

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**FULL AUTHORITY**

**WELLAND**

**AGENDA**

**APRIL 16, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**BUSINESS:**

**(1) MINUTES**

**(a) FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – MARCH 19, 2008**

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting held March 19, 2008.

**(b) BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – APRIL 3, 2008**

Attached are the Minutes of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting held April 3, 2008.

**(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**(3) IN CAMERA**

- (a)** Job Evaluation and Compensation Study – Final Report
- (b)** Land Acquisition
- (c)** Violations Status Report

**(4) DELEGATION**

Mrs. Austin Kirkby has requested to appear as a delegation on the matter of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Plan.

**(5) NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE WATERSHED PLAN FINAL REPORT – REPORT NO. 26-08**

Attached is Report No. 26-08 regarding the NOTL Watershed Plan Final Report.

**(6) NOTL – AIRPORT, BRIGHT AND LAVIGNE IRRIGATION SYSTEM – REPORT NO. 27-08**

Attached is Report No. 27-08 regarding this matter.

(7) **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

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

(9) **ACCOUNTS – MARCH, 2008 – REPORT NO. 28-08**

Attached is Staff Report No. 28-08 outlining the list of accounts for March, 2008.

(10) **CURRENT & CAPITAL BUDGETS – STATUS TO MARCH 31 - REPORT NO. 29-08**

Attached is Staff Report No. 29-08 together with a copy of the 2008 Current and Capital Budgets.

(11) **2008 HONOURARIUM & PER DIEM ADJUSTMENT - REPORT NO. 30-08**

Attached is Report No. 30-08 regarding this matter.

(12) **MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT POLICY – REPORT NO. 31-08**

Attached is Report No. 31-08 together with a Draft Policy.

(13) **FORT ERIE CREEKS WATERSHED PLAN – FINAL REPORT – REPORT NO. 32-08**

Attached is Report No. 32-08 together with a copy of the final report.

(14) **2007 ANNUAL REPORT – REPORT NO. 33-08**

Attached is Report No. 33-08 together with a copy of the 2007 Annual Report.

(15) **GYPSY MOTH MANAGEMENT ON NPCA PROPERTIES – REPORT NO. 34-08**

Attached is Report No. 34-08 together with a copy of a defoliation map.

(16) **ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD HEARING – REEB QUARRY – REPORT NO. 35-08**

Attached is Report No. 35-08 together with a copy of a letter from the Authority's solicitors.

(17) **WATERSHED WIDE PROPERTY APPRAISAL – REPORT NO. – 36-08**

Attached is Report No. 36-08 with respect to this matter.

(18) **PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 37-08**

Attached is Report No. 37-08 outlining the status of Authority projects.

(19) **OTHER BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**



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## NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

WELLAND

MARCH 19, 2008

7:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

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

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

B. Baty (Vice-Chairman)  
B. Bentley (with regrets)  
B. Henderson (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  
C. Kaufmann, Sr. Accounts Clerk

#### OTHERS PRESENT:

Randy Momot, MacGillivray Partners  
Nadia Kobylka, MacGillivray Partners  
Walter Konik, NOTL Irrigation Committee  
Jack Lowrey  
Kevin Buis  
Kevin Watson  
Gerry Kanterc  
Robert Bator  
Doug Hernder  
Mike Dantini  
Richard Kerber  
Thomas Oppenlaender  
Tim Andrews

March 19, 2008 – continued

**OTHERS PRESENT:** John & Jocelyn Thwartes  
(continued) Peter Klassen  
Edith Klassen  
Harry Klassen  
Harold Neufeld  
V. Haramina  
K. Dyck  
Casey Byl  
John Fedorkow  
Ken Andrews  
Larry Falk  
Ray Duc  
Adolf Reddecopy  
Peter H. Reddecopy  
Herbert Wolls  
Kai Wiens  
Erwi Wiens  
Rob Langendoon  
George Lepp  
James Wiens  
Gary Wiens

**BUSINESS:**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m., welcomed everyone in attendance and then requested that if anyone had a conflict of interest to declare it. Brian Heit declared a conflict with respect to Telus or Talk Wireless.

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

The following resolution was presented.

**FA-33-08**

**MOVED BY:** T. Dalimonte

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

**THAT:** the Minutes of the Full Authority meeting held February 20, 2008, be received and approved as printed.

**"CARRIED"**

**(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**(3) DELEGATIONS**

The Chairman introduced Mr. Walter Konik from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Irrigation Committee, who was in attendance with respect to water taking permit requirements. Mr. Konik was advised that he had 10 minutes to make his presentation.

Mr. Konik thanked the Board for the opportunity to appear as a delegation and read a letter submitted by John and Austin Kirkby. The General Manager noted that the reference in the letter to the General Manager committing to funding studies was not correct and what had transpired at the February Board meeting was that direction was received by the Board to include a statement in the Authority's policies regarding O. Reg. 155/06 that the Board may consider funding support for studies requested by the Authority for the purpose of a permit under the Authority's regulations.

Kevin Buis, a member of the Irrigation Committee then provided copies of a letter outlining the reasons for their attendance and requested that the Authority provide funding for studies required for the permit process regarding the application to increase flow in the drains. The Chairman thanked him for his presentation.

The Chairman noted that Item 8 in the agenda dealt with this matter and the Chairman, with leave of the Board, asked that it be brought forward at this time for consideration.

Tony D'Amario presented the staff report noting that the studies being required are from MOE for a water taking permit and not the Authority. He noted that a permit is only required from the Authority if the flows are to be increased and at that time, the data which would normally be required by the Authority would be provided in the studies prepared for the MOE permit. Should the increase in flow to the drains, not take place, the Authority would not require any studies.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the funding component and it was agreed that more information would be required regarding costs of the studies before the Authority could consider any type of funding.

Following questions and a discussion period, the following resolution was presented:

**FA-34-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Greenwood

**SECONDED BY:** A. Fevez

**THAT:** Report No. 16-08 regarding the NOTL - Airport, Bright and Lavigne Irrigation System be received; and

Staff be directed to report back on costs of studies required, to be considered by the Board at their April meeting; and

A letter be forwarded to Ministry of the Environment from the Conservation Authority Board directing that the Irrigation Committee from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake be included in any meetings on this matter; and

The correspondence of March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> be received.

**"CARRIED"**

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

Brian Heit declared a conflict with respect to Telus or Talk Wireless matters. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-35-08**

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

**SECONDED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**THAT:** the list of accounts for the month of February, 2008, in the amount of \$330,196.25 be received and approved.

**"CARRIED"**

(5) **2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – REPORT NO. 15-08**

The Chairman introduced Ms. Nadia Kobylka from the firm of MacGillivray Partners who was in attendance to present the 2007 Financial Statements. The General Manager noted Mrs. Cathy Kaufmann, Sr. Accounts Clerk for the Authority was also in attendance.

Ms. Kobylka outlined the financial statements and the auditor's letter and responded to questions. The following resolution was then presented.

**FA-36-08**

**MOVED BY:** A. Fevez

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

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

**"CARRIED"**

(6) **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

The General Manager advised that it was necessary to appoint the Authority's auditors for 2008. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-37-08**

**MOVED BY:** G. Burroughs

**SECONDED BY:** B. Butters

**THAT:** the firm of MacGillivray Partners be appointed as the Conservation Authority Auditors for 2008.

**"CARRIED"**

(7) **IN-CAMERA**

The Chairman the requested the Board move in-camera to discuss a personnel matter.

**FA-38-08**

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

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

**FA-39-08**

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

**Received at 8:45 p.m. "CARRIED"**

As a result of the in-camera session the following resolution was presented.

**FA-40-08**

**MOVED BY:** A. Fevez  
**SECONDED BY:** B. Greenwood  
**THAT:** The position of General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer be changed to that of Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer effective May 1, 2008; and

That Tony D'Amario be appointed as Chief Administrative Officer/ Secretary-Treasurer effective May 1, 2008.

