

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**FULL AUTHORITY**

**WELLAND**

**AGENDA**

**FEBRUARY 20, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**BUSINESS:**

**(1) MINUTES**

**(a) FULL AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 16, 2008**

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority Annual Meeting held January 16, 2008.

**(b) FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – JANUARY 16, 2008**

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting held January 16, 2008.

**(c) BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – FEBRUARY 6, 2008**

Attached are the Minutes of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting held February 6, 2008.

**(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**(3) DELEGATIONS**

Mr. Greg Berti of Niagara-on-the-Lake wishes to address the board regarding a development proposal along One Mile Creek.

**(4) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

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

**(6) ACCOUNTS – DECEMBER, 2007 – REPORT NO. 03-08**

Attached is Staff Report No. 03-08 outlining the list of accounts for December, 2007.

(7) **ACCOUNTS – JANUARY, 2008 – REPORT NO. 04-08**

Attached is Staff Report No. 04-08 outlining the list of accounts for January, 2008.

(8) **2007 CURRENT & CAPITAL BUDGETS – UNAUDITED YEAR END - REPORT NO. 05-08**

Attached is Staff Report No. 05-08 regarding the unaudited year end 2007 Current and Capital Budgets.

(9) **PROPOSED 2008 CURRENT BUDGET – REPORT NO. 06-08**

Attached is Report No. 06-08 and proposed current 2008 budget report.

(10) **PROPOSED 2008 CAPITAL BUDGET – REPORT NO. 07-08**

Attached is Report No. 07-08 and proposed capital 2008 budget report.

(11) **SHRINER'S CREEK DAM "C" IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – REPORT NO. 08-08**

Attached is Staff Report No. 08-08 regarding the Shriner's Creek project.

(12) **2008 VEHICLE PURCHASE – REPORT NO. 09-08**

Attached is Report No. 09-08 outlining the results of quotations received for 2008 Authority vehicles.

(13) **2008 EQUIPMENT PURCHASE – REPORT NO. 10-08**

Attached is Report No. 10-08 regarding the results of quotations received for the Authority's 2008 equipment purchase.

(14) **CORRESPONDENCE – NIAGARA SOUTH FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE – REPORT NO. 11-08**

Attached is Report No. 11-08 with respect to correspondence received.

(15) **THUNDERING WATERS DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS – REPORT NO. 12-08**

Attached is Report No. 12-08 regarding the above proposal.

(16) **PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 13-08**

Attached is Report No. 13-08 outlining the status of Authority projects.

(17) **OTHER BUSINESS**

(18) **IN CAMERA – VIOLATIONS STATUS REPORT**

**ADJOURNMENT**



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## NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

WELLAND

JANUARY 16, 2008

7:00 p.m.

### ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

B. Heit (with regrets)  
B. Steckley (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:**

Nadia Kobylka, MacGillivray Partners  
John Crossingham, Crossingham, Brady

**BUSINESS:**

The Chairman called the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

**1) INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman introduced John Crossingham of Crossingham, Brady the Authority's solicitors and Nadia Kobylka of the firm MacGillivray Partners, the Authority's auditors.

The following resolution was then presented.

Annual Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2008 continued

**FA-01-08**

**MOVED BY:** G. Burroughs

**SECONDED BY:** B. Baty

**THAT:** Andrew L. Burt be appointed Acting Chairman for the election of the Authority Chairman for 2008.

**2) ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2008**

Mr. Burt assumed the chair and declared all offices vacant. He then outlined the Authority's voting and election procedures which have been followed for previous elections.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

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

Mickey DiFruscio nominated Doug Ransom

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

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

Before closing nominations, the Acting Chairman asked Mr. Ransom if he would accept the nomination, which he advised he would.

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

**FA-02-08**

**MOVED BY:** A. Fevez

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

**THAT:** nominations for the office of Authority Chairman for 2008 be closed.

**"CARRIED"**

Mr. Ransom was declared Chairman by acclamation.

**ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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

Gary Burroughs nominated Brian Baty

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

Annual Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2008 continued

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

Before closing nominations the Acting Chairman asked Mr. Baty if he would be willing to stand for the office of Vice-Chairman. Mr. Baty advised he would.

The following resolution was then presented.

**FA-03-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Butters

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**THAT:** nominations for the office of Authority Vice-Chairman for 2008 be closed.

**"CARRIED"**

The Acting Chairman advised that Mr. Baty was elected Vice-Chairman for the year 2008 by acclamation.

The Chairman then assumed the Chair. Mr. Ransom thanked the Board for their continued support and noted that he had enjoyed the past year as Chairman. He indicated that over the past year he had gained a respect of the dedication of the Authority staff.

Mr. Ransom then thanked Mickey DiFruscio for nominating him. He also congratulated Brian on becoming Vice-Chairman.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**FA-04-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Henderson

**SECONDED BY:** M. DiFruscio

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

Received at 7:10 p.m. **"CARRIED"**

**"L. Sawatzky, Recording Secretary**

**D. Ransom, Chairman"**

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**WELLAND**

**JANUARY 16, 2008**

**7:15 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

B. Heit (with regrets)  
B. Steckley (with regrets)

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**BUSINESS:**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m., welcomed everyone in attendance and then requested that if anyone had a conflict of interest to declare it.

**MINUTES - FULL AUTHORITY MEETING -DECEMBER 12, 2007**

There were no errors or omissions. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-05-08**

**MOVED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**SECONDED BY:** G. Burroughs

**THAT:** the Minutes of the Full Authority meeting held December 12, 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 advised that the Centre for Conservation at Ball's Falls was close to completion and suggested that anyone who could drive by and have a look. He indicated that if anyone wants to see it, arrangements need to be made with Darcy. The Chairman also suggested that for anyone who wanted to make a donation to the new Centre, they should speak to Terry.

The Chairman noted that he attended the Authority staff Christmas Lunch in December and was very impressed with the staff in general as a group. He noted it was nice to be a part of it as Chairman and spoke highly of the warm atmosphere and how well all the staff interacted together.

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

The General Manager advised that he had one item which he would deal with under other business.

(5) **NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE IRRIGATION SYSTEM – PERMIT REQUIREMENTS - REPORT NO. 01-08**

The General Manager outlined the staff report and responded to questions. A discussion took place and the following resolution was presented.

**FA-06-08**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**SECONDED BY:** G. Burroughs

**THAT:** Report No. 01-08 regarding the Niagara-on-the-Lake Irrigation System – Permit Requirements be received for information.

**"CARRIED"**

(6) **2007 YEAR IN REVIEW**

The General Manager provided a power point presentation on the programs and activities carried out in 2007.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

(a) **CONSERVATION FOUNDATION APPOINTMENT – REPORT NO. 02-08**

The following resolution was presented.

**FA-07-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Butters

**SECONDED BY:** B. Henderson

**THAT:** Mr. Brian Lagerwerf be appointed to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation for a term of three years to expire December 31, 2010.

**"CARRIED"**

**(b) RESIGNATION LETTER – ANDREW BURT**

The General Manager formally announced to the Board his resignation for the purpose of retirement from the Conservation Authority. He noted the effective date will be April 30<sup>th</sup> marking the completion of 24 years at the Authority. He indicated it has been a pleasure being a part of the Authority and working with great staff and Boards and wished the Authority continued success.

