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## NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

### FULL AUTHORITY

WELLAND

AGENDA

APRIL 18, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

#### DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

#### BUSINESS:

(1) MINUTES

(a) FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – MARCH 21, 2007

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority meeting held March 21, 2007.

(b) BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - APRIL 4, 2007

Attached are the Minutes of the Ball's Falls Heritage Committee meeting held April 4, 2007.

(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

(3) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

(4) GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

(5) 2006 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - REPORT NO. 26-07

Attached is Report No. 26-07 regarding this matter and a copy of the 2006 Financial Statement is also enclosed.

(6) ACCOUNTS - MARCH, 2007 – REPORT NO. 27-07

Attached is Staff Report No. 27-07 outlining the list of accounts for March, 2007.

(7) MNR CORRESPONDENCE - TRANSFER PAYMENT ACCOUNTABILITY – REPORT NO. 28-07

Attached is Staff Report No.28-07 regarding this matter.

(8) 2006 ANNUAL REPORT - REPORT NO. 29-07

Attached is Staff Report No. 29-07 regarding the 2006 Annual Report, a copy of which is also enclosed.

(9) **CLEAN WATER ACT & SOURCE WATER PROTECTION - REPORT NO. 30-07**

Attached is Report No. 30-07 summarizing this program and outlining future activities.

(10) **CANADA - ONTARIO AGREEMENT - GREAT LAKES BASIN - REPORT NO. 31-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 31-07 regarding this matter.

(11) **NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE WATERSHED PLAN AND FLOODPLAIN MAPPING – REPORT NO. 32-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 32-07 regarding this plan..

(12) **CAVE SPRINGS C.A. - BUILDING LEASE – REPORT NO. 33-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 33-07 regarding this matter.

(13) **PRESENTATION - LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Staff will provide a brief power point presentation on the various projects and activities in the Land Management Program of the Authority.

(14) **PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 34-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 34-07 outlining the status of Authority projects.

(15) **OTHER BUSINESS**

(16) **IN-CAMERA**

**VIOLATION AND COMPLAINT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. CR 04-07**

Attached is confidential Report No. CR-04-07 regarding this matter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**WELLAND**

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**MARCH 21, 2007**

**7:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

D. Ransom, Chairman  
B. Baty (Vice-Chairman)  
B. Bentley  
B. Butters  
G. Burroughs  
T. Dalimonte  
C. D'Angelo  
D. DiFruscio  
A. Fevez  
B. Greenwood  
D. Goulbourne  
B. Heit  
B. Henderson  
N. Johnson  
D. Martin

**STAFF PRESENT:**

A.L. Burt, General Manager  
L. Sawatzky, Recording Secretary  
T. McDougall, Executive Director Conservation Foundation  
M. Stack, Director Communications  
T. D'Amario, Director, Water Management  
D. Baker, Director, Land Management

**GUESTS:**

A. Colyn  
B. Timms

**BUSINESS:**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance and requested that if anyone had a conflict of interest to declare it. Brian Heit indicated a conflict with respect to the accounts regarding Talk Wireless and Telus Mobility.

**(1) MINUTES - FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – MARCH 21, 2007**

There were no errors or omissions, the following resolution was presented.

**FA-32-07**

**MOVED BY:** C. D'Angelo

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**THAT:** the Minutes of the Full Authority meeting held February 21, 2007, be received and approved as printed.

**"CARRIED"**

**(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**(3) PRESENTATIONS**

The Chairman advised that the members from the previous Board who were not returning were invited to attend the meeting to receive a token of appreciation from the Authority for their time and dedication while on the Board. In attendance was Allard Colyn who was asked to come forward to receive his gift. The Chairman advised that others were to attend and when they arrived they would receive their gift.

**(4) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman thanked Brian Baty for chairing the February meeting in his absence.

The Chairman advised that on March 5<sup>th</sup> he attended a Conservation Ontario meeting with the General Manager. He provided a brief outline of the role of Conservation Ontario, noting it is the umbrella organization for the 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

The Chairman noted that the Bob Welch Golf Classic will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Whirlpool Golf Course and encouraged as many as possible to get out and enjoy the event and support the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation.

The Chairman indicated that the notice of volunteer opportunities flyer received in their Board packages could be further circulated to anyone they felt might like to assist the Authority in their many programs.

The Chairman advised he was pleased to be part of the Carolinian Canada Heritage Plaque dedication at the Beamer Memorial Conservation Area on April 6, 2007 and encouraged anyone who could to attend.

**(5) GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

The General Manager indicated that at the last meeting a recommendation was made to dedicate the rail trail in Wainfleet in memory of Gord Harry. After that meeting the General Manager advised he met with Gord's wife, Angie to discuss the matter with her. He advised that Angie was very pleased with the decision and felt that the date of the dedication could be held on April 19<sup>th</sup> which would have been Gord's 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday. He noted that the members had received an invitation at the meeting.

The General Manager advised that on February 27<sup>th</sup> Hamilton Council considered the Authority's 2007 budget which was presented by Mary Stack in his absence. He noted that the budget was well received and thanked Andy Fevez for attending as well.

The General Manager then congratulated the Welland River Keepers on a very successful event at the Welland Lions Club on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The event was called "Sciensational Sssnakes" and over 400 people attended to see reptiles and amphibians. He thanked Authority staff for their assistance in this event.

At this point, Bruce Timms, a former member of the Board arrived and the Chairman asked him to come forward to receive his appreciation gift. Bruce thanked the Authority and noted he appreciated the time he spent on the Board and looked forward to working with the Authority in the future.

(6) **ACCOUNTS – FEBRUARY, 2007 – REPORT NO. 17-07**

The following resolution was presented.

**FA-33-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Greenwood

**SECONDED BY:** B. Henderson

**THAT:** The list of accounts for the month of February, 2007, in the amount of \$205,343.66 be received and approved.

"CARRIED"

(7) **2007 SALARY SCHEDULE – ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT - REPORT NO. 18-07**

The General Manager provided an overview of the report and responded to questions. The following resolution was then presented.

**FA-34-07**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**SECONDED BY:** B. Baty

**THAT:** a 2.75% economic adjustment to the Authority's salary schedule be approved retroactive to January 1, 2007.

"CARRIED"

(8) **2007 HONOURARIUM & PER DIEM ADJUSTMENT – REPORT NO. 19-07**

The General Manager reviewed the report and responded to questions. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-35-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Henderson

**SECONDED BY:** B. Greenwood

**THAT:** the Report No. 19-07 regarding the Honourarium and Per Diem Economic Adjustment be received; and

That subject to the approval of the Ontario Municipal Board in accordance with Section 37 of The Conservation Authorities Act, the Chairman's honourarium be adjusted to \$4,333 per annum and the member per diem be adjusted to \$63.70 per meeting, retroactive to January 1, 2007.

"CARRIED"

**(9) 2007 TRACTOR PURCHASE - REPORT NO. 20-07**

The Director, Land Management outlined the report. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-36-07**

**MOVED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**SECONDED BY:** N. Johnson

**THAT:** the March 8, 2007 quote from Ben Berg Farm & Industrial Equipment Ltd., to supply one Kubota L4400, 4wd tractor, a front end loader attachment and a Meteor 75" rear-mount snow blower for a price of \$23,627.00 be accepted.

**"CARRIED"**

**(10) DRAFT 2006 WATER QUALITY REPORT – REPORT NO. 21-07**

The Director, Water Management outlined the staff report and the draft document. The members had several questions and a lengthy discussion took place. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-37-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Bentley

**SECONDED BY:** B. Henderson

**THAT:** Report No. 21-07 regarding the Draft 2006 Water Quality Report be received and the recommendations contained therein approved; and

That copies of the final 2006 Water Quality Report be forwarded to the watershed municipalities, the watershed Medical Officers of Health, the Ministry of the Environment, the watershed MPP's and MP's, the John C. Munro International Airport and the Vinemount Quarry.

**"CARRIED"**

**(11) FLOODPLAIN MAPPING PROGRAM – STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 22-07**

The Director, Water Management noted this information was requested at the February meeting and outlined the staff report. After responding to questions, the following resolution was presented.

**FA-38-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Henderson

**SECONDED BY:** B. Greenwood

**THAT:** Report No. 22-07 regarding the Floodplain Mapping Program – Status Report be received for information.

**"CARRIED"**

(12) **TERMS OF REFERENCE – CENTRAL WELLAND RIVER WATERSHED PLAN –  
REPORT NO. 23-07**

The Director, Water Management briefly outlined the report and responded to questions. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-39-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Butters

**SECONDED BY:** B. Greenwood

**THAT:** the Terms of Reference for the Central Welland River Watershed Plan be approved; and

that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Township of West Lincoln, Township of Wainfleet, City of Welland, Town of Pelham and the City of Port Colborne for their information.

**“CARRIED”**

(13) **TERMS OF REFERENCE – LAKE ERIE NORTH SHORE WATERSHED PLAN –  
REPORT NO. 24-07**

The Director, Water Management briefly outlined the report and responded to questions, after which, the following resolution was presented.

**FA-40-07**

**MOVED BY:** C. D’Angelo

**SECONDED BY:** B. Baty

**THAT:** the Terms of Reference for the Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan be approved; and

That a copy of this report be forwarded to the Regional Municipality of Niagara, City of Port Colborne, City of Welland, Town of Fort Erie, Township of Wainfleet and Haldimand County for their information.

**“CARRIED”**

At this point, the Chairman suggested the Land Management presentation be moved to the end of the agenda. He noted if time warranted it could be presented at that time.

(14) **PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 25-07**

The General Manager responded to questions and the following resolution was presented.

**FA-41-07**

**MOVED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**SECONDED BY:** N. Johnson

**THAT:** Report No. 25-07, outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.

**“CARRIED”**

(15) **IN-CAMERA**

- (a) **VIOLATION AND COMPLAINT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. CR-02-07**
- (b) **WELLAND RIVER – RESTORATION AGREEMENT – REPORT NO. CR-03-07**

In accordance with Authority policy, the following resolutions were presented.

**FA-42-07**

**MOVED BY:** G. Burroughs  
**SECONDED BY:** N. Johnson  
**THAT:** this meeting do now move in-camera.

Received at 8:32 p.m. "CARRIED"

**FA-43-07**

**MOVED BY:** N. Johnson  
**SECONDED BY:** G. Burroughs  
**THAT:** this meeting do now move back into open session.

Received at 8:50 p.m. "CARRIED"

(16) **OTHER BUSINESS**

It was agreed that the Land Management Presentation would take place at the April meeting. There was no further business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The following resolution was presented.

**FA-44-07**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio  
**SECONDED BY:** B. Baty  
**THAT:** this meeting do now adjourn.

Received at 8:52 p.m. "CARRIED"





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## NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

### BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Ball's Falls, Jordan

April 4, 2007

3:00 p.m.

#### MINUTES

**Members Present:** M. Hunter  
D. Ransom  
B. Baty  
M. Holman  
A. Petrie  
L. Holmes

**Staff Present:** D. Baker, Director, Land Management  
C. Hayward, Curator

**Regrets:** J. Mastroianni  
E. Mitchinson  
F. High  
A. Burt, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer

#### BUSINESS:

1) **Call to Order**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He reminded members that as noted, the agenda for the meeting February 7, 2007, previously cancelled, would stand for the current meeting.

2) **Election of Officers**

Doug Ransom, NPCA Chairman, assumed the chair to oversee the election of the slate of Officers for 2007 and declared all offices vacant. He noted that the Authority's voting procedures would be followed.

The Chairman then called for nominations for the office of Chairman.

April Petrie nominated Mike Hunter.

The Chairman called once again for nominations for the office of Chairman.

The Chairman called for the third and final time for nominations for the office of Chairman.

The Chairman asked Mr. Hunter if he would stand for office, and Mike advised he would.

There being no further nominations, the following resolution was presented.

**MOVED BY:** Linda Holmes  
**SECONDED BY:** April Petrie  
**THAT:** nominations for the office of Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee Chairman for 2007 be closed.

**"CARRIED"**

Mike Hunter was declared Chairman for 2007 by Acclamation. He then assumed the Chair.

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their support and noted he appreciated the opportunity to continue on as Chair.

The Chairman then called for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman.

April Petrie nominated Linda Holmes.

The Chairman called once again for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman called the third and final time for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman asked Mrs. Holmes if she would stand for office, and Linda advised she would.

The following resolution was presented.

**MOVED BY:** April Petrie  
**SECONDED BY:** Marion Holman  
**THAT:** nominations for the office of Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee Vice-Chairman for 2007 be closed.

**"CARRIED"**

Linda Holmes was declared Vice-Chairman for 2007 by Acclamation.

**3) Minutes of Last Meeting – December 6, 2006**

The Curator advised that under item 8) Other Business, the minutes should be corrected to reflect that the Jordan Museum has offered to donate a loom and a spool bank used by Richard Banks at the Ball's Falls Woollen Mill. The following resolution was presented.

**MOVED BY:** Linda Holmes  
**SECONDED BY:** Marion Holman  
**THAT:** the minutes of the last meeting held December 6, 2006 be approved as amended.

**"CARRIED"**

4) **Business Arising From Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5) **2007 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards Nomination-Report No. HC-01-07**

The following resolution was presented.

**MOVED BY:** April Petrie  
**SECONDED BY:** Doug Ransom  
**THAT:** Report NO. HC-01-07 regarding the 2007 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards nominations be received for information.

**“CARRIED”**

6) **Ball’s Falls Exhibit Design Project- Report No. HC-02-07**

The following resolution was presented.

**MOVED BY:** Marion Holman  
**SECONDED BY:** Linda Holmes  
**THAT:** Report NO. HC-02-07 on the Ball's Falls Exhibit Design Project be received for information purposes.

**“CARRIED”**

7) **Centre for Conservation Building Project – Report No. HC-03-07**

The Director, Land Management provided a power point presentation outlining the progress of the construction project to date.

The following resolution was presented.

**MOVED BY:** Brian Baty  
**SECONDED BY:** Marion Holman  
**THAT:** Report NO. HC-03-07 on the status of the Centre for Conservation building project be received for information purposes.

**“CARRIED”**

8) **Status Report – Report No. HC-04-07**

The Curator provided an overview of the variety of programs scheduled for the 2007 season and distributed a selection of the print materials prepared to date.

**MOVED BY:** Doug Ransom  
**SECONDED BY:** April Petrie  
**THAT:** Report No. HC-04-07 on the status of Ball’s Falls Conservation Area Projects be received for information.

**“CARRIED”**

9) **Other Business**

April Petrie inquired as to the status of the Authority's sugar bush program. Staff advised that the program is still in hiatus, pending completion of the new facility at Ball's Falls. It was noted that an evaluation and recommendations concerning this program would be included as part of a comprehensive review of recommended programming for the site once the Centre is operating.

The Curator advised that, thanks to the efforts of Doug Ransom, the Rittenhouse Trust has donated a table and several chairs to the Authority. Staff are optimistic that the table can be repaired and will be suitable for use in the new Centre. The chairs will be evaluated and if possible used in some capacity as well.

10) **Adjournment**

**MOVED BY:** Linda Holmes  
**SECONDED BY:** Marion Holman  
**THAT:** this meeting do now adjourn.  
Received at 4:30 p.m.

**“CARRIED”**

C. Hayward, Curator

Mike Hunter, Chair



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**TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority**

**DATE: April 11, 2007**

**SUBJECT: 2006 Financial Statements – Report No. 26-07**

Attached for your review are the 2006 Financial Statements as audited by MacGillivray Partners LLP. It is noted that the format of the statements is in accordance with the accepted accounting principles for organizations operating in the local government sector as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

The Financial Statements have been reviewed with the Authority Chairman and Vice-Chairman and Mr. Randy Momot will be in attendance to present the statements and respond to questions from the Board.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2006 as audited by MacGillivray Partners be received and adopted as printed.

Respectfully Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer



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**TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority**

**DATE: November 1, 2007**

**RE: Accounts March 2007 - Report No. 27-07**

Attached is the list of accounts for the month of March 2007 in the amount of \$742,591.61.

**Recommendation:**

**The list of accounts for the month of March, 2007, in the amount of \$742,591.61 be received and approved.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



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**TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority**

**DATE: April 5, 2007**

**SUBJECT: MNR Correspondence- Transfer Payment Accountability- Report No. 28-07**

Attached for your information is correspondence from the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources regarding the accountability of the conservation authority as a recipient of transfer payments from the Province. This letter falls out of the Auditor General's 2006 Annual Report whose value for money audits highlighted some irregularities in the practices of some broader public sector organizations that received transfer payments from the Province. Also attached is my response of April 5, 2007.

As noted in my response, I believe our organization has effective and appropriate governance and accountability standards and practices in place. We have, as a normal business practice, monitored compliance with and the effectiveness of our corporate policies and procedures and will continue to do so in the future.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 28-07 regarding MNR Correspondence- Transfer Payment Accountability be received for information.**

Respectfully Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer



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**TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority**

**DATE: November 1, 2007**

**RE: 2006 Annual Report – Report No. 29-07**

Included in your agenda package is the Authority's recently completed 2006 Annual Report. The intent of the Annual Report is to provide an overview of the Authority's various program activities and to acknowledge the support of our member municipalities, the Province and Federal governments as well as the many NGO's with which the Authority has established partnerships with. The report is distributed to all watershed municipalities, MP's MPP's, libraries, universities, colleges, donors and is available for distribution at various events throughout the year.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the 2006 Annual Report be received.**

Prepared by: Mary Stack, Director of Communications

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer





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**TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority**

**DATE: November 1, 2007**

**RE: Clean Water Act & Source Water Protection – Report No. 30-07**

This report provides a summary of the Clean Water Act, and the Source Water Protection program at NPCA. An outline of the major activities that are anticipated over the next few months is also presented.

### **1.0 Introduction and Background**

The Clean Water Act (CWA) is the provincial legislation aimed at protecting municipal drinking water sources in Ontario. It lays out the framework for source protection planning across Ontario, in which it establishes a locally driven, science-based multi-stakeholder process to protect drinking water sources and promote the notion of stewardship – the shared responsibility of all stakeholders to protect the integrity of local sources of drinking water.

Under the CWA, the province is divided into Source Protection Areas. An assessment report will be prepared for each source protection area which will identify existing and future drinking water threats that are considered significant. A source protection plan must then be prepared which will address these drinking water threats. Preparation of the Assessment report and Source Protection Plan will be the responsibility of the Source Protection Committee (although the actual writing of the Assessment report will be performed by the source protection staff and consultants).

### **2.0 Clean Water Act and Accompanying Regulations**

On October 18, 2006, the CWA passed third reading in the Ontario legislature and shortly afterwards received Royal Assent. However, the CWA will only become an enforceable law when it is “proclaimed” which is expected to occur in June 2007.

Several regulations will accompany the CWA. These proposed Regulations are to be posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) website for public comment in early April 2007, and are expected to include the following topics;

- A regulation will establish the boundaries of the Source Protection Areas and Regions;
- A regulation will outline how the Source Protection Committee (SPC) should be formed, including the content and size of the SPC. The regulation will likely contain similar information to the MOE Discussion Paper for SPC’s that was posted on the EBR in January, 2007;
- A regulation will describe the process for developing the SPC Terms of Reference (ToR) and provide mandatory timelines when the tasks must be completed.

The Clean Water Act outlines a number of requirements of drinking water source protection and the agency responsibilities. Below is a brief outline of some of the key issues and duties of the Conservation Authority and the Source Protection Committee.

## **2.1 Source Protection Areas**

The CWA defines the Source Protection Area as the area over which a Conservation Authority has jurisdiction. This is the area for which assessment reports and source protection plans will be prepared. In some cases, two or more Source Protection Areas have been consolidated into a Source Protection Region. The Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area (e.g. the NPCA area of jurisdiction) has not been consolidated with others.

## **2.2 Source Protection Authority**

The Conservation Authority will exercise and perform the powers and duties of a drinking water Source Protection Authority (SPA) under the CWA and accordingly, the NPCA Board would also be the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Authority Board under the CWA.

## **2.3 Source Protection Authority – Duties**

The duties of the Source Protection Authority (SPA) (being the NPCA) are summarized below as outlined in the CWA.

- Establish a drinking water Source Protection Committee (SPC) for the source protection area. The composition of the SPC will be specified in the upcoming regulations. Niagara's SPC is expected have a maximum of 10 members, plus the chair of the committee based on the most recently released MOE discussion paper. The Minister will appoint the chair of each source protection committee, after considering recommendations from the Source Protection Authority. The roles, responsibilities and required qualifications for the SPC Chair as prepared by Authority staff based on the earlier MOE discussion paper are attached.
- Assist the SPC that it establishes in exercising and performing the Committee's powers and duties under this Act
- Provide scientific, technical and administrative support and resources to the Source Protection Committee that it establishes.
- Submit the proposed Terms of Reference (prepared by the SPC) to the Ontario Minister of the Environment (Minister) together with any comments it may wish to make and a summary of concerns that were raised by municipalities and not resolved.
- Ensure that the terms of reference are available to the public.
- Submit the proposed assessment report (prepared by the SPC) to the Minister together with any comments it may wish to make and a summary of any concerns that were raised by the municipalities and not resolved.
- Ensure that the assessment report is available to the public after it is approved by the Minister.
- Within the time period prescribed by the regulations, submit the source protection plan prepared by the source protection committee to the Minister without amendment, together with any comments that the SPA wishes to make on the plan.
- Ensure that the source protection plan is available to the public after it is approved by the Minister
- Annually prepare and submit to the Minister in accordance with the regulations a progress report that describes the measures that have been taken to implement the source protection plans that apply in the source protection area and the extent to which the objectives set out in the plans are being achieved.
- Ensure that the progress report is available to the public after it is submitted to the Minister.

## **2.4 Source Protection Committees - Duties**

The duties of the Source Protection Committee (SPC) are summarized below as outlined in the CWA

- In accordance with the regulations, prepare terms of reference for the preparation of assessment reports and source protection plans under this Act.
- Submit proposed terms of reference to the Source Protection Authority for the source protection area in accordance with the CWA.
- Prepare an assessment report, in accordance with the regulations, the rules, and the terms of reference prepared, for the source protection area.
- Submit the proposed assessment report to the Source Protection Authority for the source protection area in accordance with the regulations.
- In accordance with the regulations and the terms of reference, prepare a source protection plan for the source protection area.
- Submit the proposed source protection plan to the Source Protection Authority for the source protection area.

## **2.5 Working Groups**

Ad-hoc working groups may be created across the source protection area to assist the SPC with preparation of the source protection plan. Authority staff anticipate that there will be a municipal working group made up of representatives from the Tier 2 municipalities. Other working groups will likely be formed on an 'as required' basis, and then disbanded once the task is completed.

## **3.0 Budget and Resources**

The province has committed to full funding of the preparation of the Source Protection Plan. To date there have been three funding agreements between the province (MOE/MNR) and the Conservation Authorities. Funding is partly dependent on the size and complexity of the Source Protection Region/Area. Under the current agreement which runs until March 2008, the NPCA receives about \$ 35,000 per month in funding. The funding arrangement between MOE and NPCA provides for up to four staff (project coordinator, and GIS, communications, and groundwater specialists) as well as administration and support costs. Additional project specific funding has also been provided by the province in areas such as Water Budget analysis and Intake Protection Zone Studies.

## **4.0 Projects Funded Under the Provincial Source Protection Program**

The NPCA has been participating in a number of Source Protection projects all of which are currently funded by the provincial government, through the Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE) and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). The reports that are prepared at the conclusion of these projects will be incorporated into the 'Assessment Report' prepared by the Source Protection Committee. The main projects are outlined below.

### **4.1 Watershed Characterization Report**

The Watershed Characterization report provides a general overview of the NPCA watershed, including summaries and maps of the geology, hydrology, topography, land use, land cover, population, water quality and potential contaminant threats such as old landfill sites. A draft of the Watershed Characterization report was completed in December 2006 and it is currently undergoing a peer review by Conservation Ontario.

## **4.2 Water Budget Conceptual Understanding Report**

The Water Budget Conceptual Understanding report provides a preliminary assessment of the surface water and groundwater flows in the watershed. The study builds on the information contained in the *Watershed Characterization* report. Numerous data sets (such as the Permits-To-Take-Water (PTTW) database) were collected, compiled, analyzed and mapped in this project.

The NPCA submitted a Water Budget Conceptual Understanding report to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in December 2006 for their review, and a successful follow-up meeting was held between the NPCA and MNR in January 2007. As expected, a number of minor revisions are being incorporated into the 'Conceptual' report as requested by MNR. The NPCA will proceed to the Tier 1 water budget phase on completion of the Conceptual Understanding. The NPCA has received over \$ 50,000 in provincial funding to complete this study phase.

## **4.3 Tier 1 Water Budget**

The purpose of a Tier 1 water budget is to identify the hydrologic stresses of the major watersheds within the study area, from a water quantity perspective. The NPCA has discussed this next stage with the MNR and agreed upon a work plan for the Tier 1 water budget task. The NPCA is currently working on preliminary tasks in preparation for the Tier 1 water budget analysis. It is anticipated that provincial funding for this study will be approximately \$ 80,000.

## **4.4 Intake Protection Zone (IPZ) Studies**

NPCA staff have been assisting Regional Municipality of Niagara with the Intake Protection Zone (IPZ) studies for each Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The IPZ studies are an integral part of the Source Protection program but are generally a municipal responsibility. There are six municipal Water Treatment Plants (WTP's) in the NPCA all of which are owned and operated by the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

These IPZ technical studies will characterize the WTP intakes, delineate the IPZ's, and assign vulnerability scores for each IPZ as outlined in the MOE technical guidance modules.

Locating and retrieving the information required for these studies has been a major task in itself. Data such as bathymetry files, storm sewershed information, as well as lake and river flow data is required. Stantec Consulting were retained by Regional Municipality of Niagara to complete the IPZ Studies, which includes surface water flow modelling. Initial study results are expected by June 2007.

## **4.5 Threats Inventory and Issues Evaluation**

NPCA SWP staff worked closely with the Regional Municipality of Niagara in preparing a SWP Technical Studies Grant application that was submitted to MOE in December 2006. The grant application was to complete a Threats Inventory and Issues Evaluation for the Intake Protection Zones. Regional Municipality of Niagara and the MOE signed an agreement in March 2007. This study will commence once the IPZ studies have been substantially completed. Regional Municipality of Niagara is expected to receive over \$ 200,000 in provincial funding to complete this study.

## **5.0 Timelines and Tasks**

The following is a schedule concerning anticipated SPC formation regulation.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Action</b>
A	Expected date (June, 2007)	SPC Regulations and the CWA are proclaimed.
B	Within 30 days of 'A'	SPA posts notice of proposed make-up of SPC.
C	Within 30 days of 'A'	SPA posts notice for applications for potential members.
D	Within 30 days of 'A'	SPA notifies clerk of municipal councils to appoint members to the SPC.
E	Within 50 days of the postings/notifications dates ('B', 'C', and 'D').	SPA appoints municipal and other members to the SPC.
F	No time limit	SPC nominates 3 candidates for SPC Chair to Minister

The MOE has suggested that Conservation Authorities begin the process of searching for the SPC chair and members once the CWA regulations are posted on the EBR website in early April 2007. Over the next several months, a number of reports regarding source protection planning will be submitted to this Board for consideration. To assist and guide the development of recommendations regarding the source protection plan and the SPC chair and members, staff are recommending the establishment of an ad hoc committee consisting of the Authority Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Manager, Director of Water Management, Director of Communications and the Source Protection Project Coordinator.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 30-07 regarding the Clean Water Act & Source Protection be received for information.**

Prepared by: Brian Wright, Source Protection Coordinator

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



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**TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority**

**DATE: April 3, 2007**

**SUBJECT: Canada–Ontario Agreement - Great Lakes Basin – Report No. 31-07**

The Governments of Canada and the United States committed to restore and protect the Great Lakes Ecosystem through the signing of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) in 1978. The GLWQA was amended in 1987 with both governments further defining their commitment to address problems in the Great Lakes. The Agreement has not been updated for nearly 20 years and now, despite considerable progress, new challenges are emerging while some old ones persist. The governments recognize that for the Agreement to be successful, it needs to be adaptable to new challenges. In response, the two governments formally began a review of the existing agreement in the spring of 2006. This review is still underway and Authority staff have been formally involved in the review process.

In 1971, the Governments of Canada and Ontario demonstrated their commitment to the GLWQA through the signing of the Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA). The Agreement outlines how the two governments will cooperate and coordinate their efforts to restore, protect and conserve the Great Lakes basin ecosystem in order to meet Canada's obligations under the GLWQA. The term of COA typically extends for a five year period with the current agreement expiring on March 22, 2007.

The new draft COA is under review and is expected to be signed in early summer 2007. The new Agreement will extend from 2007 to 2010. A new COA beyond 2010 would reflect the outcomes of the GLWQA review. The term of the agreement will enable Canada and Ontario to work together over the next three years toward making continued progress in improving the sustainability of the Great Lakes Basin Environment.

The draft COA has been designed to build on the core strengths of the 2002 COA and to address key new areas of focus for the Great Lakes Ecosystem including continued reduction of harmful pollutants; the conservation of biological diversity; making additional progress in restoring Areas of Concern; the promotion of Great Lakes communities; the protection of the Great Lakes as a source of drinking water (Source Water Protection); and, a better understanding of the impact of climate change.

Public comment on the proposed agreement is currently being solicited through the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Registry until May 16, 2007. Authority staff provided comments emphasizing the need for the continued funding support for the implementation of local COA priority projects.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 31-07 regarding the Canada–Ontario Agreement - Great Lakes Basin be received for information.

**Prepared by: Jocelyn Baker, Watershed Restoration Coordinator**

Respectfully Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority**

**DATE: November 1, 2007**

**RE: Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Plan and Floodplain Mapping - Report No. 32-07**

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Plan is nearing completion. The consultants, Aquafor Beech have completed their background research and their analysis of the long list of watershed management options presented to the public last summer. The draft recommended plan and implementation plan will be presented to the public at a public information centre meeting in May 2007.

As part of the Watershed study, floodplain mapping was undertaken to identify areas susceptible to flooding under the Regulatory Flood conditions (100 year storm). The primary function of a floodplain is the conveyance of flood waters during extreme storm events and spring melts. It is dependent upon the shape of the creek, the flow rate and the location of structures (bridges, culverts, buildings etc). For this study, floodplain mapping was undertaken for Two Mile Creek, Four Mile Creek, the Four Mile Pond tributary, Six Mile Creek and Eight Mile Creek. Mapping extents include both the main channel and tributary reaches with drainage areas greater than 125 hectares.

The 100 year flood profile is used by the NCPA to regulate development within the floodplain under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act. The floodplain mapping is also used by municipalities for land use planning purposes (e.g. Official Plans and Zoning By-laws.). The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is currently consulting the public about its new Comprehensive Zoning By-law. This new mapping could be used by the Town now to incorporate into their new Comprehensive Zoning By-law. For this study, floodplain mapping was undertaken for Two Mile Creek, Four Mile Creek, the Four Mile Pond tributary, Six Mile Creek and Eight Mile Creek. Mapping extents include both the main channel and tributary reaches with drainage areas greater than 125 hectares.

The floodplain mapping identified 83 buildings in the floodplains with varying depths of flooding. Options to mitigate this include flood proofing, road culvert replacement and improving channel capacities. Flood proofing would be required to mitigate 42 building in the floodplain, with channel improvements and culvert upgrades mitigating 14 and 27 buildings respectively. Authority staff will be presenting further information to the NPCA Board with respect to existing structures in the floodplain and future initiatives that may be available to address these concerns, for the NOTL watershed plan as well as past and future watershed plans. In the past Provincial funding (50%) was available to high risk areas to assist in flood mitigation, however that funding was eliminated some years ago. The NPCA along with other Conservation Authorities in Ontario have since focused on preventative programs including regulations to prevent additional structures from being built. For the most part, mitigation assistance to existing structures in floodplains is limited to identification of the hazard only.



### **Next Steps**

1. The new floodplain mapping will be provided to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake staff for review/endorsement and eventual inclusion in their new Comprehensive Zoning By-law.
2. The consultants, Aquafor Beech Limited and the NPCA staff will present the new floodplain mapping to Town Council.
3. Town staff are setting up a joint meeting of their Agricultural and Drainage Committees to provide an opportunity for the Aquafor Beech Limited to present the draft recommendations and implementation plan for the watershed plan as well as provide an opportunity for them to review the floodplain mapping. The date is not confirmed yet. We are looking at the week of April 17th or the week of April 30<sup>th</sup>.
4. Two public meetings will be scheduled in May. One will deal with the Floodplain mapping. The second will deal with the draft recommendations and implementation plan for the watershed plan.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 32-07 regarding the Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Plan and Floodplain Mapping be received for information.**

Prepared by: Suzanne McInnes, MCIP, RPP Watershed Planning Coordinator

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority**

**DATE: April 11, 2007**

**SUBJECT: Cave Springs C.A. – Building Lease – Report No. 33-07**

### **Background**

Cave Springs Conservation Area is a 35-hectare conservation area located on the Niagara Escarpment, in the Town of Lincoln and operated as a passive day-use conservation area. Two structures, a former residence and a barn exist on the property.

The house is a converted fruit barn located at the base of the Escarpment slope and has been vacant since late 2005. Authority staff conducted a thorough inspection of the property in the fall of 2005 and noted that the building required a great deal of work to bring it to current standards for residential use. The barn is structurally sound.

### **Discussion**

Authority staff are currently finalizing a draft master plan for Cave Springs Conservation Area. This document will be brought to a future Board meeting for consideration before being circulated for public consultation. The area is subject to the Niagara Escarpment Development Control process, which requires NEC approval for new construction or demolition. The NEC will also be circulated with the draft Master Plan for review and comment.

The draft master plan recommends demolishing the house and improving public access to the site. As previously noted, the building is far below current standards for residential use. Staff are concerned that the vacant house is becoming a liability and potential risk for vandalism. The current estimated time required to obtain a Development Permit from the NEC is 6 months. If the Authority waits until the Master Plan has been approved to apply for demolition, the building would remain standing for another year. Staff recommend that the Authority begin the application process before the end of April. Assuming an NEC permit is approved by the fall, the demolition could proceed and the liability reduced before the winter season sets in.

While the existing barn is structurally sound, it is not used by the Conservation Authority nor are Authority staff proposing any future use of the building. Cave Spring Cellars Partnership, an adjacent grape grower has requested permission to lease the barn to use for storage of equipment and materials used in the grape harvesting and wine making process. The proponents have requested a 5-year term for the lease with an option to renew for an additional 5-years. Minor modifications will be required to the structure, however these will not result in significant changes to the appearance or structural integrity of the building. The proponent already has a right-of-way access through this property, so

no additional agreements are required outside of the lease for the barn. The draft master plan recommends a new parking area be developed, close to the road. Trails would link with an existing internal trail system, which is separated from the barn and internal access road. As such, the activities at the barn would not conflict with public access to the site.

After considering the request in light of the proposed future use of this property, staff believe that there are a number of potential benefits to the lease. The lease would bring in additional revenues to offset operating costs for the conservation area. The lease would also bring an increased presence at this site. While activity around the barn would be greatest during the grape harvest, for the balance of the year the structure would be checked regularly by farm staff. This increased presence would help deter unauthorized activities and will provide the Authority with regular updates.

Local realtors were consulted to determine a rate for agricultural storage leases. Although there were no direct comparables, this use is similar to un-serviced industrial storage. Based on this information, staff recommend the lease rate be set at \$6/square foot. The resulting annual revenue would be approximately \$5,700.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 33-07 regarding the Cave Springs C.A. – Building Lease be received; and

That staff be authorized to execute a 5 year lease agreement with an option for a further 5 year term with Cave Spring Cellars Partnership for the use of the barn at the Cave Springs Conservation Area; and

That staff be directed to apply to the Niagara Escarpment Commission for the demolition of the vacant house at Cave Springs Conservation Area.

**Prepared by: Darcy B. Baker - Director, Land Management**

Respectfully Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority**

**DATE: November 1, 2007**

**RE: PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 34-07**

### **WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

#### **Binbrook Reservoir – City of Hamilton (Glanbrook)**

The reservoir water levels for the last 30 days have generally fluctuated between 650.5 feet and 653.4 feet (for reference the dam holding level is 650.50 feet). NPCA staff continue to monitor the reservoir water levels daily.

#### **100 Year Regulatory Floodplain Mapping**

- 1) Fifteen Mile Creek Floodplain Mapping – Lincoln / Pelham / West Lincoln

The NPCA is in the process of finalizing the 100 year floodplain mapping for Fifteen Mile Creek.

- 2) Town of Fort Erie Floodplain Mapping

The NPCA has completed the review of the draft floodplain mapping as submitted by Philips Engineering in support of the Fort Erie Watershed Plan. Philips is now in the process of finalizing the floodplain maps for delivery to the NPCA. Regulatory mapping of the 100 year floodplain is being generated for: Black Creek, Beaver Creek, Miller Creek, Kraft's Drain, Six Mile Creek, and Baker Creek.

- 3) Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Floodplain Mapping

The NPCA has completed the review of the draft floodplain maps produced by Aquafor Beech Limited as part of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Plan. Aquafor Beech is now in the process of finalizing the floodplain maps for delivery to the NPCA. Regulatory mapping of the 100 year floodplain is being generated for: Two Mile, Four Mile, Six Mile, and Eight Mile Creeks.

- 4) Hunter's Drain – City of Niagara Falls

The NPCA is presently undertaking the necessary calculations, field work, and map analysis to accurately determine the extent of the 100 year flood elevations for Hunter's Drain in the City of Niagara Falls.

## **Watershed Stormwater Management Policies**

Totten Sims Hubicki (TSH) has been retained to generate a set of stormwater management guidelines which may be uniformly applied throughout the NPCA's watershed. Use of this document by the various municipal engineering departments, the Region of Niagara, and the NPCA will help to ensure that consistent standards are employed during the review of development in order to better protect the quality of water within the NPCA's watershed. The NPCA is presently reviewing the Final Draft Report.

## **NPCA 'Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses' Permits**

The NPCA regulates construction around watercourses, wetlands, valley lands, shorelines, and floodplains. The NPCA has currently approved 15 permit applications for the 2007 calendar year.

### **Source Water Protection (SWP) Program under the Clean Water Act**

Please see the attached board report which provides a detailed update on the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the SWP program. The CWA regulations should be posted on the MOE's Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) website for public comments by April 13, 2007.

SWP technical staff have been working on the Tier 1 water budget, as well as assisting the Regional Niagara with data collection for the Intake Protection Zone (IPZ) studies. This included coordinating data requests from local Tier 2 municipalities. NPCA staff also participated in discussions with the MOE to obtain additional funding for Regional Niagara's IPZ studies and Threats Inventory studies. A newsletter has also been prepared by NPCA, which will be sent to the public works and planning departments of local municipalities. The NPCA's SWP webpage is to be updated and revised in April 2007.

## **Fifteen-Sixteen-Eighteen Mile Creeks Watershed Plan**

The Steering Committee for the Fifteen-Sixteen-Eighteen Mile Creeks Watershed Plan met on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to brainstorm a vision and set of objectives for the watershed plan. In addition, Rhonneke VanRiesen, Watershed Planning Technician presented an overview of the fluvial geomorphology study conducted in the watershed and Cherish Elwell, Niagara Restoration Council (NRC), updated the Committee about the NRC's upland restoration project in the watershed. A public workshop has been scheduled on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Ball's Falls Field Centre from 7:00pm-9:00pm. The purpose of the workshop is to gain more insight into the issues and concerns residents in the Fifteen-Sixteen-Eighteen Mile Creeks watershed may have about water quality and quantity as well as other land management issues.

## **South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan**

The Steering Committee for the South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan met on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007 to brainstorm a vision and set of objectives for the watershed plan. Valerie Cromie, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Coordinator, presented an update pertaining to the Niagara River RAP. A public workshop has been scheduled on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Chippawa Lion's Club from 7:00pm-9:00pm. The purpose of the workshop is to gain more insight into the issues and concerns residents in the South Niagara Falls watershed may have about water quality and quantity as well as other land management issues.

## **Natural Heritage Areas Inventory**

Staff continue to be busy entering all of the field data from the 2006 season, as well, staff continue to enter the flora and fauna data from Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments at the NPCA and have now moved on to entering the same data from the Region of Niagara planning files.

The landowner letters for the targeted area in South Niagara Falls have been distributed. Over 700 letters were distributed in total. To date we have received a 10% response from the landowners in this area.

We are anticipating the delivery of the draft watershed boundaries (MNR) for Haldimand County. Once completed, MNR will start to delineate the lines for the next area of the project. The new colour air photos are arriving and the GIS team is working closely with the NAI team to complete the Community Series mapping for the upland communities.

Staff are beginning to prepare for the upcoming field season by refreshing their ELC skills and creating maps of properties which we have permission to visit.

Staff participated in the NPCA's community workshop in Niagara Falls on March 6th and was a speaker at the Parks Research Forum Conference on April 4th.

## **Niagara River Remedial Action Plan**

### **Contaminated Sediments:**

The Contaminated Sediments Technical Committee is making arrangements to meet with the stakeholders for Lyon's Creek East and West (i.e. the City of Welland, Hydro One & Regional Niagara Health Dept.) to update them on the study's findings regarding sediment management options and determine their role in the process. The meeting is expected to be held in early 2007.

In the meantime, a letter has been sent to Transport Canada in an effort to determine the agency's future land use intentions for its property on Lyon's Creek West. This information is critical to the RAP to facilitate the selection of the preferred contaminated sediment management remedial option for the site.

Plans are being put in place to hire a project coordinator to assist with the Public Open Houses (one for each site), the selection of the preferred remedial options, and the respective engineering design stages.

Final comments have been submitted on the draft report - *Lyon's Creek Wetland East - Wetland Inventory and Monitoring March 2007*.

### **Niagara Water Strategy (NWS):**

NPCA staff have requested to participate on Steering Committees for the proposed NWS Direct Actions for 2006/2007.

The NWS Water Advisory Group (WAG) is scheduled to meet in May 2007.

## **Stage 2 Update:**

The Technical Review Report - *Technical Review of Impairments and Delisting Criteria December 2006* - is currently under internal review by Environment Canada and MOE.

The RAP Coordinating Committee met in mid-March 2007 to discuss and revise the new draft RAP work plan and monitoring plan (with a preliminary list of monitoring/assessment needs and their priorities for implementation) and discuss content and timeframes for the draft Stage 2 Update Report. The plans and draft report are expected to be presented to the Steering Committee and PAC for their input in June 2007.

## **International Liaison:**

NPCA staff have been invited to sit on a Technical Advisory Committee for the Buffalo and Niagara River Habitat Project. Staff attended the first meeting in March 2007.

## **Niagara River Toxics Management Plan (NRTMP):**

The proposed timeframe for the full report and public meeting is early 2007.

## **Watershed Restoration**

Two staff members attended the 2-day Department of Fisheries and Oceans partnership training "Understanding Construction Activities and impacts to Fish Habitat." Participants received further training on recognizing potential impacts to fish habitat, the practicality of mitigation measures, recognizing enhancement opportunities and the proper use and implementation of erosion and sediment control measures.

Staff met with operators of a large greenhouse operation in Niagara-on-the-Lake interested in expanding water re-use and recirculation technologies for their greenhouse facility. The owners are expected to apply for Conservation Authority funding in conjunction with Environmental Farm Plan funding to capture and reuse irrigation water. This type of project has the potential to demonstrate enormous water use reductions and would reduce nutrient-rich run-off from the site into Four Mile Creek.

New additions to this year's habitat program include creating 0.5 acres of vernal pool wetland habitat and 8 acres of tree planting in Forty Mile Creek watershed.

## **Twenty Mile Creek Restoration**

Staff have been finalizing planting projects and plans for this years spring tree planting.

Additional planting sites for 2007 include:

- 2.5 acres of tree planting have been scheduled for Twenty Mile Creek, east of Smithville. The initial planting will be followed by the establishment of a connecting 400 m long shelterbelt to a further 8 acres planted in 2008.
- 1.5 acres and 400 m of riparian planting west of Smithville

## **Twelve Mile Creek**

The second meeting of the Twelve Mile Creek Watershed Plan Implementation Committee took place on March 27<sup>th</sup>, with good attendance. Members represent the municipalities of St. Catharines and Thorold, the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Friends of Mel Swart Park, Niagara Restoration Council, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Peninsula Field Naturalists, and Conservation Authority staff. Staff provided an overview of planned projects in the watershed, and described how this work targets our responsibilities under the Watershed Plan. The committee discussed the overall workplan, with a view to developing better tracking of stakeholder management actions, and maximizing resources.

Restoration work in the Lower Twelve Mile Creek valley continues this year with 4 sites totaling 4.8 acres, in partnership with OPG and Land Care Niagara. Additionally, the City of St. Catharines plans to install a storm water detention pond and treatment wetland on a fifth site this summer. We are looking for ways to work with the city and OPG (the landowner), to meet OPG's biodiversity goals and NPCA's native plants policy.

Four Agricultural Best Management Practice projects are planned this year, including manure storages / composting, erosion stabilization, and various conservation farm practices. A new approach for the elimination of nitrates, known as Dispersion Sandwich, will be employed on two vineyard properties. The projects target overland flow, and tile drain flow, respectively, with the goal of protecting the water quality of receiving streams. Baseline water quality data has been collected for one site to allow us to quantify the effectiveness of the technique.

A new partnership with the City of St. Catharines' Green Committee and Ontario Power Generation, will allow us to plant native vegetation in the Twelve Mile Creek Valley near Highway 406. This high visibility site was chosen by the Green Committee from a shortlist provided by staff. The Green Committee will provide seed money for the project.

A restoration research project is planned for a small plot in Shorthills Provincial Park, in cooperation with Friends of Shorthills and the park's ranger, Mark Custars. The goal is to develop improved methods of re-vegetating the remaining agricultural fields, the leases for which expire in 2010. The hope is to work together from 2008 to take one or two fields out of cultivation each year. Buffering the streams from sediments will have significant benefits for water quality and brook trout reproduction. Ultimately it is hoped that all the streams will be shaded, to reduce thermal pollution in this important cold water system.

There are two potential stream restoration projects in the St. John's area to restore stream banks washed out by the December 1<sup>st</sup> flood (about 150 m in total).

Other projects include fragile land retirement and re-vegetation of 3.5 acres of gully lands, to buffer Provincially Significant Wetlands and streams flowing into Shorthills Provincial Park; and similar work on four small parcels in the headwaters of Richardson's Creek.

## **Niagara River RAP / Welland River Restoration**

Staff continues to work with project landowners to prepare for the spring 2007 planting season. Staff is working on planting plans and ordering of native trees and shrubs for reforestation, wetland, farm shelterbelt and riparian buffer projects.

Interest in non-point source pollution and conservation farm practice projects increased significantly in March. Staff had several site visits with interested landowners in the past couple of weeks. Most of these potential projects could be completed in conjunction with the Environmental Farm Plan funding.



## **One Mile Creek Restoration**

The next One Mile Creek Watershed Strategy Implementation Committee meeting will be held in April. Implementation Actions will be discussed as well as the prioritization of work plan actions. Three areas of action were agreed upon for immediate attention and they include Lansdowne Pond, the William Street Landfill and culvert replacements and upgrades.

A the next public meeting for the Lansdowne Pond Study will be held on Tuesday May 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at the NOTL Public Library. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the concept plans and detailed estimates of construction costs for the following restoration options:

1. Leave the pond in its current condition: allow the existing emergent wetland vegetation to continue to dominate the pond
2. Wetland: undertake minor dredging to create some small open water areas, establish a permanent channel through the Pond, and revegetate the wetland with native species;
3. Create a Pond: undertake a dredging project to remove accumulated sediment in the pond and re-establish a pond-like setting
  - a. Off-Line Pond: undertake a more significant dredging project to create an off-line pond, and create a channel around the pond. Modify the inlet to the pond such that flows pass through the Pond under some conditions;
  - b. Restore Pond: undertake a significant dredging project to create an on-line pond, restoring the pond to a condition similar to its historic state.

The options will be discussed with the landowners in order to seek support to finalize a preferred plan.

The Friends of One Mile Creek delivered a presentation at the April 10<sup>th</sup> NOTL council meeting regarding the status of the One Mile Creek Watershed Strategy, and requesting council to support continuing efforts towards the implementation of watershed strategies in Niagara.

## **Yellow Fish Road Program**

Staff presented the program to Niagara-on-the-Lake Council on Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup> in order to solicit the Town's support for implementing the program in the Municipality of Niagara. A staff report from the Town with recommendations is to follow. Staff will be presenting the program to Pelham Council on Monday April 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **ECO School Program**

In total 28 schools applied by the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline to participate in the ECO School program. All schools will be engaged in a project this year. The first phase of the program will be teaching the students about proper site preparation with an on-site demonstration in late May. Proper plant selection will be discussed as well as an overview of the planting day. The planting day will occur in June. Students will learn about proper planting techniques, after care and project maintenance and monitoring. Several native species of trees, shrubs grasses and wildflowers will be planted. All varieties can be found in our Native Plant Guide, and each school will receive a copy for their reference collection. In addition take home information will be provided for parents to review, and to help spread the word about the importance of increasing natural spaces and using native Niagara plants.

## **GIS Information Management**

Most GIS/IM efforts are still currently focusing on Natural Areas Inventory mapping with the development of the Community Series fabric for the South Niagara Falls and Haldimand County field season focus areas, and the Natural Area Primary Site Hierarchy which is the spatial framework for integrating the tabular and mapping project databases. Development of field mapping templates at 2K, 5K, and 10K scales are underway for the survey crews to use.

An Infiltration Index based on topographic, land cover, and soil factors has been calculated for SWP on route to refining vulnerable areas and the surface water side of the Tier 1 Water Budget.

Data migration to the corporate published database hosted by the Region of Niagara continues. The Region has informed staff that the NPCA development environment will be up and running shortly which will expedite the remainder of the project as Authority staff will be able to load data directly.

## **Water Quality Program:**

Monthly surface water quality monitoring has begun for the 2007 field season and will continue until the fall. Ten new monitoring stations have been added to the network as part of the Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan. Benthic invertebrate samples will also be collected at these new sites. A draft version of the NPCA Water Quality Program 2006 Annual Report was completed and sent to the NPCA Board for review. A final version of the report will be prepared shortly for print. The 2006 report indicates that water quality is impaired at most stations, and that upper Twelve Mile Creek continues to have the best water quality in the NPCA watershed. The 2006 Water Quality Assessment of Buckhorn Creek and the Welland River in the Vicinity of the Glanbrook Landfill has been completed and delivered to the City of Hamilton, Ministry of the Environment (MOE), and Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee. The 2006 report concludes that water quality in these watercourses is impaired, but there is no additional impairment resulting from landfill activities.

Groundwater monitoring continues at all 15 Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) wells. Spring groundwater sampling will be completed at 12 of 15 PGMN monitoring wells and analyzed for several parameters including nutrients, metals, and bacteria. The NPCA will be receiving a rain gauge from the MOE as part of the PGMN network to fill data gaps and monitor recharge.

## **Land Management Division**

### **Ball's Falls Conservation Area**

The March Break Eco-Adventures Camp was a success with 18 children attending throughout the week. Participants enjoyed a variety of outdoor and indoor heritage and nature themed activities camp.

Each day at least one volunteer was on-site to assist with the program. The additional supervision is critical to program implementation. This year site staff made an effort to contact the local media well in advance of the program. The Standard ran a full page article prior to the program and listed the event in their March Break activities guide. Niagara This Week wrote an

article about the camp. A photographer also visited during the camp to take a photo of two of the children. Photo ads ran in The Voice of Pelham and The Grimsby-Lincoln News.

Staff have developed a marketing initiative in an effort to promote the “Spring Awakening” program and to encourage increased school reservations. Teachers who have supported the education programs in the past have been offered a discount incentive in recognition of their loyalty if they book specific programs in 2007.

The heritage buildings have been thoroughly cleaned in anticipation of the season opening in April.

The Thanksgiving Festival Selection Committee met on March 22<sup>nd</sup> to review artisan applications for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Festival. The Curator attended the One of a Kind Show on March 28<sup>th</sup> to distribute 8000 festival flyers to participating vendors at this large event.

The application for Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) was submitted by the March 30 deadline.

Staff are reviewing the final text and graphic revisions for the exhibits for the new Centre.

### **Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation**

Work on the site slowed down during February due to weather conditions but picked back up again in March with arrival of the wood glu-lam components and the structural steel. Erection of the steel framework started in March and the main steel structure is well underway. Over the next month the shell of the building will become visible as the exterior walls and building panels are installed. Our agency has submitted required documents to the MOE for processing of the septic permit. A security contractor is being retained to review security installation requirements with the general contractor during the rough-in phase. Electrical servicing requirements are being reviewed in more detail to determine placement of duct banks, transformer, and clearances for buried services into the building mechanical room. Colour schedules, construction schedules and shop drawings are being monitored. Staff met with the landscape contractor at Nelson's quarry in Beamsville to select the landscape stone to be quarried for the project. Staff are monitoring the work in progress and taking photographs for our reference and file.

### **Ball's Falls Site Work**

Staff completed a winter tree cutting program to remove trees from some of the heritage sites tucked away in the forested areas on the property. In consultation with our archaeologists it was determined that tree removal was necessary in specific areas to preserve and protect the heritage resources from further damage and deterioration. Staff will be monitoring these areas in the spring and finishing up cutting and pruning operations for the project at that time. The tree cutting permit we have for this work is in effect until the end of this year.

Staff are also updating the area site plan with specific attention to producing new maps that show the trails in relation to the new visitor centre and parking area. Mapping is also being co-ordinated with the marketing and programming initiatives underway for the new visitor centre. For the month of April a Niagara College Co-op student is working with staff in the land department with projects and program development related to recommendations included in the Ball's Falls Marketing plan and the Ball's Falls Master Plan

## **Ecological Services**

### **Beamer Memorial Conservation Area**

Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch group held their annual Public Hawkwatch Open House on April 6, 2007. The event displayed local naturalist clubs and the NPCA, demonstration and talk on the hawk migration including a live demonstration of local raptors such as the red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, Golden Eagle and Great Horned Owl. Cold and snowy weather reduced hawkwatch sighting and most likely factor attributing to attendance lower than previous years.

The open house provided an opportunity for the presentation of two bronze plaques from the Carolinian Canada Foundation. These plaques were presented to the Conservation Authority in recognition of its' contribution and stewardship in protecting Carolinian Canada Signature Sites at the Grimsby Winona Escarpment and Beamer Valley, as well as the Willoughby Clay Plain. These sites are 2 of 38 sites identified in the mid 1980's as significant areas in need of protection. They are protected in the Beamer Memorial, Woolverton and Willoughby Marsh Conservation Areas. Dignitaries attending the event included speakers of Tim Hudak MMP, Jim Bradley MP, Mayor Bob Bentley (Grimsby), Dr. Gordon Nelson (Carolinian Canada, Chair) and Doug Ransom (NPCA, Chair), as well as Brian Baty (NPCA, Vice-Chair)

### **St. Johns Conservation Area**

The trout season opening is set for April 28, 2007. Staff will be on site monitoring trout catches for resource information and to help enforce park policies. Staff will take the opportunity to increase the public's awareness of the Authority's mandate and the significance of St. Johns by setting up a display with NPCA information. Staff will be on hand to answer inquiries.

Fish habitat enhancement projects were completed by CA staff with the construction and establishment of 2 in pond- rock timber cribs. A fact sheet and new signs are also in design and will be installed later this year.

## **Ecological Monitoring**

Southern Ontario Conservation Authority Ecologists have developed a Terrestrial- Wetland Monitoring Working Group to provide a network for ideas and to work towards standardizing programs across the Authorities. This group will meet once a year with list serve networking year round. This will assist in comparisons and reporting between the various CAs.

### **Native Plant Supplier List**

Staff are updating the 2007 list of native plant suppliers for this area.

### **NPCA Hunting Program**

Staff have received and issued an additional 18 hunting permits/permission for 2007. To date 110 hunting permits have been issued. Of these, 21 permits are issued to individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

## **General Conservation Areas**

### **Gord Harry Conservation Trail**

New trail signs are ready for the trail dedication ceremony April 19th and staff are preparing the Station Road staging area for the ceremony. During the winter season the trail has received

regular public use for hiking, dog walking, and horseback riding and we anticipate increased summer use of the trail as more people discover this recreational amenity in Wainfleet. As staff install the new trail signs this season, routine trail maintenance will be conducted at the gates, parking areas, and to clear brush from the sides of the trail as required for public safety.

### **Binbrook Conservation Area**

To assist in planning for large scale events at the park, the parking capacity of the existing parking lots and overflow areas was reviewed in detail by staff. Approximately 945 cars can be accommodated in the parking lot and overflow areas of the main park. Parking will be under review this season to plan for future needs as the public becomes more aware of the splash pad and other park amenities.

Staff in the land department also assisted with the site planning in preparation for the future dam overflow project. Construction routes and fill disposal areas have been mapped, with an eye to creating a recreational toboggan hill from the fill generated by this project.

Staff are also working with the Glanbrook Conservation Committee to prepare for their spring work day at the park. The Tyneside Tower site will be enhanced with new plants and trail screenings, and the existing trail will receive maintenance and some shrub planting by the volunteers.

### **EC Brown - New Constructed Wetland Project**

Staff in the land department are continuing to assist the restoration team with the design, mapping, and planning of the restoration works for this year. The extent of spring flooding and ice flow onto the property from the Welland River was observed and photographed by staff. This data was added to the construction plans and provided to restoration staff with quantity estimates for seed and planting areas. Staff also assisted with quantity estimates and quotations for the lumber needed to construct the boardwalks and viewing platforms.

### **Jordan Ellis Property, Jordan**

The Ontario Heritage Foundation is receiving monthly updates of our work on the restoration program for this site. This project was idle in the winter months except for routine cutting of hazard trees along the trail damaged by ice. Site restoration will begin in earnest next month, and preparations are underway for a volunteer weed removal day in early May.

### **Property Assessments**

Minutes of Settlement for our 2003 assessment were signed with MPAC for Virgil Dam and EC Brown before they went to an Assessment Board hearing. Willoughby Marsh is due for an Assessment Board hearing in May, it is anticipated this will be resolved with MPAC before the hearing date. The United Empire Loyalist Park (Stevensville) lands have now been transferred to the Town of Fort Erie and MPAC is aware of this change so the lands can be removed from our assessment roll.

Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) paperwork is being reviewed by staff, applications for this program are due end of July. There is an option to renew our properties for a ten year period which staff are looking into further.

### **Long Beach Conservation Area**

Electrical contractors have been working on the electrical upgrades at the Long Beach Conservation Area. The relatively poor weather conditions have not slowed the progress of

construction. The project is more than 50% complete and expected to be completed well ahead of the opening weekend in May.

### **Campground Operations**

Campsite registration opened April 11, 2007. Although the weather is far from ideal camping weather, business was brisk, with several customers finalizing their arrangements for seasonal camping.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

### **Earth Day Activities**

Staff will be collaborating with the City of Welland at Merritt Island to host a number of Earth Day activities on Saturday, April 21. We will provide support in various ways including manpower, presentations and materials. Other staff will be assisting with community events throughout the watershed.

### **St. John's Trout Season**

The annual Trout Season Opening Day at St. John's Conservation Area will be held on Saturday, April 28 beginning at 12:00 noon. This is a great opportunity for families to enjoy the celebrations. A valid fishing license is required and conservation limits will apply.

### **Annual Report**

The 2006 Annual report has been completed and is being circulated.

### **Watershed Report Card**

The 2006 Report Card is in the final design stage and slated for circulation to all households in the watershed commencing end of April.

### **Science and Engineering Fair**

The Authority has sponsored this event for over 13 years. Staff attended the awards presentation on April 4. This year's recipients of the NPCA awards are: Sydnie Focca from Our Lady of Fatima School for her project Every Drop Counts; and Alex Duwe of St. Paul High School for his project Solar Energy vs. Wind Power.

### **Source Protection Planning**

Staff attended a meeting to discuss update regarding Source Water Protection Planning. It is anticipated that the draft regulations will be posted on the EBR on April 10. The public will have 21 days from the date of posting to provide comments. As of this time, it is expected that legislation will be proclaimed by June 30.

### **Speaking Engagements**

The Director of Communications and the Director of Water Management made a presentation to the Rotary Club of Fonthill on April 4 to apprise the club of some of our initiatives.

### **Good Friday Event - Beamer Memorial Conservation Area**

Approximately 60 people were in attendance the Good Friday Hawkwatch event for the unveiling of the Carolinian Canada Plaques.

### **Gord Harry Conservation Trail Dedication**

Invitations were sent to the event which will take place on Thursday, April 19 beginning at 11:00 a.m. with a reception to follow at the Wainfleet Firefighters Memorial Hall.

### **Water Efficiency Study**

Staff attended a presentation by the Region of York to learn about some of the conservation initiatives implemented in that Municipality. Staff continues to work with the Region of Niagara to discuss potential initiatives that can be undertaken within the Niagara watershed as part of the Niagara Water Quality Protection Strategy direct actions.

### **NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**

#### **Golf Tournament**

Organization and planning for the *2007 Bob Welch Memorial Charity Golf Classic* taking place on Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Whirlpool Golf Course is continuing. Currently there are 42 golfers reserved, sponsorship amounting to \$4,250 has been secured and a few silent auction items have been committed. Board members are encouraged to notify staff as soon as possible if they are planning to attend the event and if they have any leads for potential sponsors or donors of silent auction items.

#### **Foundation Newsletter**

The fifth edition of 'Reflections on Conservation in Niagara' is currently being printed and will be ready for distribution in the near future.

#### **Conservation Education Bursaries**

Information and applications have been forwarded to schools and former recipients and an ad will appear in area newspapers this weekend encouraging applications for this year's bursaries that encourage secondary and post-secondary students from the Fort Erie area to pursue conservation studies. Deadline for applications is May 18, 2007.

#### **Recommendation:**

**Report No. 34-07 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer