

07-25-BOD Agenda

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Friday, June 27, 2025 at 9:00 AM EDT to Friday, June 27, 2025 at 12:00 PM EDT

Agenda

1. Events

River restoration and tree planting events

The stewardship team will be hosting volunteer river restoration and tree planting events this summer. Dates and locations will be posted soon

Date: June, July, August

Location: Throughout the Nottawasaga Watershed

2. Call to Order

3. Land Acknowledgement

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional land of the Anishnaabeg people. The Anishnaabeg (*a-nish-i-na-beck*) include the Ojibwe (*o-jib-way*), Odawa (*o-dah-wa*), and Pottawatomi (*pot-a-wa-tom-ee*) nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture and committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect with all First Nation, Métis and Inuit people.

4. Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflict of Interest

5. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting #07-25-BOD dated on June 27, 2025 be approved.

6. Chairs Update

Chair Scott will share his updates.

7. CAO's Updates

CAO, Jennifer Vincent will share her updates.

8. Announcements

9. Deputations

There are no deputations at this time.

10. Hearings

There are no hearings at this time.

11. 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.

12. 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 #13; 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.

13. Consent List

13.1. Adoption of Minutes

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings 06-25-BOD dated on May 23, 2025 be approved.

13.2. 12.2. Correspondence

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receives the correspondence from the Town of Shelburne.

Correspondence dated on May 14, 2025 from the Town of Shelburne regarding the passed resolution of Responsible Growth and Opposition to Element of Bill 5

13.3. Correspondence

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receives the correspondence from the Town of Georgina.

Correspondence from the Town of Georgina dated on April 2, 2025 regarding the carried resolution of amalgamation.

13.4. Staff Reports

13.4.1. Staff Report No. 18-07-25-BOD from Katelyn Wardlow, Planner, & Tyler Mulhall, Planner regarding Permits

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: NVCA Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 18-07-25-BOD that summarizes the permits issued by staff for the period of January 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025.

13.4.2. Staff Report No. 19-07-25-BOD from Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits & Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services regarding Regulations Mapping Update

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors approve Staff Report No. 19-07-25-BOD regarding the 2025 Updated Regulation Mapping and staff be directed to release the final updated mapping to NVCA watershed municipalities and stakeholders.

13.4.3. Staff Report No. 20-07-25-BOD from Paul Tripodo, Manager, Stewardship & Restoration Services & Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services regarding Administrative Review of Programs and Services.

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors receive and approve Staff Report No. 20-07-25-BOD, regarding a potential future administrative update to the categorization of services provided by the Stewardship and Restoration Program.

13.4.4. Staff Report No. 21-07-25-BOD from Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist regarding Customer Satisfaction Report 2024

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 21-07-25-BOD regarding NVCA's Customer Satisfaction Report 2024 be received by Board of Directors.

13.4.5. Staff Report No. 22-07-25-BOD from Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist regarding Communication Report

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 22-07-25-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – May 9, 2025 – June 12, 2025, be received.

13.4.6. Staff Report No. 24-07-25-BOD from Ian Ockenden, Manager, Watershed Science & Jennifer Vincent, CAO regarding Chloride Concentrations

Recommendation:

WHEREAS: road salt is a designated toxic substance under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* due to its long-term harm to ecosystems, infrastructure and drinking water sources; and

WHEREAS: chloride levels in some local bodies of water have risen over 300% since the 1960s; and

WHEREAS: despite years of guidance and consultation efforts from conservation authorities, private road salt usage continues to rise, driven primarily by liability concerns faced by contractors and property owners; and

WHEREAS: businesses in the winter maintenance sector are seeing insurance and legal costs dramatically escalate to the point where many have failed, and some property owners have been unable to find winter maintenance contractors; and

WHEREAS: a liability-limiting framework can reduce salt use by up to 40% without compromising public safety and has broad support across municipalities, environmental groups and the winter maintenance industry, as proposed by the Ontario Road Salt Coalition and Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The NVCA urges the Province of Ontario to adopt legislation that limits liability for certified snow and ice contractors following provincially endorsed best practices; and
2. The NVCA supports the creation of a provincial advisory committee—including municipal, industry, commercial property owners, insurance industry and environmental representatives—to guide salt reduction strategies and protect Ontario's freshwater resources; and
3. That this resolution be shared with Conservation Ontario, local MPPs, the Ontario Road Salt Coalition, and Minister McCarthy, Attorney General Downey, and Premier Ford."

14. In-Camera

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting of the Board of Directors No. 07-25-BOD move into closed session at _____ to address matters pertaining to: potential acquisition of property in Minesing; and,

FURTHER THAT: Director, Corporate Services Sheryl Flannagan; Director, Watershed Management Services Chris Hibberd; Director, Conservation Services Kyra Howes; Chief Administrative Officer, Jennifer Vincent and Administrative Assistant, Kerry Jenkins to remain for discussion and recording purposes.

15. Out of In-Camera

Recommendation:

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

15.1. Out of In Camera

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors provide staff with approval to negotiate property acquisitions with landowners and funding partners for the potential acquisition of two properties located within the core of Minesing Wetlands for the purpose of flood, erosion, and water quality improvements,

And further, should negotiations be successful and fall within budgeted allocations, approve staff to pursue the acquisitions noted herein.

16. Other Business

17. Adjourn

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting adjourn at _____ to meet again on September 26, 2025 or at the call of the Chair.

From: Jonathan Scott
Re: Chair's Monthly Update Report
Date: 18 June 2025

Over the past month, two key developments stand out in our efforts to advance collaborative, modern, and accountable conservation governance across the watershed.

1. Launch of NVCA-BILD Working Group

The NVCA formally launched a joint working group with the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD), marking a significant milestone in our efforts to improve service delivery, modernize development review processes, and contribute to Ontario's housing and economic development goals while upholding our core mandate of public safety and environmental protection.

This group will bring together NVCA staff, BILD members, and municipal representatives to proactively identify barriers, clarify technical expectations, and streamline internal systems. The collaboration was welcomed by BILD as a sign of NVCA's leadership and constructive approach. Our goal remains clear: timely, consistent, and outcome-focused approvals that support smart growth across the watershed.

2. Meeting with Oro-Medonte and LSRCA

Vice-Chair Gail Little, CAO Jennifer Vincent, and I participated in a meeting with representatives from Oro-Medonte and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA). The purpose of the meeting was to directly address the concerns raised by Oro-Medonte in their council resolution calling for an amalgamation of NVCA and LSRCA.

We took the opportunity to reiterate several key points:

- There is no support among NVCA's other member municipalities for amalgamation;
- Oro-Medonte triggered a statutory process that directly confers participation rights on member municipalities, who have overwhelmingly passed motions indicating their opposition to an amalgamation;
- The NVCA does not have duplicative services with LSRCA;
- We are, however, open to working with Oro-Medonte to explore reasonable solutions, particularly where there may be overlap with the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA), and to better understand any perceived financial impacts.
- To that end, we offered a formalized working group of NVCA and Oro-Medonte staff and elected officials to investigate this matter.

NVCA is committed to good-faith collaboration. We clarified our willingness to engage on underlying issues through improved transparency, information sharing, the aforementioned working group and service alignment — but stressed the political reality that an amalgamation is not a supported path forward. Our message was firm but constructive.

3. Upcoming Conservation Ontario Council Meeting

Ahead of our next Board meeting, I will be attending the June meeting of the Conservation Ontario Council, alongside Vice-Chair Little and CAO Vincent. This will provide an opportunity to engage with other conservation authorities on province-wide matters, reinforce our leadership role in advocating for modernization and outcome-oriented governance, and continue to share best practices.

4. Anticipated MP and MPP Engagements

We are also in the process of scheduling a series of meetings and site tours with Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament throughout the summer. These engagements will help highlight NVCA's local impact, showcase our key projects, and build understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the watershed. Staff will be following up with further details in the coming weeks. As always, I remain available for any questions from Board members or municipal partners regarding these or other developments.

Respectfully submitted,
Councillor Jonathan Scott
Chair, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

JONATHAN SCOTT BA LLB MBA
Councillor, Ward 2
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
647-998-8461
www.townofbwg.com

From: Jennifer Vincent
Re: CAO's Report – June 2025
Date: June 13, 2025

I want to thank the Board for their support as I transition into my role as NVCA CAO. I am pleased to share a few key updates and thoughts on CAO priorities since starting last month.

My tenure as CAO has begun at a fast pace, with a strong focus on quickly gaining a deep understanding of NVCA's priorities, challenges, and the broader landscape. To support this, I've traveled extensively throughout the watershed—visiting lands slated for development, touring Conservation Areas and NVCA-owned properties, exploring recently restored natural areas, attending events, and engaging directly with landowners and key partners. These visits provided valuable opportunities to connect with staff, hear their insights and ideas, and benefit from their expertise as they briefed me on key issues and organizational priorities.

I've also been meeting with CAOs from NVCA's member municipalities and neighboring Conservation Authorities to better understand priorities, explore opportunities to improve NVCA service delivery, and identify areas for collaboration. So far, I've connected with Grey Sauble, Lake Simcoe Region, and Maitland Valley conservation authorities, the townships of Oro-Medonte and Mulmur, and the towns of Mono, New Tecumseth, Shelburne, and Innisfil. Additional meetings will be scheduled through the summer.

While I plan to continue to prioritize listening and learning, I am beginning to appreciate NVCA's strengths and see CAO priorities emerging around the following outcomes:

- Effective, integrated, & informed decision support systems
- Strong culture of client-service and collaboration
- Employer of choice

Operational Updates

Continued Permitting and Planning Improvements – Between January 1, 2025, and May 31, 2025, NVCA issued 211 permits. On average, both Minor and Major permits were issued within 18 days. In accordance with Conservation Ontario's Best Practices timelines, major permits were issued within 90 days 98% of the time and minor were issued within 30 days 93% of the time. With regards to Plan review, we continue to work closely with our municipalities and clients to ensure relevant, timely, and rigorous reviews.

NVCA/Development Industry Work Group launched - The NVCA and the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) launched a new working group to strengthen collaboration between the conservation authority and the development industry, with a shared focus on supporting Ontario's home-building targets and local economic development in a safe, sustainable manner. 19 members of BILD attended a very successful inaugural meeting on May 28, 2025. Our next meeting is in September.

2026 Budget and Integrated Work Planning Process Launched – As part of the 2026 process, I've introduced a new integrated work planning and budget tool that links NVCA's Integrated Watershed Plan and Strategic Plan to NVCA programs, deliverables, outcomes, and budgets. This will improve Senior Management and the Board of Directors' ability to understand potential impacts and make informed decisions regarding decisions linked to NVCA's obligations, commitments, and outcomes.

NVCA Strategic Plan Review and Update Process – Both the NVCA Strategic Plan and Business Plan are set to expire in 2025. While both require review and renewal, the Strategic Plan will be prioritized as it defines our vision, mission, and values; assesses our current position; sets long-term goals; and outlines the strategies to achieve them.

Our approach will:

- Leverage in-house expertise to ensure cost-effectiveness and organizational alignment.
- Engage staff and Board members meaningfully throughout the process.
- Strengthen our collaborative culture and employer of choice by valuing the insights and experiences of staff and Board members.

The Board should anticipate an update in the final quarter of 2025 with a request for approval late in the first quarter of 2026.