The following resolution was presented.

**FA-08-08**

**MOVED BY:** G. Burroughs

**SECONDED BY:** B. Bentley

**THAT:** the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement of the General Manager, Andrew Burt dated January 16, 2008 be received and accepted with regret.

**“CARRIED”**

The Chairman thanked Andy noting that he has given the Authority a great deal and much has been gained through his direction.

**(c) MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

Gary Burroughs advised that the Niagara Parks Commission with be moving toward a Gypsy Moth spraying program in 2008 which may involve the Authority.

Barb Greenwood questioned the procedure required with respect to the resignation of the General Manager. The Chairman advised that following Other Business, the Board would move In-Camera to deal with this matter. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-09-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Greenwood

**SECONDED BY:** B. Henderson

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

**Received at 8:10 p.m.**

**“CARRIED”**



Authority Meeting - Minutes  
January 16, 2008 – continued

**FA-10-08**

**MOVED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**SECONDED BY:** M. DiFruscio

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

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

**“CARRIED”**

**FA-11-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Bentley

**SECONDED BY:** B. Baty

**THAT:** the Board of Directors do now rise with report.

**“CARRIED”**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**FA-12-08**

**MOVED BY:** G. Burroughs

**SECONDED BY:** B. Baty

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

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

**“CARRIED”**

**"L. Sawatzky, Recording Secretary**

**D. Ransom, Chairman"**



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## NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

### BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Welland

February 6, 2008

3:00 p.m.

#### MINUTES

**Members Present:** M. Hunter  
B. Baty  
M. Holman  
J. Mastroianni

**Staff Present:** A. Burt, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer  
D. Baker, Director, Land Management  
C. Hayward, Curator

**Regrets:** D. Ransom  
E. Mitchinson  
A. Petrie  
L. Holmes  
F. High

#### BUSINESS:

1) **Call to Order**

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

2) **Election of Officers**

Brian Baty, NPCA Vice-Chairman, assumed the chair to oversee the election of the slate of Officers for 2008 and declared all offices vacant.

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

John Mastroianni nominated Mike Hunter.

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

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

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

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

**MOVED BY:** John Mastroianni  
**SECONDED BY:** Marion Holman  
**THAT:** nominations for the office of Chairman, Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee for 2008 be closed.

**"CARRIED"**

Mike Hunter was declared Chairman for 2008 by Acclamation. Mike Hunter then assumed the Chair.

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

Brian Baty nominated Linda Holmes.

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

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

The Curator advised that Linda Holmes was unable to attend the meeting, but she had confirmed that she would stand for office if nominated.

The following resolution was presented.

**MOVED BY:** Brian Baty  
**SECONDED BY:** John Mastroianni  
**THAT:** nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman, Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee for 2008 be closed.

**"CARRIED"**

Linda Holmes was declared Vice-Chairman for 2008 by Acclamation.

**3) Minutes of Last Meeting – September 5, 2007**

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

**MOVED BY:** Brian Baty  
**SECONDED BY:** Marion Holman  
**THAT:** the minutes of the last meeting held September 5, 2007 be approved.

**"CARRIED"**

**4) Business Arising From Minutes**

The Curator noted that any business arising from the minutes was included on the agenda.

5) **Committee Appointments – Report No. HC-01-08**

The Curator advised that the Full Authority had approved the re-appointment of Mike Hunter and Fred High to the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee for another term.

**MOVED BY:** Marion Holman  
**SECONDED BY:** John Mastroianni  
**THAT:** Report No. HC-01-08 regarding the appointments to the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee be received for information.

**"CARRIED**

6) **2008 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards Nomination-Report No. HC-02-08**

The following resolution was presented.

**MOVED BY:** Brian Baty  
**SECONDED BY:** John Mastroianni  
**THAT:** Report NO. HC-02-08 regarding the 2008 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards nomination be received for information.

**"CARRIED"**

7) **Ball's Falls Exhibit Design Project- Report No. HC-03-08**

The Curator updated the members on the progress of the exhibits and displays, noting that the installation of structural elements was now well underway. The following resolution was presented.

**MOVED BY:** Brian Baty  
**SECONDED BY:** Marion Holman  
**THAT:** Report NO. HC-03-08 on the Ball's Falls Exhibit Design Project be received for information purposes.

**"CARRIED"**

8) **Centre for Conservation Building Project**

The Director, Land Management provided a power point presentation outlining the status of the construction project. He noted that the building was nearing substantial completion and that staff anticipate that the official opening will take place in May.

9) **Status Report – Report No. HC-04-08**

A brief discussion took place.

**MOVED BY:** John Mastroianni  
**SECONDED BY:** Brian Baty  
**THAT:** Report No. HC-04-08 on the status of Ball's Falls Conservation Area Projects be received for information.

**“CARRIED”**

**10) 2008 Meeting Schedule- Report No. HC-05-08**

The following resolution was presented.

**MOVED BY:** Marion Holman  
**SECONDED BY:** John Mastroianni  
**THAT:** Report No. HC-05-08 outlining the proposed 2008 meeting schedule for the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting be approved.

**“CARRIED”**

**11) Other Business**

There was no other business.

**12) Adjournment**

**MOVED BY:** Brian Baty  
**SECONDED BY:** Marion Holman

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

Received at 4:20 p.m.

**“CARRIED”**

C. Hayward, Curator

Mike Hunter, Chair



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

**DATE: March 10, 2008**

**RE: Accounts December 2007 - Report No. 03-08**

Attached is the list of accounts for the month of December 2007 in the amount of \$1,358,826.68.

**Recommendation:**

**The list of accounts for the month of December, 2007, in the amount of \$1,358,826.68 be received and approved.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

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



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

**DATE: March 10, 2008**

**RE: Accounts January 2008 - Report No. 04-08**

Attached is the list of accounts for the month of January 2008 in the amount of \$507,451.94.

**Recommendation:**

**The list of accounts for the month of January, 2008, in the amount of \$507,451.94 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: February 5, 2008**

**SUBJECT: 2007 Current & Capital Budgets – Unaudited Year End - Report No. 05-08**

In the Proposed 2008 Current and Capital Budgets, which are provided as a separate documents in this agenda, a column is included that identifies the unaudited 2007 Year End position for program revenues and expenditures.

For the 2007 Current Budget, the Year End program expenditures are consistent with those previously noted to the Board (see Report No.68-07). Overall program expenditures are under budget by approximately 1.6% (\$90,000) due savings realized through in-year staff vacancies and other program changes. With these program savings along with the receipt of higher than budgeted administration fees and unanticipated interest revenues, the Conservation Authority has unused revenues of approximately \$170,000 and unused special levies of \$42,300. In the Conservation Areas Programming budget, a further \$13,400 in gate receipts in excess of the budget target was realized at the Binbrook Conservation Area. I am recommending that these funds be appropriated to the following reserve accounts:

- 1) Approximately \$82,000 to the Regulations & Planning Services Reserve
- 2) Approximately \$25,000 to a new Short Term Disability Reserve to cover future costs in this self-insured benefit component
- 3) Approximately \$56,500 to the General Operating Contingency to be directed to the 2008 Current Budget for the Job Evaluation study, office equipment purchase and preliminary work on compiling data for the PSAB Tangible Capital Assets requirements which are effective 2009
- 4) Approximately \$42,300 to the Debt Charge Reserve
- 5) Approximately \$13,400 to the Conservation Area Operating Reserve – City of Hamilton

For the Conservation Areas in the Region of Niagara, while overall operating expenditures were reduced, the 2007 revenues did not meet the budget target due primarily to the lower attendance at the Thanksgiving Festival related to the weather conditions experienced that weekend resulting in a shortfall of approximately \$22,000. For the Conservation Areas in Haldimand County, the operating expenses slightly exceeded the approved budget due to unforeseen expenditures, resulting in a small shortfall of \$300. To cover these shortfalls, it is



recommended that the required funds be taken from the respective Conservation Area Operating Reserves.

