

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
FULL AUTHORITY**

**WELLAND**

**AGENDA**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**BUSINESS:**

**(1) MINUTES**

**(a) FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – AUGUST 15, 2007**

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority meeting held August 15, 2007.

**(b) BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING –  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2007**

Attached are the Minutes of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting held September 5, 2007.

**(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**(3) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

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

**(5) ACCOUNTS – AUGUST 2007 – REPORT NO. 67-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 67-07 outlining the list of accounts for August, 2007.

**(6) 2007 CURRENT BUDGET – ESTIMATES TO YEAR END - REPORT NO. 68-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 68-07 together with a copy of the Current Budget year end estimates.

**(7) 2007 CAPITAL BUDGET – ESTIMATES TO YEAR END - REPORT NO. 69-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 69-07 together with a copy of the Capital Budget year end estimates.

**(8) 2008 PRELIMINARY CURRENT BUDGET - REPORT NO. 70-07**

Attached is Report No.70-07 together with a copy of the 2008 preliminary current budget.

(9) **2008 PRELIMINARY CAPITAL BUDGET - REPORT NO. 71-07**

Attached is Staff Report No.71-07 together with a copy of the 2008 preliminary capital budget.

(10) **PROPOSED JOB EVALUATION & COMPENSATION STUDY – REPORT NO. 72-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 72-07 with respect to this proposed study.

(11) **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS – TREE CONSERVATION BY-LAW – REPORT NO. 73-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 73-07 regarding this matter.

(12) **2007 CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS – REPORT NO. 74-07**

Attached is Staff Report NO. 74-07.

(13) **PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 75-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 75-07 outlining the status of Authority projects.

(14) **OTHER BUSINESS**

(15) **IN-CAMERA**

**VIOLATION AND COMPLAINT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. CR-08-07**

Attached is confidential Report No. CR-08-07 regarding this matter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**WELLAND**

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
AUGUST 15, 2007**

**7:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

G. Burroughs (with regrets)  
B. Greenwood (with regrets)  
D. Martin (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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Grace Malinowski

**BUSINESS:**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. He then welcomed everyone in attendance and requested that if anyone had a conflict of interest to declare it. Brian Heit declared a conflict with any items that included Telus or Talk Wireless.

**MINUTES**

**(a) FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – JUNE 27, 2007**

The following resolution was presented.

**FA-96-07**

**MOVED BY:** T. Dalimonte

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

**THAT:** the Minutes of the Full Authority meeting held June 27, 2007, be received and approved as printed.

**"CARRIED"**

(b) **BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – August 1, 2007**

**FA-97-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Butters

**SECONDED BY:** B. Heit

**THAT:** the Minutes of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held August 1, 2007, be received and approved as printed.

**"CARRIED"**

(2) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(3) **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman commended staff on the recent post card promotional advertisement for the Binbrook Conservation Area.

The Chairman advised that on September 15<sup>th</sup> the Foundation was participating in Rock 'N Ribs at Harbour Estates winery in Jordan. There will be a silent auction and Kim Mitchell will be performing. He noted that proceeds from the silent auction are going to the Conservation Foundation.

The Chairman thanked the Vice-Chairman Brian Baty for chairing the June meeting.

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

The General Manager reminded the members that September 17 – 20 is the Children's Water Festival at Ball's Falls. Also there is a public day on Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup> for the public to experience the various demonstrations. The General Manager noted that any members interested in volunteering at any of the demonstrations should see Mary Stack.

The General Manager noted that the lottery for seasonal campsites will not be carried out as in the past and the Authority will be implementing a new system where seasonal campers are able retain their present site and a waiting list would be created for new campers or those who would like a different site. Over 80% of the seasonal campers at both Long Beach and Chippawa Creek have indicated they would prefer the new system.

Authority Meeting - Minutes  
August 15, 2007 – continued

The General Manager noted that with the extended warm weather and lack of precipitation, significant algae growth has occurred on Lake Erie which is affecting the water treatment system at Long Beach Conservation Area. In the interim, water is being trucked in for use by our campers and visitors.

The General Manager noted that the OMB has approved the per diem and honourarium adjustments previously approved by the Board and retroactive payments will be made for the next payment period.

The General Manager outlined the reasons for the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Authority (SPA) meeting occurring immediately following the full Authority meeting noting that under the legislation, the Clean Water Act the SPA meetings must be held separate from meetings of the Conservation Authority.

(5) **ACCOUNTS – JUNE, 2007 – REPORT NO. 59-07**

The following resolution was presented.

**FA-98-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Heit

**SECONDED BY:** B. Butters

**THAT:** The list of accounts for the month of June, 2007, in the amount of \$901,949.07 be received and approved.

**"CARRIED"**

(6) **ACCOUNTS – JULY, 2007 – REPORT NO. 60-07**

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

**FA-99-07**

**MOVED BY:** A. Fevez

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**THAT:** The list of accounts for the month of July, 2007, in the amount of \$681,630.08 be received and approved.

**"CARRIED"**

(7) **CURRENT & CAPITAL BUDGETS – STATUS TO JUNE 30 - REPORT NO. 61-07**

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

**FA-100-07**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

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

**THAT:** Report No. 61-07 regarding the Current & Capital Budgets - Status to June 30, be received for information.

**"CARRIED"**

**(8) 2008 BUDGET SCHEDULE – REPORT NO. 62-07**

The Chairman requested volunteers to sit on the Ad Hoc Budget Review Committee. Mickey DiFruscio and Carmen D'Angelo volunteered. Brian Heit indicated that if his schedule permitted he would also volunteer. The General Manager advised that Gary Burroughs has been part of the Committee in past years. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-101-07**

**MOVED BY:** A. Fevez

**SECONDED BY:** B. Butters

**THAT:** Report No. 62-07 regarding the 2008 Budget Schedule be received and the recommendations contained therein approved; and

That the Ad Hoc Budget Review Committee be comprised of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Mickey DiFruscio, Gary Burroughs and Carmen D'Angelo.

**"CARRIED"**

**(9) AMENDMENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE RULES & PROCEDURES – REPORT NO. 63-07**

The General Manager outlined the report and responded to questions, after which, the following resolution was presented.

**FA-102-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Henderson

**SECONDED BY:** B. Butters

**THAT:** The Report No. 63-07 regarding an Amendment to Administrative Rules & Procedures be received; and

That Section 19 of the Conservation Authority's Administrative Rules and Procedures be amended to read "a quorum is defined as being one-half (1/2) of the members appointed by the participating municipalities, except where there are fewer than six (6) such members, in which case three (3) such members constitute a quorum."

**"CARRIED"**

**(10) PROPOSED POLICY – EXISTING LOTS OF RECORD (WETLANDS) – REPORT NO. 64-07**

The Director, Water Management outlined the staff report and responded to questions. A lengthy discussion took place with it being decided that this matter should be referred to another meeting pending review with the municipalities and our legal council. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-103-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Butters

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

**THAT:** Report No. 64–07 regarding the Proposed Policy – Existing Lots of Record (Wetlands) be received, and

That the matter be taken back to the area municipalities for review and

That the Authority obtain a legal opinion with respect to this matter.