Spring Workplan Deliverables update –

- During Minesing Wetlands marsh bird monitoring, the birds were loud and abundant; a very good sign including several interactions with the resident Bald eagle.
- The Source Water Protection program reviewed 20 property enquiries in May.
- Spring monitoring protocols completed – all groundwater wells visited (18 wells), surface water chemistry sampled (18 sites), aquatic insects collected (22 sites), and 1 stormwater pond bathymetric survey completed.
- Stewardship program hosted 33 community events, planting over 8,000 trees; the Forestry program planted over 74,000 trees, 1,620 students completed the NVCA's Grade 5 Indigenous education program, and 3,541 Grade 4 students in the Habitat in Your Community education program.
- Grade 11 & 12 students from St-Joe's Secondary School in Barrie got to experience history firsthand with an on-site archeology study conducted at the Fort Willow Conservation Area. This partnership is in its 20th year and is graciously coordinated by teacher and licenced archeologist, Trevor Carter.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Vincent, CAO



06-25-BOD Agenda Minutes **(Draft)**
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Friday May 23, 2025 9:00 AM EST

Attendance

Present:

Cllr. Joe Belanger, Wasaga Beach (Town); Chair Jonathan Scott, Bradford West Gwillimbury (Town); Cllr. Joel Loughhead, Grey Highlands (Municipality); Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink, Essa (Township); Mayor Scott W. Anderson, Adjala-Tosorontio (Township); Cllr. Christopher Baines, Collingwood (Town); Cllr. Richard Schell, Oro-Medonte (Township); Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren Clearview (Township); Cllr. Ralph Manktelow, Mono (Town); Chair Gail Little, Amaranth (Township); Cllr. Kevin Eisses, Innisfil (Town); Cllr. June Porter, The Blue Mountains (Town); Cllr. Nicole Cox, New Tecumseth (Town); Cllr. Gary Harvey, Barrie (City); Cllr. Patricia Clark, Mulmur (Township)

NVCA Staff:

Sheryl Flannagan, Interim CAO/Director, Corporate Services; Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services; Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services; Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist; Kerry Jenkins, Administrative Assistant/Recorder

Absent:

Cllr. Kyle Fegan, Shelburne (Town); Cllr. Phil Fisher, Springwater (Township); Mayor Darren White, Melancthon (Township)

1. Events

Tree Planting event in Minesing

This tree planting event is located along Willow Creek off George Johnson Rd.

Date: May 13, 2025 from 9:30am to 3pm.

Location: Willow Creek Canoe Corral, Minesing

Spring Paddle in Minesing

The Friends of Minesing Wetlands will be leading a spring trip into the Minesing Wetlands via canoe or kayak.

Date: May 17, 2025 from 8:30am to 2:30pm

Location: Willow Creek Canoe Corral, Minesing

Tree Planting event in Mono

This tree planting event is located along Mono Centre Creek.

Date: May 24, 2025

Location: 754387 Mono Centre Road Orangeville, ON

2. Call to Order

Chair Scott called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

3. Land Acknowledgement

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional land of the Anishnaabeg people. The Anishnaabeg (*a-nish-i-na-beck*) include the Ojibwe (*o-jib-way*), Odawa (*o-dah-wa*), and Pottawatomi (*pot-a-wa-tom-ee*) 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: 40-25

Moved by: Cllr. June Porter

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Belanger

RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting #06-25-BOD dated on May 23, 2025 be approved.

Carried;

6. Chairs Update

Chair Scott shared his updates.

7. Announcements

Chair Scott welcomed NVCA's new CAO, Jennifer Vincent to the members.

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

Due to only three items, Chair decided to review all individually and skipped consent.

12. Consent List

12.1. Adoption of Minutes

Recommendation:

RES: 41-25

Moved by: Cllr. Ralph Manktelow

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Belanger

RESOLVED THAT: the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings 05-25-BOD dated on April 25, 2025 be approved.

Carried;

12.2. Staff Reports

12.2.1. Staff Report No. 16-06-25-BOD from Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist regarding Communications Strategy

Recommendation:

RES: 42-25

Moved by: Cllr. Christopher Baines

Seconded by: Mayor Scott W. Anderson

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 16-06-25-BOD regarding the 2025 NVCA Communications Strategy.

Carried;

12.2.2. Staff Report No. 17-06-25-BOD from Chris Parker, Communications Assistant regarding Communications Report

Recommendation:

RES: 43-25

Moved by: Cllr. Christopher Baines

Seconded by: Cllr. Joel Loughhead

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 17-06-25-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – April 12, 2025 – May 9, 2025, be received.

Carried;

13. In-Camera

Recommendation:

RES: 44-25

Moved by: Cllr. Nicole Cox

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting of the Board of Directors No. 06-25-BOD move into closed session at 9:18am to address matters pertaining to: A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the Authority; and,

FURTHER THAT: Director, Corporate Services Sheryl Flannagan; Chief Administrative Officer, Jennifer Vincent and Administrative Assistant, Kerry Jenkins to remain for discussion and recording purposes.

Carried;

14. Out of In-Camera

Recommendation:

RES: 45-25

Moved by: Cllr. Gary Harvey

Seconded by: Cllr. Rick Schell

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors rise from in-camera at 10:20am and report progress.

Carried;

14.1. Out of In-Camera

Recommendation:

RES: 46-25

Moved by: Cllr. Nicole Cox

Seconded by: Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink

RESOLVED THAT: the verbal direction given by the Board in closed session be enacted by staff.

Carried;

15. Other Business

16. Adjourn

Recommendation:

RES: 47-25

Moved by: Cllr. Rick Schell

Seconded by: Cllr. Gary Harvey

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting adjourn at 10:22am to meet again on June 27, 2025 or at the call of the Chair.

Carried;

From: Jennifer E. Willoughby <jwilloughby@shelburne.ca>

Sent: May 14, 2025 9:50 AM

To: rob.flack@pc.ola.org; sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org; premier@ontario.ca; todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org

Cc: policy@amo.on.ca; Minister (MMAH) <minister.mah@ontario.ca>; romachair@roma.on.ca; Alice Byl <abyl@shelburne.ca>

Subject: Town of Shelburne - Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5

Good Morning

At the May 12, 2025, meeting of Shelburne Town Council, the following resolution was passed unanimously

Moved By: Councillor Len Guchardi

Seconded By: Councillor Lindsay Wegener

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of "Special Economic Zones" that may override local planning authority;

And Whereas the Town of Shelburne supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes;

And Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario's natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That Council for the Town of Shelburne:

- Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections or override municipal planning authority;
- Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;
- Urges the Province to support municipalities through ensuring responsible growth through infrastructure projects designed to ensure protection of sensitive wildlife and natural resources;

And Directs that this resolution be forwarded to:

- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario,
- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,

- The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks,
- Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin–Caledon,
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO),
- All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration,
- All Conservation Authorities in Ontario,
- Conservation Ontario

CARRIED; Mayor Wade Mills

Thank You

[Jennifer Willoughby, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk](#)

Phone: 519-925-2600 ext 223 | Fax: 519-925-6134 | jwilloughby@shelburne.ca

Town of Shelburne | 203 Main Street East, Shelburne ON L9V 3K7



GEORGINA

Resolution passed by the Council of the Town of Georgina on April 2, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0082

Moved By Councillor Neeson

Seconded By Councillor Dale

That Town Council receive and endorse the Nottawasaga Valley Board of Directors opposition to the proposed amalgamation of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and that this motion be forwarded to York Region municipalities, Watershed municipalities, the Region of York accompanied by a letter from the Mayor and copied to the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Conservation Ontario and Minister Todd McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Carried Unanimously



Staff Report: 18-07-25-BOD

Date: 27/06/2025

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Katelyn Wardlaw, Planner
Tyler Mulhall, Planner
Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning and Permits

SUBJECT: Permits under the *Conservation Authorities Act* for the Period January 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025.

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: NVCA Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 18-07-25-BOD that summarizes the permits issued by staff for the period of January 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025.

Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this staff report is to provide the Board of Directors with a summary of the permits issued under Section 28.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (the Act) and to report on compliance with Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits, as required by Section 8.1(1) of Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Program and Services.

Background

On April 1, 2024, changes to the Act and Ontario Regulation 686/21, and the enactment of Ontario Regulation 41/24 set out changes to permit timelines and reporting requirements. Table 1 shows the breakdown of the permits issued by Municipality, and Table 2 shows permit statistics and timelines for Major and Minor Permits as well as compliance with Ontario Regulation 41/24.

Section 8.1(1) of Ontario Regulation 686/21 states that "the authority shall prepare and publish an annual report that outlines statistics on permits, including reporting on its level of compliance with the requirements of Ontario Regulation 41/24 (Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits), made under the Act, respecting the application for and issuance of permits, including any associated timelines."

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.”

Section 12 of Ontario Regulation 41/24 provides the ability for individual Conservation Authorities to establish “standard timelines for the authority to make a decision on permit applications following notification that an application is complete...as the authority determines advisable”. While certain timelines are outlined in the *Act* (e.g., complete application review timelines, administrative review timelines, and appeal timelines for applicants), decision-making timelines for a Conservation Authority is a local decision. In October 2024, NVCA went forward with a decision timeline of 90 days for all permit applications.

Previously NVCA, as with other Conservation Authorities, reported against 2 different timelines, MNRF’s May 2010 “Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting Activities” (CALC) timelines, and Conservation Ontario (CO)’s Best Practices. The CLAC timelines outlined a 90-day decision timeline for major permit and a 30-day decision timeline for minor permits; CO’s Best Practices timelines were more stringent – 28 days for major, 21 days for minor, and 14 days for routine permits. With the enactment of O. Reg 41/24, this removed the CALC timelines and allowed CA’s to determine their own timelines for decision making.

In December 2024, CO provided updates and training to their Best Practices regarding permit timelines, and provided an outline to report on the requirements set out in Section 8.1(1) of Ontario Regulation 686/21. This outline is provided below in Table 2.

With the removal of the CALC timelines, CO updated their Best Practices – 90 days for major permits and 30 days for minor, removing the “routine” permit category.

The importance of following CO’s Best Practices for permit timelines can be summarized in the following points:

- Establishing standard timelines to provide clarity and certainty to individuals seeking NVCA permits; and
- To reflect efficient client services, while providing NVCA technical staff with sufficient time to ensure development is undertaken safely with respect to natural hazards.

NVCA has been reporting against CO’s Best Practices since 2019 when NVCA was identified as a high growth CA. NVCA understands the need to provide exceptional customer service and uses CO’s Best Practices timelines as a benchmark when reviewing each permit type.

Permits under the Conservation Authorities Act Report
Staff Report No. 18-07-25-BOD

Issues/Analysis

Below is a summary of the permits issued during the period January 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025. A total of 211 permits were issued by staff during this time period.

Municipality	Total Permits
CITY OF BARRIE	9
MUNICIPALITY OF GREY HIGHLANDS	1
TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS	3
TOWN OF BRADFORD WEST GWILLIMBURY	5
TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD	26
TOWN OF INNISFIL	6
TOWN OF MONO	13
TOWN OF NEW TECUMSETH	15
TOWN OF SHELBURNE	2
TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH	17
TOWNSHIP OF ADJALA-TOSORONTIO	23
TOWNSHIP OF AMARANTH	3
TOWNSHIP OF CLEARVIEW	15
TOWNSHIP OF ESSA	16
TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON	3
TOWNSHIP OF MULMUR	8
TOWNSHIP OF ORO-MEDONTE	26
TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWATER	20
Total	211

Table 1: Summary of Permits by Municipality

Reporting – Permit Statistics	
Total Permits Issued (Overall) (January 1– May 31):	#211
Total Major Permits Issued (January 1 – May 31):	#124
Total Minor Permits Issued (January 1 – May 31):	#87
Total Applications Subject to Minister’s Order (Minister’s Review):	#0
Reporting – Permit Timelines	
COMPLETE APPLICATION REVIEW Total complete application reviews completed in 21 days:	#192
PERMIT TIMELINES (MAJOR) Total Major Permits Issued <u>Within</u> Decision Timeline (90 Days):	#121
PERMIT TIMELINES (MAJOR) Total Major Permits Issued <u>Outside</u> Decision Timeline (90 Days):	#3
PERMIT TIMELINES (MINOR) Total Minor Permits Issued <u>Within</u> Decision Timeline (30 Days – CO Best Practice):	#81
PERMIT TIMELINES (MINOR) Total Minor Permits Issued <u>Outside</u> Decision Timeline (30 Days – CO Best Practice):	#6
VARIANCE FROM TIMELINES Reason for Variance from Timelines (Optional):	Holiday shut down, and complex files that required more technical review contributed to deviances from timelines.
PERMIT TIMELINES (AVERAGE – ALL) Overall Average Permit Review Timeline:	18 days on average

Table 2: Permit Statistics and Timelines

Between January 1, 2025 and May 31, 2025 NVCA, on average, issued both Minor and Major permits within the timelines at 18 days. Major permits were issued within 90 days 98% of the time and Minor permits were 100% of the time. In accordance with CO’s Best Practices timelines, Minor permits were issued within 30 days 93% of the time.