For the 2007 Capital Budget, the Year End program expenditures are generally consistent with those previously noted to the Board (see Report No.69-07). Due to unanticipated delays in completing several large projects including the Binbrook Dam Emergency Spillway and the Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation, there is an unused levy balance of approximately \$145,000 in the Conservation Area Development budget and \$900,000 in the Water Management budget. While the majority of these funds will be used for projects carried into 2008, it is appropriate to assign the funds to reserve accounts pending their use. Accordingly, I am recommending that the funds be allocated to the following reserve accounts:

- 1) Approximately \$125,500 to Watershed Studies – Region of Niagara
- 2) Approximately \$5,900 to Watershed Studies – Haldimand County
- 3) Approximately \$24,300 to Watershed Restoration - General
- 4) Approximately \$208,900 to Watershed Restoration – Region of Niagara
- 5) Approximately \$2,700 to Watershed Restoration – City of Hamilton
- 6) Approximately \$539,000 to Flood Protection Services
- 7) Approximately \$84,200 to Conservation Area Capital Reserve – Region of Niagara
- 8) Approximately \$47,700 to Conservation Area Capital Reserve – City of Hamilton
- 9) Approximately \$13,000 to Conservation Area Capital Reserve – Haldimand County

Subject to the approval of the Board, the 2007 Financial Statements will reflect the recommended appropriations.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 05-08 regarding the 2007 Current and Capital Budgets – Unaudited Year End be received; and

That the recommended appropriations be approved.

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



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

**DATE:                February 5, 2008**

**SUBJECT:            Proposed 2008 Current Budget – Report No. 06-08**

Attached for your consideration is the proposed 2008 Current Budget. The Board will recall that the preliminary 2008 Current Budget was approved at the September 19, 2007 meeting (see Report No. 70-07) and subsequently reduced due to several program changes (see Report No.93-07). With the municipal levy requirement is reduced from the estimates approved in September, there are several minor changes in the proposed expenditures which are noted below:

1) Corporate Services

- funding from reserves has been provided to complete the Job Evaluation Study (\$20,000) and for the purchase of furnishings (\$10,000) for new staff positions

2) Resource Inventory & Environmental Monitoring

- funding in the Water Quality Monitoring program has been increased (\$15,000) to include a study to be funded by MOE

3) Conservation Land Programming

- funding for operations at the Binbrook and Long Beach Conservation Areas have been increased nominally based on the 2007 experience

Summary

- the total expenditure under the Proposed 2008 Current Budget is \$6,337,250
- the general levy to be assessed to the member municipalities is \$2,003,770
- a comparison of the 2008 and 2007 levies is shown below:

**Levy Apportionment - Proposed 2008 Current Budget**

<u>Municipality</u>	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007
	General	Special	Total	General	Special	Total
	<u>Levy</u>	<u>Levy</u>	<u>Levy</u>	<u>Levy</u>	<u>Levy</u>	<u>Levy</u>
Haldimand County	15,630	9,200	24,830	13,925	4,000	17,925
City of Hamilton	78,748	120,500	199,248	70,162	92,340	162,502

Region of Niagara	<u>1,909,392</u>	<u>2,064,000</u>	<u>3,973,392</u>	<u>1,701,212</u>	<u>1,774,200</u>	<u>3,475,412</u>
Total	2,003,770	2,193,700	4,197,470	1,785,299	1,870,540	3,655,839

The Conservation Authority's Preliminary 2008 Current Budget has been approved by the Region of Niagara and has been presented to the City of Hamilton. No comments have been received from Haldimand County.

It is recommended that the Proposed 2008 Current Budget as submitted be approved.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 06-08 regarding the Proposed 2008 Current Budget be received; and**

**That the Proposed 2008 Current Budget with a total expenditure of \$6,337,250 and a general levy of \$2,003,770 and special levies of \$2,064,000 to the Region of Niagara, \$120,500 to the City of Hamilton and \$9,200 to Haldimand County be approved; and**

**That the 2008 matching levy in the amount of \$174,500 and the total non-matching levy in the amount of \$1,829,270 for the 2008 Current Budget be apportioned to the member municipalities on the basis of the 2000 current value assessment of the member municipalities proportionate to the total 2000 current value assessment within the Authority's area of jurisdiction; and**

**That the special levies for the 2008 Current Budget be assessed in the amount of \$2,064,000 to the Region of Niagara, \$120,500 to the City of Hamilton and \$9,200 to Haldimand County.**

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



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

**DATE:                February 5, 2008**

**SUBJECT:           Proposed 2008 Capital Budget – Report No. 07-08**

Attached for your consideration is the proposed 2008 Capital Budget. The Board will recall that the preliminary 2008 Capital Budget was approved at the September 19, 2007 meeting (see Report No. 71-07). While the municipal levy requirement remains the same as the estimates approved in September, there are several minor changes in the proposed expenditures which are noted below:

1) Watershed Management

a) Watershed Studies

- reserve funds have been allocated to complete the Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie Creeks Watershed Plans and to carry out additional work on the Central Welland River Watershed Plan

b) Flood Protection Services

- the Binbrook Dam Emergency Spillway project initiated in late 2007 has been carried into 2008 and the completion of Phase 2 of the Shriner's Creek Flood Control Remediation project to be funded through MNR grant and the City of Niagara Falls has been included in the 2008 budget.

2) Conservation Land Development

- conservation area development projects unable to be completed in 2007 have been carried into 2008

3) Summary

- the total expenditure under the Proposed 2008 Capital Budget is \$7,892,100
- the 2008 general capital levy to be assessed to the member municipalities is \$1,048,600
- a comparison of the proposed 2008 and 2007 levies is provided below:

**Levy Apportionment - Proposed 2008 Capital Budget**

<u>Municipality</u>	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007
	General	Special	Total	General	Special	Total
	<u>Levy</u>	<u>Levy</u>	<u>Levy</u>	<u>Levy</u>	<u>Levy</u>	<u>Levy</u>

<b>Haldimand County</b>	<b>8,179</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>20,679</b>	<b>9,685</b>	<b>27,300</b>	<b>36,985</b>
<b>City of Hamilton</b>	<b>41,210</b>	<b>247,500</b>	<b>288,710</b>	<b>48,799</b>	<b>158,800</b>	<b>207,599</b>
<b>Region of Niagara</b>	<b><u>999,211</u></b>	<b><u>1,409,600</u></b>	<b><u>2,408,811</u></b>	<b><u>1,183,216</u></b>	<b><u>1,164,700</u></b>	<b><u>2,347,916</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,048,600</b>	<b>1,669,600</b>	<b>2,718,200</b>	<b>1,241,700</b>	<b>1,350,800</b>	<b>2,592,500</b>

The Conservation Authority's Preliminary 2008 Capital Budget has been included in the submission recommended to Niagara Regional Council and was presented to Hamilton Council in late January. No comments have been received from Haldimand County.