**“CARRIED”**

**(11) NIAGARA WATER STRATEGY – 2006 ANNUAL REPORT — REPORT NO. 65-07**

The following resolution was presented.

**FA-104-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Bentley

**SECONDED BY:** B. Heit

**THAT:** Report No. 65-07 regarding the Water Quality Strategy 2006 Annual Report be received for information.

**“CARRIED”**

**(12) PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 66-07**

Carmen D'Angelo reiterated the Chairman's earlier comments on the Binbrook post card noting it, as well as the billboards in the area of the park, were well done. A question was raised on what activities would be available at the Children's Water Festival Family Day. Mary Stack provided an outline of the events which included a puppet show developed specifically for the Water Festival messaging, Scienstational Snakes, Earth Rangers, Lenny Graf as well as participating municipalities and other agencies.

Andy Fevez noted that it was important to highlight that the education bursaries are provided by the Fort Erie Conservation Women's Auxiliary.

Brian Heit was suggested that the mayors of the area municipalities might be contacted for donations for the silent auction at the Rock 'N Ribs event.

The following resolution was then presented.





**FA-105-07**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**SECONDED BY:** A. Fevez

**THAT:** Report No. 66-07, outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.

**“CARRIED”**

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

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

**FA-106-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Heit

**SECONDED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**THAT:** this meeting do now move in-camera.

**Received at 8:27 p.m.**

**“CARRIED”**

**FA107-07**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**SECONDED BY:** B. Butters

**THAT:** this meeting do now move back into open session.

**Received at 8:40 p.m.**

**“CARRIED”**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**FA-108-07**

**MOVED BY:** B. Greenwood

**SECONDED BY:** A. Fevez

**THAT:** this meeting do now adjourn.

**Received at 8:40 p.m.**

**“CARRIED”**



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## NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

### BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Welland

September 5, 2007

3:00 p.m.

#### MINUTES

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

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

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

#### BUSINESS:

1) **Call to Order**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

2) **Minutes of Last Meeting – August 1, 2007**

There being no errors or omissions the following resolution was presented.

**MOVED BY:** Linda Holmes

**SECONDED BY:** Brian Baty

**THAT:** the minutes of the last meeting held August 1, 2007 be approved.

**"CARRIED"**

3) **Business Arising From Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4) **Ball's Falls Exhibit Design Project- Report No. HC-11-07**

A power point presentation updated the members on the progress of the exhibits and displays.

**The following resolution was presented.**

**MOVED BY:** Brian Baty  
**SECONDED BY:** April Petrie  
**THAT:** Report NO. HC-11-07 on the Ball's Falls Exhibit Design Project be received for information purposes.

**“CARRIED”**

**5) Centre for Conservation Building Project**

Staff provided a power point presentation to update members on the status of the construction. Darcy Baker advised that the project is slightly behind schedule and that the target for completion of the building itself is now mid- November. Following this, the building would be prepared to allow for the installation of the displays and exhibits as well as the furnishing of the structure. The members inquired as to the status of components such as the staffing for the facility and the set up and operation of the gift shop. Darcy advised that staff would be addressing these items as part of the 2008 budget planning process.

**6) Status Report – Report No. HC-12-07**

A general discussion took place regarding the upcoming programs and events.

**The following resolution was presented.**

**MOVED BY:** Linda Holmes  
**SECONDED BY:** April Petrie  
**THAT:** Report NO. HC-12-07 regarding the on the status of Ball's Falls Conservation Area projects be received for information purposes.

**“CARRIED”**

**7) Other Business**

The Curator advised that Marion Holman and Ellen Mitchinson have generously donated a quilt and a willow chair respectively, to the Foundation for the Thanksgiving Festival Raffle to raise funds for the new facility.

**8) Adjournment**

**MOVED BY:** Brian Baty  
**SECONDED BY:** Linda Holmes

**THAT:** this meeting do now adjourn.  
Received at 4:10 p.m.

**“CARRIED”**



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

**DATE: November 1, 2007**

**RE: Accounts August 2007 - Report No. 67-07**

Attached is the list of accounts for the month of August 2007 in the amount of \$328,887.20.

**Recommendation:**

**The list of accounts for the month of August, 2007, in the amount of \$328,887.20 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: September 12, 2007**

**SUBJECT: 2007 Current Budget – Estimates to Year End - Report No. 68-07**

Attached for your review and consideration are the 2007 Current Budget with the projected revenues and expenditures to year end. Provided below is an explanation of the significant variances from the approved budget:

- a) Corporate Services –no significant variances anticipated
- b) Resource Inventory/Environmental Monitoring
  - reduced costs incurred in the printing and distribution of the watershed report card
- c) Flood Protection Services – no significant variances anticipated
- d) Environmental Advisory Services
  - project an under-expenditure in flood plain regulations program due to delays in filling the regulations enforcement officer position
  - expenditures under flood control structures increased to include the maintenance works at the Virgil Dams
- e) Conservation Land Management
  - additional program costs (\$52,000) will be incurred as a result of additional legal and consulting costs incurred in the proposed Reeb Quarry OMB hearings.
- f) Conservation Land Programming
  - overall conservation area operating and maintenance costs are projected to be slightly lower than budgeted

In summary, the projected total expenditures in the Current Budget are projected to be slightly lower than the approved budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 68-07 regarding the 2007 Current Budget – Estimates to Year End 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: September 12, 2007**

**SUBJECT: 2007 Capital Budget – Estimates to Year End - Report No. 69-07**

Attached for your review and consideration are the 2007 Capital Budget with the projected revenues and expenditures to year end. Provided below is an explanation of the significant variances from the approved budget:

a) Watershed Studies

-projected expenditures for the Central Welland River and Lake Erie Northshore Watershed Plans are lower than budgeted due to delays in initiating these projects and will be carried into 2008.

b) Resource Inventory & Environmental Monitoring

-program expenditures are reduced with delays in the Lyon's Creek Sediment Remediation project and undertaking restoration projects on the Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie Creeks due to delays in completing the watershed plans for these areas

c) Flood Protection

-projected program expenditures reflect the completion of the Binbrook Dam remediation project in 2008 and the inclusion of funding to complete the flood forecasting model and an additional stream gauge installation.

d) Conservation Land Development

-projected expenditures reflect the carry over of the holdback payment for the Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation to the 2008 budget year.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 69-07 regarding the 2007 Capital Budget – Estimates to Year End 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: September 11, 2007**

**SUBJECT: Preliminary 2008 Current Budget – Report No. 70-07**

Attached for your review and consideration is the Preliminary 2008 Current Budget as recommended by the Budget Review Committee at their meeting held September 10, 2007. An explanation of the significant program changes is provided below. It is noted that the staff salaries/wages included in the budget reflect a 2.75% economic adjustment to the Authority's salary schedule.