NVCA staff notified applicants of the status of their application within 21 days 91% of the time.

NVCA will continue to provide Board Members bi-annual reports; however, the mid-year report will be scoped to focus only on the permit statistics and timelines, for the first 5 months, and not on the other requirements set out in Ontario Regulation 686/21; these updates will be provided annually.

File Intake

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 on more complex files.

Starting and Stopping the Clock

Staff continue to track the “Run Time” of permit when it is in house vs. with the Applicant.

Relevance to Authority Policy

Ontario Regulation 686/21 outlines the requirement to provide an annual report outlining statistics on permits, including reporting on its level of compliance with the requirements of Ontario Regulation 41/24 (Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits), made under the Act, respecting the application for and issuance of permits, including any associated timelines.

Impact on Authority Finances

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

Climate Change Implications

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

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

Submitted by:
Original Signed by

Approved for Submission by:
Original Signed by

Chris Hibberd
Director, Watershed Management
Services

Jennifer Vincent
Chief Administrative Officer



Staff Report: 19-07-25-BOD

Date: 27/06/2025

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Ben Krul
Manager, Development Planning and Permits
Chris Hibberd, MCIP, RPP
Director, Watershed Management Services

SUBJECT: Regulations Mapping Update

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors approve Staff Report No. 19-07-25-BOD regarding the 2025 Updated Regulation Mapping and staff be directed to release the final updated mapping to NVCA watershed municipalities and stakeholders.

Purpose of the Staff Report

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

Background

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) has the responsibility to regulate development in natural hazard areas in order to avoid the loss of life and damage to property due to flooding and erosion. These natural hazard areas are depicted through NVCA's regulation mapping. Historically, NVCA has developed and maintained regulations mapping pursuant to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and Ontario Regulation 172/06.

On April 1, 2024, Part VI of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits (O. Reg. 41/24) and came into effect, replacing O. Reg. 172/06.

Under the updated legislations, conservation authorities must develop and publicly share regulation mapping on their websites. Conservation authorities must also review the regulation mapping and determine if updates to the maps are required at least once each year. If there is a conflict between the mapping and the text of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and associated regulations, the text of prevails.

[The full version of Ontario Regulation 41/24 can be found at this link.](#)

Issues/Analysis

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

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

- Riverine flood hazards, slope hazards, and meander belt hazards plus 15 metre allowance
- Wetlands and associated 30 metre allowance, and
- Georgian Bay shoreline hazards plus 15 metres allowance inland, which includes
 - 100-year flood level
 - Shoreline erosion over a 100-year period
 - Where a dynamic beach is associated with the waterfront lands, an allowance of 30 metres inland to accommodate dynamic beach movement.
 - Other regulated hazards lands include unstable soil or bedrock.

Staff have been actively updating and developing draft mapping, with a focus on incorporating the following information sources:

- The 2017 shoreline hazard studies
- Updated wetland mapping
- Available flood hazard studies (e.g., Creemore and Wasaga Beach)
- Updated slope hazard identification, using the methodology developed by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Information collected through ground truthing by staff

The regulation mapping update utilized the best available information and collection techniques, such as LiDAR and refining modelling. With this information, NVCA can

provide more accurate and informed planning decisions about future development to make the Nottawasaga Watershed safer for our communities.

With the availability of higher resolution data and modelling advancements, NVCA staff found a decrease of more than 32,000 ha of regulated lands (when comparing the 2013 and 2024 delineations). This amounts to a reduction of approximately 18% of total regulated area within NVCA's jurisdiction. Here is a summary of changes:

- Wetlands: Updated 4,296 wetland boundaries through orthophoto interpretation; 651 boundaries through staff field visits; and 905 boundaries from MNR and Consultant reports.
- Slopes: Updated using newly acquired LiDAR elevation data.
- Flood: Incorporated two new flood studies utilizing 2D modelling and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) elevation data to update 2,121 hectares of floodplain mapping in the Upper Mad River subwatershed and the Lower Nottawasaga River reach.
- Shoreline: Updated shoreline hazard mapping along 42 km of shoreline using the 2017 ShorePlan study.

Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholder engagement was a key part of our mapping update process. The engagement process includes three main steps:

1. **Circulation to municipalities for input** – completed in early winter 2024
2. **Notification of key stakeholders and the public**, including hosting a public information session – completed in spring 2025
3. **Presentation of the final mapping to the Board for approval**, along with an overview of the mapping update process – occurring now

Consultation with municipal staff began on October 4, 2024 for a period of 30-days to review draft mapping. The updated mapping was made available to municipal staff in the following formats:

- NVCA interactive comparison Map
- File transfers of the Draft GIS Layers

NVCA received comments from three municipalities. Staff thoroughly reviewed these comments, and appropriate refinements were made to the mapping protocols and methodologies as outlined by Conservation Ontario and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

After the implementing these changes, the draft regulation mapping was made available for public review and comment on March 11, 2025. A media release was issued via social media and local media outlets to inform the public about two open

house sessions held on April 1 and April 8, 2025, attracting 17 residents and stakeholders to attend these sessions.

In total, NVCA received 32 comments via email, letter, phone and in-person regarding the proposed mapping updates. Staff reviewed all feedback and made refinements to the mapping where appropriate, based on the best available information.

NVCA staff review included further discussions with property owners and municipal staff, desktop data and modelling refinements and site inspections were deemed necessary.

Future Mapping Updates

The regulation stipulates that for significant updates to the areas where development activities are prohibited, including enlargements or reductions to such areas, the authority shall ensure that stakeholders, municipalities and the public are notified of the proposed changes in any manner that the authority considers advisable. This notification shall include making any relevant information or studies available online at least 30 days prior to an authority board meeting during which the proposed changes are on the agenda.

For minor site-specific changes, NVCA will conduct annual housekeeping updates, in accordance with the regulation, to incorporate the results of site-specific studies (where permitted) and field verification of natural hazards into our mapping without going through the public consultation process.

Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

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

Impact on Authority Finances:

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

Climate Change Implications

This report has no climate change implications.

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

Approved for submission by:
Original Signed by
Jennifer Vincent
Chief Administrative Officer



Staff Report: 20-07-25-BOD

Date: 27/06/2025

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Paul Tripodo, Manager, Stewardship & Restoration Services
Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services

**SUBJECT: Administrative Review of Programs and Services –
Stewardship & Restoration Program**

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Directors receive and approve Staff Report No. 20-07-25-BOD, regarding a potential future administrative update to the categorization of services provided by the Stewardship and Restoration Program.

Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of Directors on a review of the programs and services that are currently provided by the Stewardship and Restoration Program and how they are categorized under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (and associated regulations).

Background

In 2023, under Ontario Regulation 687/21 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, Conservation Authorities were required to develop an "Inventory of Programs and Services". The inventory was circulated and was in approved by the NVCA Board of Directors on April 19, 2024.

The inventory included costs and funding sources, and classified all programs and services based on the categories established under the CA Act and its associated regulations.

- Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services described in O. Reg. 686/21; funded through municipal levy, user fees, or grants.
- Category 2: Programs and Services that are at the request of a municipality; funded through municipal levy, user fees, or grants; MOU/service agreement required.
- Category 3: Programs and Services that the CA considers advisable to further the purposes of the CA Act; funded through user fees, or grants; use of municipal funding requires MOU/service agreement.

Issues/Analysis

The categorization of programs and services was in place for one fiscal year, allowing for a time period in which the NVCA could develop a better understanding of how the programs and services are most appropriately categorized.

In the existing analysis done by NVCA (found in attachment 1), a single threshold was used to determine the category of programs and services provided by the Stewardship and Restoration Program:

- Stewardship and restoration occurring on NVCA lands = Category 1
- Stewardship and restoration occurring on non-NVCA lands / private property = Category 3.

This simplified categorization does not properly reflect the complicated nature of the program and did not properly recognize the complexity of the services provided by this department.

The Stewardship and Restoration Program currently implements a variety of private land programs and services across the watershed including:

- River restoration work to mitigate flood and erosion hazards and protect water quality;
- Restoration of floodplains;
- Reducing nutrient contamination to water sources;
- Restoration and creation of wetlands;
- Restoration and creation of grasslands;
- Managing priority non-native invasive species;
- Protecting groundwater;

- Improving habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species at risk;
- Tree planting on public and private lands;
- Coordinating and engaging landowners, residents, community groups, volunteers etc. in stewardship projects;
- Promoting climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Conducting performance monitoring of stewardship projects (pre- and post-project monitoring);
- Providing landowner assistance and technical advice on environmental best practices and stewardship and restoration opportunities; and
- Administering landowner grant incentive programs including the Healthy Waters and Dufferin Rural Water Quality programs to support private land stewardship and water quality improvements.

As part of NVCA's ongoing efforts to ensure compliance with the *Conservation Authorities Act* and Ontario Regulation 686/21, staff have initiated a new review of existing programs and services to assess their alignment with the regulatory framework for Category 1, 2, and 3 services. While the regulation doesn't explicitly label any program as "restoration" or "stewardship," several mandatory functions may align with these concepts.

Many of the Authority's current initiatives deliver both site-scale and watershed-scale benefits that support the mitigation of natural hazards, including flooding, erosion, and drought. These services are integral to the Authority's core mandate and, where a clear connection with hazard management or mitigation exists, they may be more appropriately categorized as Category 1 or 2 under the Regulation.

The simplified categorization provided in 2024, which differentiates programs based solely on whether activities occur on or off NVCA-owned lands, does not fully reflect the legislative intent or the functional connection of many of the services related to hazard management.

As an example- NVCA's Nottawasaga River Restoration Program has been implemented exclusively on private property. Program components include stream channel realignment, bank stabilization, livestock exclusion, and riparian wetland creation, etc. These project components are inherently designed to mitigate flood and erosion hazards on both a site and larger landscape level and may be best classified as "Category 1" or "Category 2" programs and services under the *Act*. For reference, attachment 2 contains some relevant examples of these projects.

At the current time, we are proposing that NVCA undertake an administrative review of NVCA's land stewardship programs into category 1, 2 and 3 services based on additional criteria:

Current Criteria	Revised Criteria	Current Category Classification	Potential Category Classification
Private Land Stewardship Program	<p>Private Land Stewardship Program</p> <p>a) Restoration and stewardship projects that manage the risks related to natural hazards including preventing or mitigating those risks, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dynamic beach hazards • Erosion hazards • Flooding hazards • Hazardous lands • Hazardous sites • Low water or drought conditions <p>For example: river bank stabilization, floodplain creation, riparian tree planting etc.</p> <p>b) Restoration and stewardship projects designed to develop an awareness of the areas that are important for the management of natural hazards identified in (a) that are within NVCA's area of jurisdiction and their risks including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands • River or stream valleys • Areas adjacent to or close to the shoreline of the Great Lakes or an inland lake • Lands with unstable soils or bedrock <p>c) Restoration and stewardship projects on non-hazard lands, or not related to managing or mitigating natural hazards. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • administering private land grant incentive programs • managing most invasive species • Providing landowner assistance and technical advice on environmental best practices and stewardship and restoration opportunities 	3	<p>1,2</p> <p>O.Reg. 686/21 s.1(1) & s.1(2)3</p> <p>1,2</p> <p>O.Reg. 686/21 s.1.(2)1 & s.1(2)4</p> <p>2, 3</p> <p>CAA s.21.1.1</p>

Current Criteria	Revised Criteria	Current Category Classification	Potential Category Classification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Habitat or species-specific restoration without a focus on natural hazards.Water quality improvement projectsGround water protection projects		
CA owned Land Stewardship Program	CA owned Land Stewardship Program	1	1 No change

Through the 2026 budget process, staff will continue the detailed review of all programs and services to ensure accurate categorization and alignment with the legislative framework. Staff have also initiated a benchmarking exercise with other conservation authorities and Conservation Ontario to better understand how others are classifying similar programs and services. When the results of this benchmarking are complete, staff will return to the Board with the results of these discussions and to advise and seek direction on the recommended changes of this recategorization. The Board's decision may impact the 2026 budget or other administrative items.

Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

Under Ontario Regulation 687/21, all CAs are required to develop an inventory of programs and services, including costs and funding sources, and classify all programs and services based on the categories established under the CA Act.

Impact on Authority Finances

At this time, there are no administrative adjustments or changes to the current budget or service delivery. Any applicable changes approved by the Board may be reflected in the 2026 budget.

Climate Change Implications

There are no climate change implications related to this report.

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

Approved for submission by:
Original Signed by
Jennifer Vincent
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment 1: 2024 NVCA Inventory of Programs and Services (Excerpt)

Attachment 2: Flood risk mitigation and erosion hazard mitigation restoration project examples



Attachment 1:

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Inventory of Programs and Services (Excerpt – Stewardship and Restoration)

Approved by Board Chair for Board of Directors: April 19, 2024

The costs associated with each program and service are estimated based on the 2017-2021 5-year average. COVID-19 has a significant impact on the revenues of the NVCA and therefore, some revenues are lower in the average than they may have been. The costs for programs and services increase annually due to increases in wages and benefits and the increased operational costs due to inflation.

Natural Hazard Management Program

Program Description: Conservation Authorities (CAs) are the lead provincial agencies on Natural Hazard issues. The goal is to protect life and property from flooding and erosion. This watershed-wide, comprehensive program includes development applications and permits, municipal plan input and review, environmental planning and policy, flood forecast and warning, flood and erosion control infrastructure, technical studies, ice management, education, and public awareness.



Watershed Stewardship and Restoration (Urban, rural & agricultural) 2024

Program/Service and Subservices	Description	Category (1,2,3)	2024 Budget Revenue	Average Annual Costs -5 yr. average	Current Funding mechanism and percentage of costs (Provincial, Municipal Levy, Self-Generated)
Private Land Stewardship Program	Work with property owners and environmental groups to mitigate flood and erosion hazards, protect water quality, restore floodplains, reduce nutrient contamination, restore wetlands, manage non-native invasive species, protect groundwater, improve aquatic species at risk habitat and promote climate change mitigation and adaptation. Coordinate targeted river restoration and fish habitat improvement initiatives using information generated by the Watershed Science department to identify priority sites and restoration techniques. Apply for and manage external funding, promote private land stewardship, provide technical advice and design support and funding assistance.	3	\$639,766	\$322,000	27% Municipal Levy 3% Municipal Grants 2% Provincial Grants 41% NGO Grants 25% Federal Grants 2% Self-Generated User Fees
CA owned Land Stewardship Program	Work to mitigate flood and erosion hazards, protect water quality, restore floodplains, reduce nutrient contamination, restore wetlands, manage non-native invasive species, protect groundwater, improve aquatic species at risk habitat and promote climate change mitigation and adaptation on CA owned lands. Coordinate targeted river restoration and fish habitat improvement initiatives using information generated by the Watershed Science department to identify priority sites and restoration techniques.	1	\$140,889	\$119,500	26% Municipal Levy 1% Provincial Grants 4% Municipal Grants 47% NGO Grants 21% Federal Grants 1% Self-Generated User Fees
Tree Planting and Forestry Services on Private Land	Forestry services including planting plan development, site preparation, tree and shrub planting, and survival assessments. Private woodlot stewardship, technical assistance, link to funding programs to maintain form and function of watershed forest cover.	3	\$426,929	\$518,500	23% Municipal Levy 1% Provincial Grants 4% Municipal Grants 50% NGO Grants 13% Federal Grants 9% Self-Generated User Fees



Attachment 2: Flood risk mitigation and erosion hazard mitigation restoration project examples



Figure 1 a (left): Heavy erosion along Sheldon Creek caused by agricultural land uses and a lack of vegetation. The creek is disconnected from its floodplain.

Figure 1 b (right): The same location after restoration. New floodplain shelves provide the river space to flood, rather than keeping the water confined in the channel, dissipating erosive forces, slowing water down, and increasing flood storage.



Figure 2a (left): Pre-restoration erosion and undercutting along the Mad River in a Township of Clearview municipal park adjacent to park access.
Figure 2b (right): Post-restoration bank treatment reducing erosion risks to municipal infrastructure.



Figure 3: Overview of a typical river restoration project focused on increasing flood storage, reducing/mitigating erosion potential of the river, and improving riparian and aquatic habitat.



Staff Report: 21-07-25-BOD

Date: 27/06/2025

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Maria Leung
Senior Communications Specialist

SUBJECT: Customer Satisfaction Report 2024

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 21-07-25-BOD regarding NVCA's Customer Satisfaction Report 2024 be received by Board of Directors.

Purpose of the Staff Report

This report is to share the feedback collected from NVCA customers in 2024 in with the Board of Directors.

Background

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. To accomplish this, the charter calls on the authority to:

- ensure that all customers have the opportunity to provide feedback on the service received, and
- monitor feedback and review performance regularly, and provide an annual report to our customers via our website.

The attached Customer Satisfaction Report 2024 provides a summary of the feedback received in the previous year. Once received by the board, this report will be posted on NVCA's [Customer Service webpage](#).

Issues/Analysis

Surveys and reviews were received from a wide range of customers from across the watershed, touching on a number of NVCA departments. As shown in the report, NVCA staff were recognized as providing excellent customer service and knowledgeable.

NVCA staff continue to encourage customer feedback through surveys, online reviews and direct contact through email or phone.

Staff also solicit feedback from various client groups through both formal and informal meetings. For example, feedback from the agricultural community is gathered through NVCA's agricultural advisory committee meetings. Online reviews are also included in the customer satisfaction report.

Feedback is reviewed by staff and managers as it is received, and any suggestions for improvement are considered as time and budgets allow. Similarly, any feedback that is critical of staff's professional performance is dealt with in a prompt manner.

Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

NVCA's Customer Service Charter and Strategy requires that results are reported to the Board of Directors annually.

Impact on Authority Finances

Staff time to prepare this report is addressed in the 2025 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

Jennifer Vincent

Chief Administrative Officer

1. Background – The NVCA's Customer Service Charter is available at the [Customer Service page](#) on the NVCA website, or in hard copies from the NVCA Administration Building.
2. Attachment – Customer Satisfaction Report 2025



Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

2024 Customer Satisfaction Report

Commitment to Excellence in Customer Service

In September 2013, NVCA adopted a Customer Service Charter that outlines our commitment to providing excellent customer service. As part of this commitment, NVCA reports on customer feedback annually.

NVCA Customer Service Mission Statement

We strive to deliver a high standard of effective and efficient service to all our customers.
We achieve excellence in customer service by being:

- Accountable
- Knowledgeable
- Personable
- Trustworthy
- Accessible
- Convenient
- Efficient

Watershed Management Services, Permit Process

A customer satisfaction survey is sent to all individuals and organizations that receive an NVCA permit. Out of 523 permits issued, 30 individuals and organizations completed the survey.

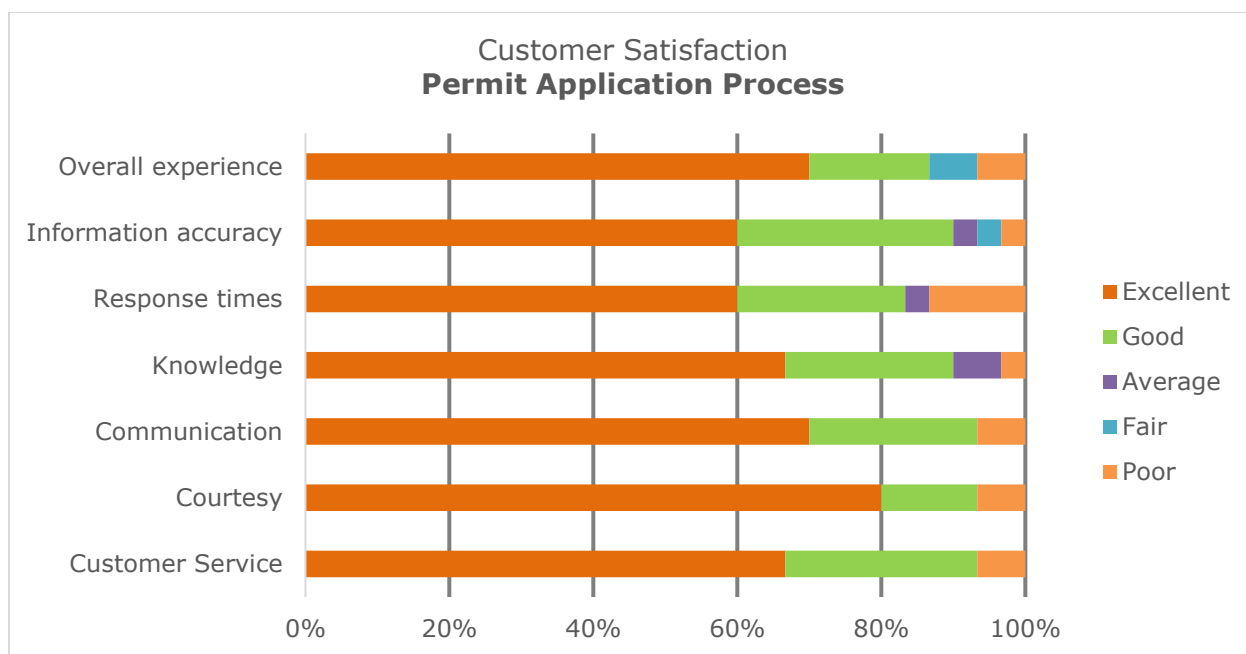
Eighty-seven percent (87%) of those completing the client survey rated their overall experience with NVCA's permit application process as good or excellent. Between 90% and 93% of respondents rated staff knowledge, courtesy, information accuracy, communication, and customer service as good or excellent. Response time received a slightly lower rating, with 83% of survey respondents rating it as good or excellent.

In general, 90% of the responses ranked as good or excellent in 2024, signalling that respondents were more satisfied with NVCA's permitting process than in 2022 (68% satisfied) and 2023 (73% satisfied).

In 2024, the Regulations department completed the following action items to improve customer service and timelines:

- Kicked off the development of an e-permitting and permit tracking portal
- Utilized engineering and hydrogeological peer reviewers to help address the file backlog

- Implemented a 'start stop' button on NVCA's internal system to track the permit review timelines better and to improve reporting
- Developed a technical pre-screening process to identify technical requirements prior to circulating submission material to technical staff to improve the quality of submissions and review times
- Updated procedural guidelines to include an updated list of projects that are exempt from requiring a permit; Sent an information package to stakeholders informing them of the new permit exemptions.



Lands, Education and Stewardship Services

NVCA's lands, education and stewardship services include a wide variety of service areas. Below are highlights of the feedback received from clients via email, letters and surveys.

Stewardship Program

NVCA's stewardship services include river restoration, forestry, the Healthy Waters grant program, and other projects to protect and enhance our watershed. Below are some reviews received from partners, funders and landowners.

- It's ironic that small Conservation Authorities like the MVCA NVCA and SVCA that are not well resourced have outpaced larger CAs like the GRCA when it comes to dam removal and river restoration. I could say more but will leave it at that.
— Jack Imhof, Aquatic Ecologist and Watershed Scientist
- I would like to take a minute to thank you. Over the years, you, and NVCA, have been an amazing partner for Elmvale District High School (EDHS) and my vision to make my environmental science class a hands-on experience with a focus on

building environmental stewardship in the students of EDHS. Your support has been greatly appreciated and has really changed many students of Elmvale.

— David Burns, Science Teacher

- I just discussed a couple of initiatives with Elizabeth Hendriks – Vice President of Restoration Conservation at World Wildlife Fund Canada and she shared this article about a Grasslands Restoration Project with NVCA, which is in the Narwhal. Great story Shannon! Congratulations! to the Team

— Jo-Anne, Manager, Business Development and Partnerships, Conservation Ontario

Conservation Lands Program

NVCA's conservation lands program maintains the conservation areas and other properties owned and managed by the authority.