**"CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY"**

Tony thanked the Board for their support and noted that he is committed to fill the position they have given him in the same manner as his predecessor.

With respect to the structure of the Audit Committee, the following resolution was presented.

**FA-41-08**

**MOVED BY:** C. D'Angelo  
**SECONDED BY:** G. Burroughs  
**THAT:** the 2008 Audit Committee consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Brian Heit as a member-at-large.

**"CARRIED"**

**(8) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman noted that Friday was the open house for the Hawkwatch at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area.

The Chairman advised that the Authority will be hosting an interactive restoration workshop at Nelles School in Grimsby on March 26<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 9 p.m.

The Chair noted that a reception is being held in honour of Andy's retirement at Niagara College Culinary School on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. and invitations will be forthcoming.

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

The General Manager noted that the original date of May 8<sup>th</sup> for the opening of the Centre for Conservation at Ball's Falls has been changed to Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

The General Manager and several staff met with members of the Niagara North and South Federations of Agriculture on February 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss items of mutual interest. He noted the meeting was very positive and that a further meeting will be held in June.

The General Manager advised staff will be meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup> with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Agricultural Committee and the Irrigation Committee to present the Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Plan. The plan will be provided to the Board for approval at the April meeting.

The General Manager indicated that the Welland River Keepers 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual March Break event on March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Welland Lion's Hall was very successful with over 200 in attendance. He thanked Andy Fevez and members of the Welland River Keepers for their efforts and thanked Authority staff who assisted.

The General Manager noted that the Conservation Ontario Biennial Tour will be held September 7-10 in Sudbury and that the Authority has sent members in the past. He requested that if any members were interested in attending to see Loretta for a brochure.

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

The General Manager outlined the staff report. A lengthy discussion took place on whether the Authority should take on this initiative and concerns about the wording on several items with respect to the by-law. After responding to questions, the following resolution was presented.



**FA-42-08**

**MOVED BY:** A. Fevez

**SECONDED BY:** B. Greenwood

**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.

**“CARRIED”**

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

The General Manager outlined the staff report noting it was an information only item. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-43-08**

**MOVED BY:** G. Burroughs

**SECONDED BY:** B. Greenwood

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

**“CARRIED”**

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

The Director, Water Management outlined the staff report and responded to questions. Carmen D'Angelo commended staff for recognizing a spill at the Hamilton Airport and noted MOE has requested corrective measure from the Airport. The following resolution was then presented.

**FA-44-08**

**MOVED BY:** N. Johnson

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**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.

**“CARRIED”**

**(13) 15, 16 & 18 MILE CREEKS WATERSHED PLAN – FINAL REPORT– REPORT NO. 20-08**

The Director, Water Management outlined the staff report. The General Manager noted the efforts of the Steering Committee in the development of the plan and thanked Norm Johnson for his work as Chairman of the Committee. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-45-08**

**MOVED BY:** N. Johnson

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**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.

**“CARRIED”**

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

The Director, Water Management outlined the staff report noting it was similar to the previous report. The General Manager again thanked the Steering Committee for their efforts and Barb Greenwood for her work as Chair. Barb indicated she was very thankful for the opportunity. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-46-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Heit

**SECONDED BY:** B. Greenwood

**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.

**“CARRIED”**

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

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

**FA-47-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Greenwood

**SECONDED BY:** B. Heit

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

That Barbara Butters be appointed to Chair the Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Planning Steering Committee; and

That Brian Baty be appointed to Chair the Central Welland River Watershed Plan Steering Committee.

**“CARRIED”**

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

The General Manager advised that the members had each received a copy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Native Plant Guide. He noted that the printing of this edition had been sponsored by Cytec and commended staff on a job well done. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-48-08**

**MOVED BY:** C. D’Angelo

**SECONDED BY:** N. Johnson

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

**“CARRIED”**

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

There were no questions with respect to this report. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-49-08**

**MOVED BY:** C. D’Angelo

**SECONDED BY:** N. Johnson

**THAT:** Report No. 24– 08 regarding the status of Authority projects be received for information.

**“CARRIED”**

**(18) OTHER BUSINESS**

**(a) Miscellaneous Items**

Carmen D'Angelo requested the Board provide funding for a course provided through the McMaster School of Business on Board Governance being held at White Oaks over a 2 year period. He asked if the Authority had a policy for training costs for Board members and it was noted a policy is not in place at this time. It was suggested that a policy be prepared and presented at the next meeting.

Gary Burroughs questioned the involvement of the Authority in a project going forward in Niagara-on-the-Lake regarding an ANSI and 2 Mile Creek. The General Manager advised that the Authority has had little involvement in the project at this point in time.

**(b) Offer to Donate Property – Oswego Creek C.A. – Report No. 25-08**

The Director Land Management outlined the report and responded to questions. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-50-08**

**MOVED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**SECONDED BY:** D. Goulbourne

**THAT:** Report No. 25– 08 regarding Offer to Donate Property – Oswego Creek C.A.. be received and the offer declined.

**“CARRIED”**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**FA-51-08**

**MOVED BY:** N. Johnson

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

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

**Received at 10:04 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

Ball's Falls

April 2, 2008

3:00 p.m.

#### MINUTES

**Members Present:** M. Hunter  
D. Ransom  
M. Holman  
E. Mitchinson  
F. High

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

**Regrets:** B. Baty  
L. Holmes  
J. Mastroianni  
A. Petrie

#### BUSINESS:

1) **Call to Order**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m.

2) **Minutes of Last Meeting – February 6, 2008**

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

**MOVED BY:** Doug Ransom

**SECONDED BY:** Marion Holman

**THAT:** the minutes of the last meeting held February 6, 2008 be approved.

**"CARRIED"**

3) **Business Arising From Minutes**

The Curator circulated photos from the Awards Ceremonies held at Queen's Park in February where Marion Holman was awarded the Ontario Senior's Award and the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement.

4) **Ball's Falls Status Report – Report No. HC-06-08**

The Curator updated the members on activities related to the upcoming opening of the Centre. She advised that the Administrative Assistant and the Program Assistant had joined the NPCA staff on March 31<sup>st</sup> and were assisting with tasks related to the transition to the new facility.

**MOVED BY:** Ellen Mitchinson

**SECONDED BY:** Marion Holman

**THAT:** Report No. HC-06-08 on the status of Ball's Falls Conservation Area Projects be received for information.

**“CARRIED”**

5) **Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation Building Update**

The Chairman noted that the formal meeting would adjourn and the Committee would then tour the building to address this agenda item.

6) **Other Business**

There was no other business.

7) **Adjournment**

**MOVED BY:** Marion Holman

**SECONDED BY:** Ellen Mitchinson

**THAT:** in order to tour the facility, this meeting do now adjourn.

Received at 3:30 p.m.

**“CARRIED”**

C. Hayward, Curator

Mike Hunter, Chair



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

**DATE: May 7, 2008**

**RE: Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Study Final Report – Report No. 26-08**

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Study Final Report has been recently received by the Authority. The NOTL watershed encompasses a drainage area discharging into the Welland Canal, Lake Ontario and the Niagara River, draining north of the Niagara Escarpment between the Niagara River and the Welland Canal. To the south, a small portion of the City of Niagara Falls is included in the drainage area. Individual restoration strategies have been prepared for each of the main subwatersheds to protect and enhance the unique characteristics of each system.

Land use in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed is characterized primarily by rural/agriculture with urban and urban development in the downstream sections near Lake Ontario and the Niagara River as well as within the QEW corridor. Agricultural areas include area unique agricultural commodities including grapes, tender fruits and greenhouse operations.

Natural heritage resources in the study area are primarily limited to areas along the Escarpment and some woodlots and riparian lands. These areas, while limited in number and size, sustain a high diversity of flora and fauna and provide habitat for many Carolinian species that are rare in Ontario. These lands are at times under threat of development and therefore area high priority areas for management actions aimed at protecting or enhancing their natural features. Where possible, measures to create new areas and establish riparian habitat, as well as protect existing natural areas will be encouraged.

