

**\_NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**FULL AUTHORITY**

**WELLAND**

**AGENDA**

**MARCH 19, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**BUSINESS:**

**(1) MINUTES - FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – FEBRUARY 20, 2008**

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting held February 20, 2008.

**(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**(3) DELEGATIONS**

Mr. Walter Konik has requested to appear as a delegation on behalf of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Irrigation Committee to address the Board on the matter of the water taking permit requirements.

**(4) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

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

**(6) ACCOUNTS – FEBRUARY, 2008 – REPORT NO. 14-08**

Attached is Staff Report No. 14-08 outlining the list of accounts for February, 2008.

**(7) 2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - REPORT NO. 15-08**

Attached is Staff Report No. 15-08 together with a copy of the Audited 2007 Financial Statements.

**(8) NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE – AIRPORT, BRIGHT AND LEVIGNE IRRIGATION SYSTEM - REPORT NO. 16-08**

Attached is Report No. 16-08 regarding this matter.

(9) **REGION OF NIAGARA – TREE CONSERVATION BY-LAW – REPORT NO. 17-08**

Attached is Report No. 17-08 together with a copy of the final draft of the by-law and Terms of Reference.

(10) **GREAT LAKES & ST. LAWRENCE CITIES – LOCAL INVESTMENT IN THE GREAT LAKES – REPORT NO. 18-08**

Attached is Report No. 18-08 regarding this matter.

(11) **WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM 2007 ANNUAL REPORT – REPORT NO. 19-08**

Attached is Staff Report No. 19-08 together with a copy of the 2007 Water Quality Annual Report.

(12) **15, 16 & 18 MILE CREEKS WATERSHED PLAN – FINAL REPORT– REPORT NO. 20-08**

Attached is Report No. 20-08 together with a copy of the watershed plan final report.

(13) **SOUTH NIAGARA FALLS WATERSHED PLAN – FINAL REPORT – REPORT NO. 21-08**

Attached is Report No. 21-08 together with a copy of the watershed plan final report.

(14) **STEERING COMMITTEES – LAKE ERIE NORTH SHORE & CENTRAL WATERSHED PLANS – REPORT NO. 22-08**

Attached is Report No. 22-08 with respect to these plans.

(15) **NATIVE PLANT GUIDE – REPORT NO. 23-08**

Attached is Report No. 23-08 together with a copy of the guide.

(16) **PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 24-08**

Attached is Report No. 24-08 outlining the status of Authority projects.

(17) **OTHER BUSINESS**

(18) **IN CAMERA**

(a) **PERSONNEL**

(b) **VIOLATIONS STATUS REPORT**

**ADJOURNMENT**



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

**DATE: TIME \@ "MMMM d, yyyy" March 19, 2008**

**RE: Accounts February 2008 - Report No. 14-08**

Attached is the list of accounts for the month of February 2008 in the amount of \$330,196.25.

**Recommendation:**

**The list of accounts for the month of February, 2008, in the amount of \$330,196.25 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: March 10, 2008**

**SUBJECT: 2007 Financial Statements – Report No. 15-08**

Attached for your review are the 2007 Financial Statements as audited by MacGillivray Partners LLP. It is noted that the format of the statements is in accordance with the accepted accounting principles for organizations operating in the local government sector as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Also attached is the management letter submitted by the auditors. As noted in this letter, it was determined through the audit that the Authority's policy regarding cash handling and bank deposits was not fully adhered to in one of our conservation areas. This has been discussed with the appropriate staff to ensure that the policy is followed in the future.

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2007 as audited by MacGillivray Partners be received and adopted as printed.**

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



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

**DATE: TIME \@ "MMMM d, yyyy" March 19, 2008**

**RE: NOTL - Airport, Bright and Lavigne Irrigation System – Report No. 16-08**

Attached is correspondence received from the Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake regarding a request from the Town's Irrigation Committee for funding from the Conservation Authority for the study requested by the Conservation Authority as part of the expansion of the Airport, Bright and Lavigne Irrigation System. The Board will recall that under the Authority's policies adopted in December 2007, where a permit is required from the Authority under O. Regulation 155/06 to maintain, repair, improve, modify or create a municipal drain, the Authority may consider cost sharing on any study required by the Authority.

By way of background, the first phase of the Airport, Bright and Lavigne (ABL) Irrigation System was completed in 2001 and involved constructing a pumping station (rated capacity of 4000 US GPM) and a buried PVC pressure pipe which conveys water to an open channel running along Eastchester Avenue. This open channel system feeds Airport Drain 1 and Airport Drain 3. The open channel also continues to the Lavigne and Bright Drains along the former Line 6 Road (see attached figure).

Since the construction of Phase 1 of the ABL System, area growers have expressed interest in obtaining additional water for irrigation. K. Smart and Associates Limited was retained by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake to investigate various options to expand the volume of water conveyed within the ABL System.

On October 10, 2006, NPCA staff were contacted by the consultant's representative requesting NPCA input on alternatives to increase the irrigation capacity of the existing ABL System. Staff comments relative to the alternatives focused on the impacts from increasing flows and flow volumes into the system. The ABL System is currently experiencing some erosion as a result of the existing volume of irrigation water introduced to the system and additional flow would likely increase the erosion. As a result of these concerns, Authority staff indicated that prior to the introduction of additional water to the ABL System, a background study of existing channel stability should be conducted to establish a baseline condition and identify areas that may be susceptible to future erosion. A review of the system operation was also recommended to ensure that there is sufficient water remaining in the system to avoid impacting the dependant aquatic ecosystem. This is the standard Authority requirement where there is a proposal to introduce increased flows into watercourses.

On August 10, 2007 NPCA staff were contacted by representatives of the Quartek Group Inc., an engineering firm retained by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and advised that a preferred alternative had been selected.

The preferred alternative was:

- Construct a new pumping station along the Welland Canal near Queenston Road;
- Install a pressure transmission pipe from the new pumping station along Queenston Road to the head of Airport Drain 1;
- Create a storage facility by widening the channel along Eastchester Avenue between Airport Drains 1 and 3; and
- Install new control structures at the Eastchester Avenue storage facility, the Airport Drain 3 and at the junction of the Lavigne and Bright Drains.

A meeting was held August 16, 2007, to discuss this proposal. NPCA staff were informed that the Town intended to apply for a Federal grant to facilitate expansion of the ABL System and were advised by the consultant that designs must be completed and submitted to the Federal funding agency by September 30, 2007, with construction completed by January 30, 2008. NPCA staff indicated that an NPCA permit was required for the proposed works and it was reiterated that to obtain an NPCA permit for these works, the appropriate background work and studies would be required to address the concerns identified in 2006. The Quartek Group staff advised that L. Campbell and Associates, an environmental consulting firm, had been retained and would be investigating potential impacts associated with expansion of the ABL System.

A subsequent meeting attended by staff of the NPCA, Town of NOTL, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Quartek Group and representatives of the Irrigation Committee was held on October 11, 2007 to discuss the NPCA permit requirements. NPCA staff were advised that sufficient data to prepare the background reports was not available and that the restrictive timelines did not allow for the collection of data required to prepare the reports.

In order to facilitate a more expedited process for a permit and recognizing the funding time limits as set out by the Federal Program and the irrigation needs of growers in the watershed, NPCA staff agreed that although the normal process would require background studies and information be submitted prior to a permit being granted, the Authority staff would agree to the granting of a permit with the necessary studies and monitoring being carried out after the fact.

All parties agreed with the issuance of an NPCA permit with conditions that would include a detailed monitoring program over a 3 year period, with annual reports submitted to the NPCA for review. The NPCA also required that any erosion mitigation works be addressed by the Town of NOTL as necessary throughout the monitoring period.

It was noted by all that the monitoring program requirements to satisfy conditions of an NPCA permit was coincidental with monitoring requirements as set out by the Ministry of the Environment Permit to Take Water for the ABL system. The advantage to the

proponent this is that NPCA permit requirements do not duplicate or add to the work already required by MOE under the Permit to Take Water. It is important to note that a permit from the Conservation Authority is not required for the existing ABL Irrigation system, only the expansion of the system. If the expansion is not to proceed, no permit or studies are required from the Authority.

Authority staff understand that the Irrigation Committee has obtained a proposal to carry out the studies required by the Authority to issue a permit but we have not been made privy to the details of the proposal or its costs. Should the Board agree to a cost sharing arrangement as requested, it is recommended that the proposal(s) be reviewed by Authority staff to ensure that the study components are required for the purposes of the Authority's permit. This would also provide the Board with the cost implications and determine what conditions, if any, the Board would apply to a cost sharing agreement.

Your direction is respectfully requested.

**Recommendation:**

**That report No. 16-08 regarding the NOTL - Airport, Bright and Lavigne Irrigation System 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: The Chairman and Members of the Authority**

**DATE: March 11, 2008**

**SUBJECT: Region of Niagara – Tree Conservation By-Law – Report No. 17-08**

The Board will recall the previous discussions regarding the transferring of responsibility for implementation/enforcement of the Region's Tree and Forest Conservation By-Law to the Conservation Authority. At the December meeting it was decided that it would be premature for the Conservation Authority to assume responsibility By-Law until questions regarding the role of the Advisory Committee and the required program funding were addressed.

Authority staff have met with Regional staff on several occasions to discuss this program. With respect to the Advisory Committee, the Authority's position has always been that there is a need for the Advisory Committee to continue but that its role should be that of a technical committee providing feedback to the Conservation Authority on the by-law. Regional staff have provided a copy of the draft by-law and the associated service level agreement which will be submitted for the consideration of the Region's Planning and Public Works Committee at a future meeting. Authority staff have reviewed the documents and believe they address our earlier questions regarding the Advisory Committee. It is noted that under the service level agreement, the current membership of the Advisory Committee would be continued for the balance of this term of Regional Council. Conservation Authority staff have prepared draft terms of reference for the Advisory Committee which are also attached for your consideration.

With regard to program funding, Authority staff undertook to update the projected program costs from 2006. Our vision of the program requirements includes responding to inquires and complaints from landowners, woodland inspections, the review and issuance of permits, coordination of the Advisory Committee, general program administration and a more aggressive public education program focused on landowners, schools, clubs and other forestry related organizations. To carry out these functions, Authority staff believe that 2 staff positions are required, one being a Registered Professional Forester and the other a Forestry Technician. The estimated annualized program costs are as follows:

Staffing	\$179,500
Mileage & expenses	\$ 8,500
Equipment	\$ 3,000
Brochures & education materials	\$ 15,000
Legal support	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
Total	\$211,000



Should the transfer of the By-Law be approved by this Board and Regional Council, the costs incurred in 2008 would be less recognizing that only a partial year is involved. Attached is correspondence from Mr. M. Trojan, CAO for the Region advising that they would propose to transfer the Region's 2008 budget allocation (approximately \$115,000) to the Conservation Authority. Any unused funds would be carried forward to 2009 when the Conservation Authority will submit a budget and business case for the full program funding required.

Based on the draft By-Law and the funding information provided by the Region, Conservation Authority staff recommend that the Authority assume responsibility for the implementation/enforcement of the Region's Tree and Forest Conservation By-Law effective August 1, 2008.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 17-08 regarding the Region of Niagara - Tree Conservation By-Law be received; and**

**That the Conservation Authority approve assuming responsibility for the implementation/enforcement of the Region's Tree and Forest Conservation By-Law effective August 1, 2008, and further**

**That the terms of reference for the Tree Conservation By-Law Advisory Committee be approved.**

Respectfully

Submitted

By:











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The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) is a binational coalition of mayors and other local officials that works actively with federal, state and provincial governments to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. A number of municipalities within the watershed of the NPCA, including the Region of Niagara and the Cities of Hamilton, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne and St. Catharines, are members of this organization.

Recently, the GLSLCI carried out a survey of local governments and agencies in Canada and the United States to determine the amount of local investment being made in the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes. The rationale behind the survey was that while the Great Lakes local governments, both in Canada and the United States, have consistently made the case for increased upper level government funding to protect and restore the Great Lakes, there has been a reluctance on the part of the upper levels of government to make the required investments without solid evidence that the local governments are fully committed as well.

Attached for your information is a synopsis of the recently completed survey. The full report can be found on the GLSLCI website [HYPERLINK "http://www.glslcities.org"](http://www.glslcities.org) [www.glslcities.org](http://www.glslcities.org) . The GLSLCI estimates that local governments in both Canada and the United States invest over \$15 billion annually on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin ecosystem.

Protection and restoration of the water and other natural resources of the Great Lakes is a critical element for our long term sustainability. The NPCA has recognized the importance the watersheds draining into the Great Lakes play in the ecological health of the Great Lakes and has invested significant dollars and staff time over the past years in response to these concerns. In 2007 alone, the NPCA invested over \$2.6 million in monitoring, education, watershed planning and watershed restoration programs which are focused on improving the water quality conditions of our watercourses which ultimately drain into and affect the Great Lakes. While part of our watershed that is within the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan receives some federal and provincial funding for restoration initiatives, the majority of our watershed is presently not eligible for this funding. In the past several years, conservation authorities have collectively approached the federal government with a proposed "Healthy Great Lakes" program that would direct much needed funding to these types of initiatives. While our efforts to date have not met with success, there continues to be meetings with senior government officials and I am hopeful that some additional support will come forward in the future.

It is important that the federal and provincial governments increase their investment if the goals they have committed to in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the Canada-Ontario Agreement are to be met. It is recommended that the NPCA continue to work with and support the efforts of Conservation Ontario and the GLSLCI in seeking greater financial commitments from the Provincial and Federal governments in the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 18-08 regarding the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities- Local Investment in the Great Lakes be received for information.**

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



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

**DATE: TIME \@ "MMMM d, yyyy" March 19, 2008**

**RE: Water Quality Monitoring Program – 2007 Annual Report – Report No. 19-08**

Attached for the consideration of the NPCA Board is the draft water quality report for 2007. Following approval of this report by the Board, Authority staff will prepare a final report for distribution to all member municipalities. This report is prepared on an annual basis to review the activities of the water quality monitoring program and to document the progress of water quality issues throughout the watershed.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 19-08 regarding the Water Quality Monitoring Program – 2007 Annual Report be received and the recommendations contained therein approved; and**

**That copies of the final 2007 Water Quality Report be forwarded to the watershed municipalities, the watershed Medical Officers of Health, the Ministry of the Environment, the Hamilton Airport and the watershed MPP's and MP's.**

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

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

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

**DATE: TIME \@ "MMMM d, yyyy" March 19, 2008**

**RE: 15-16-18 Mile Creeks Watershed Plan- Final Report – Report No. 20-08**

The 15-16-18 Mile Creeks Watershed Plan Terms of Reference (Report No. 25-06) was reviewed and approved by the Board in March 2006. Attached is the Executive Summary of the final Watershed Plan which provides an overview of the study and its recommended project implementation schedule.

The recommended project costs have also been identified in the attached tables. These costs include projects that are currently funded through the Authority's Watershed Restoration program as well as projects that may be funded through partnerships with other agencies and/or organizations. It is proposed that these initiatives be addressed over a 10 year time frame with continued funding provided in the Authority's Watershed Restoration program.

It is also recommended that the Authority staff provide technical support to the municipality and community watershed groups to promote and assist in the implementation of measures identified in their specific areas of responsibility.

With approval by this Board, a presentation of the final plan with its various recommendations will be made to the Township of West Lincoln Council, Town of Lincoln Council, Town of Pelham Council and the City of St. Catharines Council. Copies of the Watershed Plan will be provided to the steering committee members and will also be made available to the public through the Authority's website, CDs and hard copy. Authority staff would also like to express thanks to the many organizations and members of the public who played a valuable role in guiding the preparation of the watershed plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 20-08 regarding the 15-16-18 Mile Creeks Watershed Plan – Final Report be received; and**

**That the recommended Conservation Authority restoration works be approved for implementation over a multi-year time frame subject to annual budget approvals; and**

**That the 15-16-18 Mile Creeks Watershed Plan and its recommendations be submitted to the Township of West Lincoln, Town of Lincoln, Town of Pelham and the City of St. Catharines for their consideration in future municipal works budgets.**

Prepared by: Tara Metzger, Watershed Planning Specialist

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

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

**DATE: TIME \@ "MMMM d, yyyy" March 19, 2008**

**RE: South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan – Final Report – Report No. 21-08**

The South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan Terms of Reference (Report No. 24-06) was reviewed and approved by the Board in March 2006. Attached is the Executive Summary of the final Watershed Plan which provides an overview of the study and its recommended project implementation schedule.

The recommended project costs have also been identified in the attached tables. These costs include projects that are currently funded through the Authority's Watershed Restoration program as well as projects that may be funded through partnerships with other agencies and/or organizations. It is proposed that these initiatives be addressed over a 10 year time frame with continued funding provided in the Authority's Watershed Restoration program.

It is also recommended that the Authority staff provide technical support to the municipality and community watershed groups to promote and assist in the implementation of measures identified in their specific areas of responsibility.

Following approval by this Board, a presentation of the final plan with its various recommendations will be made to the City of Niagara Falls Council, City of Welland, City of Port Colborne Council and the Town of Fort Erie Council. Copies of the Watershed Plan will be provided to the steering committee members and will also be made available to the public through the Authority's website, CDs and hard copy. Authority staff would also like to express thanks to the many organizations and members of the public who played a valuable role in guiding the preparation of the watershed plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 21-08 regarding the South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan – Final Report be received; and**

**That the recommended Conservation Authority restoration works be approved for implementation over a multi-year time frame subject to annual budget approvals; and**

**That the South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan and its recommendations be submitted to the City of Niagara Falls, City of Welland, City of Port Colborne and Town of Fort Erie for their consideration in future municipal works budgets.**

Prepared by: Tara Metzger, Watershed Planning Specialist

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



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

**DATE: TIME \@ "MMMM d, yyyy" March 19, 2008**

**RE: Steering Committees - Lake Erie North Shore & Central Welland River Watershed Plans - Report No. 22-08**

## **Background**

The Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan Terms of Reference (Report No. 24-07) and the Central Welland River Watershed Plan Terms of Reference (Report No. 23-07) were reviewed and approved by the Board in March 2007.

## **Description and Purpose of the Watershed Plans**

The Lake Erie North Shore watershed includes Local Management Areas 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 as identified in the *NWQPS* (Regional Municipality of Niagara 2003), which falls within the City of Port Colborne, Township of Wainfleet and small portions of the Town of Fort Erie and Haldimand County. Numerous subwatersheds form the Lake Erie North Shore watershed including Bay Beach Area Drain, Point Abino Drain, Bearss Drain, Beaver Dam Creek (P.C.), Oil Mill Creek, Wignell Creek, Welland Canal South, Eagle Marsh Drain, Wainfleet Marsh, Casey Drain, Hoover Drain, Low Banks Drain, and Lake Erie 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (Figure 1). The major concentration of urban land uses (residential, commercial, industrial) is within the City of Port Colborne.

The Central Welland River watershed includes Local Management Areas 2.6, 2.10, 2.12 and a large portion of 2.7. as identified in the *NWQPS* (Regional Municipality of Niagara 2003). The study area falls within the boundaries of the Township of West Lincoln, Town of Pelham, City of Welland and small portions of the Township of Wainfleet and City of Port Colborne. Numerous subwatersheds form the Central Welland River watershed including Beaver Creek, Black Ash Creek, Parkers Creek, Unnamed Creek, Sucker Creek, Coyle Creek, Drapers Creek, Little Forks Creek, Lyons Creek Drain, Indian Creek Drain, Biederman Drain #1 and Biederman Drain #2, as well as Welland River Between Canals, Welland Canal and a portion of Welland Canal North (Figure 1). The major concentration of urban land uses (residential, commercial, industrial) is within the City of Port Colborne and the City of Welland.

The intent of these projects is to produce watershed plans developed in consultation with appropriate government agencies, landowners and interest groups that assists with the management of water, land/water interactions, aquatic life and aquatic resources to protect and improve the health of the watershed ecosystem. The final Watershed Plans will provide a systematic strategy to guide development, identify and recommend alternative and preferred restoration programs, and strengthen stewardship and partnerships in the study watersheds. Once complete, these Watershed Plans will



characterize the respective watersheds; identify and prioritize key issues in the watersheds and recommend strategies based on the key issues identified in each watershed.

### **Steering Committee Membership**

Membership for the Steering Committees for the Lake Erie North Shore and Central Welland River Watershed Plans are based on the list of community stakeholders provided in the Province's White Paper on Watershed-based Source Protection Planning, February, 2004. As such, local government, agricultural groups, naturalist groups and others with a vested interest in the watershed are represented on the committee. Each committee will have a maximum membership of 12 people. The following groups have been contacted and asked to provide a representative from their group by mid-February 2008 so that the first steering committee meetings can be arranged for April 2008. Confirmed members are presented below. It is also recommended that the Chair Person for the Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan and the Central Welland River Watershed Plan be appointed from the Authority Board.

#### Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan

Chair Person: to be determined

- Brett Ruck, Town of Fort Erie, Drainage Superintendent
- Rene Landry, City of Port Colborne, Drainage Superintendent
- Chester Dann, Lorraine Bay Water Quality Group
- Yvonne Hopkins, Friends of Fort Erie's Creeks
- Chuck Miller, Township of Wainfleet, Planning

Regrets:

- Ministry of Natural Resources

Still waiting a response:

- Peninsula Field Naturalists
- Niagara Region
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture

#### Central Welland River Watershed Plan

Chair Person: to be determined

- Rene Landry, City of Port Colborne, Drainage Superintendent
- Dan Huycke, Township of West Lincoln, Planning Technician
- Valerie Cromie, RAP Coordinator, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
- Mike Dickman, Welland River Keepers
- Tony Whelan, Welland River Keepers
- Cory Burant, Niagara Restoration Council
- Rose DiFelice, City of Welland, Planning and Development Services
- Harold Kelly: Pelham, West Lincoln, Wainfleet Drainage Superintendent

Regrets:

- Ministry of Natural Resources

Still waiting a response:

- Peninsula Field Naturalists
- Township of Wainfleet: Drainage Superintendent
- Niagara Region
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture

The Committees will meet approximately 4 times over the course of the projects, which have an anticipated completion date in the spring 2010. Meetings will take place during normal business hours at the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's main office.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 22-08 regarding Steering Committees - Lake Erie North Shore & Central Welland River Watershed Plans be received; and**

**That \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed to Chair the Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Planning Steering Committee; and**

**That \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed to Chair the Central Welland River Watershed Plan Steering Committee.**

Prepared by: Tara Metzger, Watershed Planning Specialist

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



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

**DATE: TIME \@ "MMMM d, yyyy" March 19, 2008**

**RE: Native Plant Guide – Report No. 23-08**

Enclosed in your agenda is the updated version of the Conservation Authority's Native Plant Guide. This guide has been produced to support our restoration and community outreach goals and initiatives. The guide was initially created as a communications tool to help our watershed stakeholders understand the importance of water quality as an essential part of the quality of life that we enjoy. This unique publication encourages landowners to help protect and conserve this valuable resource by providing practical information on native species and how to incorporate these into their own landscapes. Native Plants do not require extra watering and do well without having to apply pesticides and fertilizers. Today, this message is extremely important as many communities are looking at by-laws discouraging the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes.

The Conservation has long recognized the importance of partnerships in assisting with our numerous initiatives and we are pleased that Cytec has partnered with the Conservation Authority on this project by contributing \$5,500 (plus taxes) towards the printing of the guide.

The Native Plant Guide will be made available through our upcoming workshops and community displays, local libraries, gardening and conservation groups, municipal offices and by general request.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 23– 08 regarding the Native Plant Guide be received for information.**

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: TIME \@ "MMMM d, yyyy" March 19, 2008**

**RE: PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 24-08**

### **WATER MANAGEMENT**

#### **Binbrook Dam**

The spillway project is nearing completion. The erosion control mats have been installed and the contractor is currently grading the top of the spillway to the design grade level. Unfortunately the severe winter weather has caused delays, however it is expected that the project will be substantially completed over the next month.

#### **Shriner's Creek Dam C Improvements**

Authority staff met with the successful contractor on site to discuss the project. The initial work was to survey and set out the plan and grade controls for the project. Actual construction will commence over the next week or two depending on weather conditions.

#### **Drinking Water Source Protection (SP) Program**

Notices concerning the commencement of the Source Protection Committee Terms of Reference development were sent to all the municipalities as required by regulation. The Source Protection Committee completed a tour of the Decew Water Treatment Plant during its monthly meeting in March.

#### **Technical Reports Update**

HEC-HMS modeling was completed for the Water Availability Study of Twenty Mile Creek. The study forms part of the Tier 1 Water Budget. Further details are described in the GIS status update. The consultants are still working on the Intake Protection Zone Studies, which are managed by Regional Municipality of Niagara.

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

##### **Contaminated sediments:**

The Niagara River Contaminated Sediment Technical Advisory Group is scheduled to meet on March 20, 2008. The agenda will include discussion and updates for the finalization of the Phase 1V report and contaminated sediment management options for Lyon's Creek East and West sites.

Lyon's Creek East Public Meeting Update No.4 was circulated to the community in early March. The fourth meeting of the CLC for Lyon's Creek East has been re-scheduled for March 25, when Roger Santiago, Environment Canada, will provide an overview of different remedial techniques for contaminated sediments.

Niagara Water Strategy (NWS):

The next NWS Water Advisory Group meeting is anticipated to be in Fall 2008.

Stage 2 Update:

The RAP Science Committee met on 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. Staff updated the Committee on the Welland River Eutrophication Study and the Lyon's Creek East & West contaminated sediments projects. Follow-up actions include the confirmation of lead agencies for the projects identified in the Monitoring Plan, and establishment of technical groups to develop work plans for the projects. These projects include Sport Fish Contaminants monitoring, Wildlife monitoring, Fish Health Effects assessment, Fisheries and Fish and Wildlife habitat assessments. Data collected through the implementation of the monitoring plan will be used to measure progress towards delisting the Niagara River (Ontario) AOC.

The Technical Working Group (TWG) for the Welland River Eutrophication Study is scheduled to meet on March 20, 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*.

International Liaison:

Staff attended the Habitat Advisory Committee meeting (for Niagara River and Buffalo River RAPs) on February 27. Representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation confirmed that the Department expects to pick up the role again as RAP Coordinator for the Niagara River (U.S.) RAP.

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.

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

Staff is working on completing and submitting the year-end report to the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund for our Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Program. Projects funded in the 2007-2008 program year include reforestation projects, riparian buffers and erosion control, various wetland restoration projects and plantings as well as a variety of Best Management Practices projects.

Reforestation, wetland and riparian buffer planting plans and project designs for the spring and summer of 2008 will be finished off within the next couple weeks. The 2008 spring plant order is also near completion and will be sent off this week.

Potential restoration projects in the Fort Erie watershed area are also in the planning stage and the number of projects will hopefully increase through the summer and fall of 2008. Possible projects include the reforestation of an agricultural field and 2 riparian restoration/buffer projects.

Staff attended the final South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan open house in early March and was able to discuss project possibilities in this area with interested landowners and also talked with interested volunteers about the spring planting season.

### **Watershed Restoration**

Staff received word that the Trillium Foundation has approved \$126,400 of the \$140,000 requested for the partnership project with Ducks Unlimited. A three year work plan will be revised to reflect the approved funding.

### **Twenty Mile Creek Restoration**

Landowner contact letters were sent to the Trinity Church Road area of the watershed at the end of February. The letters have generated many new phone calls and site visits for potential projects.

The NPCA is working with the City of Hamilton, Source Protection Planning and strategic planning to develop a partnership for restoration work in the headwaters of 20 mile creek. The City of Hamilton is applying for Water Smart funding which would be used for riparian buffer work, habitat enhancement work and a rain barrel program in the headwaters area.

Staff are also assisting with the Niagara Enviro-thon and World Water Day in March.

Plans are being made to participate in Poultry Fest Niagara in June in the Town of Smithville.

### **Twelve Mile Creek Restoration**

Staff submitted a story about the Henry of Pelham Wetland and Water Quality Project to Carolinian Canada. The project will be featured in the Niagara Fact Sheet due to be published later in March.

Staff continue preparing for spring planting activities and landowner site visits.

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

Staff continues to work on projects for the spring and summer of 2008, planting plans and plant material estimates are being discussed with landowners and should be finalized within the next few months.

Staff has attended a series of Conventions/ Workshops complementing the NOTL restoration program in order to engage in program outreach and staff education:

- Sustainability Network Open Meeting, February 19<sup>th</sup>
- Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention, February 20<sup>th</sup>
- Carolinian Woodlands Recovery Update, February 21<sup>st</sup>

Staff attended a special meeting of the executive council for the Friends of One Mile Creek (FOMC) on February 13<sup>th</sup> in order to brainstorm membership building strategies. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, staff attended a regular meeting of the executive council for the FOMC, to discuss upcoming projects and review the Stewardship manual for One Mile Creek.

Staff has also been coordinating 3 events with the Friends of One mile Creek.

- The general meeting for the Friends of One Mile Creek where staff will be promoting the restoration program, March 26<sup>th</sup>
- A earth day stream clean up, Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup>
- A riparian planting project along King St, Summer 2008.

Staff has been working with the Niagara Envirothon committee in order to help coordinate the content of the workshops and evaluation for the “Soils and Land Use” module.

There are two days of competition. One is a hands-on workshop competition on April 9<sup>th</sup> and the other is a written evaluation of the students’ knowledge with regards to “Current Issue”, this will take place on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Staff have completed the first draft of the One Mile Creek Stewardship Manual. It has been sent to the Friends of One Mile Creek for their review and comments.

### **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 was March 1.

A total of 35 applications were received. Staff have determined that it is feasible to complete projects at 30 schools, due to timing of plants arriving and school days in June. Letters of approval will be sent to the 30 schools within the next couple of weeks and dates picked for site visits, site preparation and planting in May and June. Participants were selected according to date of application and priority was given to first time applicants. The five schools that will not be participating this year were chosen based on previous years participation, although they were put on an interested school list for next year.

Staff are planning for the upcoming ECO School Open Houses/Workshops. As mentioned in last months status report, 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 Teams participated in the 2007 ECO School program.)

### **Outreach Programs**

NPCA staff has been working with the group that is coordinating the Niagara Envirothon competition to develop workshops and evaluations for the competition. The Envirothon will take place on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. This competitive event is for high school students



that are interested in the environment. A meeting will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> to go over the details of the competition and to plan the workshops for the event.

A Yellow Fish Road event is being planned in cooperation with the Town of Fort Erie and Fort Erie Communities in Bloom. The event is to take place on May 21<sup>st</sup> 2008 at Fort Erie Elementary School. Town of Fort Erie staff will be attending the event to ensure the safety of children while they are painting on the storm drains. NPCA staff will be bringing the YFR kits and some light snacks. Fort Erie Communities in Bloom and the Parent Teacher Association from Fort Erie Elementary will be organizing volunteers and making up the groups for the event. There are also two other schools in Fort Erie that are interested in participating in the YFR Program. It is the intention of NPCA staff that after the May 21<sup>st</sup> event we will be able to lend the kits to the schools and the Fort Erie Communities in Bloom group will run the events.

In-school outreach programs continue every Thursday and will wrap up at the end of April.

### **Fish Tagging/Angler Derby**

Information about the July 5<sup>th</sup> Angler Derby taking place at Merrit Island appeared in the 2008 Leisure Guide for the City of Welland.

### **Natural Heritage Areas Inventory Update**

The Project Coordinator is meeting with the project consultants to finalize the details of their contracts for the 2008 season. We are waiting on a response from one additional funding source for application made in January.

Data entry for 2007 is nearing completion and the technical writing based on the data should be underway in the next month.

The Steering Committee will be meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss the scoping for the coming field season and the layout of the final report. We are anticipating another overwhelmingly positive response from landowners as we move into the central part of our watershed.

### **Water Quality Program**

The NPCA Water Quality Monitoring and Source Water programs are participating in the 2008 Lake Ontario Collaborative Drinking Water Study lead by Environment Canada. The objective of this program is to gather hydrologic and water quality data to validate pollutant loadings in order to evaluate changes in nearshore ecology of the lake. This data will also be used for the calibration of the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) watershed model that Environment Canada is planning to use for its future projects. The NPCA's role in this study is to monitor the water quality of Twenty Mile Creek in Jordon using an auto-sampler with the goal of capturing 15-25 wet-weather events.

The Water Quality Program has been selected as the lead for the Welland River Eutrophication Study. This study is part of the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan and its purpose is to quantify nutrient loadings and algae levels in the Welland River over the next 3 years. A Technical Working Group (TWG) consisting of members of the NPCA,

MOE, and Environment Canada have finalized a work plan for 2008. A second TWG meeting has been scheduled for March 19th to coordinate and finalized sampling efforts in the 2008 field season.

The NPCA will be sampling the groundwater wells from the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) in late March and early April as part of the spring 2008 groundwater sampling. Samples collected from the PGMN wells will be analyzed for several parameters including nutrients, metals, microbiology and general chemistry.

The NPCA would like to welcome Andrea Larsen to the Water Quality Program. Andrea will be the Water Quality Technician until Annie Michaud returns from her maternity leave in March 2009.

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

Background research and writing is almost complete for this study area. Several responses of willingness to participate on a steering committee have been received. A request for representation on the steering committee from a member of the NPCA Board of Directors has been submitted. The first steering committee meeting will likely be in April with an open house following shortly after.

Staff have collected and entered the physical information on reach characteristics for the Lake Erie North Shore Watershed. Summer fieldwork preparation has begun, which includes research on adding new methods to the field program and gathering landowner information (addresses to send out contact information).

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

Background research and writing continues for this study area. Several responses of willingness to participate on a Steering Committee have been received. A request for representation on the Committee from a member of the NPCA Board of Directors has been submitted. The first Committee meeting will likely be in April with an open house following shortly after.

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

All comments from the NPCA staff and the Steering Committee have been incorporated into the Watershed Plan and the Fifteen-Sixteen-Eighteen Mile Creeks Watershed Plan has been submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.

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

The open house for the South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan was on Thursday February 28<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9pm at the Chippawa-Willoughby Memorial Arena. The attendance was excellent with 20 people signing the sign-in sheet. The feedback from the open house was very positive and there were no issues at the open house.

All comments from the NPCA staff and the steering committee have been incorporated into the Watershed Plan and the South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan has been submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.

GIS (Geographic Information Systems) / Information Management

Source Water Protection

The T1WB is consuming most of the technical staff time this month:

- The Twenty Mile Creek Watershed Planning Area draft report figures (maps) have been created and sent out for the peer review process.
- The Upper Welland River Watershed Planning Area spatial surface water hydrology model inputs have been prepared and delivered to the consultant for the Water Availability study. The Central Welland Rivers and Big Forks Creek/Feeder Canal Watershed Planning Areas are currently being prepared.
- The IPZ2 upland drainage area refinements have been completed with the currently available data. They may be refined further with anticipated data updates (accurate storm sewer mapping derived through consultation with municipal staff, improved elevation model).

#### Watershed Planning

- Watershed Characterization Maps for the Central Welland River and Lake Erie North Shore Watershed have been completed.
- Natural Areas Inventory staffs are assisting with the ELC Community Series fabric capture and have nearly completed West Lincoln.

#### Corporate GIS

- Another significant load of Authority business data has been uploaded to the GIS server as part of the shared services agreement with the Region. Metadata creation for the Authority's spatial data continues when time permits.
- NPCA GIS staff attended and presented at the MNR Southern Region Geospatial Science and Information Workshop in Niagara Falls. The presentation was entitled "Fine Scale Hydrology Mapping: Business Drivers and Data Requirements from a Conservation Authority Perspective" and covered the legislative responsibilities the NPCA implements that prescribe its large scale mapping and application needs when it comes water resources data.
- The NPCA hosted a meeting with the MNR Water Resources Information Program (WRIP) and several colleagues from other Authorities to discuss large scale water resources data collaboration opportunities.
- Staff are currently working on developing standard 'Area of Concern' mapping templates for the Environment Canada Great Lakes Area of Concern Section.

### **LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

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

There was a good response to the 2008 March Break Eco-Adventures Day Camp with 27 children attending, up from 16 registrants in 2007. Most participants registered for the entire week. Cogeco Cable is scheduled to film camp activities.

Applications have been prepared for special employment funding through both the federal Canada Summer Jobs Program and the provincial Summer Jobs Service Program.

The Thanksgiving Festival has been included on the list of the Top 100 Ontario Festivals, as selected by the Ministry of Tourism and Festivals & Events Ontario. This year the number of festivals to receive the honour was increased from the original Top 50, because

of the growing number of events across the province. Ball's Falls was consistently included on the Top 50 list from year one of the awards.

The festival selection committee will meet on March 27th to review artisan applications for the 34th Annual Thanksgiving Festival.

Planning continues for 2008 programming. The next event will be held April 19, 20(denying on demand). This year "Earth Day, Family Day" is a new pre-registered workshop offered to children ages 6-10 years. Children must register with up to 2 accompanying adults in order to participate.

In February, Marion Holman, a long-time volunteer and member of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee received two prestigious awards in separate ceremonies at Queen's Park. Marion was one of only 26 recipients awarded the Ontario Senior Achievement Award by The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chair of the Ontario Heritage Trust, presented Marion and 17 other recipients with The Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Ontario Heritage Awards. The NPCA was pleased to nominate Marion for both these awards. To be recognized at this level and receive both of these awards is a testament to the significant contribution and many years of dedicated volunteer service Marion has made to the heritage community. Tim Hudak MPP, Niagara West – Glanbrook and Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn attended the Ontario Senior's Awards ceremony. Marion was also invited to attend Pelham Council in February, where she was recognized for receiving the Ontario Senior's Award.

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

This past month saw the general contractor working on completing the building deficiency items while the building commissioning commenced. Most of the structural elements of the Center for Conservation exhibits are in place, including cabinetry in the Permanent Gallery. Mystus Exhibits is completing the "Fly Through" exhibit. Final installation of all displays will resume once stable interior temperatures are achieved with the heating system. Staff are co-ordinating the data (phone, security, internet etc.) and furnishing installations.

Weekly meetings were held February to beginning of March with our staff, the architects, consultants and contractors to monitor the building completion. A final walk-through and deficiency inspection was conducted by staff and the architect March 6th. The general contractor is attending to the items raised during this review. Staff will begin the move-in process during the week of March 17<sup>th</sup>. Staff will not be able to occupy the building until the Town of Lincoln has issued an occupancy permit, expected during the week of March 24<sup>th</sup>.

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, testing and balancing of equipment has been undertaken and the building commissioning is entering the flush-out stage. The contractor and consultants will be holding training meetings on building operations for staff end of March as part of the LEED process.

## **Beamer Memorial Conservation Area**

### Hawkwatch Season

The hawkwatch season officially opened March 1 at Beamer Memorial Conservation. This season runs until May 15 where the Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch Group monitors the species and number of hawks, falcons, eagles and turkey vultures migrating over the site.

This is the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of monitoring. Information gathered contributes to the international research data pool used and used for the assessment and protection of our ecosystems and bird populations

### Hawkwatch Open House

On Friday March 21, the Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch Group will hold their annual Hawkwatch Open House. As in previous years this event is held to increase the public's awareness of the migration of raptors, and will include educational talks on how and why the birds migrate. The event will include displays from the NPCA and various nature clubs. A children's program is also offered.

## **Binbrook Conservation Area**

### Binbrook Ice Fishing Derby

The Binbrook Ice Fishing Derby was held on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. The weather was cold, but ideal, with close to 230 participants registered in the event. A number of families came out to the event, which included ice skating, refreshments on the ice and more than \$2,000 in prizes.

The winning fish was 1.54 pounds. The Glanbrook Conservation Committee and Fishing World were major contributors to this event which received good coverage in local newspapers.

Overall the ice fishing season had a slow start, but was well received by the public.

### Fish Habitat

With the assistance of Glanbrook Conservation Committee, 6 log cribs were installed at Lake Niapenco, to provide fish habitat. These cribs were installed in late February, as the frozen ice conditions aided in movement and set up of materials. They are constructed of logs and contain large rock boulders, providing a habitat column from the lake floor. Placed in moderate lake depths, these provide the additional woody debris and rock to support benthic (bug) and algae growth for food, as well as places for fish to have cover and refuge.

### Walleye

A permit was received from the MNR, for walleye stocking in Lake Niapenco in fall 2008 and 2010. This stocking will be completed in partnership with the Glanbrook Conservation Committee and will be used to help extended public angling opportunities. Land management staff are continuing to assist 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.

## **NPCA Hunting Program**

To date staff has received and issued 67 hunting permits/permission for 2008. Of these, 4 permits are issued to individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

## **NPCA 2008 Volunteer Opportunity List**

The list of Volunteer Opportunities offered by the NPCA in 2008, is now available. It is posted on the webpage and is also being forwarded or mailed to all area high schools and libraries within our administrative area as information for students (for contribution to their community service hours) and the general public.

## **Brock Internship- NPCA Partnership**

The NPCA partnered this year with the Brock Recreational Department. An intern from the recreational program conducted a trail assessment and classification. This project enabled the student to spend 100 hours of volunteer time from late October 2007 through March 2008. The findings demonstrated that the majority of NPCA trails are in the moderate to difficult classification, with several easy trail inclusions recommended by way of an additional side trail link or new trail. Existing trail conditions on vegetation overgrowth and trail surface was also identified and prioritized for staff to review.

## **Property Assessments**

Staff reviewed the annual property assessment notices for our properties and are following up with MPAC for Wainfleet Wetland, Chippawa, and EC Brown. Some changes to the assessments were necessitated by adjustments to our CLTIP and MFTIP applications.

## **Conservation Masterplans**

Staff in the land department are using the winter months to update our property plans incorporating the recent aerial photography and GIS data secured by our agency. The CA masterplans help facilitate planning, design, and operations on our properties.

## **Parks Signage**

Staff attended a training session on parks signage in Toronto held by Parks and Recreation Ontario. Topics covered included risk and liability issues associated with signage in public parks, and creating effective park signage.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

### **World Water Day**

Staff is partnering with the City of St. Catharines and the Region of Niagara to have a display at the Pen Centre March 19 and 20<sup>th</sup> as part of the World Water Day awareness initiatives.

## **Annual Report**

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

## **Eco School Presentations**

The Chairman and Vice Chairman, accompanied by staff attended the District School Board of Niagara Board Meeting and the Niagara District Catholic School Board meetings on February 26 to present plaques to schools that participated in the 2007 Eco School program. The program is continuing to be well received.

## **2008 Special Events**

The 2008 special events list is posted on the NPCA website. The annual Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch open house at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area is being planned for Good Friday, March 21. A number of initiatives for participating in Earth Day Activities are also being planned. Trout season opening at St. Johns Conservation Area is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

Plans for the 2008 Water Festival are proceeding and staff are currently working on following up with potential sponsors. Plans for the Public Day scheduled for Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> are shaping up nicely. Invitations will again be extended to watershed municipalities inviting them to set up displays showcasing their environmental initiatives.

## **Watershed Report Card**

Staff is working with Philips Engineering staff and other stakeholder partners to gather data for the 2007 Report Card. It is anticipated that this project will be completed in the latter part of May.

## **Source Protection Planning**

Staff is developing community outreach materials for the open houses planned for June 2008.

## **Eco Workshop**

The second printing of the Native Plant Guides has been produced. Staff will host two public open houses, the first at Nelles School in Grimsby on March 26 and a subsequent one at Glynn E. Green School in Pelham on April 9. These events are geared to helping people understand the benefits of incorporating native species into their own landscape. The guides will also be made available to our member municipalities, gardening clubs, libraries, and environmental groups and to the public as requested.



## **Centre for Conservation**

Staff is working on the plans for the official opening of the Centre for Conservation scheduled to take place on May 9<sup>th</sup>, commencing at 11:00 a.m. Members are encouraged to mark the date on their calendars.

## **NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**

### **Golf Tournament**

Plans are proceeding for the *2008 Bob Welch Memorial Charity Golf Classic* taking place on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Whirlpool Golf Course. Registration and sponsorship packages have been distributed to previous participants as well as a list of potential prospects and staff is continuing to work on securing sponsorship and silent auction items. Board members are encouraged to participate and assist where possible.

### **Foundation Publications**

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

### **Conservation Education Bursaries**

Information and applications are in the process of being forwarded to schools and former recipients for this year's round of bursaries that will continue despite the disbanding of the Fort Erie Conservation Women's Auxiliary. These \$1,000 bursaries assist secondary and post-secondary students from the Fort Erie and surrounding area that are planning to pursue conservation-related studies. Deadline for applications this year is May 23, 2008.

### **Recommendation:**

**Report No. 24-08 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.**

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