NVCA's conservation areas received 85 reviews on Google's business listings in 2024. Eighty-eight percent (88%) reviews were 4-star or 5-star reviews. The conservation areas that received the most reviews were Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area, New Lowell Conservation Area and Historic Fort Willow Conservation Area.

Below are some reviews received from Google reviews.

- We had our wedding at the tiffin Center in November of 2024. The staff and the venue were beyond amazing! Elise and her team went above and beyond helping us with our perfect day. All of our guests complimented the venue with how beautiful it was inside and out. It was perfect for our rustic woodland wedding vibe. (Tiffin Conservation Area).
- This is such a beautiful trail system. There is a small parking fee, that helps pay for the maintenance of the area. \$11.00 tax in. Definitely check out the lookout trail. On the way back we took the winding blue trail to the right of the lookout. This trail is a beautiful walk through the woods on a smaller size trail but still, amazing views. Next time we go back, we want to be there from the changing of the leaf and also do the keyhole trail. (Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area).
- Quiet and peaceful. Sufficient interpretive plaques and reconstructed features provide visitors ample understanding of the former depot's layout and functions. (Historic Fort Willow Conservation Area).
- Been coming here for 25+ years. Great park run by great people. Lots of facilities including showers, laundry, and a portable clubhouse. (New Lowell Conservation Area).

Environmental Education

NVCA's environmental education program provides hands-on, curriculum-aligned programs for Grade 4 students in the Simcoe County District School Board. NVCA's educators have three touchpoints with students. They first meet in the schoolyard, then students visit the Tiffin Centre for Conservation for the second touch point, and conclude

the program with a second visit to the schoolyard. Thousands of students take part in these programs each year.

Although the team did not receive any feedback in 2024, they collected “evidence of awesome,” which records interactions with classes.

Below are some examples of “evidence of awesome”.

- Both teachers said this was most engaged their students had been doing the Grade 4 program. Ended both sessions with brainstorming ideas of how humans and wetlands habitats can coexist.
- Students were really looking forward to walking off of school property. Really got into habitat exploration on the hike to the park, calling out my name and showing me so many things that we barely had 10 mins to spend at the park when we finally got there (MZ class). Teachers were all very excited that our topics included themes they had already talked about in class as well as looking forward to expanding on the new terminology.
- Students loved playing the choose your own adventure game. At the end of the game, we talked about how many animals depend on wetlands and unfortunately, we are losing them. The students came up with many great ideas on how we can still develop without destroying wetlands such as "building houses and roads on stilts" and "building underground the wetland"
- A beautiful snowy day and all three classes were great listeners. Every class got to play in the freeplay forest after kicksledding, and some kids got very close to hand feeding the birds. One kid said at the end of the day "It's actually really cool to be outside all day." Talked about biodiversity and succession on the kicksledding trails. Kids were asking lots of questions about what kind of trees were around.
- Had really good chats with both groups about adaptations and habitat loss for turtles/dragonflies/birds. Students really loved all the turtles "super powers" and strategized all the way to the group campground of how they would survive. Grade 4/5 were pumped to do it all and were very excited. grades 3/4 and 4 were very into the predator prey game so I gave them a little extra time.

Events/Public Programming/Facility rentals

NVCA's lands department hosted the Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival and the Festival at Fort Willow in 2024 and partnered with several community organizations to host events. Below are some feedback received NVCA's events, public programming and facility rentals:

Festival at Fort Willow:

- Just a thank you from the Royal Newfoundland Regiment for hosting and inviting us to your Fort Willow Festival. We always have a good time with you, and enjoy the beautiful site, the public and the students. Thanks also to Mike and Dillion. We hope to see you and everyone again next year.
- This past weekend, members of the Springwater Green Community Coalition had the pleasure of attending the Festival at Fort Willow, and what a wonderful

celebration of our local history it was! We were thrilled to capture and share photos from this amazing event, which brought the past to life with interactive historical re-creations, musket firing demonstrations, and traditional crafts. The site's significance as a key supply depot during the War of 1812 and its connection to the Nine Mile Portage truly made us appreciate the rich heritage we are working to preserve right here in Springwater. Thank you to everyone who organized and participated in this celebration of history and culture. 🌿 Let's continue protecting and celebrating both our natural and historic treasures!"

Facility Rentals

- Just wanted to send along a short (ish) note, to say thank you! On behalf of our entire team at Ducks Unlimited Canada, and from Rob and me personally, wanted to pass along our heartfelt thanks to you and your team for all your support and hard work to ensure this past weekend's Duck & Run event at the Tiffin Centre was a huge success.

From our perspective and according to the feedback we received on the event location - from our team, volunteers, and the participants - your property was the ideal location. We all agree, not only was it beautiful, but the trails were so well maintained, having the washroom facilities (and power) readily available was fantastic, and of course easy access and parking were such a benefit for everyone. We can't say enough about the support from you and your team... from the radio spot, to promoting the event on your social channels, trail maintenance (before and the day of), your presence with a table/information at the event, NVCA event photographer and even your own team of runners - the Ninjaneers - your support was invaluable, and very much appreciated. Thank you.

— Ducks Unlimited Canada

Weddings Celebrations

In 2024, the Tiffin Centre for Conservation hosted 25 wedding celebrations. Eleven (11) 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 Tiffin Centre as a wedding venue to others.

Some of the comments received included:

- We had an AMAZING day and it was such a great surprise. Thank you SO much for everything and for your staff being so accommodating and helpful with this last-minute idea.
- We got married at the Tiffin Centre and decided on a Camp theme. We wanted a beautiful ceremony and a HUGE indoor/outdoor party. The Tiffin Centre did not disappoint! From providing tables and chairs so we didn't have to rent, to the twinkle lights inside and outside, the venue is simple yet classic and is so easy to make into the perfect event space. Elise, Dylan and Reg did an incredible job making every little piece come together seamlessly. Elise made planning a breeze and provided everything we could ask for and more. She even welcomed us for multiple visits leading up to the big day. Dylan kept our fire pit going so we could make s'mores and handled a medical emergency without drawing attention to it.

Reg helped us tidy the space the day after without making us feel rushed. We cannot imagine you will find a better venue or staff to support your event.”

- The Tiffin Centre was a perfect venue for our winter wedding. The staff was super helpful and supported us all through our event planning. While the sun is up the white wood walls gives a clean and elegant vibe and in the evening the fireplace and twinkle lights make it downright magical. We would recommend to any couple looking for a spot to tie the knot.

Committed to Customer Service

NVCA remains committed to providing excellence in customer service. We will continue to encourage customer feedback in 2025 through the use of formal online surveys, online reviews and event evaluations.

For more information about NVCA’s Customer Service Charter or this report, contact NVCA’s Director of Corporate Services at 705-424-1479 or admin@nvca.on.ca.

Alternative Formats

If you require this document in a different format please contact NVCA at 705-424-1479 or admin@nvca.on.ca.



Staff Report: 22-07-25-BOD

Date: 27/06/2025

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Maria Leung
Senior Communications Specialist

SUBJECT: Communications Report – May 9, 2025 – June 12, 2025

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT: Staff Report No. 22-07-25-BOD regarding NVCA Communications – May 9, 2025 – June 12, 2025, be received.

Purpose of the Staff Report

This staff report presents a summary of NVCA media coverage and public outreach during the period of May 9, 2025 – June 12, 2025.

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

1. Flood Messages

Watershed Condition Statement: Flood Outlook, issued on May 21, 2025

This water condition statement was not reported in any media outlets.

2. Media coverage of NVCA news releases

There were no media releases issued in this reporting period

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

3. Other Media Coverage

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
Local farmer irate after drainage issue creates 'bathtub' on his land	Village Report	May 10, 2025	
Local farmer irate after drainage issue creates 'bathtub' on his land	Hamilton Spectator	May 10, 2025	
Local farmer irate after drainage issue creates 'bathtub' on his land	Orillia Matters	May 11, 2025	
Local farmer irate after drainage issue creates 'bathtub' on his land	Bradford Today	May 12, 2025	
Historic Fort Willow to host 'weekend garrison'	Barrie Today	May 26, 2025	
10 corporations come together for Wyldewood condo project	Collingwood Today	May 26, 2026	
Going with the flow: Century-old culverts being replaced in Minesing Wetlands	Barrie Today	May 29, 2025	
Going with the flow: Century-old culverts being replaced in Minesing Wetlands	Hamilton Spectator	May 29, 2025	
Going with the flow: Century-old culverts being replaced in Minesing Wetlands	Penticton Herald	May 29, 2025	

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
Ontario couple says decades-old riding business crushed after water from new development dumped near property	CBC News	May 30, 2025	
Explore what life was like for soldiers in 1812 at Fort Willow	CTV Barrie	May 30, 2025	CAO Vincent
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority to host PA Day event at Tiffin Centre	New Tecumseth Times	June 5, 2025	
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority to host PA Day event at Tiffin Centre	Niagara Falls Review	June 5, 2025	
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority to host PA Day event at Tiffin Centre	Penticton Herald	June 5, 2025	
Students receive practical archeology experience in Simcoe County	CTV Barrie	June 8, 2025	
County OKs agricultural expansion over woodland in Midhurst	Barrie Today	June 11, 2025	
County OKs agricultural expansion over woodland in Midhurst	Collingwood Today	June 11, 2025	

Title	Media Outlet	Date	Reference
How limiting liability can help save Lake Simcoe from salt pollution	Bradford Today	June 11, 2025	Chair Scott
Ducks Unlimited hosts race for wetlands at Tiffin Conservation Centre	CTV Barrie	June 11, 2025	

DISCLAIMER: NVCA does not allege that the information provided in the media articles depicts accurate statements or testimonies on behalf of any individual named, and is not responsible for any misinterpretation of information or misquoted statement(s).

2. Other Communication/Media Outreach

- Ongoing – social media outreach (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn)

3. Presentations/Displays/Key Events by NVCA staff

- May 10, 2025 – Arbour Day Tree Sale
- May 22, 2025 – Naomi Saunders, Manager, Environmental Education presented to the Retired Teachers of Ontario regarding the \$2000 in grants received
- May 31, 2025 – Communications staff attended the Spring Market in Township of Mulmur
- June 3, 2025 – Stewardship team worked with community partners and volunteers to plant 8,000 trees this Spring
- June 5, 2025 - Brain Power Studios returned to the Tiffin Centre for Conservation to film a production for the Super Channel network
- June 5, 2025 – Communications staff attended the Family Fun Day at Baxter Central Public School in the Township of Essa
- June 7, 2025 – Communications staff attended Creemore Farmers Market in the Township of Clearview
- June 2025 – Education team completed the Grade 4 Habitat program for the school year

Issues/Analysis

Media coverage regarding NVCA in this reporting period focused on urban development in the Nottawasaga Watershed. There are no issues of concern at this time.

Impact on Authority Finances

Staff time to prepare this report is addressed in the 2025 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

Jennifer Vincent

Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment 1 – Media Clippings for the period

Midhurst farmer furious after drainage issue creates 'bathtub' on his land

May 10, 2025 by Wayne Doyle

Hamilton Spectator



Glenn Beer sits on a log on his Gill Road farm in Midhurst. Beer says runoff from the subdivision that is being built across the road from his farm is damaging his property. Wayne Doyle/BarrieToday

Appearing before Springwater Township council earlier this week, Glenn Beer wanted to know which member of council he should send the bill to for repairs to his Gill Road farm.

He said his farm, which is located across the street from the Midhurst Heights subdivision development on the north side of what is known as the unopened Craig Road allowance (Ganaraska Trail), has been the dumping ground for the subdivision's runoff and it has caused washouts, erosion and damage to his property to such an extent that his wife, Penny, has had to forfeit her horse riding business, fearful that riders and horses could suffer an injury.

According to Beer, some of the riding trails that traverse the 100-acre property have been inundated with so much runoff, the formerly stable soil has turned to muck — unable to support the weight of a horse and rider.

"Yesterday, Penny sunk about two feet with a horse in the bush on our trails from all the water they've dumped down through our property," Beer told council. "They pumped water onto our property for 10 days straight.

"It's a joke," he added.

Beer said he was never asked if the water could be dumped on his property and he's upset that the developer, the Rose Corporation, abandoned the original plans, which, according to township officials, called for a discharge pipe to be built to Matheson Creek, four kilometres north of the site.

He addressed council after the Rose Corporation presented a proposal to amend the subdivision agreement to permit open cut construction of the storm outfall, which would be located on the unopened Craig Road allowance.

According to Rose's presentation, the storm outfall design, which was approved in late 2023 to be installed via tunnelling, would be completed with an alternative construction method. The revised construction method would mean another 20 trees, in addition to the original 46 that were slated for removal, would need to be

removed and new limestone screening trail surface would replace the current dirt surface.

According to Beer and his neighbour, Dan Caw, the runoff issues have been a concern for the past three years. It reached a head last month when the developers enlisted two heavy-duty diesel pumps to remove the water that had built up in the development's stormwater management pond following the ice storm and the heavy rains that followed it.

"There was so much water it was coming out of the holes in the manhole covers," Beer said. "They (the developers) ran two hoses and two big diesel pumps 24 hours a day for more than a week.

"They pumped that pond dry into my property," he added.

According to Caw, the water issues have been present since the development started.

"When Glenn Beer had that farm, right where that subdivision is right now, it was crops, it was fields and it was trees," Caw said. "The water was going into the ground. There used to be a drainage pipe that was beside my neighbour's house and that was the natural swale."

He said he didn't experience any runoff issues at the time.

Today, he said, the volume of water has increased substantially, resulting in wash outs, significant soil erosion

and soil transportation into the valley that forms part of Beer's property.

Caw said he's seen water flows that are two or three feet wide that wash out everything in its path, including the trail.

"There's rutting and gouging all the way down the trail," he said. "With the amount of water that's being directed there, it's not surprising."

According to Trevor Harvey, director of public works for Springwater Township, the stormwater management design, which was approved by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), is supposed to mimic the existing drainage.

"The natural drainage course was to a ravine that is on the unopened Craig Road land, which discharges across Mr. Beer's property and several other properties before it gets to a subsection of the Matheson Creek," Harvey said. "When the EA (environmental assessment) was approved, the original outlet was to go all the way to Matheson Creek on Gill Road, about four kilometres to the north.

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Craig Road allowance in the ravine that is next to Mr. Beer's property."

According to Harvey, the developers have an inherent right and a 'riparian' right to discharge on the unopened Gill Road allowance. He added that up to 40 per cent of the runoff can be directed to that outfall location. The remaining 60 per cent would go to McGowan Place.

However, he noted, the discharge must mirror what was naturally occurring.

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Township council directed staff to report back on the history of the Midhurst Heights project and address concerns raised during the meeting.

Local farmer irate after drainage issue creates 'bathtub' on his land

'They built a pipe to nowhere,' Springwater Township official says of stormwater management pond at Midhurst Heights development

May 10, 2025 by Wayne Doyle

Village Report



Glenn Beer sits on a log on his Gill Road farm in Midhurst. Beer says runoff from the subdivision that is being built across the road from his farm is damaging his property. Wayne Doyle/BarrieToday

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May 12, 2025 by Wayne Doyle

Bradford Today



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Historic Fort Willow to host 'weekend garrison'

Popular event runs Friday to Sunday at conservation area in Springwater Township

May 26, 2025

Barrie Today



Historic Fort Willow is located at 2714 Grenfel Rd., in Springwater Township. Raymond Bowe/BarrieToday

NEWS RELEASE

NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NVCA May 2025 Board Meeting Highlights

Next meeting: June 27, 2025, to be held in virtually

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

NVCA Communication Strategy

NVCA's communications team has developed a communications strategy to support NVCA's mission, vision, integrated watershed management plan, watershed-based resource management strategy and will be incorporated into the next set of strategic, business and climate change action plans.

Grounded in four guiding principles, this strategy aims to strengthen engagement with diverse audiences, build awareness of NVCA's programs and services, and promote climate adaptation actions. It is designed to strengthen NVCA's ability to engage and inform its audiences.

Three key desired outcomes include:

- Enhanced understanding of the watershed and climate adaptation,
- Increased awareness of NVCA's programs and services, and
- Increased participation in programs, services, and engagement initiatives.

The strategy also lists action items to be implemented over the next five years. These include crafting organizational and department-specific key messages, developing audience profiles, and establishing baselines and KPIs to assess whether the desired outcomes are met.

Upcoming Events

Weekend Garrison at Historic Fort Willow - Day 1

Join the Historic Military Establishment of Upper Canada for a weekend garrison at Historic Fort Willow.

Date and time: May 30 – June 1, 2025
from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Fort Willow Conservation Area

PA/PD Day

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

Date: June 6, 2024 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

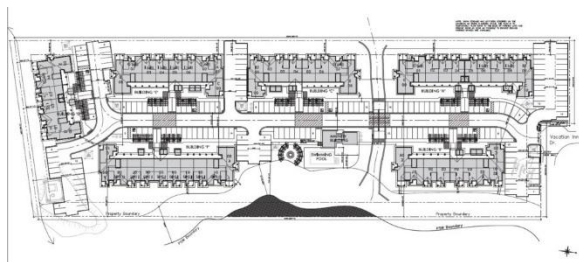
Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

10 corporations come together for Wyldewood condo project

'To bring 10 different parties together to come up with a deal must have been like Canadian Confederation,' jokes councillor; Wyldewood Creek project has been on town's books since 2018

May 26, 2026 by Jessica Owen

Collingwood Today



A preliminary mapping of the proposed Wyldewood Creek development, from the application provided to the Town of Collingwood by Georgian Manor Resort & Country Club Inc. Town of Collingwood files

A legacy project that has been on the books for seven years came before Collingwood council this week, hoping to get a shovel in the ground soon.

At its meeting on May 12, Collingwood council got a long-awaited update on the Wyldewood Creek project, after two years with no public news. The developer, Georgian Manor Resort & Country Club Inc., was before council to ask for approval of a site plan control agreement for the project, with some conditions.

"I want to thank the staff, various reporting and commenting agencies for their patience and diligence over the past six years, which has been an extraordinarily lengthy approval process," said David Hirsh, president of Brandy Lane Corporation, which oversees the new Wyldewood development.

"We've engaged in hundreds of hours of calls and meetings, and have produced tens of thousands of pages of reports. We're transforming a remnant parcel of land into a beautiful enclave of truly livable homes."

First proposed on Aug. 14, 2018, the project will see 165 apartment units over six three-storey buildings erected on the land adjacent to the existing Georgian Bay Hotel on Vacation Inn Drive. Also included in the design are amenity spaces including a swimming pool, surface parking, and landscaping.

Over the years, residents of the adjacent condominium developments and town staff raised concerns about the land being landlocked and how vehicles would get in and out of the area. The town held a public meeting regarding the proposal in February 2019, at which time resident concerns raised included the second emergency vehicle access, proximity to and buffering of the adjacent provincially significant wetland, increased traffic, construction access, future plans for the stormwater management block, and private waste collection services.

The project was last before council in [January 2023](#), at which time the developer was asking to change the zoning on the land to make room for the project. Council approved the change at that time.

The land currently houses three maintenance buildings associated with Georgian Bay Hotel and a telecommunications tower in the southeast corner, with only the telecommunications tower proposed to remain. Vehicular access to the site will be off Highway 26 via Vacation Inn Drive. Based on the number of units proposed, a second emergency vehicle access is required, and will be constructed off Highway 26 over the Georgian Bay Hotel land.

Planning manager Lindsay Ayers told council members the project has gone through six different submissions over the past seven years to get it to where it is now, and included extensive review with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority. The 10 condominium corporations that surround the land came together with the developer to make amendments to the application upon which everyone could agree.

"To bring 10 different parties together to come up with a deal must have been like Canadian Confederation," joked Coun. Christopher Baines. "Congratulations on all of that."

Mayor Yvonne Hamlin said both town staff and the developer had done an "outstanding job" on getting the file to where it is.

"(It's) a very difficult site with no public road frontage," said Hamlin. "I recognize how difficult this has been. Thank you to everybody for doing such great work."

When the developer proposed the project and in subsequent updates, there was no pledge to make any of the units affordable. However, in the time since, the developer is now promising 21 of the units will be affordable housing for middle-income earners, with an additional 12 units promised to be attainable for middle-income earners specifically between the sixth and seventh income deciles.

These units represent about 13 per cent of the overall proposed development.

Coun. Deb Doherty said the project demonstrates thoughtful consideration of neighbours and the town's priorities.

"As a member of the town's affordable housing task force — thank you. Congratulations on your thoughtfulness," she said.

She asked how the developer will make sure the affordable units will be purchased by people who really need them.

"It's almost impossible for us to control who is buying what," said Hirsh. "We would want to maintain affordable units throughout a marketing program, so we wouldn't release them all at the same time."

Doherty said she would be bringing the question to the affordable housing task force to see what the town could do.

At the end of the discussion, the committee voted unanimously in favour of approving the site plan control agreement with conditions, with one more vote on the matter planned for the next regular council meeting on May 26. Coun. Steve Perry was absent.

Going with the flow: Century-old culverts being replaced in Minesing Wetlands

Located within ecologically sensitive area, replacing culverts presents unique challenges, such as soft soil conditions and the need to maintain uninterrupted water flow

May 29, 2025 by Wayne Doyle

Barrie Today



Drivers heading north or south on George Johnston Road should expect minor delays for culvert replacement between Hindle Lane and Snow Valley Road (County Road 43). Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

SPRINGWATER — Few things that reach 100 years old work as well as the day they were made.

Even something as simple and robust as a culvert — a stationary, manmade concrete or metal structure that allows water to flow underneath a road, railway or other obstruction — has a finite existence.

Take the four culverts that are currently being replaced within the

Willow Creek sub-watershed under the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority on George Johnston Road (County Road 28), for example.

Referred to as culverts 28078, 28082, 28086 and 28087, they convey a Willow Creek tributary, the Black Creek, the Willow Creek and the Swaley Creek, respectively, in the area between Hindle Lane and Snow Valley Road (County Road 43).

Originally built and installed in the 1920s, they have been extended and/or rehabilitated on multiple occasions, with the latest extension and rehabilitation being completed in 2005.

"As part of the County Road 28 reconstruction in 2005, the culverts were successfully extended to support the widened road platform," Jae Park, project engineer with Simcoe County's transportation and engineering group, told *BarrieToday* in an email.

"Originally built in the 1920s, these culverts have now surpassed a century in age," he added. "Due to age, the central portion of the structure has experienced considerable wear over time and is now due for replacement."

In addition to replacing all four culverts, the county will also make other improvements, including road-base structure strengthening using geotextiles to mitigate settlements.

The culverts are located within the ecologically sensitive Minesing

Wetlands, which, according to Park, presents unique challenges, such as soft soil conditions and the need to maintain uninterrupted water flow.

"The Minesing Wetland is one of the largest wetlands in the region and plays a critical role as a natural reservoir," Park said. "During the spring thaw, it absorbs significant volumes of floodwater and gradually releases a steady flow throughout the summer into the Nottawasaga River system.

"Over time, this process has led to the accumulation of deep organic soil layers, which pose challenges in establishing stable ground conditions for supporting infrastructure," he added.

And while county construction projects like this one always ensure uninterrupted water flow for all water-crossing infrastructure projects, Park said the unique location of this site means the project must manage substantial water volumes year-round.

To keep the project on track, the contractor proactively adjusted the construction schedule and continued work through the 2024-25 winter season.

A similar strategy is planned for the 2025-26 winter, with only a brief potential pause between January and March 2026, depending on weather conditions.

Traffic approaching the construction area from the north and south is

controlled by traffic signals and drivers should expect minor delays when travelling this route.

The budget for the project is \$16,064,144, covering both construction and engineering costs.

A major portion of this funding — \$15,516,944.46 — is being provided through the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF).