It is recommended that the Proposed 2008 Capital Budget be approved as submitted.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 07-08 regarding the Proposed 2008 Capital Budget be received; and**

**That the Proposed 2008 Capital Budget with a total expenditure of \$7,892,100 and a general levy of \$1,048,600 and special levies of \$1,409,600 to the Region of Niagara, \$247,500 to the City of Hamilton and \$12,500 to Haldimand County be approved; and**

**That the 2008 general levy in the amount of \$1,048,600 be apportioned to the member municipalities on the basis of the 2000 current value assessment of the member municipalities proportionate to the total 2000 current value assessment within the Authority's area of jurisdiction; and**

**That special levies for the 2008 Capital Budget be assessed in the amount of \$1,409,600 to the Region of Niagara, \$247,500 to the City of Hamilton and \$12,500 to Haldimand County.**

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

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

**DATE: February 13, 2008**

**SUBJECT: Shriners Creek Dam “C” Improvement Project – Report No. 08-08**

Over the past several years, the NPCA received grants through the MNR Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WEIC) program to undertake repairs to Authority dams and structures. The Authority has since undertaken studies and improvements at Binbrook Dam (capital project currently underway), Virgil Dams, Shriners Creek Dam “A” and Balls Falls Dam under this program.

In order to complete the work at the Shriners Creek Dams, a WEIC grant was also received to undertake work at the Dam “C” site. This site functions as a stormwater management facility immediately downstream of a developed area on Kalar Road south of Thorold Stone Road in the City of Niagara Falls. A review and design study was undertaken in 2007 and determined that a retrofit project incorporating wetland features and an interconnecting channel between the outlets of the dams was the most appropriate project to increase the effectiveness of the facility and ensure long term stability.

The project has been identified in the 2008 capital program and will receive 50% grant from the MNR WEIC program and a matching contribution as a special levy from the City of Niagara Falls. Authority staff have confirmed funding from the City for 2008 in this regard.

A tender call for the project was advertised on February 4, 2008. Fifteen (15) suppliers and/or contractors picked up the tender package. Tender closing was scheduled for Friday February 15, 2008.

A summary of the tenders and a recommendation for award of contract will be presented at the meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 08-08 regarding the Shriners Creek Dam “C” Improvement Project be received.**



250 Thorold Road West, 3rd Floor  
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Tel (905) 788-3135  
Fax (905) 788-1121

E-mail: npca@conservation-niagara.on.ca

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

**DATE: February 12, 2008**

**SUBJECT: 2008 VEHICLE PURCHASE – Report No. 09-08**

Funds have been allocated in the proposed 2008 budget for the purchase of 2 (two) ½-ton pick-up trucks, to replace two 2005 Dodge ½-ton pick-up trucks. The Authority has been maintaining a safe fleet of vehicles through regular rotation of equipment. This process helps to reduce vehicle down-time and costly repairs.

In an attempt to reduce fuel consumption and vehicle operating costs, the vehicle specifications were modified to include information on engine displacement and fuel economy. This information was used to forecast the annual operating cost of the vehicles, and has been considered in addition to the purchase price.

Twenty-four area dealers were asked to provide quotes for the vehicle replacements by February 11, 2008. A summary of the eligible quotations is provided below. Prices include discounts for trade-ins and all applicable taxes. It is noted that the low quote is within the proposed budget allocation.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Price</u>
1.	Performance Chrysler Dodge	1500	\$20,448.48
2.	Border Pontiac GMC	Sierra	\$21,691.08
3.	Brock Ford Sales Inc	F150	\$23,515.30
4.	Gillespie Pontiac Buick	Sierra	\$23,790.34
5.	Forbes Ford Sales Inc.	F150	
	<b>\$24,979.78</b>		

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the low quotation, dated February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008, received from Performance Chrysler Dodge Jeep to supply two (2) 2008 ½ ton pick-up trucks, for the total price of \$20,448.48 including trade-in and all applicable taxes be accepted.

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: February 12, 2008**

**SUBJECT: 2008 EQUIPMENT PURCHASE – Report No. 10-08**

Funds have been allocated in the 2008 budget for the purchase of 2 front mount riding mowers to replace two 2005 Kubota F3060 mowers in the Authority's equipment fleet. These purchases are in keeping with our equipment rotation, which ensures safe and efficient fleet.

Seven area equipment dealers were asked to provide quotations by Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Three quotes were received on time. The submissions are summarized below. The price shown includes trade-in allowance and all applicable taxes. It is noted that the low quote is within the proposed budget allocation.

Two 2008 4-wheel drive front mount riding mowers:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Price</u>
1.	Ben Berg Farm & Ind. Equipment	F3680	\$17,474.32
2.	St. Catharines New Holland Ltd.	MC35	\$23,696.10
3.	Agra Turf	JD1565	\$25,720.36

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the low quotation, dated February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, received from Ben Berg Farm & Ind. Equipment, to supply two (2) 2008 Kubota F3680 front mount mowers for the total price of \$17,474.32 including trade-in allowance and all applicable taxes, be accepted.

**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: January 31, 2008**

**SUBJECT: Correspondence – Niagara South Federation of Agriculture  
- Report No. 11-08**

Attached for your information is a copy of correspondence dated January 21, 2008 from the Niagara South Federation of Agriculture regarding the Conservation Authority's Land Acquisition Strategy. I have also attached a copy of my response to Mr. Schonberger's letter.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 11-08 regarding Correspondence – Niagara South Federation of Agriculture be received for information.

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

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

**DATE: February 14, 2008**

**SUBJECT: Thundering Waters Development Proposal City of Niagara Falls – Report No. 12-08**

The subject property is comprised of approximately 227 hectares within the City of Niagara Falls as illustrated on the attached plan. NPCA staff originally met with the proponents (at their request) in February of 2007 to discuss general NPCA issues that may affect development of these lands. The existing wetlands on the site were the focus of these discussions but there are two watercourses as well.

The wetland features on the subject lands are considered to be part of the Niagara Falls Woodlot No. 1, last evaluated by the Ministry of Natural Resources as a Locally Significant Wetland in December 1998. The majority of the evaluated wetlands on these properties are located south of Oldfield Road and north of the Con Rail Drainage Ditch, although pockets of wetlands have also been identified between the Drainage Ditch and the CP Rail Lines, south of the Rail Lines and west of Kister Road. The extent of evaluated wetlands on these properties are represented by the green shaded area on the attached figure. According to studies prepared for the proponent by L. Campbell and Associates, the areas identified for preservation incorporate the most significant natural heritage features on the subject lands.

The Region of Niagara Core Natural Heritage Map (December 2005) identifies the lands south of Oldfield Road, between Drummond and Dorchester Roads, as Environmental Conservation Area, with the exception of a small portion of the northwest corner which has been cleared. As well, portions of the lands south of the CP Rail Line have been designated as Environmental Conservation and part of the Potential Natural Heritage Corridor System. Carolinian Canada has also identified portions of these lands as Priority Areas for preservation, due to the presence of Provincially rare plant species.

In late August of 2007 the NPCA was circulated a formal application for Official Plan Amendment for this property to convert the lands from Industrial to Residential and Environmental Protection. There are approximately 3,000 dwelling units proposed in total. The development will be phased generally from north to south, but the phasing details have not been confirmed. In addition to the Official Plan amendment, there is a parallel Secondary Plan approval process also underway that the NPCA is involved with. The Secondary Plan will cover a slightly larger area than the developer's lands.

Since the initial meeting, there have been ongoing discussions, correspondence and additional meetings with the developer's consultants and City of Niagara Falls staff. Additional environmental data and information was provided by Lisa Campbell over that time as well. These discussions have centered around the developer's request for CA

staff to consider relocating a significant section of wetland on the site in exchange for a wetland to be created (by the developer) elsewhere on the site. The attached plan illustrates this concept.

The relevant sections with respect to consideration of the proponent's request to relocate a wetland under the NPCA's approved "Land Use Planning Policy Document" are sections 3.24.1(b) and i(A) which read as follows:

**3.24.1(b)**

***Development and/or site alteration will not be permitted in or on the areas of any PSW and will generally not be permitted within any LSW or wetland greater than 2 hectares in size. Some Restricted Uses may be permitted in a wetland (other than PSW's) provided that the proposed use(s) is supported by an approved Environmental Impact Study (EIS) or Environmental Assessment and conforms to Authority Wetland Policy (i).***

**3.24.1(i)(A)**

***Where no reasonable alternative exists to locate a proposed development, site alteration or other activity outside of the wetland or adjacent lands, the Authority may require that an area of wetland be created that is equivalent to the area of wetland and adjacent lands disturbed. Any required wetland creation should be located in close proximity to the area disturbed or in an area to be determined by the Authority. All wetlands created under this policy will be added to the Authority regulated area and identified on appropriate screening maps,***

***All proposals to reconfigure a wetland boundary will be assessed by NPCA staff and may require final approval of the NPCA Board of Directors.***

As stated in 3.24.1(b), development is generally not permitted within an LSW except for some restricted uses subject to completion of an EIS and in conformance with policy (i). Policy (i)(A) provides for restricted development in a wetland where no reasonable alternative exists to locate a proposed development. The policies define "restricted uses" as:

Restricted Uses: means

- Conservation uses or activities such as wildlife or fisheries management, forestry or passive recreation, flood and/or Erosion control Structures;
- facilities which by their nature must locate near water or traverse water;
- ancillary facilities of an adjacent land use which are of a passive, non-structural nature and do not adversely affect the natural hazard or natural heritage feature or function; and
- municipal infrastructure including roads and utilities/servicing (i.e. sewer lines, gas pipelines, hydro facilities.).

NPCA staff believe large scale wetland re-location to accommodate major development proposals is outside the parameters of this policy, especially as there appears to be similar sized developable area outside the wetland features.

Notwithstanding the above, should the NPCA Board wish to consider the developer's proposal to relocate the wetland as proposed, staff recommend that the following specific conditions be included in any approval.

- 1) *As a condition of NPCA approval, the NPCA requires that the proponent prepare a report to determine the feasibility of creating wetland area south of the Con Rail Drainage Ditch. The report will assess the feasibility of satisfying the following criteria:*
  - *That an area of wetland be created south of the Con Rail Drainage Ditch that is greater than or equal to the area of wetland to be lost north of the Drainage Ditch. The NPCA also requires that the boundary of all wetlands located north of the Con Rail Drainage Ditch be verified in the field by a qualified biologist to accurately assess the area of wetlands to be developed and created.*
  - *That the wetland created south of the Con Rail Drainage Ditch be constructed to match both the hydrological and ecological functions of any wetlands to be lost north of the Drainage Ditch.*
  
- 2) *In order to determine the feasibility of creating wetlands south of the Con Rail Drainage Ditch, the above report shall include the following items:*
  - *A detailed assessment of all earthworks and site grading required to facilitate wetland creation on the site. The assessment shall also include a detailed inventory of vegetation to be removed through any require earth works and site grading.*
  - *A hydrological assessment which will outline and detail the existing hydrologic function of wetlands located north of the Con Rail Drainage Ditch, as well as assess the potential of creating wetlands south of the Con Rail Drainage Ditch.*
  - *A detailed inventory of all vegetation to be removed from wetlands north of the Con Rail Drainage Ditch, as well as an assessment of habitat conditions and wildlife species utilizing wetland areas north of the Drainage Ditch.*
  
- 3) *As a condition of NPCA approval of this proposal subject to a satisfactory feasibility study, the NPCA should require that no land clearing, vegetation removal or site alteration be completed within any wetland area north of the Con Rail Drainage Ditch until all wetland creation works south of the Drainage Ditch are completed to the satisfaction of the NPCA.*

*The NPCA will note that the above items are intended only to provide an outline to assist with the preparation of a feasibility study. These requirements are not intended to replace detailed scoping of a feasibility study. The NPCA should be contacted prior to the commencement of any required studies to provide appropriate scoping.*

The Board's direction in this matter is requested.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 12-08 regarding the Thundering Waters Development Proposal in the City of Niagara Falls be received.**

Prepared by: Tony D'Amario, P. Eng. Director, Water Management

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



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

**DATE: March 10, 2008**

**RE: PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 13-08**

## **WATER MANAGEMENT**

### **Source Water Protection**

Source Protection Committee meetings were held on January 8th and February 12th, 2008. Minutes of the meetings will be posted on the NPCA source protection website.

The Water Availability Study consultant began work mid-January and is completing a pilot study of the Twenty Mile Creek watershed. In February the province (MNR) provided an additional \$47,650 for the Tier 1 Water Budget. Additional funds were given in response to an NPCA request to expand the study scope. The IPZ work continues to progress at a slower pace than desired.

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

Background research and writing continues for this study area. Letters of intent to sit on a steering committee have been mailed out and responses are expected by February 25<sup>th</sup>. The first steering committee meeting will likely be in April with an open house following shortly after. Rhonneke, the Watershed Planning Technician, has collected and entered the physical information on reach characteristics for the Lake Erie North Shore Watershed.

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

Background research and writing has resumed for this study area. Letters of intent to sit on a steering committee have been mailed out and responses are expected by February 25<sup>th</sup>. The first steering committee meeting will likely be in April with an open house following shortly after.

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

The Fifteen-Sixteen-Eighteen Mile Creeks Watershed Plan has been posted for staff commenting and any necessary changes will be made by March. This Watershed Plan will be presented to the Board of Directors in March 2008.

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

The South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan has been posted for staff commenting and any necessary changes will be made by March. The open house has been set for Thursday February 28<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9pm at the Chippawa-Willoughby Memorial Arena. This Watershed Plan

will be presented to the Board of Directors in March 2008. A Terms of Reference and a Proposal Call have been sent to two consulting companies for the fluvial geomorphology study of Lyons Creek. The proposal deadline is February 15, at 4pm. Rhonneke, the Watershed Planning Technician, has completed and distributed copies of the South Niagara Falls Geomorphic Assessment to relevant staff.

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

Staff is working on completing the annual funding proposal to the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund for the Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Program. Funds would be used for various projects throughout the Niagara River Area of Concern in the 2008/2009 program year.