The management actions for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Study were developed through a process that included extensive public consultation and input, with the recognition of existing land uses including farming practices. While the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority is concerned with the enhancement and sustainability of the overall watershed's natural resources, it is also recognized that the remedial projects and programs must take into account the importance of agriculture to the Town and its residents and economic viability of farming operations. The goal therefore was to develop a plan that balanced the needs of the agricultural community with those of the watershed's natural resources. The recommended multi-year implementation program respects and achieves this balance.

The recommended plan achieves the established goals of:

- Protection of the natural environment within the context of a unique, fragile agricultural resource and,
- Promotion of environmentally sound water management practices that recognize the interdependencies between the watercourses and the irrigation/drainage system;

Achieved through programs that focus on:

- Communication and Education
- Water Quality and Quantity
- Aquatic Communities and Habitats
- Terrestrial Communities

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Conservation Authority recognizes the unique aspects of the agricultural industry in Niagara-on-the-Lake and it is intended that Conservation Authority staff work with all watershed residents and the agricultural community to establish programs that support a healthy and sustainable environment for the benefit of all while respecting the needs of the agricultural industry. The formation of an Implementation Committee with members of the various interest groups has been recommended and will provide an avenue for discussions of future initiatives and programs to ensure this objective is achieved.

It should be noted that all recommended programs and stewardship initiatives such as improving riparian buffers as well as others that may impact on land uses are set out as programs where participation would be strictly voluntary. For example, there are concerns about the impact of weirs & dams that are used for irrigation on municipal drains, on water quality and fisheries. It is not the intent of the plan or the Conservation Authority to require the removal of these structures. While off-line ponds would be the preferred technique, the Conservation Authority recognizes the need for irrigation and the existing infrastructure. Where a better option is available and financially feasible, the goal of the Conservation Authority would be to work with individual farmers, again on a voluntary basis, to make improvements.

The Conservation Authority's total estimated implementation costs for the watershed plan is \$1.2 million over a 10 year period. A general budget outlining recommended management actions and associated project costs has been provided. A detailed breakdown of each watershed plan objective, recommended action and associated funding (existing and required) as well as a time frame of implementation (e.g. long term, short term) has also been provided in the final report

The listed studies or projects will be funded either through partnerships or funded fully by the Conservation Authority depending on whether specific or watershed-wide goals and objectives are achieved. Where the work provides direct or indirect benefit to all watershed residents, the Conservation Authority would fund studies and projects directly. The determination of the Conservation Authority contribution to each project will be assessed once the scoping exercise and specific terms of reference are developed.

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.

The final report and proposed implementation plan was presented to the NOTL Irrigation Committee on April 3, 2008. Authority staff responded to questions and concerns. Mrs. Austin Kirkby, a member of the Steering Committee advised at that time that she did not approve of the plan in its present form. A follow-up letter (see attached) was received from Mrs. Kirkby on April 4<sup>th</sup> requesting additional information. A copy of the staff response is also provided. Authority staff believe that the questions/issues raised do not substantively change the report or the recommendations for implementation.



Authority staff recommend that the watershed plan as submitted be approved by this Board following which a presentation of the final study with its various recommendations will be made to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Authority staff would also like to express thanks to the organizations and members of the public who played a valuable role in guiding the preparation of the watershed study.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 26-08 regarding the Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Study 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 Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Study and its recommendations be submitted to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake for their consideration in future municipal works budgets.**

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

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

**Budget for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Study Recommended Management**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Recommended Management Action</b>	<b>\$ Cost</b>	<b>\$ Total</b>
<b>Restoration</b>	Fish Improvement Projects – Four Mile Creek	(800/m) x 200	<b>160,000</b>
	Watercourse and Streams Improvement Natural Channel Projects	(800/m) x 100 m	<b>80,000</b>
	Strategic Drain Maintenance and Management – Including In-Stream Barriers	2000 x 30 sites	<b>60,000</b>
	In-stream Debris/Sediment Removal and Fill Adjacent to Watercourses	2000 x 25 sites	<b>50,000</b>
	Stormwater Management Improvement Programs - Urban	5000 x 10 years	<b>50,000</b>
	Stream Restrictions and Morphology Improvements	10,000 x 10	<b>100,000</b>
<b>Aquatic/Terrestrial Resources</b>	Work with Landowners – Riparian Plantings including Demonstration Project	10,000 x 10 + 50,000 for demonstration	<b>150,000</b>
	Habitat Linkages – Escarpment Area	(1,000/acre) x 50	<b>50,000</b>
	Protection/Enhancement/Creation – Forests and Wetland Habitats	(1,500/acre) (10acres/year) x 10	<b>150,000</b>
<b>Water Quality and Quantity Protection/Enhancement</b>	Extend Water Quality Monitoring Program to achieve PWQO	8,000 x 10 years	<b>80,000</b>
<b>Communication/Education</b>	Technical Advice and Information	5,000 x 10	<b>50,000</b>
	Outreach	8,000 x 10	<b>80,000</b>
<b>Special Studies &amp; Projects</b>	Strategic Drain Maintenance and Management Program Study		<b>20,000</b>
	Fish Habitat Improvement Plan – Virgil Reservoirs and Four Mile Creek		<b>20,000</b>
	Erosion Remediation Plan		<b>50,000</b>
	Irrigation Management System Review		<b>50,000</b>
<b>Total Watershed Plan Implementation Budget</b>			<b>1, 200 000</b>

**Actions**



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

**DATE: May 7, 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: Chairman and Members of the Authority**

**DATE: May 7, 2008**

**RE: NOTL - Airport, Bright and Lavigne Irrigation System – Report No. 27-08**

At the March 19, 2008 meeting, Report No.16-08 regarding the Airport, Bright and Lavigne Irrigation System was considered by the Board. At that meeting, there was also a delegation from the Irrigation Committee in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake requesting that the Conservation Authority fund the studies deemed necessary by the Conservation Authority to support an application under the Authority's Regulation for the proposed expansion of the Airport, Bright and Lavigne Irrigation System. The direction from the Board to staff was to report back on the studies required by the Authority and the cost of same for consideration by the Board at the April meeting.

Authority staff met with representatives of the Irrigation Committee, MOE, OMAFRA and the Town on March 27<sup>th</sup> and again on April 4<sup>th</sup> to both review the requirements for a permit under the NPCA regulation as well as others and to visit a number of sites within the Irrigation/Drainage System.

The following discussion is presented in order to clarify the permitting requirements for the NPCA and other agencies regarding the ABL Drain.

### **NPCA Permit Under Regulation 155/06**

Authority staff had indicated that prior to permitting the introduction of additional water to the ABL System or additional physical works, a background study of existing channel stability and capacity be conducted to establish a baseline condition and identify areas that may be susceptible to future erosion. Earlier in the process 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. Accordingly, NPCA staff agreed that although the normal process would require background studies and information be submitted prior to a permit being granted, the Authority would agree to the granting of a permit with the necessary studies and monitoring being carried out after the fact.

Following an internal review of the preliminary report and analysis carried out by the applicant's consultant and based on additional information received, Authority staff have revised and clarified the requirements for a permit under the Authority's Regulation as follows:

- 1) If no new works are proposed to be undertaken on the Airport-Bright-Lavigne Irrigation System, (i.e. if the ABL system remains in its present form), then no permit is required pursuant to the NPCA's '*Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses*' legislation (Ont. Reg. 155/06). Accordingly no studies, reports, or monitoring plans would be required by the Conservation Authority.

- 2) If works are proposed to physically expand, alter, or increase the flows within the Airport-Bright-Lavigne irrigation system, a permit is required from the Conservation Authority pursuant to the NPCA's '*Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses*' legislation (Ont. Reg. 155/06). As such, the NPCA will require:
  - a. Confirmation that the proposed works and/or the introduction of additional irrigation water will not result in downstream flooding or channel instability.
  - b. That if channel instability is identified, then appropriate mitigation measures be determined and implemented.
  - c. That detailed design drawings be submitted to this office for review and approval.
- 3) That when the ABL system is operational, the NPCA is concerned that the elimination of water flow during critical times has the potential to negatively impact the aquatic ecosystem. As such, the NPCA will encourage that this issue be addressed through the Ministry of the Environment's Permit to Take Water process.

These conditions were outlined at presented at previously referenced March 27 meeting. Authority staff were advised that the work to satisfy item 2(a) has been completed and that appropriate correspondence confirming that the works will not aggravate existing conditions will be forwarded in the future. As such, the studies and monitoring as previously requested under the NPCA permit processing will not be required. It is the opinion of Authority staff that the issue of funding is therefore no longer applicable.

### **Permits and Monitoring Requirements from Other Agencies**

The monitoring requirements for the Water Taking Permit (current conditions as well as following proposed works and flow increases) are set out by the Ministry of the Environment. Authority staff have been and will continue to be involved with discussions in this regard and provide input, assistance and information where available.

Any expansion, works or flow changes may involve also fisheries issues and representatives from DFO were also in attendance at the April 4th meeting to discuss their specific requirements.

A follow-up meeting to finalize all requirements from the other agencies has been scheduled for mid April. Authority staff will also be in attendance.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 27-08 regarding the NOTL - Airport, Bright and Lavigne Irrigation System be received for information; and**

**That a copy of Report No. 27-08 be forwarded to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Irrigation Committee for their information.**

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: May 7, 2008**

**RE: Accounts March 2008 - Report No. 28-08**

Attached is the list of accounts for the month of March 2008 in the amount of \$1,101,085.67.

**Recommendation:**

**The list of accounts for the month of March, 2008, in the amount of \$1,101,085.67 be received and approved.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

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





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

**DATE: April 9, 2008**

**SUBJECT: Current & Capital Budgets - Status to March 31 – Report No. 29-08**

Attached for your review and information are the Current and Capital Budgets Status for the period ending March 31, 2008 representing 25% of our fiscal year.

With regards to both budgets, there are no significant variances in expenditures to be reported at this time.

With regards to revenues, there are no significant variances to be reported at this time. It is noted that the first installment of the municipal levies have been received but not yet assigned to the appropriate program or project. It is also noted that we have not yet received confirmation of the MNR grants for 2008 but are expecting funding similar to that of 2007.

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 29-08 regarding the Current & Capital Budgets - Status to March 31, be received for information.

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



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

**DATE: April 9, 2008**

**SUBJECT: 2008 Honourarium & Per Diem Adjustment– Report No. 30-08**

The Chairman's honourarium and member per diems are currently \$4,333 annually and \$63.70 per meeting respectively. It is recommended that the rates be increased by a 3% economic adjustment retroactive to January 1, 2008. With this adjustment, the honourarium would be \$4,463 and the per diem would be \$65.60. In accordance with Section 37 of The Conservation Authorities Act, approval of the Ontario Municipal Board is required.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Report No. 30-08 regarding the Honourarium and Per Diem Economic Adjustment be received; and

That subject to the approval of the Ontario Municipal Board in accordance with Section 37 of The Conservation Authorities Act, the Chairman's honourarium be adjusted to \$4,463 per annum and the member per diem be adjusted to \$65.60 per meeting, retroactive to January 1, 2008.

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



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

**DATE: April 9, 2008**

**SUBJECT: Member Training & Development Policy – Report No. 31-08**

At the last Board meeting, staff were asked to develop a draft policy regarding training and development for Conservation Authority Board members. Several municipalities (Region of Niagara, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls) as well as the Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp. were contacted regarding their policies. The municipalities advised that they do not have formal policies, however, councilors seeking training or development opportunities submit these to their respective councils for consideration. In the case of the Welland Hydro-Electric System, they have a more formal police where members of their board identify their individual training needs which are then considered by a Committee of the Corporation.

The draft Conservation Authority policy is similar in part to that of the Welland Hydro-Electric System where the responsibility of assessing training needs rests with the individual members. Where a member wishes to attend a course, seminar or other training opportunity, they would request the approval of the Board via the Authority Chairman.

Your comments and direction are respectfully requested.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 31-08 regarding the Member Training & Development Policy be received.

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

**DRAFT**

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Board of Directors – Professional Training & Development Policy

The Conservation Authority recognizes the value and benefits of training and development opportunities including attendance at conferences, seminars and education courses for members of the Board to assist them in carrying out their responsibilities as a Conservation Authority member. Accordingly, the Conservation Authority will maintain an annual training and development budget for the use of members.

While the Conservation Authority may, from time to time, establish general training and professional development programs intended for all members, it is the responsibility of each member of the Board of Directors to assess their individual training and development needs. Where a member wishes to participate in a specific training and professional development course, conference or activity, the member shall request approval from the Board of Directors via the Conservation Authority Chairman.

The request should normally include information on the specific course/conference/activity, its location, its duration and the costs to be incurred. Eligible expenses will be determined by the Board of Directors on a case by case basis.



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

**DATE: May 7, 2008**

**RE: Fort Erie Creeks Watershed Plan – Final Report– Report No. 32-08**

The Fort Erie Creeks Watershed Plan Terms of Reference (Report No. 35-05) was reviewed and approved by the Board in April 2005. Philips Engineering Limited was awarded the contract at the May 2005 Board meeting. Attached is the Executive Summary of the final Watershed Plan which provides an overview of the study and its recommended project implementation schedule and associated costs.

Recommended project costs have 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 by other agencies and/or organizations. It is proposed that the High Priority program be addressed over a multi-year time frame with continued funding provided in the Authority's Watershed Restoration program.

The project implementation schedule outlines a total of approximately \$19.7 million with the following breakdown.

	High Priority	Medium Priority
NPCA Restoration Program	\$3.5 million	\$8.3 million
Other (Municipal or Private)	\$5.2 million	\$0.9 million
Flood Protection	\$1.8 million	

The NPCA 10 year capital plan for the Fort Erie watershed identifies a total of \$1.4 million for the restoration program. The complete implementation of the High Priority program will therefore require additional funding through partnerships with landowners or other agencies. Authority staff have been successful in similar initiatives in other watersheds and will continue to do so for the Fort Erie watershed.

The Flood Protection component has been identified separately. Although the MNR provided capital funding for flood protection initiatives in the past, these programs are no longer available. NPCA staff have initiated discussions with other CA representatives as well as Conservation Ontario with the intent to encourage MNR to reinstate programs that assist in remediation of flood damage potential. Staff will provide any updates on this initiative to the Board in the future.

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 of the Watershed Plan by this Board, a presentation of the final plan with its various recommendations will be made to 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. 32-08 regarding the Fort Erie Creeks Watershed Plan – Final Report be received; and**

**That the recommended Conservation Authority restoration works be approved for implementation over a 10 year time frame subject to annual budget approvals; and further**

**That the Fort Erie Creeks Watershed Plan and its recommendations be submitted to the Town of Fort Erie for their consideration in future municipal works budgets.**

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

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



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

**DATE: May 7, 2008**

**RE: 2007 Annual Report – Report No. 33-08**

Included in your agenda package is the Authority's recently completed 2007 Annual Report. The intent of the Annual Report is to provide an overview of the Authority's various program activities and to acknowledge the support of our member municipalities, the Province and Federal governments as well as the many NGO's with which the Authority has established partnerships with. The report is distributed to all watershed municipalities, MP's MPP's, libraries, universities, colleges, donors and is available for distribution at various events throughout the year.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the 2007 Annual Report be received.**

Prepared by: Mary Stack, Director of Communications

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



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

**DATE: April 10, 2008**

**SUBJECT: Gypsy Moth Management on NPCA Properties – Report No. 34-08**

Over the past three years, populations of the European Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar* L.) have increased in several areas throughout the watershed. The Canadian Forest Service Department of Natural Resources Canada has been mapping defoliation and tracking the spread of this forest insect across Southern Ontario. The 2007 Defoliation Map has been attached to this report for your information.

The last severe gypsy moth infestation occurred between 1988 and 1991. During that period, the Ministry of Natural Resources funded a gypsy moth spray program across Ontario. The NPCA coordinated the program for the Niagara Peninsula, through an agreement with the Ministry. Areas of heavy infestation were targeted for a subsidised aerial spray application of the organic pesticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* or BT. The population significantly declined in the years after 1992, to the point where the spray program was discontinued.

The European Gypsy Moth can strip a tree of its foliage, resulting in tree stress or mortality. They particularly like oak, aspen, willow, alder, larch and mountain ash, but will chew on numerous other species. The timing of this infestation is particularly troubling because trees are already under stress from successive hot, dry summers. Authority staff have been monitoring the progress of the infestation through our properties. Two properties in particular have been significantly impacted by the latest infestation (Hedley Forest and Ruigrok Tract), where defoliation is expected to be particularly severe in 2008.

Staff investigated the control measures available to combat the infestation. Given the size of these two properties, ground efforts such as eggmass removal or caterpillar control, are impractical. The only option available is aerial application of a pesticide. NPCA staff consulted other Conservation Authorities to find out how they were addressing the problem. The Hamilton Conservation Authority is partnering with the City of Hamilton to spray 50 ha in the Dundas Valley. These sites are adjacent to spray blocks identified on City of Hamilton lands. The Grand River Conservation Authority is working with municipal partners to spray Brant and Byng Island Conservation Areas, both of which are located in urban settings.

There have been many questions about the effectiveness of the spray program in the early 1990s. Advances in GPS, product delivery and monitoring over the past 15 years have resulted in greater coverage of the pesticide and reduction of targeted populations. Based on this information, staff recommend that the NPCA undertake an aerial spray program for the Ruigrok Tract and Hedley Forest Conservation Areas.



There are two forestry contractors working in the vicinity of Ruigrok Tract and Hedley Forest. One of these contractors has developed a private land program, the other is working with the Hamilton and Grand Conservation Authorities. Both are using Zimmer Air as the aerial contractor and both are using Foray 48B as an organic BT Pesticide. Staff recommend that prices be obtained from both of these contractors and that the work be awarded to the lowest price.

The combined area of Hedley Forest and Ruigrok Tract is 229 acres. Under the private land program currently being offered, it would cost approximately \$15,000 to spray these two properties. The NPCA may be able to reduce this cost by undertaking our own landowner contact and prep work. The Authority has the most accurate mapping for these sites and staff can prepare GPS identification maps for the spray blocks. We would also contact adjacent landowners to advise them of the plans and request permission to apply up to the property line. Any landowner objecting to the application would have a buffer established around their property to avoid over-spray contamination.

This work was not identified in the 2008 budget. Staff propose that the spray program costs be funded through the Agreement Forest Reserve which currently has a balance of \$20,600.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 34-08 regarding Gypsy Moth Management on NPCA Properties be received; and

That staff request pricing from local contractors for the aerial application of BT for the control of Gypsy Moth at Ruigrok Tract and Hedley Forest Conservation Areas; and

That staff be authorized to award the contract to the low quote.

**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: April 9, 2008**

**SUBJECT: Ontario Municipal Board Hearing – Reeb Quarry – Report No. 35-08**

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority has been an active participant in the Ontario Municipal Board Hearing for the Reeb Quarry Proposal in the Township of Wainfleet. The Authority became involved in this issue when potential problems were discovered in the hydrogeological information supporting the application for a quarry license.

The Conservation Authority's hydrogeological consultant identified concerns that the proposed quarry would impact the quarry lakes, Eagle Marsh Drain and wetland features at the Wainfleet Wetlands Conservation Area. Authority staff attempted to address these concerns prior to the hearing, however the proponent asked for the matter be referred to the OMB.

Once the hearing began, the Authority's hydrogeological engineer spent a great deal of time with our legal council reviewing submissions and preparing evidence. As the hearing progressed, the quarry plans changed and new information was presented. The hydrogeological expert hired by the NPCA was reviewing technical reports that, in the opinion of staff, should have been prepared in well in advance of the permit application.

After several months and many studies, the proponent developed a revised plan for the quarry which had the necessary safeguards to protect the Authority's property at Wainfleet Wetlands. The participants met with the proponent to develop a list of conditions that would be attached to the OMB decision and the subsequent quarry permit. Authority staff directed our legal counsel to request costs for the amount of time our experts spent reviewing studies and preparing for the hearing. The proponent agreed to pay \$45,000 to cover the cost of the NPCA hydrogeological consultant, however they did not agree to pay the legal fees associated with this case, which total \$45,000.

The Authority's lawyer was asked to provide an opinion on approaching the Board to request full cost recovery, including legal fees. His response is attached to this report. Based on legal advice, staff agreed to accept the offer to cover related hydrogeological work and forego any claim against legal fees.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 35-08 regarding the Ontario Municipal Board Hearing – Reeb Quarry be received for information purposes.

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

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



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

**DATE: April 9, 2008**

**SUBJECT: Watershed-Wide Property Appraisal - Report No. 36-08**

The Authority's long-range land acquisition strategy targets a number of properties throughout the watershed. In order to effectively implement the strategy, staff require up-to-date information on land values in a variety of locations and for a variety of land types (wetland, forest, valley lands, and escarpment). Landowners must have a clear understanding of the property value at the start of the acquisition process, before additional resources are spent on survey or legal work.

Traditionally the Conservation Authority has commissioned land appraisals for individual transactions. This is a rather costly and time consuming approach which reduces the Authority's capability to react quickly to real estate opportunities. Individual appraisals can take several weeks and cost between \$2,000 and \$5,000, depending on the size and complexity of the parcel.

In order to streamline the process, staff propose the commissioning of a watershed-wide appraisal that would look at land values in all proposed areas for acquisition. This document would be useful when approaching landowners who are considering selling their properties and would help ensure that there is a consistent approach to valuing lands across the watershed.

Staff consulted experts in the field of real estate appraisal to determine the feasibility of this approach to land valuation. Their opinion was that a report could be prepared, outlining typical values for each type of property, in each geographical district of the watershed. The information in this document would be reviewed every 24 months to determine if an update is required. Depending on the real estate activity, all or a portion of the appraisal may have to be adjusted to keep the document current and accurate.

Once completed, the appraised values would be used to negotiate land transactions. Since one appraiser will be looking at values across the entire watershed, landowners receive the same treatment, keeping the process clear and simple. Staff recommend that D.J. Penwarden Appraisals be contracted to complete the study. This firm has the most experience in evaluating natural areas throughout the Niagara Peninsula. Their accredited staff have worked for the Authority on a number of occasions, including two detailed appraisals under the EcoGift Program. Based on previous experience we are confident that the report can be delivered in a cost-effective and timely manner.

There will continue to be situations where individual appraisal reports are required. If an individual is donating land to the NPCA under the EcoGift program, the Federal Government requires a specific appraisal report, which is then reviewed by a team of experts. These

donations often involve consideration of other matters such as timber value or conservation easements, which will not be addressed through the watershed-wide appraisal document.

The cost to complete the watershed appraisal document is estimated at \$35,000, including expenses and taxes. Updates, if necessary, would be in the range of \$7,000. Funding has been allocated in the Conservation Authority's 2008 Capital Budget for land appraisals supporting the Authority's land acquisition strategy.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 36-08 regarding a Watershed-Wide Property Appraisal be received; and

That staff be authorized to retain D.J. Penwarden Appraisals to prepare a watershed-wide appraisal report at a cost of \$35,000 (including expenses and taxes).

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

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



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

**DATE: May 7, 2008**

**RE: PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 37-08**

## **WATER MANAGEMENT**

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

#### 1) Reservoir Water Levels

The reservoir water levels for the last 30 days have generally fluctuated between 650.6 feet and 653.1 feet (as a result of the spring melt). For reference, the dam holding level is 650.50 feet. The reservoir water level currently sits at 652.50 feet. NPCA staff continue to monitor the reservoir water levels daily.

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

The 2003 Shriner's Creek Study had recommended that the existing NPCA owned stormwater detention facility (known as Dyke B) located west of Kalar Road on the Shriner's Creek W5-4 Tributary be modified in order to improve water quality, attenuate flows, and provide year round base flow to the Shriner's Creek system.

Construction of the two proposed wetlands is presently underway.

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

The NPCA regulates construction around watercourses, wetlands, valley lands, shorelines, and floodplains. The NPCA has approved 11 permit applications for the 2008 calendar year.

### Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan

Background research, writing and Steering Committee creation is complete for this study area. Copies of the background report have been sent to the members of the Steering Committee for review before the first meeting which is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> at the NPCA main office. An open house is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Roselawn Centre in Port Colborne to present the initiation of a Watershed Plan to the public.

Staff have begun summer field work preparation which involves preparing a landowner mailing list and updating field sheets. A summer student listing through the Ministry of Natural Resources Summer Experience Program has been posted and resumes have started to be submitted. The proposed start date for the student will likely be at the end of May.

### Central Welland River Watershed Plan

Background research and writing is almost complete for this study area. A Steering Committee has been created and the initial meeting will likely be early May with an open house shortly after. The Watershed Planning Technician has started the initial assessment of this study area using GIS.

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

The Fifteen-Sixteen-Eighteen Mile Creeks Watershed Plan was approved in March by the NPCA Board of Directors. Photos are being incorporated into the document and the report will be sent to the printers for final formatting. A copy of the final publication will be presented to the Steering Committee in the future as an appreciation of their efforts on the project.

### South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan

The South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan was approved in March by the NPCA Board of Directors. Photos are being incorporated into the document and the report will be sent to the printers for final formatting. A copy of the final publication will be presented to the Steering Committee in the future as an appreciation of their efforts on the project.

The initial meeting with the consultants working on the Lyons Creek Fluvial Geomorphology Study has taken place to ensure that the expectations of the NPCA will be met by the project outcome. Authority staff have spent a day in the field with the consultants, Parish Geomorph, to help assist with the initial assessment of the study area.

### Drinking Water Source Protection (SP) Program

#### SP Committee

The first draft of the Terms of Reference (TOR) was submitted to the Source Protection Committee (SPC) for initial review on April 8. Once the TOR is approved by the SPC, it will be sent to the local municipalities for their comments and posted on the internet for public comments.

#### Communications-Outreach

On March 25, NPCA participated with City of Hamilton and Halton-Hamilton SP Region in presenting an Open House in Stoney Creek on Source Water Protection. Presentations were provided on the Clean Water Act as well as the Grimsby and Hamilton Water Treatment Plant intakes and intake protection zones.

#### Technical Reports Update

HEC-HMS modeling is progressing as planned for the Water Availability Study. The study forms part of the Tier 1 Water Budget in the Source Protection program.

The consultants are still working on the Intake Protection Zone (IPZ) Studies, which are managed by Regional Municipality of Niagara. Final draft reports for the IPZ Studies have now been received for Port Colborne, and Decew Water Treatment Plants.

### Niagara River Remedial Action Plan

#### Contaminated sediments:

The Niagara River Contaminated Sediment Technical Advisory Group met in March 2008. Discussion included the finalization of the Phase 1V report and strategy for agency

endorsement; the preferred option for contaminated sediment management at Lyon's Creek East; an update on Transport Canada's funding request through the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan for its property at Lyon's Creek West; and, next steps, including communicating the preferred option to the community probably in the Fall. The next meeting is scheduled for mid-June.

The fourth meeting of the Lyon's Creek East Community Liaison CLC was held on March 25, when Roger Santiago, Environment Canada, provided an overview of different remedial techniques for contaminated sediments. The next meeting is scheduled for April 22 and NPCA staff will present information on regulations around wetlands and species at risk.

#### Niagara Water Strategy (NWS):

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

#### Stage 2 Update:

The Welland River Eutrophication Study has been identified as a priority initiative under the Niagara River RAP Monitoring Plan, and the NPCA is the lead agency. The Technical Working Group (comprised of multi-agency technical representatives) met in mid-March to confirm the work plan for the 2008 field season. There was also some discussion about MOE's review of the Environmental Assessment document for the expansion of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant and the requirement for inclusion of RAP considerations for this Area of Concern.

The RAP Coordinating Committee met in March to review RAP work plans and activities for the year and next steps in the preparation of the Stage 2 Update report. The report has been submitted to Environment Canada for assistance in formatting and printing.

It is anticipated that a RAP Implementers Workshop will be convened in the Fall to review and confirm actions under the RAP Work Plan, which incorporates the RAP Monitoring Plan. In the meantime, confirmation of lead agencies for the projects identified in the Monitoring Plan is underway, and the establishment of technical groups to develop work plans for the projects will facilitate the identification of resources required to implement 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.

#### International Liaison:

The next meeting of the Habitat Advisory Committee (for Niagara River and Buffalo River RAPs) is expected to be held in late April 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.

### Natural Heritage Areas Inventory Update

The Steering Committee met on March 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss the scoping for the coming field season. We have sent the first round of landowner contact letters to those residents in the West Lincoln area that met our established criteria through the GIS assessment.

Interviews for the Natural Areas Inventory Assistant positions will take place the week of April 14<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping to start the teams in the field in early May.

The NPCA is hosting the Ecological Land Classification Training Course at the new Centre for Conservation the week of May 12<sup>th</sup>. This allows us to have the new members of our teams trained at a much lower cost and take advantage of specialized Niagara training.

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

Data entry for 2007 is on-going and the technical writing based on the data is underway.

### Niagara River RAP / Welland River Restoration

Staff are preparing an important presentation for Great Lakes Sustainability Fund staff for a meeting to be held on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the presentation is to support the 2008/2009 GLSF Water Quality and Habitat improvement Program funding application and to provide new GLSF staff a clear background of NPCA projects, and project focus and selection. Funding from GLSF for 2008/2009 is expected to be lower than in previous years making this a crucial presentation.

Staff have also recently completed the year-end report to the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund for our Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Program for the 2007/2008 program year.

Planning for spring projects is in the final stages and staff continues to visit with landowners to finalize planting plans and restoration designs. Project site preparation is underway on several sites including reforestation pre-seeding and finishing details on wetland restoration projects.

Staff is also gearing up for the spring monitoring season. Several past project landowners will assist the NPCA in monitoring nesting success of several species of birds on restoration sites where nesting boxes were installed. Information gathered will be sent to the Ontario Nest Record Scheme. Bird Studies Canada's Marsh Monitoring Program will also be conducted on several past wetland restoration projects.

Staff is also aiding site supervision duties for the Shriner's Creek Conservation Area wetland project where construction began in late March.



Staff will be assisting with Earth Day 2008 activities at Merritt Island in Welland on April 19<sup>th</sup> with the Welland River Keepers and the City of Welland where there will be a river clean-up and a tree planting.

### Watershed Restoration

Ducks Unlimited has advised staff that it will be providing \$13,600 worth of additional funding towards Niagara Wetlands Partnership project. This funding will bring the total funding for the project up to the original funding level requested of the Trillium Foundation. The three year work plan no longer requires revision. NPCA staff have recommended that the G.I.S. analysis component be expanded to include the entire Upper Welland River Planning area (upstream of Oswego Creek) as the project's focus.

All restoration staff are finalizing small, large and partnership tree planting sites for 2008. It is anticipated that planting will begin on or around the week of May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Staff continue to assist with the Niagara Enviro-thon which is set to take place in April

Staff developed a display and attended the World Water Display at the Pen Centre on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The water quality focused display was grouped with City of St. Catharines and Niagara Region displays and generated a very positive response.

About 7 acres floodplain in Fifteen Mile Creek will be planted with trees, shrubs, and wetland plants this spring. This area had been used for pasture. However, frequent flooding of this part of Fifteen Mile Creek has been scouring away soil, so the landowner has decided to retire and reforest, to protect the remaining natural areas.

A headwater property in Fifteen Mile Creek watershed will be reforested this spring. The project will include vernal pool creation to hold water on the land longer. This will benefit amphibians and birds, as well as making a small contribution to attenuating flooding in Fifteen Mile Creek. In another area of the property, small wetland cells will be "restored", to help filter agricultural run-off before it joins the stream.

### Twenty Mile Creek Restoration

Staff has been busy conducting site visits with landowners throughout the watershed. Many of these landowners have been displaying an interest in the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program.

Restoration plans are being developed by staff with and for the landowners. Follow up phone calls to those landowners who have not responded to last month's mail-out will take place in the coming weeks.

### Twelve Mile Creek Restoration

Staff has prepared an exciting proposal for Ontario Power Generation Carbon Sequestration funding, with monetary and in-kind support from OPG Niagara Plant Group, Niagara Region, City of St. Catharines Green Committee, Bruce Trail Conservancy, Niagara Restoration Council, and Niagara College. The project is to involve restoration of about 12 acres on a parcel adjacent to Decew Gorge and Shorthills Provincial Park. Special features will include restoration of Salamander habitat (vernal pool creation), and pits and mounds to help soils to retain moisture. We expect to receive final approval of the Carbon Sequestration funding (roughly \$44,000 over three years) next week.

A reforestation project has been planned for the Lathrop property in Fonthill, in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Niagara College Ecosystem Restoration Program, and Niagara Restoration Council. The remaining old-field areas will be planted to increase natural habitat and protect water quality. NPCA staff will supervise the implementation of the project.

A water quality project is planned for Shorthills Provincial Park, in a sensitive gully area. The Friends of Shorthills will be assisting with the landowner portion of funding. Building on some the Friends' work in preserving White Wood Aster, this project will incorporate deer enclosures. Without this measure, all the buffer plant material will be browsed, and the project would fail.

A wetland/fish habitat creation project is planned from a tributary of Twelve Mile Creek, west of Shorthills. This project will involve excavating an "off-line" pond beside the stream, which will fill during periods of high flow. This project will restore appropriate vegetation and a more natural hydro-period.

Other projects in planning stages include work with the City of St. Catharines for flooding and erosion problems in upper Dick's Creek. Staff will meet with City operations people next week.

This week staff held an on-site meeting with Town of Pelham and Region of Niagara operational staff at Marlene Stewart-Streit Park in Fonthill to begin discussion for solving a terrible erosion problem caused by a stormwater outfall. This problem has been noted by NPCA staff for a few years in erosion reports etc. The sediment poses a significant threat to Brook Trout reproduction a short distance downstream.

#### Niagara-on-the-Lake Restoration

Staff was involved with a bioengineering project on Six Mile Creek, planned by Niagara College Students as part of a year long project which took place on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The project entailed the installation of several bank stabilization structures including two fascines, a brush mattress and lots of dogwood stakes to give shelter to the exposed soils and also so that the plant material can regenerate and hold the bank in place with their root systems. Staff participated by helping to collect the necessary plant materials, managing the planting event, as well as planting.

Staff continue preparing for spring planting activities. During March, 5 site visits were preformed of which 2 are for new projects. Both new projects are within NOTL, one will involve a greenhouse water recycling system and nutrient management system by Eight Mile Creek and the other will be a naturalization projects by One Mile Creek.

Staff attended the Niagara College Open House, as well as the FOMC general meeting, all of which had restoration program informational materials displayed and subsequently had a chance to discuss project possibilities in the area with interested landowners.

Staff will be assisting the Friends of One Mile Creek with the annual Earthday Creek Clean-up event on Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### ECO School Program

The 2008 ECO School schedule has been completed. Each of the 30 chosen schools have been scheduled in for a site visit, site preparation and a planting date. Site visits will start on April 28.

The first of our two workshops/open houses was held on March 26 at Nelles Public School in Grimsby. Staff estimate approximately 50-60 people were in attendance. Attendees were able

to plant native wildflower seeds, construct a bluebird nesting box, investigate macroinvertebrates under microscopes, as well as talk to staff and take home program information.

The next workshop is scheduled for April 9 at Glynn A Green Public School in Fonthill.

### 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.

Staff will be attending the Earth Day celebration at McKay School in Port Colborne where 340 students will participate in various activities including NPCA's Plant a Wild Flower activity.

### Water Quality Program

The NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program has begun to sample the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network wells. Spring samples have been collected at 4 of 15 groundwater wells and analyzed for several parameters including nutrients, metals, and bacteria. The laboratory results from these samples are pending. The remaining wells will be sampled in mid-April.

The spring benthic invertebrate sampling has begun for 2008. Spring samples have been collected from Hamilton International Airport. Additional sampling will be conducted at the Glanbrook Landfill and at 20 regular NPCA monitoring stations. It is anticipated that the spring benthic sampling will conclude in June.

Monthly surface water quality monitoring has begun for the 2008 field season and will continue until the fall. Additional parameters will be collected at sample sites in the AOC as part of the Welland River Eutrophication Study. The Eutrophication Study Technical Working Group meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup> allowed study partners to coordinate and finalized sampling efforts in the 2008 field season. Also, six new monitoring stations have been added to the network as part of the Beaver Dams and Shriner's Creek Watershed Plans.

The NPCA has begun to collect water quality samples on Twenty Mile Creek in Jordon as part of the Lake Ontario Collaborative Study. The NPCA has ordered equipment for an auto-sampler and this should be installed by late-April.

## GIS (GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS) / INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

### Source Water Protection

The Central Welland River, Big Forks Creek and Feeder Canal, Beaverdams and Shriner's Creek, Lake Erie North Shore, and Fort Erie Watershed Planning Areas spatial surface water hydrology model inputs have been prepared and delivered to the consultant for the Water Availability study.

The IPZ2 upland drainage area delineations are being revised again in concert with NPCA staff based on subsequent drafts provided by the consultant.

### Watershed Planning

A preliminary draft of the Niagara Natural Environment Information Map/Screening Layer that the NPCA is responsible for developing under its new responsibilities associated with the Planning Function Review MOU has been processed.

Land owner contact analysis has been conducted for the 2008 Natural Areas Inventory field season focus area of West Lincoln and resulting letters have been sent.

### Corporate GIS

Staff continues working on developing standard 'Area of Concern' mapping templates for the Environment Canada Great Lakes Area of Concern Section.

When time permits work continues on summarizing last fall's internal program area GIS/Information Management focus group interviews which will be used to consultatively develop a long term work plan for GIS and Information Management initiatives.

Staff met with the consultants conducting the Niagara Water Strategy Integrated Data Collection and Monitoring Project for a preview of the final report and recommendations.

## **LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

### Ball's Falls Conservation Area

Attendance at the 2008 March Break Eco-Adventures Day Camp was the highest to date, with 27 children attending, up from 16 registrants in 2007. Daily themes and a great variety of activities were offered, including snow-shoeing, camp fires, animal track identification and recycling. Volunteers participated, making program delivery possible.

Registration continues for "Earth Day, Family Day" on April 19, 20(depending on demand).

Service Canada has advised that the maximum number of weeks eligible for funding for the Canada Summer Jobs Program has been reduced from 16 weeks to 12 weeks due to the number of applications received. The NPCA application will be assessed for a total of 4 of the 5 positions requested. Approvals will be announced in late April.

The Festival Selection Committee juried the initial round of applications for artisans on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Requests for applications will continue until show time.

Staff are preparing the buildings for the opening of the season.

The Administrative Assistant and the Program Assistant for the new Ball's Falls Centre started on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Preparations are underway to facilitate the opening of the Centre.

### Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation

This past month saw the general contractor working on final deficiencies during the building commissioning phase. Occupancy and turning over of keys to the NPCA was achieved mid March. Phones and the security system are now up and running and staff are beginning to work in the building.

As part of the building commissioning process, a one day training session for staff was held March 27<sup>th</sup> on operation of these systems: sewage and biofilter, pumps, heat pumps, humidifier, energy recovery ventilator, electrical, and the computerized controls for building automation. The session was videotaped by staff and training DVD's were produced in-house for our records and as a learning resource for staff.

Staff are working with the municipal fire department on the building fire plan and permit requirements for occupancy. Firefighters are scheduled to tour the building the week of April 7<sup>th</sup> as part of this process.

Installation of the permanent exhibit gallery is well underway and components are under final assembly on site. Staff are preparing exhibit items for the temporary gallery space. Furniture has been selected and has passed LEED criteria, allowing the furniture order to be placed for delivery and installation over the next month. In the meantime, temporary tables and chairs are being used by staff and for meetings.

By the end of March the spring weather allowed for start-up of the site and landscape works. Site construction is now proceeding daily, weather permitting. The pond area was reviewed for winter damage and work proceeded immediately in this area to secure the pond liner and install the stone terraces over the rain water cisterns. Additional landscape stone was shipped to the site beginning of April to complete work at the pond and front of the building. All trades are working to complete the majority of landscape works by May 9<sup>th</sup>. Regular meetings and inspections are being held with the contractor and NPCA landscape architect to document and approve work in progress.

### Beamer Memorial Conservation Area

The 32<sup>nd</sup> hawkwatch season officially opened March 1 at Beamer Memorial Conservation, with the Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch Group holding their annual Open House on Friday March 21. The NPCA was also present with a display on the Authority and handling the site administration.

An estimated 700 people attended the event, with many first time visitors experiencing the migration and the Conservation Area. Other aspects the public encountered during the Open House were: background on the monitoring program and birds of prey identification; an opportunity to meet/learn of other naturalist organizations in the peninsula; a children program; and an opportunity to learn more of Beamer Memorial Conservation Area.

### NPCA Hunting Program

To date staff has received and issued 85 hunting permits/permission for 2008. Of these, 4 permits are issued to individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

### Species at Risk

Staff Ecologist attended the 'Turtle Stewardship and Management Workshop' where updated information was obtained on turtle population recovery and management. This information will be used in handling Species at Risks for the Conservation Areas and elsewhere.

### Binbrook CA

After a slow start in January, ice fishing extended into the second week of March.

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. Due to weather and sloppy soil conditions, work on these items was postponed but should resume mid April to complete the project this spring. A new boat launch was proposed to be added to the works at the windsurf beach, staff are preparing plans for contractor pricing.

### Morgan's Point

New interpretive signs have been produced at no charge by our sign supplier to replace defective signs on site. Arrangements are being made for installation now that vehicles can get into the site.

### Property Assessments

Staff are reviewing our MFTIP and CLTIP status on our properties and co-coordinating forest management plans for Binbrook, Binbrook Tract, and Hedley.

### Ruigrok Tract and Hedley CA

Land management staff have prepared plans for future trail repairs at Ruigrok, and a new recreational trail system and bridge crossing for the creek at our Hedley property. During analysis of the property conditions at Hedley, staff identified the need for additional spring flora/fauna review to document species prior to any capital project work. Our NAI staff were consulted for assistance and are planning to include this property in their spring 'bio blitz' programme with Haldimand County.

### Communities in Bloom – Town of Lincoln

The Town of Lincoln is entering the Communities in Bloom program for the first time this year. Communities in Bloom is a volunteer based, non-profit organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental awareness and municipal beautification through community involvement and the challenge of a national program. Communities are evaluated competitively or not on the following eight criteria: tidiness, community involvement, environmental awareness, heritage conservation, urban forestry management, floral display, landscaping, and ground and turf cover.

NPCA is supporting the Town of Lincoln in this program by volunteering a staff representative to their steering committee; monthly meetings are held at the Town offices. This partnership has allowed NPCA some media exposure via their promotion and marketing campaign, links to the town website, a newsletter article soon to be released in the Grimsby Lincoln news on the importance of native plant species in gardens, and possible involvement with volunteer groups this fall for a clean-up day of 15 or 16 Mile Creeks. Planning is also underway for hosting the Communities in Bloom judges at Ball's Falls CA as part of their tour of Lincoln this July, final

details still to be determined. A brief guided tour of the heritage area and new Centre for Conservation are being discussed.

### Long Beach and Chippawa Creek

Staff are on site, cleaning up winter damage and bringing systems back to life at our two campgrounds. Although the winter was harsher than most, storm damage was comparable to last year.

Reservations began April 9<sup>th</sup>. During the first day we received 12 additional seasonal campers. Staff predict that high gas prices will keep campers staying in one location for longer periods. The NPCA is positioning our campgrounds as ideal base locations for exploring the Niagara Peninsula.

Unfortunately the strong Canadian Dollar is expected to negatively impact the number of visitors we usually see from the United States.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

### Earth Day Activities

Staff will be participating in several collaborative Earth Day activities by providing support in various ways including manpower, presentations and materials throughout the watershed.

### St. Johns Conservation Area Trout Season Opening

The annual Trout Season Opening Day at St. Johns Conservation Area will be held on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 12:00 noon. This is a great opportunity for families to enjoy the celebrations. A valid fishing license is required and conservation limits will apply.

### Annual Report

The 2007 Annual report has been completed and is being circulated.

### Science and Engineering Fair

The Authority has sponsored this event for over 14 years. Staff will attend the awards ceremony on April 9.

### Good Friday Event - Beamer Memorial Conservation Area

Approximately 600 people were in attendance at the annual Good Friday Hawkwatch event this year. Staff were on hand to answer questions from many new visitors this year.

### Centre for Conservation Opening

Invitations have been sent to the official opening of the Centre for Conservation scheduled to take place on Friday, May 9, 2008 beginning at 11:00 a.m. with a reception to follow.

### Archives Collaboration Project

The project in partnership with the Region and 8 municipalities plus the NRPS and the NPCA is proceeding. The committee has reviewed a number of submissions in response to the RFP and is awaiting a presentation from the preferred candidate.

### Eco-Workshops

The workshop in Grimsby held on March 26<sup>th</sup> was attended by about 60 people.

### 2008 Biennial Tour

The Biennial Tour is being hosted by the Nickel District Conservation Authority in Sudbury from September 7 to 10, 2008. The deadline for the Early Bird Registration price is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Members wishing to attend are asked to contact staff as soon as possible prior to that date.

## **NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**

### Golf Tournament

Organization and planning for the 2008 Bob Welch Memorial Charity Golf Classic taking place on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Whirlpool Golf Course is continuing. Currently there are 27 golfers reserved, sponsorship amounting to \$3,750 has been secured and a few silent auction items have been committed. In addition, a local business has come on board to sponsor a hole-in-one contest, with \$5,000 being awarded to the golfer should they get the hole-in-one and \$5,000 donated to our Foundation. Board members are encouraged to notify staff as soon as possible if they are planning to attend the event and if they have any leads for potential sponsors or donors of silent auction items.

### Foundation Newsletter

The fifth edition of 'Reflections on Conservation in Niagara' is complete (a copy is included in these packages). It will be distributed along with the Authority's annual report.

### Conservation Education Bursaries

Information and applications have been forwarded to schools and former recipients. An advertisement will appear in area newspapers in early May to encourage applications for this year's bursaries that support secondary and post-secondary students from the Fort Erie area pursuing an education in a conservation-related field. Deadline for applications is May 23, 2008.

### **Recommendation:**

**Report No. 37-08 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

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