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Ontario couple says decades-old riding business crushed after water from new development dumped near property

Township staff say a modified storm outflow plan was approved by council; owners say they weren't notified

May 30, 2025 by Farrah Merali

CBC News



An Ontario couple recently learned their local township approved a storm outfall plan that would see water pumped in the land adjacent to their property. As CBC's Farrah Merali explains, the couple says they were never notified of the plan, and the water runoff has crushed their decades-old riding business.

[Listen here](#)

It's a 40-hectare farm that's been in Penny Beer's family for generations, and the place where she and her husband hoped to continue their riding business into retirement to support their income.

But those hopes, they say, were dashed when water started being

dumped into the ravine adjacent to their Midhurst, Ont., property.

Beer says it got so bad, the trails she used to train horses – some of which have competed at an Olympic level – became washed out, and in at least one instance, a horse sank right to its knees. She says she's been forced to shutter the majority of the business for the safety of her clients and the horses, and for liability reasons.

"I have people that would come in and train and it's affected the training," Beer told CBC Toronto.

"We felt like it wasn't safe for them to be using those trails."

The apparent source of the water: runoff from a subdivision project under construction just down the street. The Beers claim that since work began three years ago on Rose Corporation's Midhurst Heights project, they've been experiencing issues with water runoff.

The situation became critical in April when, according to her husband, Glenn Beer, the developer discharged large amounts of water, built up from a weather event, from its on-site stormwater management pond.

"They pumped with two pumps for 10 days, 24 hours a day across the road, with hoses [going] down the trail and into our property," Glenn told CBC Toronto.



The trail adjacent to the Beer's property pictured in April 2025 after water was pumped through. (Supplied by Dan Caw)

He says he's not just concerned about the volume of water, but its quality too.

"That's dirty water in my opinion," Glenn said. "It's off the bottom of cars and whatever everybody washes to the curb. I don't want this water brought into our property."

A storm outfall plan apparently approved in December 2023 by the local municipality allows future runoff from the development to be pumped in the land adjacent to the Beer's property. But the Beers say they received no notice from the Springwater Township that such a plan was even being considered — let alone put in place.

At a May 21, 2025 council meeting reviewed by CBC Toronto, the municipality's director of public works, Trevor Harvey, told council that it had approved modified plans from the developer that included using the land next to the Beers.

"That's my understanding," Harvey said.

Over the span of a week, requests to interview Harvey and the township's mayor Jennifer Coughlin were declined, as a spokesperson said no one was available due to "scheduling and current priorities."

A subsequent detailed list of questions was not answered by deadline.

Washed out trails, worried neighbours

CBC Toronto reviewed hours of council footage and reviewed past Township agenda meetings dating back to 2023 to try and understand how the modified plan was approved.

At a council meeting on May 7, 2025, Harvey told council the original plan for stormwater runoff from the development was for the water to be pumped straight up Gill Road north roughly four kilometres to an area called Matheson Creek. He said the developer's plan, however, was modified to have the water discharged to two locations, one of them being the unopened Craig Road Allowance – or the Ganaraska trail – adjacent to the Beer's property, and that the

design was supposed to mimic the existing drainage.

At a subsequent council meeting on May 21, Harvey said his understanding was "that council approved that [outfall plan] based on information provided at that time from NVCA [the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority] and [the Ontario] Ministry of Environment. And that was done in December 2023."

Documents from a Dec. 6, 2023 council meeting show that Rose Corporation was scheduled to make a presentation to council seeking approval for the next stage of development. In the appendices of that presentation is a modified storm outfall plan.

A spokesperson for the NVCA confirmed to CBC Toronto that on Aug. 28, 2024, its staff issued a permit for the installation of an interim stormwater outlet located within the Craig Road right-of-way, but said it did so "based on the developer's demonstration that peak flow rates ... would be significantly reduced, thereby lowering the risk of flooding and erosion."

It's news that came as a total surprise to Glenn Beer.

"I think there were a lot of decisions made on our property and people never even came and looked at the property," he said, adding he only found out through a neighbour last fall.



Dan Caw, the Beer's neighbour, says he's witnessed the aftermath of water dumping at the ravine adjacent to their property. (Farrah Merali/CBC News)

That neighbour – Dan Caw – watched first-hand as water flooded his neighbour's property in April and worries the storm outflow plan will only cause more problems.

"The water running beside my neighbour's house was outrageous. Like it literally was washing out the trail and has never done that before," Caw told CBC Toronto.

Further down the street, neighbours in the existing subdivision say they've experienced flooding issues even before this new development began, given that they're in a low-lying area. They worry what increased water flow would mean for them.

"I think that our biggest concern is: where is the water going to go? Because if it runs straight behind us, it's going to have to slow down somehow, because it's going to be

running so fast," said resident Jalena Orr.



Jalena Orr lives in the subdivision down the street from where the development is being constructed. She worries her family's property will be impacted if more water is pumped adjacent to their house. (Farrah Merali/CBC News)

NVCA says no damage

The Midhurst Heights development is slated to be a 1,400-lot residential subdivision, according to a 2022 Rose Corporation news release.

The corporation did not respond to multiple requests from CBC via phone and email.

An NVCA spokesperson told CBC Toronto that on May 15, 2024 a team member conducted a site inspection following a complaint, but saw no issues.

"The field observations of the Officer did not support the statement that the adjacent property was affected in any way as a result of any water/flow

whether it be temporary or permanent from the development in Midhurst Heights," the spokesperson told CBC Toronto in a statement.

Glenn Beer rejects that.



Penny Beer on the property where she operates a riding business. She says the trails where they used to train horses are no longer safe for riders and the horses. (Farrah Merali/CBC News)

"One hundred per cent we don't agree with that," he told CBC Toronto, saying the NVCA never reached out in advance of the visit, and that he would have been happy to accompany them to show the damage.

"It's obvious that the damage that's been done here happened in the past few years," he said.

Township council has instructed staff to look into the historical context of the Midhurst Heights project and to address the concerns.

For now, the Beers say the long-term future of their business remains in

jeopardy, with no clear solution
moving forward.

"I get that we need subdivisions," said
Penny Beer.

"But there's got to be a way to
communicate and have a better plan
than this."

CTV Barrie

**Explore what life was like for
soldiers in 1812 at Fort Willow**

May 30, 2025



[Watch the video here](#)

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority to host PA Day event at Tiffin Centre

June 5, 2025 by Brian Lockhart

New Tecumseth Times

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) has developed a communications strategy to support its mission, vision, Integrated Watershed Management Plan, and Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy. The NVCA will be incorporating this into the next set of strategic, business, and climate change action plans.

Grounded in four guiding principles, this strategy aims to strengthen engagement with diverse audiences, build awareness of NVCA's programs and services, and promote climate adaptation actions.

The NVCA also has events for the public coming up at local conservation areas that will provide a day of family-fun.

The Tiffin Centre for Conservation will host a PA/PD Day camp that will encourage outdoor exploration and guided excursions in the forest, fueled by student interest.

The day will be guided by student inquiry, seasonal changes, and weather and program availability.

The PA/PD Day will take place at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation in

Utopia on Friday, June 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Historic Military Establishment of Upper Canada held a weekend garrison at Historic Fort Willow on May 30 and June 1.

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CTV Barrie

Students receive practical archeology experience in Simcoe County

June 8, 2025

Luke Simard



Students from St. Joseph's High School in Barrie search for artifacts at Historic Fort Willow (CTV NEWS/ Luke Simard)

Students in Simcoe County are getting hands on experience in the archeology field thanks to a field placement program.

The program is celebrating its 20th season of excavation at Fort Willow.

The program is run by St. Joseph's high school teacher Trevor Carter, who is also a licensed archeologist.

Grade 11 and 12 students are able to enroll in the class and spend three months in the classroom, followed by a six-week field placement at Fort Willow.

"It's their chance to do real hands on research and most of them love

history," said Carter. "They're adding to the story of our local history, of our national history with the War of 1812."

According to the Fort Willow website, the fort was used as a supply depot during the War of 1812.



Historic Fort Willow (CTV News/ Luke Simard)

The area was also a major transportation route known as the Nine Mile Portage.

Students have been finding artifacts buried deep into the ground.

"We found some ceramic, some pieces of what might be teapots or bowls. also some cookware, which would make a lot of sense because, the previous archeologists said that it was a cookhouse and a barracks," said Sloane Mills, a grade 11 student.

Jaclyn Ford, another student enrolled in the program was digging near the soldiers barracks.

We are supposed to be finding plates and the sort of things that would be owned by the soldiers," said Ford. "We are also finding things like fossilized coral, and we found lots of brick, lots

of charcoal, a lot of wood chips, that sort of thing.”

Mills added she is thankful for the experienced gained at the archeological site.

“Normally have to go to university to take something like this, so to be able to be in high school and be doing an actual archeology dig, I, I’m so happy that I’ve had this opportunity,” said Mills.



Students from St. Joseph's High School in Barrie search for artifacts at Historic Fort Willow (CTV News/ Luke Simard)

“It’s hands on research and they’ve never had a chance to do this kind of thing before, so it’s very new to them and important,” said Carter

The six week field placement at Fort Willow takes place every second year as reports from previous findings take time to study.

County OKs agricultural expansion over woodland in Midhurst

Council members approved removal of protected trees from Forbes Road property, raising questions about future development plans and environmental impact

June 11, 2025 by Nikki Cole

Barrie Today



Simcoe County council has approved an exemption request that will allow the removal of woodland at this property, located at 1895 Forbes Rd., in Springwater Township, currently protected under forest conservation. Nikki Cole/BarrieToday

SPRINGWATER — Simcoe County council has approved an exemption request that will allow the removal of woodland in Springwater Township currently protected under forest conservation.

The nearly 16-hectare (40-acre) property, located in Midhurst at 1895 Forbes Rd., is described as “mixed woodland,” with the remainder primarily used for agriculture.

The application was made to remove the remaining woodlands in order to expand productive acreage and allow for more efficient agricultural use of the property, according to a report presented to county council on Tuesday.

While staff recommended approving the request, they also proposed several conditions to ensure identified endangered species and a specific habitat feature are properly addressed.

The property is currently designated as “agricultural” — including the proposed woodland clearing area — and the area slated for clearing does not fall within a regulated zone mapped by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA).

“As it relates to natural heritage features, there are two small areas of provincially mapped unevaluated wetlands located within the area proposed for tree removal,” stated the report.

County planning staff initially suggested a supporting environmental impact study (EIS) be considered to determine the impacts to any wetland features and their functions because of the proposed clearing, as well as considering whether the tree clearing should be directed away from these features to minimize any impact.

After a site inspection by county forestry staff, it was determined the woodland consists primarily of mature

native hardwood trees, with a minor component of conifer species.

"The areas mapped as unevaluated wetland within the woodland were inspected, and it was confirmed that these areas were incorrectly mapped as they did not exhibit wetland conditions," the report stated.

Forestry staff also reviewed the NVCA's wetland mapping, which does not indicate any wetlands within the area proposed for clearing.

While staff did identify an endangered species and a wildlife habitat feature within the proposed clearing area during the site inspection — which is protected under Ontario's Endangered Species Act — the legislation and its regulations do allow the removal of the species through an authorization or conditional exemption with specific conditions from the provincial Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP).

As a result, forestry officials consulted with staff from the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), who advised that no authorization is required under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act if clearing occurred when the habitat feature is not in use, or if an adequate buffer was retained around the feature.

Although staff did not recommend an EIS be completed, they did note that approving the request for an exemption will result in a significant loss of woodland cover.

According to the staff report, the township has already reviewed the proposed woodland clearing and has no concerns with the request.

Severn Deputy Mayor Judith Cox questioned how the land will be used and if the exemption was for expanding the property for agricultural purposes.

"I read an email from someone ... stating it's part of a future development and then when I was reading further on in the agenda ... regarding implications of future boundary expansion, that (this) was also an area," she said. "So is this going to be agricultural or is this going to be for future development?"

Rob Elliott, the county's general manager of engineering, planning and environment, responded by reiterating that "at this point, the lands remain agricultural."

"Any speculation or postulation for future use is for further consideration down the road," he added.

How limiting liability can help save Lake Simcoe from salt pollution

'As long as you're following our best practices, you don't need to coat the entire GO train parking lot in salt,' says Bradford councillor, who chairs the town's green initiatives advisory committee

June 11, 2025 by Michael Owen

Bradford Today



Bradford is urging the provincial government to help reduce over salting and its impacts on the environment. Michael Owen/BradfordToday

Bradford is hoping to prevent mounds of salt from creating a slippery slope to environmental decline.

Following council's approval June 3 of the green initiatives advisory committee's recommendation from their May 21 meeting, the town is urging the provincial government to adopt legislation that limits liability for certified snow and ice contractors in

the hopes of reducing over salting and its impacts on the environment.

Council passed the recommendation without discussion, but Ward 2 Coun. and committee chair Jonathan Scott [previously explained](#) to *BradfordToday* that the committee is hoping to build upon success [promoting salt management](#) with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA), by advocating for Ontario's attorney general to update liability standards around claims for injuries.

"We basically make it so private-property owners or parking lot owners feel they need to over salt to prevent slip and falls, when the LSRCA and others have said you don't actually need to put that much salt down," he said.

Using New Hampshire as an example, the motion claims a liability limiting framework can reduce salt use by as much as 40 per cent without compromising public safety and goes on to say the idea has broad support across municipalities, environmental groups and the winter maintenance industry, as proposed by the Ontario Road Salt Coalition and Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition.

"It's giving people permission to say 'don't worry about the liability risk.' As long as you're following our best practices, you don't need to coat the entire GO train parking lot in salt," Scott said.

The motion explains private road salt usage continues to rise, despite years of guidance and consultation efforts from the LSRCA.

That's an issue since road salt is considered a toxic substance under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act due to its long-term harm to ecosystems, infrastructure and drinking water sources.

The LSRCA estimates about 100,000 tonnes of salt are applied to paved surfaces in the Lake Simcoe watershed each year and much of that ends up flowing into creeks and rivers before making its way into the lake.

The LSRCA's 2023 watershed report card shows that from 1971 to 2021 the chloride concentration in the watershed increased at a fairly constant rate of .7 milligrams per litre per year, and in that time, rose from about 10 to roughly 60 mg/L, about half way to the long-term exposure threshold of 120 mg/L.

This all comes as the town is set to invest \$2.9 million in a [snow filtration facility](#) intended to help reduce contaminants from winter road maintenance.

Based on the motion, the town is also supporting the creation of a provincial advisory committee — including municipal, industry, commercial property owners, insurance industry and environmental representatives — to guide salt reduction strategies and protect Ontario's freshwater resources.

The motion is planned to be shared with all Simcoe County municipalities; the LSRCA; Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority; Conservation Ontario; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Ontario Road Salt Coalition; local MPPs; Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Todd McCarthy; Attorney General Doug Downey; and Premier Doug Ford.

County OKs agricultural expansion over woodland in Midhurst

Council members approved removal of protected trees from Forbes Road property, raising questions about future development plans and environmental impact

June 11, 2025 by Nikki Cole

Collingwood Today



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The property is currently designated as “agricultural” — including the proposed woodland clearing area — and the area slated for clearing does not fall within a regulated zone mapped by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA).

“As it relates to natural heritage features, there are two small areas of provincially mapped unevaluated wetlands located within the area proposed for tree removal,” stated the report.

County planning staff initially suggested a supporting environmental impact study (EIS) be considered to determine the impacts to any wetland features and their functions because of the proposed clearing, as well as considering whether the tree clearing should be directed away from these features to minimize any impact.

After a site inspection by county forestry staff, it was determined the woodland consists primarily of mature

native hardwood trees, with a minor component of conifer species.

"The areas mapped as unevaluated wetland within the woodland were inspected, and it was confirmed that these areas were incorrectly mapped as they did not exhibit wetland conditions," the report stated.

Forestry staff also reviewed the NVCA's wetland mapping, which does not indicate any wetlands within the area proposed for clearing.

While staff did identify an endangered species and a wildlife habitat feature within the proposed clearing area during the site inspection — which is protected under Ontario's Endangered Species Act — the legislation and its regulations do allow the removal of the species through an authorization or conditional exemption with specific conditions from the provincial Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP).

As a result, forestry officials consulted with staff from the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), who advised that no authorization is required under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act if clearing occurred when the habitat feature is not in use, or if an adequate buffer was retained around the feature.

Although staff did not recommend an EIS be completed, they did note that approving the request for an exemption will result in a significant loss of woodland cover.

According to the staff report, the township has already reviewed the proposed woodland clearing and has no concerns with the request.

Severn Deputy Mayor Judith Cox questioned how the land will be used and if the exemption was for expanding the property for agricultural purposes.

"I read an email from someone ... stating it's part of a future development and then when I was reading further on in the agenda ... regarding implications of future boundary expansion, that (this) was also an area," she said. "So is this going to be agricultural or is this going to be for future development?"

Rob Elliott, the county's general manager of engineering, planning and environment, responded by reiterating that "at this point, the lands remain agricultural."

"Any speculation or postulation for future use is for further consideration down the road," he added.

CTV Barrie

Ducks Unlimited hosts race for wetlands at Tiffin Conservation Centre

Ducks Unlimited hosts Duck & Run race for wetlands at Tiffin Centre for Conservation in Utopia June 21.

June 11, 2025



[Watch the video here](#)



Staff Report: 24-07-25-BOD

Date: 27/06/2025

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Ian Ockenden, Manager, Watershed Science
Jennifer Vincent, CAO

SUBJECT: Chloride concentrations and road salt issues in the Nottawasaga watershed

Recommendation

WHEREAS: road salt is a designated toxic substance under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* due to its long-term harm to ecosystems, infrastructure and drinking water sources; and

WHEREAS: chloride levels in some local bodies of water have risen over 300% since the 1960s; and

WHEREAS: despite years of guidance and consultation efforts from conservation authorities, private road salt usage continues to rise, driven primarily by liability concerns faced by contractors and property owners; and

WHEREAS: businesses in the winter maintenance sector are seeing insurance and legal costs dramatically escalate to the point where many have failed, and some property owners have been unable to find winter maintenance contractors; and

WHEREAS: a liability-limiting framework can reduce salt use by up to 40% without compromising public safety and has broad support across municipalities, environmental groups and the winter maintenance industry, as proposed by the Ontario Road Salt Coalition and Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The NVCA urges the Province of Ontario to adopt legislation that limits liability for certified snow and ice contractors following provincially endorsed best practices; and**
- 2. The NVCA supports the creation of a provincial advisory committee—including municipal, industry, commercial property owners, insurance industry and environmental representatives—to guide salt reduction strategies and protect Ontario’s freshwater resources; and**
- 3. That this resolution be shared with Conservation Ontario, local MPPs, the Ontario Road Salt Coalition, and Minister McCarthy, Attorney General Downey, and Premier Ford.”**

Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 24-07-25-BOD is to provide the Board of Directors with an overview of the impact of chloride in Ontario fresh waters, the relevance of the issue in the Nottawasaga watershed, as well as efforts underway to address the issue.

Background

Chloride concentrations in the surface waters of the Nottawasaga watershed continue to increase due to the use of winter salt on roads and parking lots. This trend is not unique to the Nottawasaga Valley. High chloride concentrations can be found in waterways throughout the Great Lakes and nearby Ontario surface waters. Runoff, the increased use of road salt, and other anthropogenic stressors, such as water softeners, have led to increases in chloride concentrations. Data published by the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks ([MECP](#)) in 2022 implicates road salting activities for winter safety as a primary contributor to elevated chloride concentrations, particularly in southern Ontario. A second much lower contributor of interest to our region is water softener domestic use.

Efforts to understand and mitigate the issue are underway.

Conservation Ontario in collaboration with the Ontario Good Roads Association, municipal organizations, conservation authorities, the Province of Ontario, and the Government of Canada published a guidance document ([Good Practices for Winter](#)

[Maintenance in Salt Vulnerable Areas](#)) as a resource of best management practices. and represents a compendium of good practices for municipal winter maintenance in Ontario at the time of publication.

MECP through the Lake Simcoe Protection Act is funding the Lake Simcoe Salt Working Group to research and promote the adoption of best practices for winter salt application. This is a collaboration of municipal road departments, municipal planners, and source water protection staff within the Lake Simcoe watershed.

According to media reports ([link](#)), Ontario is Canada's number one user of winter road salt, applying approximately two to three million tonnes of salt each winter. Currently, Ontario lacks clear provincial policies or regulations for road salts.

Analysis

NVCA data are collected under the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) partnership program with the MECP by Watershed Science staff show a similar increasing trend in chloride concentrations at all but one station (Graph 1, Attachment). For all of NVCA watercourses, chloride concentrations are below the long-term concentration Canadian Water Quality [Guideline](#) (CWQG) of 120 mg/L, but forecasting based on current trends, suggests exceedances could become regular in the next decade.

At chloride concentrations in excess of CWQG guidelines, lethal effects can occur for some aquatic species (e.g. lake trout, reidside dace). Chloride concentrations in excess of 178 mg/L can damage agriculture crops such as potato, strawberries, and peaches. Conceivably this threshold will be crossed at some point in the future without mitigation to reduce risks.

Issues

NVCA's monitoring of water chemistry through the PWQMN is focused on total river inputs at their downstream ends, which are often quite a distance downstream of urban or urbanizing areas. Given the predominance of road salt use in urban areas and the distance of NVCA monitoring stations from urban areas, our data may not be adequately 'picking up' chloride signals, which degrade with distance from source input.

NVCA's population is anticipated to grow significantly over the next decade plus. This growth will increase the geographic extent of urban and urbanizing areas in

the watershed. Without a change in winter road maintenance approaches to reduce road salt use, the risk of increased chloride concentrations in NVCA watercourses is almost assured. Decreasing the amount of winter salt used in the watershed is critical to the long-term health of the Nottawasaga watershed and to preserve water quality important for agricultural crops in our region.

Winter road safety liability is a major challenge and barrier to the adoption of non-salt alternative winter road maintenance practices. One way to mitigate this risk is through legislative changes at the Provincial level. Since February 2025, Muskoka District, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, and Bradford West Gwillimbury have passed resolutions urging the Province of Ontario to adopt legislation that limits liability for certified snow and ice contractors following provincially endorsed best practices; and to create a provincial advisory committee to guide salt reduction strategies and protect Ontario's freshwater resources

Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

This work is within the NVCA's Mandate and Policies as outlined in the NVCA Integrated Watershed Management Plan and the Strategic Plan (2020-2025)

NVCA Integrated Watershed Management Plan Goal(s)

- Protect and enhance water quality and quantity of groundwater systems, headwater streams and wetlands, and restore degraded creeks, rivers, and lakes.
- Maintain, enhance, and protect a regenerative natural heritage system...that is resilient to... the impacts of urban and rural development and that contributes to the reversal of historical impacts, where feasible.

NVCA Strategic Plan Direction(s)

- Enhance watershed knowledge to support decision making for the improvement and maintenance of watershed health; and
- Promote resiliency and capacity in the face of dynamic conditions within the watershed

Impact on Authority Finances

The PWQMN data collected are funded through Category 1 levy at a cost of around \$15,000 annually. The partnership nature of the PWQMN has the MECP

contributing around \$25,000 annually in laboratory analysis, technical equipment procurement and program administration

Climate Change Implications

Many municipalities are switching to alternatives to road salt for winter road maintenance. Unfortunately, some data suggests that the number of winter events being responded to is increasing. While the reason for this increase hasn't been confirmed, it is likely that climate change is playing a role and that this trend will continue.

So, while more alternatives are being used, the increase in the frequency of events has offset the gains achieved through alternatives. This puts greater emphasis on the need to adopt best practices. This also indicates the need for continued and potentially expanded water quality monitoring.

Reviewed by:
Original Signed by
Jennifer Vincent
Chief Administrative Officer

Approved for submission by:
Original Signed by
Jennifer Vincent
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment: Graph – Nottawasaga River Watershed Chloride Concentration Trends
[1965-2024]