Staff continues to work on projects for the spring and summer of 2008. Reforestation, wetland and riparian buffer planting plans and project designs will be finished off within the next couple months. Other projects include riparian bioengineering to reduce erosion, a windbreak planting and restriction fencing for horses in Six Mile Creek.

Two wetland restoration projects in partnership with Ducks Unlimited have been started throughout the Welland River watershed (A third project recently cancelled to a landowner selling his property). The construction (excavation/impoundment) of the wetlands has been completed and the associated planting and habitat restoration will continue in the spring of 2008.

The Restoration Program will be providing \$17,000 of funding for the reforestation of 47 acres in the Welland River watershed through partnerships with Trees Ontario Foundation, Land Care Niagara, Haldimand Stewardship Council and Ontario Power Generation.

### **Watershed Restoration**

Staff finalized the MOU with Ducks Unlimited for the Trillium Foundation regarding a three year partnership project proposal. A three year work plan was also developed. The \$140,000 IS expected to be approved by March 4th, 2008.

Staff have begun to work with landowners in the 40 mile creek watershed to develop restoration plans. Projects are being initiated as a result of the adjacent landowner's existing restoration project

Again this year staff will be working with landowners in the 15 mile creek watershed. Plantings to replace the trees which couldn't survive the drought will occur.

The Restoration Program will be providing \$10,000 of funding for the reforestation of 30 acres across the NPCA jurisdiction/watershed through partnerships with Trees Ontario Foundation, Land Care Niagara, Haldimand Stewardship Council and Ontario Power Generation.

### **Twenty Mile Creek Restoration**

Staff continue with the planning of projects throughout the Twenty Mile Creek watershed. Site visits are occurring on a regular basis. Potential projects are materializing throughout the Spring Creek sub-watershed. In an effort to entice more landowners to participate in the twenty mile creek restoration program a mailing to selected landowners surrounding ANSI's and ESA's will occur in early February.

The Restoration Program will be providing \$6,600 of funding towards the reforestation of 20 acres in the Twenty Mile Creek watershed through partnerships with Trees Ontario, Land Care Niagara, Haldimand Stewardship Council and Ontario Power Generation.

### **Twelve Mile Creek Restoration**

Staff are working on planting plans and plant material estimates, as well as meeting with landowners for new projects.

A stream crossing and buffer project is being planned for a farm in the headwaters of Upper Twelve Mile Creek. This project may qualify for GreenCover funding if the program is extended into 2008.

Staff are working with Friends of Shorthills and Shorthills Provincial Park to install buffer plantings along a section of stream on the east side of the park this spring. The area will be fenced to protect the new shrubs and trees from deer browsing, and the results compared with previous plantings. High deer populations are making restoration of the open fields very challenging.

Restoration work on OPG Decew lands continues this year, this time buffering a significant patch of forest on the escarpment, and linking with Shorthills and the Lower Twelve Mile Creek Valley. We are writing a proposal for OPG corporate funding so that we can expand the project onto adjacent land and include vernal pool creation in the restoration. Last March OPG research staff found a population of Jefferson x Blue Spotted hybrid Salamanders reproducing in pools a short distance away. This is great opportunity to restore habitat for these rare creatures.

A request for proposals for a geotechnical review of a small barrier dam will go out soon. This structure's overflow is failing, and there is a risk of sediments being flushed into important fish habitat downstream. Before working with the landowner on this project we would like to be assured that the berm is stable.

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

Staff has been conducting site visits and is currently working with three landowners to develop projects. Tree cutting on the Two mile creek floodplain by Conservation Authority Staff effectively solved the erosion and bank stabilization issues raised by a landowner early in January who noted several trees which had fallen across the creek onto Conservation Authority lands.

The three projects being developed include:

1. a constructed wetland for the disposal of winery wash water;
2. wetland restoration, buffer strips, grassland plantings, and the design of a intercrop cover crop which includes vegetation to improve the soil matrix and attract beneficial insect, on a degraded vineyard straddling an escarpment outcrop;
3. and enhancing a fragmented segment of trees and shrubs next to a large continuous hardwood forest along the escarpment. A natural areas inventory will be conducted on the property prior to any restoration project initialization. There may also be opportunity for stream enhancement with buffer plantings.

Staff attended a Friends of One Mile Creek meeting on February 5, 2008 to discuss the summer events with the group including the development of a riparian planting project on City property along King Street in NOTL. There will be another executive meeting February 13th to discuss the strategic development of the group. The annual general meeting will be held tentatively on

March 11th 2008 which will potentially include presentations from Conservation Authority Staff regarding the natural areas inventory and riparian restoration techniques for urban areas.

Staff are working to complete the first draft of the One Mile Creek Stewardship Manual. The Friends of One Mile Creek will review and provide input to the manual at their next meeting on March 4th. The development of the Manual is part of the "Recommended Management Actions" in the One Mile Creek Watershed Strategy. This Manual will help to guide landowners living in the One Mile Creek Watershed to improve habitat, create buffers, conserve water, stop erosion, etc. in an effort to improve overall water quality, baseflow and habitat in One Mile Creek.

### **ECO School Program**

A total of 225 applications were sent out to watershed schools for the 2008 Eco School program on January 7, 2008. The deadline for applications is March 1, at which time approximately 30 schools will be chosen to participate. To date we have received 29 applications, 6 of which are repeat schools.

The ECO School rack cards have just come back from the printer. These colourful cards will be sent out to watershed schools instead of plain paper letters, to encourage participation in the program.

Staff are planning for the upcoming ECO School Open Houses/Workshops. There will be two such events at the end of March and beginning of April for the public to attend. Activities will include bluebird box building, planting of native wildflower seeds, a Natural Areas Inventory display along with many other interesting displays from our Water Management department. This year's workshop locations are set for: March 26 at Nelles Public School in Grimsby and April 9 at Glynn A Green Public School in Fonthill (whose Green Team participated in the 2007 ECO School program.)

### **Outreach Programs**

Two Brownies groups have contacted the NPCA for outreach materials related to water and water conservation. These groups are having a water-themed "Thinking Day" on February 22nd. Staff sent water conservation information and posters left-over from the Niagara Children's Water Festival as well as water conservation and water science group activities.

NPCA staff has been asked to planning to participate in the Ontario Envirothon. This environmental competition for high-school students is coordinated in Ontario by the Ontario Forestry Association. This is the inaugural year of Niagara hosting a regional Envirothon Competition as well as the first year that Niagara has participated. The competition starts at the local level and winning teams can eventually participate in the Canon Envirothon, that takes place in one of the states/provinces/territories in North America where over \$100,000 in scholarships and prizes are awarded. Staff felt that this was an important event to participate in because it reaches over 5000 students and encourages and inspires students to develop their environmental awareness and to pursue a career in this field. The Niagara Envirothon is scheduled for May 2008.



## **Angler Diary Program**

A Media Release was sent to local newspapers about the Welland River Angler Diary Program, encouraging interested individuals to contact the NPCA. Following this release, staff was contacted by the representative from the Welland version of Niagara This Week regarding the Angler Diary Program. Niagara This Week will be including a short article about the Angler Diary Program, the Angler Derby and Fish Tagging Program, as well as the Water Quality Monitoring and Improvement Programs. The article should appear in the February 8th copy of Niagara This Week for the Welland area.

The NPCA has teamed up with a member of the St. Catharines Game & Fish, Bruce Downs, to promote the Angler Diary program in the Welland River. Bruce also expressed an interest in an Angler Diary for Twelve Mile Creek. Staff sent a total of Twelve (12) diaries for Twelve Mile Creek and four (4) for the Welland River. Bruce has reported a positive response from anglers about the program. We look forward to continuing our contact with this Club. This new interest in the program is encouraging and will hopefully provide the NPCA with useful data about the fish in the Twelve Mile Creek Watershed.

A letter was sent to all past participants of the Angler Diary program in both the Welland River Watershed and the Twelve Mile Creek Watershed who no longer participate in the program, to ask if they would be interested in participating again in 2008. Positive responses have come from this letter and 2008 diaries have been sent out to interested individuals.

## **Fish Tagging/Angler Derby**

The 2008 Angler Derby has been scheduled for July 5th. Staff has been in contact with Welland Recreation and Leisure and information about the Derby will be appearing in the 2008 Welland Leisure Guide. In addition, staff has secured the services of Biotactic again this year for the fish tagging portion of the Derby.

## **Niagara River Remedial Action Plan**

The Niagara River Contaminated Sediment Technical Advisory Group met in mid-January 2008. Updates and progress reports on the following action items involving Lyon's Creek East and West sites were presented:

- Hydro One carried out remedial activities on their property to remove arsenic-contaminated sediment and soil from the ditch at Lyon's Creek West. A copy of the consultant's report (dated November 23, 2007) was forwarded by MOE for the RAP Coordinator's files.
- Transport Canada (the owner of the majority of the property at the Lyon's Creek West site) is seeking funding through the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan for remediation projects on their property; however, approval status is not anticipated before the end of March 2008.
- The status of the wetland at Lyon's West as fish habitat under the Fisheries Act was discussed. A letter from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (dated Feb.16, 2006) to Environment Canada indicates that the wetland area is considered indirect fish habitat.
- Remediation options for Lyon's Creek East, further information required to support the option selection process and strategies for community involvement, as well as requirements for finalization of the Phase IV report, were reviewed.

Lyon's Creek East Public Meeting Update No.3, outlining the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) presentations and the Open House (Nov/07) regarding flow issues, was circulated to the community in early February.

The fourth meeting of the CLC for Lyon's Creek East has been re-scheduled for February 26, when Roger Santiago, Environment Canada, will provide an overview of different remedial techniques for contaminated sediments.

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

Staff attended the NWS Water Advisory Group meeting on January 16, 2008 at the Best Western Beacon Harbourside, Jordan.

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

The RAP Coordinating Committee met in January 2008. Discussion included action items involving the following:

The draft Niagara River (Ontario) RAP Stage 2 Update Report (October 2007 version)

The draft Niagara River (Ontario) RAP Work Plan, version 3

The draft Niagara River (Ontario) Monitoring Plan (August 2007)

The Welland River Eutrophication Study

The RAP Science Committee

RAP Communications Plan

A multi-agency Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting was convened for the Welland River Eutrophication Study in late January. Further details were discussed for the Work Plan and action items identified for agency follow-up regarding sampling techniques, equipment and funding availability, and bibliography material. A TWG meeting is planned for March, 2008 prior to the start of the field season. The study is considered a priority under the Niagara River RAP to help develop delisting criteria for nutrients in the Welland River that contribute to the Beneficial Use Impairment designation for Eutrophication and Undesirable Algae.

The next meeting of the RAP Science Committee has been scheduled for February 19 at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters. The Committee is comprised of the agencies identified to implement the Niagara River RAP Monitoring Plan. Data collected through the implementation of seven specific projects in the monitoring plan will be used to measure progress towards delisting the Niagara River (Ontario) AOC.

#### **International Liaison:**

Participation by the Niagara River (Ontario) RAP on the Habitat Advisory Committee (for Niagara River and Buffalo River RAPs) is expected to continue in 2008.

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

The Niagara River Toxics Management Plan (NRTMP) Progress Report and Work Plan 2007 is now available.

A NRTMP "State of the Niagara" conference and the International Joint Commission's centennial celebration of the International Boundary Waters Treaty are expected to be held in multiple locations within the Niagara Region in early June 2009.

Upcoming conferences:

November 19 – 21, 2008: A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium. Theme to be announced.

Natural Heritage Areas Inventory Update – February 08

The data collected in 2007 both by our teams and the volunteers is being inputted into the project database. The raw data summaries produced are then going to be written up for use in the final project report.

Staff are comparing various NAI documents to make recommendation at the Steering Committee meeting later this month about the format for the final report due out in April 2009.

The Project Coordinator is still actively fund raising and meeting with the project consultants in order to organize the data collection for the coming field season.

We are looking forward to getting out in the field again.

### **Water Quality Program**

Analysis of the benthic invertebrate samples collected during the fall of 2007 has been completed. Analysis of the 2007 chemical data has also been completed and all results will be presented in the NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program 2007 Annual Report. A draft version of the 2007 Annual Report has been prepared and is currently under review prior to final print and distribution.

The remaining groundwater wells from the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) were sampled in December as part of the fall 2007 groundwater sampling. Samples collected from the PGMN wells have been analyzed for several parameters including nutrients, metals, microbiology and general chemistry. Sampling will again be completed in the spring of 2008.

The NPCA hosted the first meeting for the Welland River Eutrophication Study Technical Working Group on January 29th. Members of the Technical Working Group include representatives from Environment Canada, the Ministry of the Environment, and the NPCA. The Welland River Eutrophication Study is being completed as part of the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan review of beneficial use impairment delisting criteria. The objective of the first meeting was to finalize the Study workplan and discuss the 2008 field season. The first meeting was very productive with good discussion about the technical aspects of the study. The Study workplan has been revised and a second meeting has been scheduled for early March to prepare for the spring field season.

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

GIS staff are working on the same long term tasks as in last months report, primarily around the Water Availability Study and Intake Protection Zone Refinements.

### **LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

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

The 2008 March Break Eco-Adventures Day Camp will run March 10 – 14. Promotional efforts are in place and there has already been some media coverage. Several registrations have been confirmed to date.

A schedule of programs is being planned for the 2008 season. In addition to some of the current programs a number of new program and workshop ideas are being considered, including incorporating new programs at the Centre.

Volunteers are assisting with cleaning the heritage buildings and organizing programming materials for 2008. Alan Large has volunteered to build some squirrel feeders and toys for programs. The Niagara Restoration Council has donated some blue bird box kits.

This year two of the Ball's Falls volunteers, who are also members of the heritage advisory committee, will be nominated for milestone awards through the provincial Volunteer Service Awards. Linda Holmes will be nominated to receive a 10 year award and Ellen Mitchinson for a 15 year service award. Linda has continued her involvement in educational programming and special events, while Ellen has dedicated many hours to enhancing the gardens on site, assisting with displays and exhibits and participating in heritage programming. The ceremonies take place across Ontario in spring.

In 2007 the Authority nominated Marion Holman for two provincial awards. Marion has been selected to receive both the 2007 Senior Achievement Award, and the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award. The Senior Achievement Award honours the extraordinary contributions made by seniors, after the age of 65, to their communities. Marion is one of only 25 recipients who will be recognized at a special ceremony, hosted by The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario at Queen's Park in February. Marion was also selected to receive the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement. The Ontario Heritage Trust introduced this new category in the Heritage Community Recognition Program to recognize outstanding individual achievements to conserve Ontario's heritage over a period of 25 years or more. Regional Chairman Peter Partington endorsed the NPCA nomination, in recognition of Marion's lifelong commitment to the heritage community. A presentation to recognize the 18 recipients will be held at Queen's Park on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

This past month saw all trades working on completing the building interior and the project is now entering the building commissioning stage. Installation of the features in the permanent exhibit gallery began end of January. Staff are working with trades to integrate the data requirements (phone, security, internet etc.) with the building systems.

Weekly meetings are being held with our staff, the architects, consultants and contractors to monitor the building construction and resolve questions as they arise. Final fit and finish items and minor deficiencies are now under review.

All exterior site work is shut down for the winter and will be completed this spring. At that time site inspections will be conducted to monitor substantial completion of the site and landscape contract.

LEED compliance is being tracked by our consultants and the building commissioning is entering the testing and balancing, and building flush-out stage.

Mystus Exhibits has begun to install the structural elements for most of the displays in the Centre.

## **Ecological-Environmental Services**

### **Beamer Memorial Conservation Area**

Staff met with the Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch Group to co-ordinate and assist in preparation for the Good Friday Hawkwatch Event. Parking, site signage and concessionaire arrangements are being administered by the NPCA.

### **Binbrook Conservation Area**

Construction of the underwater log and rock cribs has been completed. Installation of these features is pending suitable weather conditions for 6" ice at Lake Niapenco, expected in January February. During December the staff with the Glanbrook Conservation Committee also promoted this project of habitat improvements and funding partnership with the local Glanbrook paper. This project assists in implementing the Binbrook Fish Management Plan.

### **Binbrook Conservation Area**

A funding application for the Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program (CFWIP) has been submitted, in partnership with the Glanbrook Conservation Committee, for restoration of two eroded shoreline areas near the old campground and the Tyneside Trail.

### **Willoughby Marsh Conservation Area**

The Species at Risk Project has finished with the contract staff now finished. With this staffing an additional 35% survey of the property was completed, resulting in a total of 43% now covered for this Conservation Area. With the recent warm January weather CA staff and MNR will be completing additional Species at Risk survey work, and will be completing and submitting the final project funding report outlining the project work and findings.

The Staff Ecologist and the local MNR Species at Risk Technician visited the next closest moss population in New York State to compare habitats and further assess habitat requirements.

### **Morgan's Point Conservation Area**

An additional 85.5 m<sup>2</sup> (920 ft<sup>2</sup>) of habitat was improved at the site in December for the hibernation of a 'Species at Risk'. This work was completed with the labour assistance of Eco Crew Niagara and consisted of exposing sand by removing existing ground vegetation in selected areas.

### **NPCA Hunting Program**

To date staff has received and issued 61 hunting permits/permission for 2008. Of these, 4 permits are issued to individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

Staff met with local OFAH members to discuss the CA permit procedure and the recent addition of an administration fee. Some changes were proposed to streamline the process and improve communications with the stakeholders.

## **Fall Wild Turkey Season**

OMNR has proposed an amendment to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act 1997 to establish a new fall wild turkey season for the purpose of providing additional recreational hunting opportunities and increasing economic benefits. If approved this season will begin fall 2008, will be 2 weeks (from the Monday following Oct.17th to Sunday preceding the first Monday in November) in addition to the existing 4 week season in the spring. It would permit 1 turkey to be harvested and require all hunters to obtain an additional fall season wild turkey licence from the province. Public consultation will be taking place until March 4, 2008

## **Conservation Ontario Species at Risk Fact sheet**

Conservation Ontario is developing a land stewardship factsheet for species at risk. They contacted the NPCA for information on the Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area. This work will be featured in one of the factsheets.

## **Conservation Area and Education**

The Wainfleet Bog will be featured in a Toronto published textbook for grades 7 and 8. This will consist of an example of a bog wetland and localize it for Ontario school children. Photos and information was submitted to assist the publisher. The textbook is to be published later this spring and available for Ontario schools.

## **Binbrook CA**

Land management staff are assisting with the dam spillway project, reviewing with the contractor work to be done on the windsurf beach parking lot and construction of a new toboggan hill from the excess fill off the dam.

During the mild spell in January the workshop work yard was enlarged, soil berms constructed, and the ground graded and topped with gravel. These improvements now provide the open area needed for storage of materials, vehicle parking, and outdoor workspace to support park operations. Future work on this area, as time and budget allows, will be to install chain link fencing to secure the outdoor yard.

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

Staff are monitoring the seasonal flooding of the property and flood effects on the constructed wetland, trails, and viewing platforms. To date the flooding and winter conditions have not been of concern.

## **Morgan's Point CA**

Upon recent inspection of the interpretive pedestal signage by staff, it was discovered that defects in the sign surface were appearing. The sign manufacturer was consulted and all pedestal signs will be replaced under warranty at no cost within the next month.

## **Jordan – Ellis Property**

Ontario Heritage Trust has received our final work reports and are pleased with the results of our work program on the property for 2007. Final payment has been received in our office for our partnership on the project.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

### **Annual Report**

Preparations are underway for the production of the Annual Report. Staff anticipates that this will be complete by early April.

### **2008 Special Events**

The 2008 special events list is posted on the NPCA website. A number of new initiatives are planned in collaboration with other community organizations.

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

The 2008 Festival will take place at Ball's Falls Conservation Area from September 14-19, 2008. The public day will take place on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Authority staff are continuously consulted by a number of other organizations wishing to start a program.

### **Eco School**

Plaques have been prepared for the schools that participated in the 2007 Eco School program. These will be presented at the regularly scheduled school board meetings for both the DSBN and Niagara Catholic District School Board.

### **Watershed Report Card**

Data is being coordinated to populate the 2007 Watershed Report Card with distribution expected in April. This project is an initiative that is funded through the Niagara Water Strategy and is circulated to all households in the watershed.

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

In anticipation of the grand opening in May, a number of Billboards have been scheduled to run throughout the watershed to gain awareness of the centre.

### **Source Protection Planning**

Staff continues to work with the local Source Protection Committee and Ministry staff towards the goal of this program.

### **Community Outreach - Native Plant Guide**

The Authority is pleased that CYTEC has generously contributed to the printing costs of the second edition of the Native Plant Guide in anticipation of the community workshops. Two workshops are currently scheduled for Wednesday March 26<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Nelles Public School; 118 Main Street East, Grimsby and on Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; at Glynn A. Green Public School; 1353 Pelham Street, Fonthill.

## **NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**

### **Golf Tournament**

The *2008 Bob Welch Memorial Classic* will be taking place on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Whirlpool Golf Course. Registration and sponsorship packages will be mailed to previous golfers and new prospects in the near future. Staff will be working on securing sponsors and donations for this event.

### **Foundation Publications**

Staff is currently working on the sixth issue of the Foundation's newsletter, '*Reflections On Conservation In Niagara*' to be distributed, along with a letter and donation card, to current donors and Friends of the Foundation.

### **Recommendation:**

**Report No. 13-08** outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.

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