1) Corporate Services

- Office Services – \$25,000 additional funding has been allocated for a part-time Administrative Assistant to support the Source Water Protection Program – all costs will be borne through MOE grants.
- Office Services – \$51,000 additional funding has been allocated to lease additional office space to house staff related to the additional planning and tree conservation by-law responsibilities
- Information Technology - \$9,300 additional funding has been allocated for increased costs under the IT shared services agreement with the Region of Niagara
- the balance of the program increases (\$20,400 – 1.8%) are related to inflationary adjustments
- the general levy cost to the member municipalities is increased by \$59,500 or 6.6%.

2) Watershed Management and Health Monitoring

a) Resources Inventory and Environmental Monitoring

- the Glanbrook Landfill Monitoring program is re-activated for 2008 and funded through a separate service agreement with the City of Hamilton
- in the Niagara Children's Water Festival, \$25,000 additional funding has been allocated to continue the public day initiated in 2007 for this event.
- funding for the Watershed Report Card has been reduced based on the previous years experience.
- the overall program expenditures are increased approximately \$40,600 (8.8%) with the general levy costs increasing by \$27,800 (10.2%).

b) Flood Protection Services

- no significant program adjustments are proposed for 2008.
- the overall program general levy costs are increased by \$5,050 (2.5%)

c) Environmental Advisory Services

- funding (\$155,000) for 2 new staff positions (a terrestrial biologist and a planner) has been



included in the budget. One position will address present capacity limitations of the Authority which is resulting in unacceptably lengthy review times for development proposals/permit applications and one will cover the additional requirements associated with the transfer of planning functions from the Region of Niagara to the Authority.

- the general levy costs for the program are increased by \$130,400 (203%)

### 3) Conservation Land Management

- for 2008, the Debt Charges and Servicing Costs for capital projects which are assigned by the Region has been increased by \$232,800 (37%) to \$864,000 –this is a special levy to the Region of Niagara
- funding (\$202,000) has been provided for 2 staff positions (a registered profession forester and a program administrator) and related support costs for implementing the Tree Conservation By-Law on behalf of the Region of Niagara as previously endorsed by this Board. –this is a special levy to the Region of Niagara

### 4) Conservation Land Programming

- the Conservation Land Programming budget is consistent with the multi-year Land Management program previously approved by the Board with the area operating /maintenance costs being assessed to the member municipality in which the property is located
- the majority of the cost increase is related to additional program staff and support costs at the Ball's Falls Conservation Area as identified in the area's master plan and increased staff at the Binbrook Conservation Area

### 5) Vehicles & Equipment

- funds have been included for the replacement of 2 pick-up trucks and 2 riding mowers
- the general levy costs for the program are increased by \$16,150

### 6) Summary

- the total expenditure under the Preliminary 2008 Current Budget is \$6,503,900
- a program breakdown of the levy to be assessed to each member municipality is shown below:

**2008 Preliminary Current Budget**

<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>Total Levy</u>	<u>Niagara</u>	<u>Hamilton</u>	<u>Haldimand</u>
Corporate Services	\$1,193,500	\$958,500	\$913,355	\$37,669	\$7,476
Resource Inventory & Monitoring	\$503,100	\$299,700	\$285,584	\$11,778	\$2,338
Flood Protection Services	\$427,200	\$208,600	\$198,775	\$8,198	\$1,627
Environmental Advisory Services	\$383,400	\$194,400	\$185,244	\$7,640	\$1,516
Conservation Land Management	\$1,980,700	\$1,953,570	\$1,940,025	\$11,302	\$2,243
Conservation Land Programming	\$1,853,000	\$729,700	\$600,000	\$120,500	\$9,200
Vehicles and Equipment	\$163,000	\$83,000	\$79,091	\$3,262	\$647
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,503,900</b>	<b>\$4,427,470</b>	<b>\$4,202,074</b>	<b>\$200,349</b>	<b>\$25,048</b>

A comparison with the 2007 current budget is provided below:

**Levy Apportionment - 2008 Preliminary Current Budget**

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>2008 General Levy</u>	<u>2007 General Levy</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>2008 Special Levy</u>	<u>2007 Special Levy</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>2008 Total Levy</u>	<u>2007 Total Levy</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Haldimand	\$15,848	\$13,925	13.8%	\$9,200	\$4,000	130.0%	\$25,048	\$17,925	39.7%
Hamilton	\$79,849	\$70,162	13.8%	\$120,500	\$92,340	30.5%	\$200,349	\$162,502	23.3%
Niagara	<u>\$1,936,074</u>	<u>\$1,701,212</u>	13.8%	<u>\$2,266,000</u>	<u>\$1,774,200</u>	27.7%	<u>\$4,202,074</u>	\$3,475,412	20.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,031,771</b>	<b>\$1,785,299</b>	<b>13.8%</b>	<b>\$2,395,700</b>	<b>\$1,870,540</b>	<b>28.1%</b>	<b>\$4,427,471</b>	<b>\$3,655,839</b>	<b>21.1%</b>

**7) Discussion**

The Region of Niagara has advised that they are seeking to keep the overall budget increase to the taxpayer at a limit of 3.4%. With fixed costs taken into consideration, the Region has set a target increase limit for Current Budgets at 2.1% excluding debt charges. At this point, no information regarding 2008 budgets has been received from the City of Hamilton or Haldimand County.

In preparing the Current Budget estimates, staff have been cognizant of the fiscal challenges facing our member municipalities and have endeavoured to minimize program cost increases. It is noted that the majority of the increase in general levy is related to:

- \$51,000 in additional lease costs for office space to accommodate new planning and tree by-law staff
- \$25,000 to continue the public day at the Niagara Children's Water Festival (funded separately by the Region in 2007)
- \$154,000 for 2 additional planning/technical staff to expedite development & permit application reviews and carry out the additional responsibilities associated with the transfer of planning functions from the Region.

Excluding these factors, the increase in general levy would be .9%

With regard to the special levies, the increases for the City of Hamilton and Haldimand County are related to increased operational costs associated with the enhanced development of conservation areas in these municipalities. For the Region of Niagara, the increase is related to debt servicing charges assigned to the Authority ((\$232,800), costs associated with the implementation of the Tree Conservation By-Law (\$202,000) and additional costs associated with the operations of conservation areas (\$57,000).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 70-07 regarding the 2008 Preliminary Current Budget be received; and**

**That the 2008 Preliminary Current Budget with a total expenditure of \$6,503,900 and levies of \$4,202,074 to the Region of Niagara, \$200,349 to the City of Hamilton and \$25,048 to Haldimand County be approved; and**

**That staff be authorized to submit the 2008 Preliminary Current Budget to the member municipalities and the Ministry of Natural Resources.**

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



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**TO: The Chairman and Members of the Budget Steering Committee**

**DATE: September 11, 2007**

**SUBJECT: Preliminary 2008 Capital Budget – Report No. 71-07**

Attached for your review and consideration is the Preliminary 2007 Capital Budget as recommended by the Budget Review Committee at their meeting held September 10, 2007. Copies of the detailed Budget forms are available and will be provided upon request.

In the Water Management program, work on the Source Protection Plan will continue in 2007 with 100% of plan costs funded by the Province.

The watershed plans for the Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie Creeks will be completed in 2007 and in 2008 work will continue on the watershed plans for 15, 16 & 18 Mile Creeks, the South Niagara Falls Creeks, the Central Welland River, the Lake Erie North Shore watersheds and Beaverdams & Shriners' Creek watersheds.

In the watershed restoration program, the Multi-Year Capital Forecast identified funding for restoration projects in all watersheds upon completion of their respective watershed plan. In 2008, the restoration works will continue in the Welland River, 12 Mile Creek, 20 Mile Creek and the Fort Erie and Niagara-on-the-Lake Creeks watersheds as well as the general watershed restoration work with the agricultural sector.

In 2008, funding has also been included for the completion of the Natural Heritage Areas Inventory project.

In the Flood Protection Program, funds have been included to complete the Binbrook Dam emergency spillway project to be started in 2007 and for the continuation of the watershed floodplain mapping updating project.

In the Conservation Land Management program, funding has been allocated for the creation of a land acquisition reserve fund to be used for the acquisition of environmentally significant lands in the watershed and on the Great Lakes shoreline. Funding has also been allocated for the following projects in accordance with the Multi-Year Conservation Area Development program:

**-Ball's Falls**

- purchase of furnishings for the Centre for Conservation
- release of Construction Holdback
- final landscaping

**-Chippawa Creek**

- sewer system upgrades for existing comfort stations
- campsite expansion
- trail development in forested tract on north side

-Long Beach

- road improvements

-Beamer Memorial

- entrance road reconstruction
- drainage improvements
- parking improvements
- trail upgrades
- habitat improvement

-Cave Springs

- parking lot development
- trail construction
- interpretive signage
- habitat enhancement

-E. C. Brown

- habitat restoration

-Humberstone Marsh

- habitat restoration

-Stevensville

- habitat restoration
- trail work
- boundary fencing
- wildlife management

-Gainsborough

- improvements to the workshop facilities and equipment.

-Rockway

- trail reconstruction and re-routing
- habitat restoration
- parking upgrades
- boundary fencing
- interpretive information and signage

-Wainfleet Bog

- trail and boardwalk construction
- interpretive signs
- development of educational materials
- Habitat Restoration

-Wainfleet Wetlands

- trail development
- habitat restoration
- quarry pump upgrades

- boundary fencing
  - interpretive signage
- Woodend
- trail restoration
  - interpretive signage
  - improvements to road drainage

- Virgil
- trail restoration
  - boundary fencing
  - landowner contact
  - property survey
  - parking upgrades

- Binbrook
- picnic pavilion
  - equipment upgrades
  - rental facilities
  - dock improvements
  - road signage
  - land acquisition

- Binbrook Tract
- parking lot construction
  - trail development

### Summary

- the total expenditure under the Preliminary 2008 Capital Budget is \$6,503,900
- the general levy to be assessed to the member municipalities is \$548,600, an decrease of \$693,100 from 2006.
- a program breakdown of the levy to be assessed to each member municipality is as follows

	<b><u>2008 Preliminary Capital Budget</u></b>				
	<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>Total levy</u>	<u>Niagara</u>	<u>Hamilton</u>	<u>Haldimand</u>
Watershed Studies	\$1,085,000	\$475,000	\$467,500	\$0	\$7,500
Resource Inventory & Monitoring	\$2,425,300	\$1,158,700	\$1,085,071	\$65,130	\$8,499
Flood Protection Services	\$500,000	\$100,000	\$95,290	\$3,930	\$780
Conservation Land Development	<u>\$1,885,700</u>	<u>\$1,184,500</u>	<u>\$960,950</u>	<u>\$219,650</u>	<u>\$3,900</u>
Total	<b>\$5,896,000</b>	<b>\$2,918,200</b>	<b>\$2,608,811</b>	<b>\$288,710</b>	<b>\$20,679</b>

A comparison with the 2007 levy is as follows:

**Levy Apportionment - Preliminary 2008 Capital Budget**

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>2008 General Levy</u>	<u>2007 General Levy</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>2008 Special Levy</u>	<u>2007 Special Levy</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>2008 Total Levy</u>	<u>2007 Total Levy</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Haldimand	4,279	9,685	-56%	16,400	27,300	-40%	20,679	36,985	-44%
Hamilton	21,560	48,799	-56%	267,150	158,800	68%	288,710	207,599	39%
Niagara	<u>522,761</u>	<u>1,183,216</u>	-56%	<u>2,086,050</u>	<u>1,164,700</u>	79%	<u>2,608,811</u>	<u>2,347,916</u>	11%
Total	548,600	1,241,700	-56%	2,369,600	1,350,800	75%	2,918,200	2,592,500	13%

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 71-07 regarding the 2008 Preliminary Capital Budget be received; and

That the 2008 Preliminary Capital Budget with a total expenditure of \$5,896,000 and levies of \$2,608,811 to the Region of Niagara, \$288,710 to the City of Hamilton and \$20,679 to Haldimand County be approved; and

That staff be authorized to submit the 2008 Preliminary Capital Budget to the member municipalities and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

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



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

**DATE: September 12, 2007**

**SUBJECT: Proposed Job Evaluation & Compensation Study – Report No. 72-07**

In 1999, the Conservation Authority retained The Avalon Group to carry out a comprehensive job evaluation and compensation study to ensure internal pay equity was achieved and to ensure continued competitiveness of the Authority as an employer. In 2003, The Avalon Group was again retained to update the pay structure and job evaluations. The consultant's report noted that *"Over the past number of years, the relationship between the Authority and the Region has strengthened. Staff at the Authority work with staff at the Region and comparisons to regional rates are to be expected. In addition, the next closest CA that might compete for resources with the NPCA is the Hamilton Conservation Authority. HCA undertook a review and revision of its job and pay structures a number of years ago and adjusted salary ranges to more closely align with the City of Hamilton. As a result, rates for comparable jobs at the HCA are consistently above those of the NPCA. Notwithstanding the data provided by other Authorities;, after discussion with the General Manager of NPCA, we determined that the salary structure needed to be more closely aligned with the Regional Municipality of Niagara (and to a lesser extent, with the Hamilton Conservation Authority) as these organizations most directly impact/influence compensation within your organization."* As a result, the pay structure of the Conservation Authority was set at 85% of the Region's pay line for similarly ranked positions.

As our staff numbers and program responsibilities have changes since the 2003 study and recognizing past questions on the appropriateness of the Region as the basis for our salary structure, I am recommending we retain The Avalon Group to carry out a comprehensive job evaluation to ensure that internal pay equity is achieved and to review the present grade structure and salary ranges to determine if changes are required to maintain competitive market positioning.

The upset cost for the study is \$25,000. Since this study was not included in the approved 2007 Budget, funding would be derived from the General Operating Contingency or in-year savings from other programs.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 72-07 regarding the Proposed Job Evaluation & Compensation Study be received; and

That staff be authorized to retain The Avalon Group to carry out the proposed Job Evaluation & Compensation Study at an upset cost of \$25,000.

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





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

**DATE: September 12, 2007**

**SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments -Tree Conservation By-Law– Report No. 73-07**

Attached is correspondence received from the Township of West Lincoln requesting the Conservation Authority's support and endorsement of several amendments the Township is requesting the Region of Niagara make to its Tree Conservation By-Law.

It is noted at the outset of this report that with the possibility that the Region of Niagara will transfer responsibility for implementation/enforcement of the Tree Conservation By-Law to the Conservation Authority, it may appear to some that the Authority has a conflict of interest in commenting on this matter. That notwithstanding, the Conservation Authority has in the past and will continue on the future to encourage and support the enhancement of woodlots in our watershed given the benefits derived by the landowner, the environment and the watershed at large.

The perspective of the Conservation Authority staff is that, to date, the tree cutting that was recently experienced in West Lincoln is an anomaly and not the rule or practice of the agricultural community at large. While we recognize that most of the large tracts of wooded lands in the watershed are located in the rural community, we do not believe that the agricultural community in general would look to undertake major tree removal activities given the value they place on this resource in addition to its long term economic and environmental value.

That said, the concerns of the Township as it pertains to future loss of trees/woodlots are recognized. Authority staff believe this matter is one that should be considered by the Region's Tree Conservation By-Law Advisory Committee which is comprised of representatives from a variety of interests including the agricultural community. While the Conservation Authority is not a member of the Advisory Committee, it is recommended that we express our interest in assisting in any future discussions in this matter.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 73-07 regarding the Regional Tree Conservation By-Law and the August 22, 2007 correspondence from the Township of West Lincoln regarding the Clear Cutting of Woodlot West of Anastasio Estates Phase IV be received; and

That the Region of Niagara be requested to direct this matter to the Tree Conservation By-Law Advisory Committee for their consideration and recommendation; and

That the Conservation Authority advise the Region of our willingness to assist the Tree Conservation By-Law Advisory Committee in their consideration of this matter

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: 2007 Conservation Achievement Awards – Report No. 74-07**

In 1991 the Conservation Authority established the Conservation Achievement Awards to recognize the efforts of individuals, businesses and organizations who voluntarily contribute to the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources. These awards allow the board and staff an opportunity to recognize the efforts of volunteers who work directly on Authority projects, as well as those watershed residents whose contributions to conservation efforts are evident through their direct actions. The Conservation Achievement Awards are not intended to stress the amount of the contribution; rather this recognition serves as means of thanking those people who voluntarily practice environmental stewardship.

Nominations for awards are invited from the public and internally through the board and staff. The success of this program is evident through the increasing number of individuals, businesses and groups who demonstrate their commitment to environmental stewardship in their daily lives. Last year the Authority recognized over 450 volunteers ranging from youth to seniors.

In addition to the Conservation Achievement Awards the Authority also presents up to 3 Awards of Merit to recognize “significant achievements or contribution by an individual, group or business to improve and restore our local environment for the benefit of all watershed residents.” These awards are given at the discretion of the board.

The Authority will host an awards reception. The 2007 event will be held in the Brock Room of the Four Points Sheraton Suites on Schmon Parkway, Wednesday, November 28, 2007 commencing at 7:00 p.m.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 74–07 regarding the 2007 Conservation Achievement Awards be received for information purposes.**

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: PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 75-07**

### **WATER MANAGEMENT**

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

##### 1) Reservoir Water Levels

The reservoir water levels for the last 30 days have generally fluctuated between 649.7 feet and 649.4 feet (for reference the dam holding level is 650.50 feet). NPCA staff continue to monitor the reservoir water levels daily.

#### **Shriner's Creek – City of Niagara Falls**

The 2003 Shriner's Creek Study had recommended that the existing NPCA owned stormwater detention facility (known as Dyke B) located west of Kalar Road on the Shriner's Creek W5-4 Tributary be modified in order to improve water quality, attenuate flows, and provide year round base flow to the Shriner's Creek system. The NPCA has retained the firm of Totten Sims Hubicki in order to redesign the stormwater facility. A preliminary design is expected to be circulated to the NPCA in September.

#### **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 50 permit applications for the 2007 calendar year.

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

Background data collection and watershed characterization commenced at the end of June 2007 and will continue until early 2008. Water quality sampling is continuing for the remainder of the field season at approximately eight sites in the watershed.

#### **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. Background data collection commenced at the end of June 2007 and will continue until early 2008.

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

The Steering Committee for the Fifteen-Sixteen-Eighteen Mile Creeks Watershed Plan is scheduled to meet on October 17, 2007. The purpose of this meeting is to review the Final Draft Fifteen-Sixteen-Eighteen Mile Creeks Watershed Plan.

## **South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan**

Research for Phase 2 of the South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan has commenced. This phase entails creating a restoration strategy for implementation when the Watershed Plan is finished. This portion of the project is set to be completed by early October, 2007.

## **GIS (GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS) / INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

SWP – Preliminary technical tasks in preparation of the MNR approved Tier 1 Water Budget work plan are underway. Completing the Authority's hydrography mapping across the watershed at the 1:2000 scale, serving as a new surface water inventory and the framework for a developing Hydrologic Information System, remains the GIS staffs current technical focus.

Generic Regulations – Revisions to the Authority's regulation mapping data due to the reduction in the Twenty Mile Creek floodplain and several developed areas have been completed.

Corporate GIS - Metadata creation for the Authority's spatial data continues.

## **Natural Heritage Areas Inventory**

Ecological Land Classification begins to wrap up in the Port Colborne, Wainfleet, South Niagara Falls and Haldimand Areas. Staff have been incredibly busy visiting more than 200 properties representing an area of more than 800 hectares or 2000 acres over the course of the summer months. Many types of rare plants, plant communities and fauna have been recorded to date, and more than 500 different plant species have been collected for the project.

The breakdown for the number of sites visited since the commencement of the 2007 field season including the site area is as follows:

South Niagara Falls:

16 sites visited, representing 205 hectares/506 acres

Haldimand:

37 sites visited, representing 320 hectares/791 acres

Port Colborne:

12 sites visited, representing 53 hectares/131 acres

Wainfleet:

114 sites visited, representing 290 hectares/716 acres

The projects volunteers have also covered more than 50 hectares/120 acres in the Wainfleet and South Niagara Falls areas.

The project's consultants have uncovered several rare and "new to niagara" flora and fauna species. Wetland consultants are now in the process drafting the linework for wetland delineation the 2008 field season. Birding and herpetologist consultants have now completed their field work for the 2007 and project staff will be busy entering their data into the project's database. The geological report for the project is also underway.

The project's landowner response has now levelled off reaching an average 25% positive response in the targeted municipalities.

The 2007 field season is coming to end quickly, a steering committee meeting will be held at the end of October to discuss the highlights of the 2007 season, scope the field work for the 2008 field season.

### **Water Quality Program**

Routine monthly surface water quality monitoring is currently underway at 60 stations located throughout the NPCA watershed. Taxonomic identification of benthic invertebrate samples collected during the spring sampling season has been completed. Stream temperature loggers were recently installed in upper Twelve Mile Creek to monitor restoration sites and the effects of on-line ponds. Stream temperature loggers have also been installed in tributaries of the upper Welland River and Twenty Mile Creek to determine if baseflow is supported by groundwater discharge in these areas – this is being done as part of a Source Water Protection initiative to confirm areas mapped as potential groundwater recharge areas. Data entry and database management are on-going as large quantities of water quality data are generated through various monitoring initiatives.

The NPCA is leading the Welland River Eutrophication Study, which was formally launched in late August. The Study is part of the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan Stage 2 review of delisting criteria and beneficial use impairments. In order to fulfill one of the monitoring objectives of the study, the NPCA purchased and deployed a dedicated sensor to log continuous dissolved oxygen and water temperature data. The sensor was successfully deployed for a 2 week period in the Welland River; the hourly data will be used to assess dissolved oxygen trends in the Welland River. The sensor will be deployed again at a later date.

Groundwater monitoring continues at all 15 Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) wells. As outlined in the PGMN Exceedance Protocol, exceedances of the Ontario Drinking Water Standards have been reported to the MOE, Region of Niagara Public Health, and local municipalities for their information. The NPCA Water Well Decommissioning Program is now underway. Approximately 10-12 applications have been mailed to interested landowners, and at least two projects have been completed to date.

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

Source protection staff are initiating the process for forming the Source Protection Committee (SPC). Notices were placed in the local newspapers and on the internet as required by the regulations. SPC applications from the general public and economic sectoral groups are due by October 12, 2007. Notification letters of the SPC formation were sent out to the municipalities by the deadline date in the regulation. All appointments to the SPC must be completed by the November 21, 2007.

The Ontario Minister of the Environment has appointed Mr. Mark Neufeld as the Chair of the Niagara Peninsula SPC. Mr. Neufeld has been invited to attend the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Authority (NPSA) Board meeting scheduled for September 19, 2007.

#### Technical Reports Update:

The Conceptual Water Budget final report was approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Tier 1 Water Budget work is progressing as planned. The NPCA source protection staff are continuing to assist the Niagara Region with the Intake Protection Zone (IPZ) Studies.

### **Niagara River Remedial Action Plan**

#### **Contaminated sediments:**

Since the Open House at Lyon's Creek East in June, three citizens have volunteered to sit on a Public Advisory Committee over the duration of the remediation planning process for the site. Liaison is also underway for involvement of the South Niagara Falls Watershed Planning Committee and the transfer of the appropriate concerns to be included within the watershed plan. The first meeting of the committee is scheduled for late September, and a brief presentation on the history of the construction of the Welland Canal through Lyon's Creek and the pumping facility into Lyon's Creek East will be provided.

Plans are also underway to convene the Technical Steering Committee in early October to review and discuss a synthesis of the public comments for each site; receive an update on remedial activities by Hydro One at Lyon's Creek West; and, plan the next phase of the projects.

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

Representatives from the NWS were invited by the RAP Coordinating Committee to participate in a meeting to kick-start a study on eutrophication in the Welland River (see below).

Staff attended a meeting for the City of Niagara Falls Pollution Control Plan and CSO Abatement Study

The next meeting of the NWS Water Advisory Group is expected to be held near the end of 2007.

#### **Stage 2 Update:**

The RAP Coordinating Committee held a meeting in August to kick-start a study on eutrophication in the Welland River. This is a priority issue in the RAP and must be addressed before the Niagara River (Ontario) AOC can be delisted. A Terms of Reference for the committee is currently being prepared. Plans are being made to hold the next meeting in October 2007.

The first meeting of the Niagara River (Ontario) RAP Science Committee was held at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters in August. The purpose of the committee is to oversee implementation of science-related activities identified in the 2007 RAP Monitoring Plan. The next meeting is anticipated to be held in November, 2007.

The RAP Coordinating Committee is currently reviewing the following documents:

- The draft Niagara River (Ontario) RAP Stage 2 Update Report (August 2007).
- The draft Niagara River (Ontario) RAP Work Plan, version 3.
- The draft Niagara River (Ontario) Monitoring Plan (August 2007).

The Final Draft of The Technical Review Report - *Technical Review of Impairments and Delisting Criteria June 2007* - is currently under internal review by Environment Canada and MOE.

### **International Liaison:**

The new three-year (2007 – 2010) Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) will continue to contribute to meeting Canada's obligations under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). A new COA beyond 2010 is expected to reflect the outcomes of the recent GLWQA review.

The next Habitat Advisory Committee (for Niagara River and Buffalo River) is scheduled for September 24, 2007 in Buffalo. The focus of this meeting will be habitat restoration in the context of the Buffalo River RAP.

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

MOE has just announced that the next full report release and public meeting is to be held on October 24, 2007 at Grand Island, N.Y.

### **Upcoming conferences:**

November: A.D. Latornell Conference Symposium. Staff have been invited to provide a presentation on challenges for delisting the Niagara River (Ontario) RAP.

### **Watershed Restoration**

The "agro-forestry" site planted this year in Wainfleet that included the planting of an eight acre area has had an incredible tree survival rate to date despite this summer's drought-like conditions. The majority of the trees were planted using a special root dip to treat the tree roots prior to planting. The specialized natural polymer is designed to prevent tree and plant roots from drying out. The trees with the root treatment had at least a 25% better survival rate compared to the trees without the treatment on the same site. The polymer used is inexpensive (pennies per tree) and may be used in 2008 to further assess it's possible role in restoration and reforestation.

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

Staff completed a 2 acre wetland restoration project in the Usher's Creek watershed. Future enhancements for the project include planting in the spring of 2008 and the installation of wood duck nesting boxes this fall.

Three best management practices projects have completed in the last month. All three projects were the construction of manure storages in Big Forks Creek, Lake Erie and Welland River watersheds.

Projects coming up for the fall include 3 riparian restoration projects using various bioengineering techniques and a stream fencing and alternate watering system installation.

## **Twenty Mile Creek Restoration**

Two acres of land in north West Lincoln were “pitted and mounded”, a restoration technique that mimics mature forest floor topography and is part of a reforestation project. The marginal farmland adjacent to an existing escarpment woodlot, with its new pit and mound topography, will soon be over-seeded with white clover as a cover crop, have wetland seeds seeded into the pits and have trees planted this fall and next spring.

With recent rains (i.e. softer ground), the cattle fencing project in West Lincoln is expected to be completed in mid-September. This project, in conjunction with a grassed waterway project, is expected to considerably reduce nutrient loading into nearby Twenty Mile Creek from cattle manure run off.

Staff transplanted cattails and netted carp in the ponds at St. Elizabeth Village in Hamilton as part of the ongoing effort to improve headwaters and wetland habitat. A strategy for 2008 is being developed from the result of this year’s efforts.

## **Twelve Mile Creek Restoration**

The Dispersion Sandwich projects at two vineyard properties (Henry of Pelham Winery and Shorthills Vineyard) are approaching completion. Replanting of the disturbed areas will begin this week. 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. Both projects qualify for funding under the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) and will receive Green Cover funding. Both these projects as well as the Grass Waterway in Twenty Mile Creek will help move Conservation Ontario forward in meeting their partnership obligations with respects to the delivery of the EFP Green Cover funding components.

New projects currently under development include a wetland creation in the floodplain of a headwater of Richardson's Creek, to filter overland runoff, enlarge floodplain capacity, and improve fish habitat. Two landowners in the sensitive Upper Twelve Mile Creek area have expressed interest in improving stream buffers on their properties. One of these will include reforestation of about five acres of lawn. In partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, projects are been designed for the "Lathrop Property", situated in a critical headwater area of Upper Twelve.

Four sites totalling 4.8 acres were planted with trees and shrubs in the Lower Twelve Mile Creek valley, in partnership with OPG and Land Care Niagara. In partnership with the Green Committee (City of St. Catharines) test plots seeded with species adapted to nutrient-poor spoil soils. Planting of larger stock will occur this month, and a volunteer event to sow acorns in being planned. This summer's drought made it unfeasible to plant wildflower plugs, so this work has been delayed.

Trees and shrubs were planted on 12 sites, including fragile land retirement, old field and headwater restoration/reforestation, as well as stream and wetland buffers. A “Butterfly Meadow” was installed in a site next to Shorthills Provincial Park.

Several 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.

### **Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Restoration**

In anticipation of the NOTL Watershed Plan being completed this fall, staff have been pursuing project opportunities in the watershed. Several projects have been discussed with interested landowners representing a variety of commodity groups. Potential projects include tree planting, riparian planting, stream restoration and drip irrigation (water conservation) projects.

Staff completed a second “work-party” with residents of Creekside Senior Estates in the upper Four Mile Creek watershed. This work furthers efforts to control erosion and stabilize collapsing stream banks. The Creekside Estates Board of Directors has contacted the NOTL Irrigation and Drainage Committee who have since expressed an interest in being involved with the ongoing erosion issue.

A manure storage is currently being planned for a vineyard producer who includes chicken manure spreading as part of it's operation. The project is planning to utilize Environmental Farm Plan, Green Belt and NPCA funding to build a proper storage structure.

### **One Mile Creek Restoration**

The next meeting of the One Mile Creek Watershed Plan has been scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>. The Implementation Committee will be discussing 2008 projects with the Town of NOTL staff.

The final draft report for the Landsdowne Pond Study has been received by staff and is under review.

### **ECO School Program**

A small pamphlet containing program information is being designed. This should assist with communicating program information to schools, teachers, parents and students. An annual report will be compiled listing all schools participating to date, photo gallery, monitoring results and lessons learned.

### **EC Brown Wetland Restoration Project**

All wetland construction work has been completed. The overall project includes excavation of the wetland area, construction of a water control structure to help maintain water levels, trail development with platforms overlooking the river, interpretive signage, and native wildflowers and grasses plantings.

Wildflower and grass planting took place in mid August; aquatic wetland plant species were transplanted in late August. Species such as white lily, arrowhead, cattail, green bulrush, giant bur-reed, and tape grass were transplanted to augment seeding activities and natural plant migration.

The parking lot has been sent out for quotation with a deadline of September 13<sup>th</sup> to receive quotes. Parking lot construction is to be completed by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Footbridge and outlook viewing platform work has been sent for quotation to be received back by September 28<sup>th</sup>, with a completion date of November 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

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

The Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ), project staff have returned to school having assisted with a full program of activities at Ball's Falls, including school programs, the summer day camp, public tours, general house-keeping and curatorial tasks. Two of the seasonal heritage staff are remaining on call part-time to assist with fall programming.

The Exhibit Design project continues on schedule. Staff visited Mystus Exhibits' Toronto studio to view the prototypes for several of the interactive displays and to approve material samples for some of the displays. The audio component for the inter-actives should be completed this month.

The loom used by Richard Banks at the Ball's Falls Woollen Mill has been transferred to Ball's Falls from the Jordan Historical Museum. The exhibits in the display barn have been reorganized to accommodate this piece. Lorraine Westhouse has been volunteering her time to help set up the loom. The process of setting up the loom is quite tedious, but staff is hopeful that the members of the Niagara Spinners and Weavers Guild will be able to provide demonstrations during the Thanksgiving Festival. In 2008, staff will be introducing additional visual information to the display to supplement the loom and tie it to the history of the Woollen Mill. A whale oil lamp c. 1818 used at Ball's Falls has also been transferred from the Jordan Museum.

During August Marion Holman, Fran Giles, Dave Dedrick and Leo Trigatt kindly provided heritage demonstrations on Sundays. Ellen Mitchinson and Barb and Alan Large have worked wonders in the heritage gardens, given the dryness experienced this summer.

Robert Kuret conducted the third blacksmithing workshop on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Once again, participant feedback was positive.

There were 70 participants in the 2007 Trailblazer's Summer Day Camp, up slightly from 2006.

Jon Jouppien, the heritage resource consultant who was slated to continue with re-pointing the mill has advised that the work scheduled for this year will not be completed due to illness.

The Ministry of Culture has forwarded a cheque for \$14,161, slightly less than a 20% increase from \$11,909 received in 2006 for the Community Museum Operating Grant. This is substantially lower than several other Niagara area museums who have reported a 75% increase in their funding. It does appear however that the grant amounts to municipal museums may have taken into account pay equity adjustments.

Arrangements continue for the Thanksgiving Festival. As in previous years, large scale recycling facilities will be provided for the Thanksgiving Festival. This service is available through partnership with the Regional Niagara Waste Management Division, to help recover recyclables for reuses. It is in addition to the on-going recycling which staff provides at the site year round

### **Ball's Falls CA Visitor Centre**

Building activity continues to progress on the site, all trades are mobilized and working to close-in the building prior to pouring the concrete slab. The roof is installed with the exception of the main skylight, and glazing and siding is nearing completion. Mechanical and electrical trades are nearing completion of the sub-floor rough-ins, including all conduits for security systems. Outside the building the parking lot is taking shape with the parking islands, and the mechanical trades have installed and tested the rainwater cisterns. Unfortunately leaks in the three large cisterns have slowed work on the backfill operations. The manufacturer will be visiting the site to remedy the problem. The ground source heat pump lines have been trenched to the building, allowing other site works to proceed on the west service entrance. LEED compliance is being tracked by our consultants and the building commissioning items are being scoped and documented as the building systems progress. Staff are monitoring the work in progress and taking photographs for our reference and file.

### **Long Beach and Chippawa Creek**

The Labour Day weekend was very busy. Overall, camping was strong this year, in spite of the very hot weather we experienced through July and August. Algae along the Lake Erie Shoreline and in Dils Lake have impacted the operation of water plants at both campgrounds. Water is being trucked in while this problem is being corrected. The cooler weather in September should help with the algae issue.

The campgrounds will continue to operate until Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **CA Resource Projects**

Applications for several projects were submitted for the Ontario Species at Risk Funding. Projects for Ball's Falls and the Wainfleet Bog were approved and will be completed by staff over the next year. These projects will help to enhance recovery of several species by increasing population and habitat area.

### **Mud Lake Conservation Area**

As part of a 3-4 year process starting in 2006, the wetland management for this site has involved the lowering of site water levels to increase the plant diversity and mimic natural wetland pulses and occurrences. A variety of different plants have become established this past year including nodding smartweed, nutsedge and softstem bulrush, replacing the previous chara plant cover of the lake. Water is being pumped into the mud flats to provide shallow water cover for the winter and following year. Water levels are expected to be achieved in time for the upcoming waterfowl hunting season. In 2008, the results will be assessed and water levels re-established. The objectives of the management activities are increased plant diversity and habitat edge resulting in an overall improvement of benthic invertebrate and habitat quality. This provides a wider range of wetland dependant species, and a 50:50 ratio of plant to open water coverage. This level of water level manipulation will not be required for another 7- 10 years.

## **Gypsy Moth**

Gypsy Moth monitoring is being completed at several NPCA properties (Hedley Forest, Ruigrok Track and Chippawa Creek Conservation Areas). Staff are presently completing the monitoring of defoliation and assessing infestation rates using the information gathered during the egg mass survey conducted earlier in the year

## **Willoughby Marsh Conservation Area**

The moss recovery project will be continuing this year with the generous funding from the Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk. This funding will assist with the recovery of moss species and habitat, the recovery of a rare moss as well as help increase awareness of this unique natural area (the Willoughby Marsh). Two technicians will be hired for 3 months to assist staff with this.

## **NPCA Hunting Program**

Staff has received and issued an additional 65 hunting permits/permission for 2007. To date 231 hunting permits have been issued. Of these, 28 permits are issued to individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

On Saturday September 22, the waterfowl hunting program will begin at Mud Lake and Binbrook Conservation Areas. Lottery applications for a hunting blind during the first two weeks of this hunt were mailed and available to the public since late August. On September 10, the draw was completed for these two weeks and the successful applicants were informed by mail.

## **Binbrook CA**

The children's fishing dock project is underway and contractors are now secured for supply and installation of the dock footings and anchors. Staff will supply and install the wood dock once the footings are in place.

Staff are reviewing the proposed dam remediation project with the water department and assisting in laying out on site the proposed construction access route. Trees in way of the anticipated construction are being inventoried to assess trees that could be preserved by tree-spading and relocating to other areas of the property.

## **Jordan - Ellis Site**

Tree planting is scheduled for the fall to complete work on the property for Ontario Heritage Trust. OHT is pleased with the work done on the property to date and will be scheduling a final inspection once the trees are planted.

## **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, in addition to reviewing the interpretive signs being produced out of house. Plans for a new gravel parking lot were prepared and are now out to bidders for quotation. Design plans have also been prepared for the remaining site items including a bridge over the pond, walking trails, and wood lookout platforms. These plans are currently under review by staff prior to inviting bidders to quote on the bridge and platform components.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

### **Niagara Children's Water Festival**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Niagara Children's Water Festival will take place at Ball's Falls the week of September 17-21. To date we have committed donations from partners and member municipalities and partners totaling \$15,500. In addition we will receive funding from MOE in the amount of \$3,500 for activity centers and volunteer recognition. In response to interest from watershed residents, a public day will take place on Sunday, September 16 from 11:00 to 4:00. A number of family activities are planned for this day. The Region of Niagara will be using this opportunity to launch their "WaterSmart Niagara program.

### **A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium**

This year's symposium will take place at the Nottawasaga Inn November 14-16<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the 14th annual A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium is "*Your Watersheds, Our Great Lakes*". Delegates to this year's event will explore past efforts and future actions that are required. With the effects of climate change coming more to the forefront this year's symposium will help recognize the risks involved and discuss strategies that will improve the situation within the context of traditional resource management themes such as watershed management, natural heritage, stewardship, fisheries and others. There are 33 million people living and working in watersheds within the Great Lakes basin and what we do as individuals has a cumulative effect on the largest inland fresh water supply in the world. Several interesting speakers will be on hand.

### **Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual festival will be held October 5 – 8<sup>th</sup>. This event is recognized as a Niagara Classic tradition.

### **Source Water Protection**

With the proclamation of the Clean Water Act and the appointment of the Chair by the Minister of Environment, staff is continuing to work towards the committee formation. Advertisements have been published in the watershed papers and on the website inviting expressions of interest for membership on the committee. The designated source water protection website is [www.sourceprotection-niagara.ca](http://www.sourceprotection-niagara.ca)

## **NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**

### **Rock 'N Ribs**

Harbour Estates Winery will host this event on September 15<sup>th</sup>, featuring a rib dinner and private concert with renowned Canadian rock artist Kim Mitchell. The Foundation will be given the opportunity to host a silent auction table at this event, with proceeds supporting the Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation.

### **Thanksgiving Festival**

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation will be holding its annual raffle at this year's Thanksgiving Festival from October 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. Prizes have been finalized and include a handmade quilt as first prize courtesy of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee. Black Creek Timber Framing has agreed once again to donate a handcrafted bench. The Ball's Falls Gardeners will donate a willow chair and a number of Thanksgiving Festival artisans have generously agreed to contribute their handcrafted items to be incorporated into gift baskets as in previous years. In addition, the Foundation will also host the wine garden/cafe, partnering with Harbour Estates Winery and Starbucks for this venture. Board members are asked to support these efforts by volunteering their time to help staff these areas and convince others to assist where possible. Please confirm any commitments with staff as soon as possible.

### **Elimination Draw & Dinner**

The Foundation will be hosting its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Elimination Draw & Dinner on Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Welland Lions Community Centre on River Road in Welland. Members should have received details about this event recently in the mail. Tickets for this entertaining evening are \$65 each and include a delicious five-course dinner, open bar and the opportunity to win more than \$1,000 in cash prizes. Board members, their families and friends are encouraged to join in this successful fundraiser that will support the Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation project.

### **Recommendation:**

**Report No. 75-07 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer