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## NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

### FULL AUTHORITY

WELLAND

AGENDA

MAY 16, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

#### DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

#### BUSINESS:

(1) **MINUTES - FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – APRIL 18, 2007**

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority meeting held April 18, 2007.

(2) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

(3) **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

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

(5) **ACCOUNTS - APRIL, 2007 – REPORT NO. 35-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 35-07 outlining the list of accounts for April, 2007.

(6) **CURRENT & CAPITAL BUDGETS – STATUS TO MARCH 31 – REPORT NO. 36-07**

Attached is Staff Report No.36-07 together with the Current and Capital budgets.

(7) **BANK BORROWING RESOLUTION - REPORT NO. 37-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 37-07 regarding this matter.

(8) **MARYDALE PARK – BINBROOK CONSERVATION AREA - REPORT NO. 38-07**

Attached is Report No. 38-07 together with a previous report on this matter.

(9) **BIGGAR LAGOON – REGION OF NIAGARA - REPORT NO. 39-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 39-07 regarding this matter.

(10) **2007 SENIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS – REPORT NO. 40-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 40-07 regarding these awards.

(11) **POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF ONTARIO REG. 155/06 AND LAND USE PLANNING POLICY DOCUMENT - REPORT NO. 41-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 41-07 regarding this matter, together with the draft policies.

(12) **CLEAN WATER ACT – DRAFT REGULATIONS & SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE – REPORT NO. 42-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 42-07 regarding this matter.

(13) **FORT ERIE CREEKS FLOODPLAIN MAPPING – REPORT NO. 43-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 43-07 together with an assessment provided by Phillips Engineering.

(14) **NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE CREEKS WATERSHED PLAN – REPORT NO. 44-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 44-07 together with an assessment provided by Aquafor Beech Limited.

(15) **PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 45-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 45-07 outlining the status of Authority projects.

(16) **OTHER BUSINESS**

(17) **IN-CAMERA**

**VIOLATION AND COMPLAINT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. CR-05-07**

Attached is confidential Report No. CR-05-07 regarding this matter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**WELLAND**

**APRIL 18, 2007**

**7:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

D. Ransom, Chairman  
B. Bentley  
T. Dalimonte  
C. D'Angelo  
D. DiFruscio  
A. Fevez  
B. Greenwood  
D. Goulbourne  
D. Martin

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

B. Baty (Vice-Chairman) (with regrets)  
B. Butters (with regrets)  
G. Burroughs (with regrets)  
B. Heit (with regrets)  
B. Henderson (with regrets)  
N. Johnson (with regrets)

**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  
C. Kaufmann, Senior Accounts Clerk

**GUESTS:**

Erin Campbell, MacGillivray Partners

**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.

**MINUTES**

(a) **FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – MARCH 21, 2007**

The following resolution was presented.

**FA-45-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Greenwood

**SECONDED BY:** A. Fevez

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

**"CARRIED"**

**(b) BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – APRIL 4, 2007**

The following resolution was presented.

**FA-46-07**

**MOVED BY:** A. Fevez

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**THAT:** the Minutes of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting held April 4, 2007, be received and approved as printed.

**"CARRIED"**

**(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Damian Goulbourne requested a copy of the power point presentation provided at the Member Information Session held in January.

**(3) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman noted that the members were being provided with a copy of the Conservation Foundation's newsletter outlining the current activities of the Foundation. He then noted that all Board members have received a letter from the Foundation requesting donations for the Ball's Falls Visitor Centre and encouraged all who could donate, to please do so.

The Chairman advised that on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon, St. Johns Conservation Area would officially open for trout season. He indicated that as in previous years, Mickey DiFruscio would be in attendance to cast the first line. He noted that opening day is a well attended event, weather permitting.

The Chairman noted that on Good Friday, a heritage plaque dedication was held at the Beamer Memorial Conservation Area and was attended by approximately 50 persons including Mayor Bob Bentley who welcomed everyone to the area.

The Chairman reminded the members that the dedication of the Gord Harry Conservation Trail was being held on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and was being held at the Fireman's Hall in Wainfleet.

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

The General Manager advised that he had attended a luncheon meeting of the Twenty Valley Tourism Association as a Founding Partner. He noted that the Association has been quite successful with approximately 85 current members. He also advised that proceeds from a silent auction held by the Association as part of their Ice Wine Festival raised \$1,000 that has been donated to the Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation.

The General Manager also noted that at the Foundation's Annual meeting held on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, the Board re-elected both Terry Carruthers as Chair and Larry Lovett as Vice-Chair. He indicated that the Foundation Chair would be coming to a future meeting of the Authority to provide an update to the members on Foundation activities.

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

The General Manager outlined the staff report. He then asked Erin Campbell, who was in attendance on behalf of MacGillivray Partners to come forward and present the 2006 Financial Statements.

Erin provided an outline of the Statements and the following resolution was presented.

**FA-47-07**

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

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

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

**"CARRIED"**

**(6) APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 2007 – REOPRT NO. 35-07**

The General Manager outlined the report providing background on our current auditors. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-48-07**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**SECONDED BY:** D. Martin

**THAT:** Report No. 35-07 regarding the Appointment of Auditors for 2007 be received and that MacGillivray Partners LLP be appointed as the Conservation Authority auditors for 2007.

**"CARRIED"**

At this point, the General Manager introduced Cathy Kaufmann who is the Senior Accounts Clerk for the Authority.

The Chairman then asked Cathy to come forward and pick the winning name for the Bluebird Nesting Box donated by him. Bob Bentley was the lucky winner.

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

The following resolution was presented.

**FA-49-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Greenwood

**SECONDED BY:** M. DiFruscio

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

**"CARRIED"**

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

The General Manager provided an overview of the report. The following resolution was then presented.

**FA-50-07**

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

**SECONDED BY:** M. DiFruscio

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

**"CARRIED"**

(9) **2006 ANNUAL REPORT – REPORT NO. 29-07**

The General Manager briefly outlined the staff report noting this year instead of the Chairman's remarks, a pictorial outline had been done in memory of Gord Harry as Chairman for 2006. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-51-07**

**MOVED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**SECONDED BY:** A. Fevez

**THAT:** the 2006 Annual Report be received.

**"CARRIED"**

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

The Director, Water Management outlined the report noting that since the preparation of the report, the regulations have been posted on EBR and are hoping to be proclaimed by mid-June. A discussion took place on this matter, particularly, with respect to the striking of the ad-hoc committee. The following amended resolution was presented.

**FA-52-07**

**MOVED BY:** D. Martin

**SECONDED BY:** B. Bentley

**THAT:** Report No. 30-07 regarding the Clean Water Act & Source Protection be received for information, and

That the ad-hoc committee be established as recommended.

**"CARRIED"**

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

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

**FA-53-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Bentley

**SECONDED BY:** B. Greenwood

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

**"CARRIED"**

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

The Director, Water Management briefly outlined the staff report. The following resolution was then presented.

**FA-54-07**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**SECONDED BY:** B. Greenwood

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

**"CARRIED"**

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

The Director, Land Management outlined the staff report. After responding to questions, the following resolution was presented.

**FA-55-07**

**MOVED BY:** A. Fevez

**SECONDED BY:** D. Martin

**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.

**“CARRIED”**

**PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 34-07**

Andy Fevez raised the question of admission fees for the St. Johns Conservation Area, noting that other conservation areas where fishing is permitted are gated areas that require an entry fee. It was suggested that perhaps the signage could include a notation that the fishing stocking is paid for by the Conservation Authority and donations would assist in paying for the fish stocking. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-56-07**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**SECONDED BY:** A. Fevez

**THAT:** improved signage be placed at St. Johns Conservation Area to procure more donations by visitors.

**“CARRIED”**

After responding to further questions on the status report, the following resolution was presented.

**FA-57-07**

**MOVED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**SECONDED BY:** C. D’Angelo

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

**“CARRIED”**



(15) **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman indicated that if any members were part of a group or organization who may be interested in a presentation with respect to the new Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation, they could speak to Terry or Mary.

(16) **IN-CAMERA - VIOLATION AND COMPLAINT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. CR-04-07**

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

**FA-58-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Bentley  
**SECONDED BY:** M. DiFruscio  
**THAT:** this meeting do now move in-camera.

Received at 8:20 p.m. "CARRIED"

**FA-59-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Bentley  
**SECONDED BY:** D. Goulbourne  
**THAT:** this meeting do now move back into open session.

Received at 8:31 p.m. "CARRIED"

(17) **PRESENTATION – LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Darcy Baker, Director Land Management provided a power point presentation on the Land Management program of the Authority.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**FA-60-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Greenwood  
**SECONDED BY:** A. Fevez  
**THAT:** this meeting do now adjourn.

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



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

**DATE: May 9, 2007**

**SUBJECT: Current & Capital Budgets - Status to March 31 – Report No. 36-07**

Attached for your review and information are the Current and Capital Budgets Status for the period ending March 31, 2007.

With regards to the Current Budget, there are no significant variances in expenditures to be reported at this time. It is noted, however, that invoices have been received but not yet processed for legal costs and external technical support for the OMB hearing related to the proposed Reeb Quarry adjacent to our Wainfleet Wetlands Conservation Area. Based on the costs incurred to date (approximately \$10,000) and recognizing that the hearing has not yet started, staff project this will exceed the approved budget allocation, however, we are unable to accurately project the extent of the overrun.

With regards to the Capital Budget, no significant variances in expenditures are projected at this time.

With regards to the Current & Capital Budget revenues, there are no significant variances to be reported at this time. It is noted that the first installment of the municipal levies have been received but not yet assigned to the appropriate program or project. It is also noted that we have not yet received confirmation of the MNR grants for 2007 but are expecting funding similar to that of 2006.

Staff will continue to monitor revenues and expenditures to ensure a balanced budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 36-07 regarding the Current & Capital Budgets - Status to March 31, be received for information.

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



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

**DATE: May 9, 2007**

**SUBJECT: Bank Borrowing Resolution – Report No. 37-07**

Each year our corporate bank, The Bank of Montreal, requires a resolution from the Conservation Authority allowing for the borrowing of funds as may be required for its operations and projects. Traditionally the Board adopts a borrowing resolution for the upcoming fiscal year at their December meeting. Over the past several years the Conservation Authority has not had to borrow funds and a resolution authorizing borrowing in 2007 was inadvertently overlooked. While it is not anticipated that we will be required to borrow funds in the current year, I believe it prudent to have the approvals in place in the event that the need arises for approved operations and projects.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

WHEREAS Section 3(5) of The Conservation Authorities Act authorizes Conservation Authorities to borrow such monies as may be required until the payment of any grants and levies; and

WHEREAS the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority deems it appropriate to borrow such sums, with the total borrowed amount not to exceed \$800,000 at any one time in the year of 2007 to meet approved administration, maintenance and capital expenditures;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority be authorized to borrow from time to time from the Bank of Montreal by way of overdraft as per a Bank of Montreal overdraft agreement executed and signed by the Chairman and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, with the total amount not exceeding \$800,000 at any one time in 2007 to meet approved administration, maintenance and capital expenditures.

Respectfully Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_

Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer



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

**DATE: May 7, 2007**

**SUBJECT: Marydale Park - Binbrook Conservation Area – Report No. 38-07**

In 2004, the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) notified the NPCA of a plan to relocate an existing day-camp (Camp Marydale) from Puslinch, Ontario to a new facility on lands adjacent to the Binbrook Conservation Area. The camp facility will be fully accessible to children of all abilities and a wide range of economic backgrounds. The CYO requested access to the reservoir so that water-based recreation could be incorporated into the camp programming. In exchange for access the CYO was prepared to donate a 10-metre wide corridor along the abutting property line for the creation of a landscaped buffer. This property would also allow the Tyneside Trail to be relocated away from eroding sections of the shoreline.

**The attached report (Report No.73-06) was considered and approved by the Board at their September 2006 meeting. It authorizes staff to complete the acquisition of a 10 metre corridor of land from the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton. It also authorized staff to enter into an easement agreement for access to the Binbrook Reservoir and development of a dock facility.**

Over the past seven months, Authority staff have worked with the CYO to identify the limits of the land to be transferred, identified an access route from the camp to the reservoir and discussed the terms of an access agreement. Lawyers acting for the NPCA will be drafting a use agreement based on these discussions, with terms and conditions that will protect the area for continued use by the public.

In March 2007, The CYO launched their fundraising campaign for this project. The name has been changed to Marydale Park, however the project components and programming have not changed from the original plan. The campaign has a strong focus on the environment, the natural setting of the facility and water based programming.

Authority staff will continue working with the CYO to finalize the transfer of land and the access agreement. The proposed agreement will be submitted to the Authority Board of Directors for consideration and approval.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 38-07 regarding the Marydale Park- Binbrook Conservation Area be received for information purposes.

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

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



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

**DATE: May 7, 2007**

**SUBJECT: Biggar Lagoon – Region of Niagara – Report No. 39-07**

The Biggar Lagoon site is a 30 acre complex, located along the shoreline of Lake Ontario in the Town of Grimsby. This former sewage lagoon facility is partially located on lands leased to the Region of Niagara by the Department of National Defense (DND).

Even before the lagoons were abandoned, they played an important role in the life-cycle for a number of rare shorebirds. The habitat became even more significant after they were abandoned. In 2002, the Hamilton Naturalists' Club approached the NPCA with a request to help rehabilitate the lagoons into a constructed wetland. The Authority Board endorsed this proposal in November 2003 and directed staff to work towards a partnership with the Region, the Naturalists' Club and the DND for the development of a wetland refuge on the site.

Over the past three years the DND withdrew from discussions and requested the total rehabilitation of the lagoon cell located on their lands (approximately 10 acres). This summer the lagoon on the DND property will be excavated and the sludge removed to a treatment facility. DND has agreed to allow the site to remain as a surface depression, which may naturalize as a wetland over time.

The Region is working on a remediation plan for the lagoon on the remaining 20 acres of Regional property. An environmental assessment should be completed by the end of June. This report will characterize the site and provide detailed information on the work necessary to remediate any contaminants remaining from the old sewage works. The Hamilton Naturalists' Club remains a willing partner in the project. Authority staff believe there is a tremendous potential for habitat improvement and demonstration of state-of-the-art bioremediation at this site. Accordingly, it is recommended that the NPCA reaffirm its interest in the acquisition of the Regional lands at the Biggar Lagoon site for wetland development and the development of a partnership with the Region of Niagara and the Hamilton Naturalists' Club.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 39-07 regarding the Biggar Lagoon – Region of Niagara be received; and

That the Board reaffirm its interest in the acquisition of the Biggar Lagoon and the development of this site as a wetland habitat in partnership with the Region of Niagara and the Hamilton Naturalists' Club.

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

Respectfully Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_

Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer

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

**DATE: May 5, 2007**

**SUBJECT: 2007 Senior Achievement Awards – Report No. 40- 07**

The Ontario Senior Achievement Awards (OSAA), coordinated by the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat was initiated in 1995. The purpose of the award is to recognize and honour outstanding seniors who, after age 65, have made significant contributions to their communities. Only 20 individuals are selected annually to receive this prestigious award, based on outstanding voluntary or professional achievement. Some of the nomination categories include voluntarism, education and preservation of history. Marion Holman's many contributions to the NPCA have encompassed all of these areas and others, not to mention her professional achievements as a senior.

In 2005, Marion received the Conservation Achievement Award of Merit in the Individual category, in recognition of her more than 25 years of dedication to heritage programming. As the volunteer with the most continuous years of service, Marion has been instrumental in helping to develop interpretive programming, often contributing from her own collection to enhance demonstrations and displays. A founding member of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee, Marion's input has been invaluable with regard to the long term planning and preservation of Ball's Falls heritage resources. As a member of the Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival Selection Committee, Marion has helped set the show's high standards in order to attract quality artisans, integral to the Festival's consistent selection as one of the Top 50 Festivals in Ontario.

A well-known quilter in her own right recognized nationally and beyond for her expertise, Marion has travelled to many heritage sites and shared her knowledge with countless community organizations. As a senior, she partnered to research and present "The Feed Sack Quilt Display" to preserve this cultural heritage. Marion has quilted or crafted "no sew" dolls in the cabin at almost all of the 32 annual Thanksgiving Festivals. In 2006, now in her 80's, Marion worked diligently to craft a full-size hand-made quilt, which she donated to raise funds for the Centre for Conservation construction project. Marion has shared her passion for and instilled her appreciation for heritage with visitors young and old, year after year. Her commitment and enthusiasm sets a fine example and serves as an inspiration to both staff and volunteers. Staff recommend that the NPCA nominate Marion Holman for a 2007 Senior Achievement Award in recognition of her significant achievements and outstanding voluntary contributions to the NPCA after the age of 65. She is most deserving of this recognition.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 40-07 regarding the 2007 Senior Achievement Awards be received and the recommendation contained therein approved.**

**Prepared by: Christine Hayward, Curator**

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: Policies, Procedures and Guidelines for Administration of Ontario Reg. 155/06 and Land Use Planning Policy Document - Report No. 41-07**

Included in your agenda package is a copy of the draft Policies, Procedures and Guidelines for the Administration of Ontario Regulation 155/06 and the Land Use Policy document.

### **Background**

The need to update NPCA's policies was driven by a number of factors including:

- The need to update the NPCA's outdated Municipal Plan Review Guidelines dated July 1993 (revised January 2005); and
- The implementation of a new Generic Regulation 155/06 created a need to update the NPCA's Policy and Procedural Manual dated June 1981 (revised August 1996).

The purpose of the Policy Manual, taking guidance from Provincial Policy, is to provide local NPCA watershed policies which will guide development and site alteration while protecting, preserving and enhancing the natural environment. The policies are based on the interrelationship between environmental, physical and social factors that impact land use planning and development in the watershed.

This policy document will be implemented by NPCA staff through its Watershed Planning Services program and it is envisioned that this document will be a valuable tool for the NPCA Board of Directors and Staff as well as for our watershed municipalities, the land development industry and the public. This document is an update of the draft document that was presented to the Board in September of 2006.

### **Areas of Change**

- Updated background information about the Planning Act, Conservation Authorities Act; Federal Fisheries Act, The Greenbelt Plan, Places to Grow Act and the Building Code Act;
- Updated and consolidated land use policies for Natural Hazards (reflecting the Provincial Policy Statement 2005);
- New section on watershed planning; and
- New policies in response to the implementation of the new Generic Regulation 155/06 regarding development and site alteration in and adjacent to wetlands, the Great Lakes Shoreline, valleylands and municipal drains.
  - **Wetlands** – the regulation of development and site alteration in and adjacent to wetlands is a new responsibility for the NPCA under Regulation 155/06. Policies

regarding wetlands can be found in Section 3.32 of the document. These policies will be used for the implementation of the Regulation and commenting on Planning Act applications.

In summary, any new development or site alteration will not be permitted within 30 metres of any wetland unless it can be demonstrated that the development activities will not have an adverse impact on the hydrological or ecological function of the wetland. Any replacement structures or additions or modifications to existing structures within 30 metres of a wetland may be permitted with conditions. Provisions have been included to permit public infrastructure within a wetland. Provisions have also been included to permit the development of new private access roads and the placement of minor volumes of fill or soil for landscape purposes.

- **Great Lakes Shoreline** – while Authority staff will continue to comment on Planning Act applications, Regulation 155/06 provides the Authority with the ability to review development and site alteration adjacent to the Great Lakes Shoreline (including the construction of shoreline protection works). See Section 3.35 on the document.
- **Valleylands** - the regulation of development and site alteration in and adjacent to the Valleylands is a new responsibility for the NPCA under Regulation 155/06. Up until the new regulation came in to effect in May 2006, the NPCA has commented on planning policies and applications in accordance with our delegated authority from MNR to comment on Natural Hazard matters under the Provincial Policy Statement. Regulation 155/06 provides the Authority to ability review development and site alteration whether there is a Planning Act or Building Permit application or not.

Many of the NPCA's existing planning policies for valleylands have been incorporated into the Regulation policies. A recommended new policy requires that rear lot lines be 7.5 metres from the stable top of bank. The current policies only require a 7.5 metre structural setback from a stable top of bank. Staff have found that in many new developments adjacent to valleylands, the shallow lots leave little room for backyard amenity features (e.g. decks, pools, hot tubs, garden sheds, gazebos etc). As a result, many homeowners build the backyard amenity features without getting the proper approvals for development that should not have taken place within the 7.5 metre structural setback. Municipal staff are struggling with enforcing their zoning bylaws that prohibited the development in the first place. It also creates an increased enforcement workload for the NPCA staff. See Section 3.34 and Section 4.3 of the document.

- **Municipal Drains** -

All proposals to maintain or repair an existing drain work will require a permit under Regulation 155/06 if the proposed works:

- i) Intend to channelize, modify or otherwise serve to alter the ecological function of an existing watercourse,
- ii) negatively impact a regulatory floodplain,
- iii) may drain, alter or interfere with a wetland,
- iv) are entirely or partially located on the shoreline of Lake Ontario or Lake Erie;  
or
- v) are contained within a valley.



Any proposal to maintain or repair an existing municipal drain that can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Authority, that the proposed works will not adversely affect any of the above listed features may proceed under a letter of permission from the Authority (no fee required). All proposed new Municipal Drain works, including improvements to existing drains, will require a permit under Regulation 155/06 if the proposed works meet one or more of items i) through v) listed above.

In the past, many people have argued that the Drainage Act takes precedence over all other legislation. The Ministry of Natural Resources has advised Conservation Authorities that the new regulation under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act does apply to Municipal Drains and that there are no specific exemptions in Section 28 for Municipal Drains. See Section 3.31.

### **Next Steps**

Staff recommend that the new policies be circulated to municipal staff (planning, building and public works departments), client groups (e.g. developers, lawyers, consultants, agricultural groups, naturalist clubs etc.) and the public who provided their addresses at the Generic Regulations Public meetings. Comments will be requested back within 30 days. A notice will also be placed in the regional watershed newspapers advising that the policy document is available on our website or that hard copies can be obtained from the NPCA's offices upon request. Staff will be available to meet with groups or individuals to discuss the document.

Once all comments are received, a final document will be presented to the NPCA Board for final adoption with implementation anticipated to take effect on September 1, 2007

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 41-07 regarding the Policies, Procedures and Guidelines for Administration of Ontario Reg. 155/06 and Land Use Planning Policy Document be received; and**

**That the Policy Document be adopted in principal; and further**

**That the Policy Document be circulated as noted in the staff report for a 30 day consultation period.**

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

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: Niagara-on-the-Lake Creeks Watershed Plan - Report No. 44-07**

As reported last month, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Plan is nearly completed. The consultants, Aquafor Beech have completed their background research. They have completed their analysis of the long list of watershed management options. The long list of options was 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. The draft executive summary is attached for your information.

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake staff were provided with an electronic copy of the new floodplain mapping on April 26, 2007 for their review.

#### **Next Steps**

1. Town staff have set 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 to review the floodplain mapping. The meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Town of NOTL.
2. Two public meetings will be scheduled in June. One will deal with the Floodplain mapping and the second will deal with the draft recommendations and implementation plan for the watershed plan.
3. The consultants, Aquafor Beech Limited, will present the new floodplain mapping to Town Council.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 44-07 regarding the Niagara-on-the-Lake Creeks Watershed Plan be received for information.**

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

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: PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 45-07**

### **WATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

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

The reservoir water levels for the last 30 days have generally fluctuated between 650.4 feet and 651.5 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 has completed the Regulatory 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.

- 5) Lyon's Creek and Tee Creek – City of Welland and 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 Lyon's Creek and Tee Creek in the Cities of Welland and 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 16 permit applications for the 2007 calendar year.

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

A public workshop was successfully carried out on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Ball's Falls Field Centre from 7:00pm-9:00pm. The purpose of the workshop was 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. Twenty-eight members of the public and municipal staff attended the workshop with representation from the Town of Lincoln, Township of West Lincoln and the Regional Municipality of Niagara present. Numerous new issues were discussed and a brainstorming session for a watershed vision produced numerous ideas.

### **South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan**

A public workshop was carried out on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Chippawa Lion's Club from 7:00pm-9:00pm. The purpose of the workshop was 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. Twelve members of the public and municipal staff attended the workshop with representation from the Town of Fort Erie, City of Port Colborne, City of Niagara Falls and the Regional Municipality of Niagara. Numerous issues were discussed and a brainstorming session for a watershed vision produced several ideas.

### **Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan**

A comprehensive work plan is underway for the Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan. The work plan includes outsourcing floodplain mapping and a Lake Erie Shoreline Study. Early field work for the erosion and sedimentation study has been conducted to gain a better understanding of the municipal drains in the watershed. Water quality sampling has also commenced.

### **Central Welland River Watershed Plan**

A comprehensive work plan is underway for the Central Welland River Watershed Plan. The work plan includes outsourcing floodplain mapping for several water courses in this watershed. Water quality sampling stations already exist for this watershed and water quality sampling for this watershed will continue as part of the NPCA's Water Quality Monitoring program.

## **Natural Heritage Areas Inventory Update**

Staff are pleased to report that the Niagara Community Foundation has granted the NAI \$5,000 to assist in the inventory of all the natural areas in Niagara. The NAI has recently also applied to the McLean Foundation as well as the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund and is anticipating monies from those foundations throughout the summer months.

The 2007 field season has begun and staff will be busy visiting properties in the Port Colborne, Wainfleet, South Niagara Falls and Haldimand areas, to inventory the Natural Areas. Staff will also continue to enter the flora and fauna data from Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments at the NPCA from the Region of Niagara planning files.

The landowner letters for the targeted area in South Niagara Falls were distributed in March. To date we have received a 24% response from the landowners in the South Niagara Falls area. Landowner letters will be distributed to the Haldimand area of our watershed in mid-May once the County provides the NAI with their updated property addresses. Field visits to this area will begin in late June.

The draft watershed boundaries from MNR for Haldimand County have arrived. Staff has begun to delineate the properties which have wetland and woodland areas on them. GIS staff will soon begin the community series mapping in this area. NAI Staff continue to work closely with the GIS staff to create maps of properties in which we have permission to access.

Staff are planning the spring "Bio Blitz" taking place at Heartland Forest on May 26th from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. An interpretive walk is planned with NAI staff as well as highly skilled consultants. Participation in this even is open to the public. Staff also participated in the NPCA's South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan workshop in Chippawa on April 26th and attended the MNR's Data Sensitivity Training in Peterborough on April 16th.

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

The proposed regulations were posted on April 12, 2007. It is anticipated that the Clean Water Act and regulations will be proclaimed by the province in June or July 2007.

Source Protection staff have been working on the Tier 1 water budget work plan to present to the peer review team May 10. SP staff have also been assisting Regional Municipality of Niagara on the Intake Protection Zone (IPZ) studies. The first phase of the IPZ studies should be completed by the consultant in June 2007.

## **GIS**

ELC Community Series fabric development for the South Niagara Falls focus area has been completed, Haldimand County is next for digitization. 10K and 2K Field Map templates have been developed for the survey crews to assist with field navigation, landowner response, and delineation of vegetation type level communities. The Primary Site Hierarchy linking the tabular and spatial data remains under construction.

Several technical tasks in preparation of the SWP Tier 1 Water Budget Workplan have been completed. Groundwatersheds were delineated off of the current water table and potentiometric surfaces.

GIS staff met with Regional staff met again for the implementation GIS Shared Services

agreement. Regional Staff has delivered a centralized database which data management and publication procedures are currently being developed for to make things run smoothly between both organizations. GIS staff delivered a mock-up of the NPCA customized Niagara Atlas internal intranet mapping site for Regional staff to use as a template to start development on that portion of the project.

GIS staff attended a 'Conservation Authority Collaboration and Information Systems Workshop' hosted by Conservation Halton that primarily focused on topics dealing with the information management needs of Conservation Authority's which included the integration of tabular and spatial data management and enterprise level or corporately scoped out information system solutions etc. The workshop revealed many CA's are struggling with the same issues in this and several were addressed in the presentations.

### **Niagara River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Coordination**

#### **Contaminated sediments:**

A new project coordinator has been hired to assist with the next steps in the Lyon's Creek East & West projects, i.e. Public Open Houses (one for each site), the selection of the preferred remedial options, and the respective engineering design stages.

The Contaminated Sediments Technical Committee has met 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. Also, 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. A meeting with all the stakeholders is scheduled at the end of May.

In the meantime, a meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee has been scheduled for early May with the new Coordinator to provide an update on the status of the projects.

The final draft report - Lyon's Creek Wetland East - Wetland Inventory and Monitoring March 2007, is now available.

#### **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 is scheduled to meet in mid-June to discuss and revise the new draft RAP work plan and monitoring plan. The first draft of the Stage 2 Update Report will be submitted to the committee in May for their review and input.

In the meantime, a meeting was held with MOE, Regional Niagara, Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (GLSF) and municipal representatives In April to discuss opportunities for funding for infrastructure projects in the Niagara River AOC.

### **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. The next meeting is expected to be held in June/07.

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

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

### **Watershed Restoration**

Staff are working with owners of a vineyard (Flat Rock Cellars) in Sixteen Mile Creek to develop a demonstration garden of native plants and beneficial insects. The project will demonstrate how nature and intensive agriculture and viticulture can co-exist.

Staff have been visiting tree planting project sites with contractors in preparation for the upcoming planting season.

Restoration and engineering support staff conducted a preliminary survey of a property being considered for a wetland creation project in Sixteen Mile Creek in St. Anns east of Smithville. The survey will support documentation for the MOE Permit-to-Take-Water process.

### **Twenty Mile Creek Restoration**

Staff are working out project details that will see two large, eroding gullies stabilized to prevent large quantities of sediment from entering Twenty Mile Creek in the Tintern area east of Smithville.

Staff provided advice and collected bioengineering material for two landowners concerned about erosion on the banks of Twenty Mile Creek tributaries.

Staff is preparing a funding application to Department of Fisheries and Oceans to partner on a potential wetland enhancement and creation project west of Smithville. The project would see the creation of approximately 1.5 acres of wetland habitat.

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

Spring planting will begin the week of May 14th. A riparian buffer project along Draper's Creek just north of the Welland River includes bioengineering to reduce erosion, increasing the size of the riparian buffer through planting of native trees and shrubs and a backyard naturalization planting. Other projects include another 3 riparian buffer plantings, 7 wetland plantings, 1 windbreak establishment and 32 acres of large scale reforestation.

Staff continues to work with Ducks Unlimited and will be meeting soon to discuss potential wetland restoration projects for summer/fall of 2007.

This year's Earth Day events included a litter cleanup along the Welland River at Merritt Island with the Welland River Keepers. Approximately 40 volunteers helped with the cleanup as the group was able to cover quite a bit of ground and collected at least 30 bags of litter. In addition staff were available to coordinate a tree planting with a local Scout Group and to talk to the public about the benefits of incorporating native plants into landscaping designs.

## **Twelve Mile Creek**

Tree-planting will begin next week for thirteen project sites, some of which will also have prairie plantings in early summer. Projects include fragile land retirement, old field and headwater restoration/reforestation, as well as stream and wetland buffers.

Restoration work in the Lower Twelve Mile Creek valley continues this year with 4 sites totalling 4.8 acres, in partnership with OPG and Land Care Niagara. We are investigating the possibility of bringing in the Green Committee (City of St. Catharines) as an additional partner, to allow us to intensify the restoration values on one of the sites.

Four Agricultural Best Management Practice projects are planned this year, including manure storages / composting, erosion stabilization, and various conservation farm practices. Our partnership with the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has been extremely valuable in facilitating good outcomes on the landscape, with landowners able to reap full benefits of available funding. 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.

Twelve Mile Creek Watershed Plan Implementation Committee member Mark Green, (Manager of Environmental Services, City of St. Catharines) submitted to staff a summary of recent measures taken or attempted to fulfill their responsibilities under the Watershed Plan. The next meeting of the committee will take place in early June.

## **One Mile Creek Restoration**

Staff assisted the Friends of One Mile Creek and volunteers on Earth Day in Niagara-on-the-Lake. With over 35 volunteers of all ages a total of 42 bags of garbage were removed from the length of One Mile Creek. Several clean-up participants observed Rainbow Trout in a few locations in the creek which has increased interest in restoration endeavours planned for One Mile Creek.

Staff will be making a presentation at a joint meeting of the NOTL Horticultural Society and the Friends of One Mile Creek on the use of native plants in gardening and landscaping. The presentation will be followed by a riparian planting scheduled for mid-June.

A public meeting for the Lansdowne Pond Study will be held on Thursday June 7th 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.

### **Yellow Fish Road Program**

Staff presented the Yellow Fish Road Program to the remaining municipalities (Wainfleet, Port Colborne, Fort Erie, West Lincoln, Lincoln and Grimsby) through formal written correspondence requesting support for implementing the program in each municipality. Both Port Colborne and West Lincoln have responded granting us permission to undertake storm drain marking in their jurisdiction.

Follow-up for the remaining municipalities is underway, if required staff will deliver a formal presentation to municipal council in order to obtain municipal wide coverage for the program in our Watershed.

### **ECO School Program**

In total 28 schools applied by the March 31st deadline to participate in the ECO School program. All schools will be engaged in a project this year. The first phase of the program is currently underway which involves 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.

### **Water Quality Program**

The spring benthic invertebrate sampling has begun for 2007. Spring samples have been collected from Hamilton International Airport, and several new stations are included this year as part of the Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan. This is the first time NPCA has conducted water quality sampling along watercourses draining to Lake Erie. A final version of the NPCA Water Quality Program 2006 Annual Report was completed and sent for final print and distribution.

Groundwater monitoring continues at all 15 Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) wells. Spring groundwater sampling has been 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 later this month 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 Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration has confirmed the NPCA nomination for three of our heritage volunteers, Mrs. Orphie Marcellus, Mr. Dave Dedrick and Mr. Leo Trigatt to receive their 5

year provincial Volunteer Service Award at a ceremony to be held in Niagara in June. The volunteers have been notified by the Authority and will receive their invitation from the province shortly.

A follow-up survey has been developed and will be distributed to request feed-back from the participants at the March Break Camp. While program evaluations have been in place for school programs, staff are now developing a template to request feedback from participants in general events and programs.

A display to promote the 2007 site programs and events has been developed and is located in the display barn. Land Management staff have also been successful in contacting the local media to feature 2007 programming with their feature articles.

Staff contacted schools in the surrounding area requesting to incorporate information about our programs into their student newsletters. As a result Information for the Girl's Afternoon Adventure was sent to schools in Vineland, Jordan and Smithville. While some would not incorporate the information into the Newsletter, flyers could be sent directly to the school.

A number of school and public bookings have been scheduled including the "Spring Awakening" Program, guided Nature hikes, the Native Awareness Program, and the Girl Guide "Time Travellers" program.

Seasonal staff positions for the heritage component have been hired and staff will begin work by mid May.

The NPCA application to the provincial Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities for the Summer Jobs Service (SJS) program has been approved for 30 positions for 12 weeks at 35 hours per week for a total of 12,600 hours and \$25,200. This is a \$2 per hour wage subsidy.

Our expert "gardening volunteers", Ellen Mitchinson and Barb and Alan Large have already been hard at work planting and preparing the heritage gardens for another year.

Arrangements are continuing for the various elements of the Thanksgiving Festival.

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

The glu-lam beam installation is underway along the west side of the building and the structure is beginning to take shape. There have been a few set-backs during the steel framework and beam installation to ensure correct fitting of the components. Our consultants are busy reviewing the structural installation, shop drawings, and fabrication details. The MOE has issued draft approval for the septic permit and work is proceeding with installation. A security contractor was retained for the project. Trades are being co-ordinated for rough-ins before the concrete slab is poured. Staff are monitoring the work in progress and taking photographs for our reference and file.

### **Gord Harry Conservation Trail, Wainfleet**

A successful trail dedication ceremony was held April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Wainfleet Fire Hall with over 200 in attendance. New trail signs have been installed by staff at the Quarrie Road and Station Road staging areas. The remaining gate signs for the entire trail are being prepared by the Niagara Region sign shop. 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 CA**

Staff assisted the Glanbrook Conservation Committee for their May 5th work day at the park. The Tyneside Tower site was enhanced with new wildflower plants and trail screenings, and the existing trail received maintenance and native shrub planting by the volunteers. Thirty-eight committee members and volunteers took part in the day with a total of 112 hours of volunteer time.

The boat ramp area at the park is being reviewed by staff to plan for a new fishing dock along the gabion wall, and to add floating docks and rental boats in this area. Staff are currently preparing the dock designs and securing quotes for the dock components and rental boats.

## **Property Assessments**

Willoughby Marsh is due for an Assessment Board hearing in May. Settlement is being negotiated by staff with MPAC before the hearing date.

## **Ellis Property, Jordan**

A volunteer weed removal day was scheduled May 5<sup>th</sup> and Doug Ransom and Kathy Smith were on hand to pull garlic mustard on the property. Staff will continue this work the week of May 7<sup>th</sup> to help clear this invasive weed from one woodland section near the parking lot at the Twenty Mile Creek bridge.

The watermain contractor is back in the area for May to finish up from last season. Staff will be reviewing with the contractor the trees near the watermain work, to assess their leaf out condition and health. Any trees damaged by the construction project, that could pose a future hazard to the public, will be identified and the contractor will be required to cut and remove them from the property. Tree planting to restore this area is planned as part of our 2007 work program for Ontario Heritage Trust and will be conducted once construction activity in this area is clear.

## **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. Construction plans were reviewed with the archaeological consultants who conducted the stage 1 and 2 archaeological assessments of the property. A stage 3 assessment will be required to clear artefacts off the site prior to construction activities and public access onto the lands. The stage 3 assessment will also help clarify the limit of work fence required around the wetland excavation area. This work is being planned for May before excavation work begins.

## **St. Johns Conservation Area**

The trout season opened April 28, 2007. Staff were on site to provide information and increase the public's awareness of the Authority's mandate and Conservation Area significance. Staff also monitored and recorded trout catches.

In spite of the poor weather conditions, approximately 170 people attended the trout opening. Public responses were favourable to the health and size of the fish. Signs were installed at the entrance to the event requesting a voluntary admission from visitors and a total of donation of \$240 was raised.

## **Conservation Area- Gypsy Moth Monitoring**

Staff began a monitoring program of the gypsy moth population in the Ruigrok and Hedley Forest Conservation Areas. Several plots were established for a bare assessment of population levels and defoliation over time. In fall 2007 other Conservation Areas will be included to monitor changes over our watershed.

## **Wainfleet Bog**

Staff attended the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Recovery Team meeting in Windsor. The contingency strategy outline was presented for survival of the Wainfleet population should the population show a decline. This strategy was developed by the team subgroup including the NPCA, MNR, Toronto Zoo and Brock University and includes an insurance population (population of snakes held in captivity by the Zoo). The strategy also calls for continued monitoring- catch per unit effort, land acquisition and increased management of human activities which negatively impact/threaten the population.

Bog water levels have been affected by beaver activity. This impact is being reviewed by staff in relation to the site management goals. Management decisions will be applied as deemed necessary.

## **Species at Risk**

A public stewardship guide is being developed to help protect the Fowler's Toad along the Lake Erie shoreline. This guide is being produced by the Fowler's Toad Recovery Team. Staff has reviewed and provided comments including information on shoreline development needs.

## **NPCA Hunting Program**

Staff has received and issued an additional 47 hunting permits/permission for 2007. To date 157 hunting permits have been issued. Of these, 24 permits are issued to individuals residing outside of our watershed.

## **Chippawa Creek**

New Washroom Partitions have been installed; including new wall coverings over associated block wall. This is another step in our commitment to upgrade and maintain excellent washroom facilities. New water supply lines are being run to the beach washrooms. The old water lines were built inside the brick of the block building, and can no longer be maintained or repaired.

The new landscape plantings at the front entrance to the campgrounds are being reviewed by staff as the plantings are still under warranty by the contractor. A few plants experienced winter kill and will be replaced by the contractor. Staff will be topping up the mulch in the beds and beginning their general maintenance program for the season. The goal this season is to stay on the weed removals and at Long Beach establish seed on the mound areas that could not be planted out.

## **Long Beach Conservation Area**

The electrical contractor has completed 95% of the work related to the update of the park's main incoming electrical supply. Coordination with Hydro One (who are the only supplier able to convert the poles and transformers located on Lakeshore road and do the final hookup) has proven difficult

. Nonetheless, problems with Hydro One were anticipated by NPCA staff and the contractor, including contingencies. As a result, the final hookup is now set for Tues May 8 to complete the project: Just in time for the park opening.

The spring construction done in the park left a tidy mess to clean up. However, staff are well "on top" of it, with cleanup well in hand. Finish landscaping is underway in time for the opening date of May 18; and will even include a small modification of three campsites to "pull-through" capacity: a campsite type that is in high demand by transient visitors.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

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

The annual Trout Season Opening Day at St. John's Conservation Area was held on Saturday, April 28. Despite the inclement weather approximately 200 people were in attendance.

### **Watershed Report Card**

The Report Card is in the final stages of being prepared with distribution planned for end of May.

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

The dedication took place on Thursday, April 19 with over 250 people in attendance.

### **Source Protection Planning**

The draft regulations have been posted on the EBR. Staff is continuing to meet to plan outreach activities to ensure that MOE timelines are met. A Newsletter is being developed for distribution to watershed stakeholders.

### **Centre for Conservation**

Staff continue to make presentations to various groups regarding efforts for the Centre for Conservation at Ball's Falls.

### **Earth Day Activities**

Staff were in attendance at Merritt Island as part of the City's Earth Day activities on Saturday, April 21. Approximately 200 people came out.

### **Schools in Bloom**

The Authority will assist with this program which is coordinated by the City of Niagara Falls and the Niagara Parks Commission. The program has been highly successful.

## **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 are continuing. Currently there are 97 golfers

registered, cash sponsorships amounting to \$4,850 have been received and several items for the silent auction table have been acquired. Board members are encouraged to notify staff as soon as possible if they are planning to attend and if they have any leads for potential sponsors.

### **Centre for Conservation**

Presentations have been ongoing to local Rotary clubs and other service groups to encourage support for this project.

### **Foundation Newsletter**

The fifth edition of 'Reflections on Conservation in Niagara' has been completed and distributed.

### **Niagara Community Foundation**

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation's application for a grant to support the Natural Heritage Areas Inventory project was successful and we will be receiving a grant of \$5,000 for this work.

### **Recommendation:**

**Report No. 45-07 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

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