areas that received the most reviews were Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area, Edenvale Conservation Area and Minesing Wetlands Conservation Area.

Education

NVCA's environmental education program provides hands-on, curriculum-aligned programs for JK to grade 12 students. Thousands of students take part in these programs each year.

In 2023, 8 teachers submitted feedback surveys on NVCA's virtual environmental education programs.

Of those responding, 100% of the respondents ranked the program as excellent.

Stewardship

NVCA's stewardship services include the Nottawasaga River Restoration Program, the

Healthy Waters grant program, and other projects to protect and enhance our watershed.

Comments received from funders and landowners generally describe the expertise and results achieved by that NVCA's stewardship staff.

Weddings

In 2023, the Tiffin Centre for Conservation hosted 24 wedding celebrations. Ten of these couples responded to a wedding feedback survey.

Of those responding, 100% rated NVCA's customer service as excellent, and 100% said they would recommend the Tiffin Centre as a wedding venue to others.

Update of Administrative Bylaws for the Board of Directors

NVCA's Board of Directors approved updates to the administrative bylaws to simplify the NVCA Board of Director election process.

Upcoming Events

Arbor Day

NVCA will hold its 34th annual Arbor Day Tree Sale. A variety of bareroot tree and shrub seedlings will be available for sale. Trees and shrubs are sold in bundles of 10 for \$35 each. Tree availability is on a first come first serve and cannot be reserved.

Date: May 11, 2024

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

Tree Planting Event on the Mad River

Volunteer to plant trees along the creek with Friends of the Mad River and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority from 9 a.m. to noon. This is a great way for students to get their volunteer hours. Pre-registration required. [Register here.](#)

Date: May 5, 2024

Location: 2295 Nottawasaga Concession 6 Creemore, ON L0M 1G0

Let the River Flow: Mad River benefit concert

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

Date: May 26, 2024

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

Tiffin Nature Program (for preschoolers)

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

Half Day Dates: Tuesdays March 19, 2023 – June 4, 2024

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

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation