

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**FULL AUTHORITY**

**WELLAND**

**AGENDA**

**MAY 21, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**BUSINESS:**

**(1) MINUTES - FULL AUTHORITY MEETING –APRIL 16, 2008**

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

**(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**(3) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

**(4) CAO'S REPORT**

**(5) ACCOUNTS – APRIL, 2008 – REPORT NO. 38-08**

Attached is Staff Report No. 38-08 outlining the list of accounts for April, 2008.

**(6) NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE WATERSHED PLAN FOLLOW UP - REPORT NO. 39-08**

Attached is Staff Report No. 39-08 regarding this matter.

**(7) MONTHLY CHEQUE LISTING INFORMATION - REPORT NO. 40-08**

Attached is Report No. 40-08 regarding this matter.

**(8) 2008 HONOURARIUM & PER DIEM ADJUSTMENT - REPORT NO. 41-08**

Attached is Report No. 41-08 with respect to this matter.

**(9) PERSONNEL REGULATIONS - WORKING ALONE – REPORT NO. 42-08**

Attached is Report No. 42-08 together with a copy of the proposed policy.

**(10) BALL'S FALLS LANDSCAPE TENDER - REPORT NO. 43-08**

Attached is Report No. 43-08 regarding this matter.

(11) **BINBROOK BOAT LAUNCH PROJECT – REPORT NO. 44-08**

Attached is Report No. 44-08 outlining this project.

(12) **PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 45-08**

Attached is Report No. 45-08 outlining the status of Authority projects.

(13) **IN-CAMERA**

- a) Personnel
- b) Violation Status Report

(14) **OTHER BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**



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## NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

WELLAND

APRIL 16, 2008

7:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

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

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

G. Burroughs (with regrets)  
B. Butters (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

#### OTHERS PRESENT:

Austin & John Kirkby  
Eckhard & Ingrid Regier  
Dave Lambert

#### BUSINESS:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m., welcomed everyone in attendance and then requested that if anyone had a conflict of interest to declare it. Brian Heit declared a conflict with respect to Telus or Talk Wireless.

#### (1) MINUTES

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

Brian Baty noted that the minutes did not show his regrets for not being at the meeting. The following resolution was presented. The General Manager advised it would be corrected.

Authority Meeting - Minutes  
April 16, 2008 – continued

**FA-52-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Henderson

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**THAT:** the Minutes of the Full Authority meeting held March 19, 2008, be received and approved as amended.

**"CARRIED"**

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

There were no errors or omissions with respect to the minutes. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-53-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Baty

**SECONDED BY:** B. Henderson

**THAT:** the Minutes of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee and approved as printed.

**"CARRIED"**

(2) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(3) **IN-CAMERA**

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

**FA-54-08**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

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

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

Received at 7:13 p.m      **"CARRIED"**

**FA-55-08**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

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

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

Received at 7:50 p.m      **"CARRIED"**

**(4) DELEGATION**

The Chairman introduced Mrs. Austin Kirkby who was in attendance to speak to the Board about the Authority's Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed plan.

Mrs. Kirkby provided the Board with information regarding her concerns over items she felt were incorrect in the Watershed Plan and how she felt they could be corrected. She then read the resolution which the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council passed at their April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. She also noted that she does support the document in general and once the corrections have been would be in agreement with it.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Kirkby for her presentation and then opened the floor to questions.

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

The Director, Water Management outlined the report to the Board and responded to questions. It was agreed that an errata sheet will be prepared and attached to the Plan to address Mrs. Kirby's concerns regarding the plan. After a lengthy discussion, the following resolution was presented.

**FA-56-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Heit

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**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.

**"CARRIED"**

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

The Director, Water Management outlined the report noting it was a follow up from the previous meeting to clarify issues expressed at that meeting. There were no questions, therefore the following resolution was presented.

**FA-57-08**

**MOVED BY:** T. Dalimonte

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

**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.

**"CARRIED"**

Authority Meeting - Minutes  
April 16, 2008 – continued

At this point, Mrs. Kirkby thanked the Board for their support and wished Mr. Burt a pleasant retirement.

**(7) IN-CAMERA**

The Chairman the requested the Board move back in-camera to complete the two remaining matters. The following resolutions were presented.

**FA-58-08**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**SECONDED BY:** B. Baty

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

**Received at 8:50 p.m.**

**"CARRIED"**

**FA-59-08**

**MOVED BY:** N. Johnson

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

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

**Received at 9:12 p.m.**

**"CARRIED"**

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

**FA-60-08**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**SECONDED BY:** N. Johnson

**THAT:** The reports presented in-camera be received and approved as presented.

**"CARRIED"**

**(8) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman reminded the members of the Biennial Tour scheduled for September 7 – 10 in Sudbury. If anyone is interested please see Mary.

The Chairman asked Mickey DiFruscio if he would attend at St. Johns on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> to cast the first line to open trout season. Mr. DiFruscio advised he would.

The Chair also reminded the members of the upcoming Foundation Golf tournament on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and encouraged those who could to attend.

The Chairman referred to the newsletter of the Foundation which was included in the Board packages and indicated that if anyone knew of someone who might want one to let staff know.

At this point, the Chairman advised that he had a token of appreciation to present to Andy Burt on behalf of the Board and congratulated him on his time with the Authority.



Andy thanked the Chairman and the Board for their kindness and noted that it has been a terrific ride for the past 24 years and that the Authority was like family to him. He also wished the Authority well for the future.

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

The General Manager noted that the Tree Conservation By-law amended has been endorsed by the Region Planning and Public Works and is scheduled to be implemented August 1<sup>st</sup>. The Authority will be seeking applications for two positions as a result of this.

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

A question was raised on the necessity of providing these on a monthly basis and a brief discussion took place. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-61-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Henderson

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

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

**“CARRIED”**

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

The General Manager advised that at the end of the first quarter there were no significant variances to report. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-62-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Baty

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

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

**“CARRIED”**

**(12) 2008 HONOURARIUM & PER DIEM ADJUSTMENT – REPORT NO. 30-08**

The General Manager advised that this is an annual adjustment. A question was raised on whether the Chairman's Honourarium was in line with other Authorities. The General Manager noted that staff will look into this and bring a report to the May meeting.

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

The General Manager outlined the report and the proposed policy. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-63-08**

**MOVED BY:** A. Fevez

**SECONDED BY:** B. Heit

**THAT:** Report No. 31-08 regarding the Member Training & Development Policy be received and approved as drafted.

**“CARRIED”**

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

The Director, Water Management outlined the report and responded to questions. It was suggested that the 10 year time frame for implementation be changed to “multi-year”. The following resolution was then presented.

**FA-64-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Heit

**SECONDED BY:** A. Fevez

**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 multi-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.

**“CARRIED”**

**(15) 2007 ANNUAL REPORT – REPORT NO. 33-08**

The General Manager advised that the Annual Report was included in their agenda package and congratulated Mary and Authority staff for a job well done. The Chairman reiterated the General Manager’s comments. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-65-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Henderson

**SECONDED BY:** A. Fevez

**THAT:** the 2007 Annual Report be received.

**“CARRIED”**

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

The Director, Land Management outlined the report and apologized for the map not being as clear as it should have been. After a brief discussion, the following resolution was

presented.

**FA-66-08**

**MOVED BY:** N. Johnson

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**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.

**“CARRIED”**

**(17) ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD HEARING – REED QUARRY – REPORT NO. 35-08**

The Director, Land Management outlined the report. A discussion took place on the legal costs associated with this matter which were excessive due to the lack of preparation on the part of the proponent. The board suggested that a letter be sent to OMB and the proponents advising of the Authority's concerns regarding the cost of legal council as a result of poor organization by the proponent and request a partial payment to the Authority by the proponent. The following resolutions were presented.

**FA-67-08**

**MOVED BY:** A. Fevez

**SECONDED BY:** B. Heit

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

**“CARRIED”**

**FA-68-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Bentley

**SECONDED BY:** B. Greenwood

**THAT:** A letter to be sent to the OMB and the Proponents of the Reeb Quarry regarding the Authority's high legal costs as a result of the Proponents lack of preparation in this matter;

and that a request be made for a partial payment of the Authority's legal costs directly resulting from their lack of preparation.

**“CARRIED”**

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

The Director, Land Management outlined the report and the General Manager provided some further clarification. A brief discussion took place and the following resolution was presented.



**FA-69-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Bentley

**SECONDED BY:** B. Greenwood

**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).

**“CARRIED”**

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

Barbara Henderson advised that there is no signage on the local roadways with respect to the Wainfleet Bog. The General Manager advised that staff will look into this and contact TODS. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-70-08**

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

**SECONDED BY:** N. Johnson

**THAT:** Report No. 37– 08 regarding the status of Authority projects be received for information.

**“CARRIED”**

**(20) OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no further business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**FA-71-08**

**MOVED BY:** N. Johnson

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

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

**Received at 10:05 p.m.**

**“CARRIED”**



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

**DATE: May 23, 2008**

**RE: Accounts April 2008 - Report No. 38-08**

Attached is the list of accounts for the month of April 2008 in the amount of \$445,950.25.

**Recommendation:**

**The list of accounts for the month of April, 2008, in the amount of \$445,950.25 be received and approved.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony D'Amario, P.Eng. CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



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

**DATE: May 23, 2008**

**RE: Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Plan Follow up- Report No. 39-08**

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Plan was received by the NPCA Board at the April 16, 2008 meeting (see Report No. 26-08). The attached correspondence was received April 23, 2008 from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake included four motions from the Town's Agricultural Sub-Committee.

#### Motion 1

Motion 1 requested the Town send a letter to the NPCA Board requesting that the Watershed Report not be accepted until all questions are answered and errors are corrected. In response to a previous delegation and concerns, the Authority agreed to the addition of an Errata Sheet to current and future copies of the Watershed Plan. Attached is the Errata sheet in this regards. As previously indicated, Authority staff believe that the questions/issues raised do not substantively change the report or the recommendations for implementation.

#### Motion 2

The Town's Agricultural Committee has requested the NPCA to undertake a review of properties it owns on Two Mile and Four Mile Creeks and immediately clean out the channel utilizing restoration funds allocated for implementation of the Watershed Plan. It should be noted under the current NPCA Land Management Plan, these properties are maintained as natural valley systems. Natural systems do not normally provide habitat for mosquito species that are know to carry the West Nile Virus. However, Authority will inspect the site for potential flooding concerns and address significant issues as required. The need for a watercourse cleanout at these locations were not specifically identified as a priority action item in the Watershed Study. Works to address these types of problems cannot be undertaken in isolation without addressing other sediment and erosion control issues upstream.

#### Motion 3

The Town's Agricultural Committee has requested the inclusion of a graduated permit fee structure to recognize uninhabited buildings, barns and sheds. The NPCA Board considered and received without further resolution, a similar request from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake in their meeting of November 21, 2007 (Report No.87-07, attached) to reduce fees for a non habitable structure. The current fee structure for permits is based on a 100% recovery of costs as directed by the Board at their meeting of January 2007. The habitability of a structure does not alter potential impacts and the average review time to process permits.



Motion 4

The Town's Agricultural Committee has requested that the Town to continue to include the replacement of culverts and bridges identified in the Watershed Study in the annual Capital Works Budget. This motion reflects a similar one adopted by the NPCA Board through Report No. 26-08.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 39-08 regarding the Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Plan be received.**

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

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tony D'Amario, P.Eng, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



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

**DATE: May 8, 2008**

**SUBJECT: Monthly Cheque Listing Information - Report No. 40-08**

Historically cheque listings have been presented to the Board on a monthly basis for their review and approval. The listing includes the cheque number, vendor name, amount and a brief description referring back to the program area. Through this process the Board approves cheques that have already been issued. All expenditures receive prior approval from the CAO or Program Directors as per the current NPCA Purchasing Policies.

With the current system specific detailed vendor costs are known however the information does not provide an expenditure or revenue status of any of the program areas as it relates to the approved budget.

Authority staff consulted with other Conservation Authorities and determined some Authorities do not include cheque listings for Board approval, and in some cases the process was replaced by more periodic budget status reports. In addition staff requested the opinion of our Auditors, MacGillivray Partners for their input on this matter. Randy Momot of MacGillivray Partners indicated the following.

"I think the members are in a better position to ask questions based on monthly budget summaries rather than the cheque listing. As for the approval of the cheque listing, the important control is that (the CAO) approves the cheque listing before the cheques are produced. The approval by the directors (NPCA Board) is a bit of an old municipal control; Ultimately, it is management and the audit committee who are responsible for internal control. If they are okay with not producing the report monthly and going with a review of the budget summaries then I think Board approval is not necessary. From a control aspect, we feel that the important control is that (the CAO) review the cheque listing. We do not feel that the Board are in a position to add anything to the approval process. We do feel that the Board will be more comfortable and are in a position to ask meaningful questions from reviewing the monthly budget summaries."

There have been discussions previously by Board members concerning the necessity or type of information presented in the monthly cheque listings. Authority staff believe it very important that the Board be kept well informed of revenues, expenditures and current status of the budget.

A potentially more effective alternative to the current system would be for the members to approve a summary budget status report on a monthly basis similar to the quarterly reports received by the Board in the past. A sample of the current month status report is attached for reference and information. This report provides monthly expenditure details as well as an accurate status of programs in relation to the approved budget. The detailed cheques listings would be available to any member wishing this information however the listing would not normally be presented for approval.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Report No. 40-08 regarding the monthly cheque listing information be received.

Respectfully Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tony D'Amario, P.Eng. CAO/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. 41-08**

A Chairman's honourarium and member per diem report was discussed at the April 16, 2008 meeting and referred back to staff for additional information. In this regard, Authority staff contacted neighbouring and similar sized Conservation Authorities to obtain their respective honourarium and per diems. The information is provided in the table below.

<b>CONSERVATION AUTHORITY</b>	<b>PER DIEM</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN'S HONOURARIUM</b>	<b>VICE-CHAIRMAN'S HONOURARIUM</b>
Hamilton	\$25.00	\$9,000.00	\$1,700.00
Long Point	\$55.00	\$2,000.00	
Conservation Halton	\$50.00	\$10,000.00	\$3,000.00
Central Lake Ontario	\$50.00	\$2,500.00	
Credit Valley	\$68.11	\$11,957.00	\$5,464.00 (2 – Vice Chairs)
TRCA	\$86.62	\$38,027.00	2 x per diem rate when acting as Chair
Lake Simcoe	\$100	\$10,000	\$3,000
Upper Thames	\$59.50	\$3,350	
Grand River	\$75 (General) \$125 (Cmt. Of the Whole)	\$38,000	\$2,000

Statistically, the average Chairman's honourarium is \$13,870 and per diem is \$68.80. The averages excluding the Grand River and TRCA numbers are \$6,972 and \$58.23 respectively.

The NPCA Chairman's honourarium and member per diems are currently \$4,333 annually and \$63.70 per meeting respectively. The NPCA does not currently have an honourarium for the Vice Chairman. A 3% economic adjustment to these retroactive to January 1, 2008. would result in an honourarium of \$4,463 and the per diem \$65.60. Adoption of this schedule results in a per diem consistent with other Conservation Authorities however, the Chairman's honorarium is less than the averages.

In accordance with Section 37 of The Conservation Authorities Act, approval of the Ontario Municipal Board is required.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Report No. 41-08 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tony D'Amario, P.Eng. CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



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

**DATE: May 14, 2008**

**SUBJECT: Personnel Regulations – Working Alone – Report No. 42-08**

The NPCA Joint Health and Safety Committee and the Management Team have developed a draft regulation for employees who are required to work alone as part of their regular duties with the Conservation Authority.

The attached document outlines the safeguards to be taken by employees and supervisors that will ensure personal safety. It also identifies the Authority's responsibilities for the wellbeing of our employees.

It is recommended that this document be added to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Terms of Employment and Personnel Regulations as Regulation 29.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 42-08 regarding a Regulation for NPCA Employees Working Alone be Approved; and,

That the Working Alone Regulation be added to the Terms of Employment and Personnel Regulations as Regulation 29

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

Respectfully Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tony D'Amario, P. Eng, CAO/ Secretary-Treasurer

## **REGULATION NO.28**

### **- WORKING ALONE -**

#### **(1) Policy Statement**

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority is vitally interested in and committed to the health and safety of its employees. A significant number of job functions within the Conservation Authority have been and will continue to be performed by employees working alone. It is the objective of the Conservation Authority to apply all reasonable measures for the protection of all workers in these situations. It is important to note that some job functions are NOT to be undertaken alone and must be carried out only when at least one other qualified staff member is present.

#### **(2) Authority Supplied Equipment**

All employees who are required to work alone and may be exposed to conditions a job related injury, health impairment of any kind, victimization through criminal violence or other adverse conditions will be provided with a two-way communications link.

#### **(3) Notification Procedures**

##### **a) Office Personnel**

Office staff who are to be out of the office are required to provide information on their work locations and the expected time of return. If there is a significant change in the expected time of return or work location, the employee is required to advise the Administration Office of this change. The employee will, at all times, have on their person a mobile two-way communications link, accessible to the Administration Office.

##### **b) Field Personnel**

For Field Personnel, each Conservation Area with staff assigned to it and the Central Workshop will ensure a process is in place which will identify where each employee assigned to that conservation area/workshop is expected to be over the course the work day. In addition, each employee, or the supervisory employee where more than 1 employee is involved, will at all times have on their person a mobile two-way communications link, accessible to the Administration Office.

#### **(4) Exceptions**

a) No employee is permitted to work alone in the following situations:

- Confined space entry
- Working with toxic gases, liquids or solids
- Working at heights where a safety harness is required

b) Where the handling of cash occurs, the Conservation Authority will install appropriate warning alarms for the safety of the personnel at these sites.

(5) **Training**

All Conservation Authority employees, both regular and seasonal, will receive annual training on the Working Alone Regulation.

(6) **Employee Responsibility**

It is important to note that employees and their supervisors shall be held accountable for violations of health and safety rules, regulations and procedures. Where an employee has concerns about the adequacy of the Working Alone Regulation, they are to advise their supervisor of their concerns. Where a supervisor is made aware of an employee's concerns about the Working Alone Regulation, they are required to refer this to the Joint Health and Safety Committee and bring the matter to the attention of their Program Director and the Chief Administrative Officer.





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

**DATE: May 14, 2008**

**SUBJECT: Ball's Falls Landscape Tender – Report No. 43-08**

Funds in the amount of \$100,000 have been allocated in the approved 2008 Capital Budget for the construction of a trail switchback and associated landscaping to link the Centre for Conservation with the lower Ball's Falls Conservation Area. The trail will extend from the upper plateau to the west bank of the Twenty Mile Creek, at the pedestrian bridge.

This work will improve the access between the upper and lower park areas. Remedial work will also be undertaken at the former gatehouse, near the Field Centre and Conservation Area workshop.

The contract will involve clearing vegetation along a pre-defined construction corridor, grading a new switch-back and constructing the walking trail. The recommended design for the trail is for the surface to be composed of a compacted granular base, finished with compacted limestone screenings.

The tender for this contract will be advertised in local and regional papers. The closing date for the tender will be 1:00 p.m. Monday, June 9, 2008. This will allow time for staff to review the information and prepare a recommendation for consideration at the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Full Authority Board.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 43-08 regarding the Ball's Falls Landscape Tender be received.

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

Respectfully Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tony D'Amario P. Eng, CAO/ Secretary-Treasurer



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

**DATE: May 14, 2008**

**SUBJECT: Binbrook Boat Launch Project – Report No. 44-08**

The 2008 capital development program for Binbrook Conservation Area includes the construction of a new boat launch, adjacent to the dam's emergency spillway.

The area where the parking lot and boat launch are to be developed was used as a staging area for the emergency spillway construction project. The new boat launch has a similar design to others constructed by the NPCA. Pre-cast concrete sections will be stitched together, then installed at the shoreline to form the base of the ramp. The material is the same product used to protect the emergency spillway.

CRL Campbell is the contractor currently working on the dam. This contractor already has the equipment on site required to construct the ramp. Their firm recently completed a boat launch at the Beacon Marina on Lake Ontario using the same design. Authority staff asked CRL Campbell for a quote to construct a new boat launch, based on our design. They submitted a price of \$21,233.

Based on preliminary consultation with other construction firms, Authority staff believe there would be a substantial savings and if the project is awarded to Campbell. Other contractors would have mobilization and set-up costs factored into the price. Another item to consider is the coordination of site restoration. The existing contract for the Binbrook Dam requires restoration of all areas disturbed by construction, including the site of the proposed boat launch. If the Authority makes use of CRL Campbell, the boat launch can be coordinated with the site restoration. Bringing another contractor onto the site would complicate contract supervision and may lead to conflicts in construction timing and responsibilities for restoration.

Based on the above, staff recommend awarding the contract for the Binbrook Boat Launch project to CRL Campbell for a price of \$21,233.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 44-08 regarding the Binbrook Boat Launch be received; and,

That CRL Campbell be awarded the contract to construct a new boat launch ramp at the Binbrook Conservation Area for a total price of \$21,233.

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

Respectfully Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority**

**DATE: May 23, 2008**

**RE: PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 45-08**

## **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 650.5 feet and 653.0 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 651.0 feet. NPCA staff continue to monitor the reservoir water levels daily.

#### 2) Spillway Project – Delayed due to melting conditions, however work is progressing with completion expected over the next 2-3 weeks.

### **Shriners Creek – City of Niagara Falls**

The 2003 Shriners Creek Study had recommended that the existing NPCA owned stormwater detention facility (known as Dyke B) located west of Kalar Road on the Shriners Creek W5-4 Tributary be modified in order to improve water quality, attenuate flows, and provide year round base flow to the Shriners 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 15 permit applications for the 2008 calendar year.

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

Photos have been linked to the word document and the Watershed Plan has been passed over to the Communications Director for final formatting and to be sent to the printers. 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

Photos have been linked to the word document and the Watershed Plan has been passed over to the Communications Director for final formatting and to be sent to the printers. 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.

Parish Geomorphic and Philips Engineering, the consultants working on the Lyons Creek Fluvial Geomorphology Study, have completed the initial background review of the study area. The field work has begun for the study and the rapid assessments have been completed.

### Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan

A public open house was held on May 6<sup>th</sup> in Port Colborne. The purpose of the open house was to present the initiation of the Watershed Plan to the community and inform the public how they can participate in the process. Approximately 30 people attended the open house. The main concerns expressed by those that attended included development along the lakeshore and flooding issues associated with the increase of severe storm events.

The initial steering committee meeting that was scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> has been rescheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this meeting is to explain the watershed planning process and the role of the steering committee and review the Draft Background Report of the Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan.

Landowner contact has begun in the study area through letters sent to residents living adjacent to watercourses. The purpose of the letters is to request permission to access the adjacent properties in order to reach the watercourses. Landowner response has been positive with approximately 25% of the permission slips granting access to their property. All landowner contact information has been entered into a database.

### Central Welland River Watershed Plan

The initial steering committee meeting has been scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this meeting is to explain the watershed planning process and the role of the steering committee and review the Draft Background Report of the Central Welland River Watershed Plan.

An open house has been scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup> in Welland to present the initiation of the Watershed Plan to the public. In addition, this open house will inform the public on how they can be a part of the watershed planning process.

### Natural Heritage Areas Inventory Update

The Natural Areas Inventory Assistants started on May 5, 2008 and the GIS Technician came on board May 12, 2008. Team members took part in the Ecological Land Classification training in early May.

The landowner contact is going very well this season. Letters have gone out to West Lincoln where we have received a high percentage of positive responses. Letters are being sent to Welland, Pelham, Thorold and North Niagara Falls in the next two to three weeks.

The field work for this year will begin the third week of May and carry on throughout the summer and early fall.

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

## **Niagara River Remedial Action Plan**

### Contaminated sediments:

Recommendations on the preferred sediment management options for the Lyon's Creek East and West sites by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) are being incorporated into the Phase 1V report, which will then be circulated to the agencies for sign-off. There was agreement that each of the participating agencies will provide a sign-off letter prior to the next TAG meeting in June.

For Lyon's Creek West, TAG recommended that all stakeholders proceed with sediment management, and requested Transport Canada (the largest property owner) to provide a letter on their intended actions.

For Lyon's Creek East, TAG recommended that the preferred sediment management option should be Monitored Natural Recovery.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2008. The next steps in the process will include communicating the preferred option to the community.

In the meantime, on April 23 in Fort Erie, it was announced that the Government of Canada is investing up to \$2.9 million to clean up the contaminated sediments in Lyon's Creek.

The fifth meeting of the Lyon's Creek East Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was held on April 22, and NPCA staff provided an overview on wetland regulations and the Species at Risk Act. The presentation concluded the list of information sessions requested by the committee.

### Niagara Water Strategy (NWS):

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

### Stage 2 Update:

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.

The first field season for the Eutrophication and Water Quality Assessment project is underway with the objective of gathering missing data on how the Welland River ecosystem is responding to nutrient inputs.

### International Liaison:

The next meeting of the Habitat Advisory Committee (for Niagara River and Buffalo River RAPs) is scheduled for May 28, 2008 in Buffalo, N.Y.

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

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

### Upcoming conferences:

May 19 – 23, 2008: IAGLR Conference. Theme: *Our Lakes, Our Community*.

October 22 – 23: 2008 State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC). Niagara Falls, Ontario. Theme: The Nearshore

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

### Niagara River RAP / Welland River Restoration

Spring planting season is just getting underway. Overall, 19 restoration project sites will be planted totalling approximately 32 acres in reforestation and wetland restoration, 1km of riparian buffer planting and erosion protection and 2km of farm windbreaks to reduce soil erosion.

Restoration projects for the summer and fall of 2008 are also in the planning stages as staff continues to visit with landowners to discuss and design projects. Potential projects include stream bank stabilization along the Welland River and Big Forks Creek, improving the water quality of an online pond in the Black Creek subwatershed as well as several wetland restoration projects in partnership with Ducks Unlimited.

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. Construction should be completed by mid-May.

Staff assisted the Welland Riverkeepers in their annual EarthDay garbage clean-up at Merrit Island Park. Close to 50 Scouts helped with the garbage clean-up and were joined by several families in planting trees along the Welland River.

### General Watershed Restoration

Staff attended a two day training organized by Conservation Ontario for the Source Water Protection Program on Well & Septic Systems. This training will aid staff in delivering Source Water Early Actions funding.

This year's summer student has been hired and began work with restoration staff on May 13<sup>th</sup>. With funding from MNR's Summer Experience Program, the 12 week work period will provide an opportunity for the student to gain valuable experience implementing water quality improvement projects as well as additional opportunities to conduct water sampling and site assessments.

Site preparation has begun on a project in a headwater area of Fifteen Mile Creek watershed. Excavation of vernal pools will happen this week, with the objective of providing habitat for amphibians and birds, as well as making a small contribution to attenuating flooding in Fifteen Mile Creek. Tree planting will be done the last week of May.

A habitat improvement project on an escarpment property in Grimsby is planned for this spring. This includes planting of appropriate native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers.

Staff assisted with the Envirothon competition held at Heartland Forest. The event was a great success and it is anticipated that next years event will be even better. Lakeshore Catholic High School was successful in winning the local competition and will move on to the provincial competition. A follow up meeting was held to discuss the event and begin to look forward to next year's competition.

A second project in Fifteen Mile Creek watershed is also expected commence in the near future. This Fifteen Mile Creek project saw a wetland created on site last year and will have further restoration activity take place again this spring. The wetland itself will be seeded with the appropriate seed and planted with more than 800 herbaceous plug species to assist in facilitating a native plant base. The site will also see an increase of 6 acres of tree cover to several of the former cash crop fields.

Staff have also prepared two restoration plans for sites in the Forty Mile Creek watershed. The first property, a shelterbelt project consisting of more than 1.5 acres of trees and shrubs planted in three rows along the perimeter of the property. This project will connect with the existing project on an adjacent property, both located in Grassie.

The second property owner has requested a fall planting in order to properly prepare the site. At this time staff expects to complete both a shelterbelt consisting of three rows including trees and shrubs as well as a 2.5 acre reforestation plot to the north of the landowners existing woodlot.

### Twenty Mile Creek Restoration

Staff have finalized planting plans for participating landowners and are ready to begin planting as soon as the weather permits.

Staff prepared the reforestation plan for a large planting project - a 12 acre site west of Smithville. The landowner's motivation for completing this very large scale planting is generally directed towards the tax incentive that the Managed Forest Tax Incentive program offers. The project meshes perfectly with the conservation authority's objectives as it connects two provincially significant wetlands to the north and south of the planting site through major reforestation and hedgerows. An excess of 6000 trees are expected to be planted on this site.

A second reforestation plan for more than 2 acres was also prepared for a site closer to Hamilton along the upper reaches of the watercourse. However the landowner has decided that

their health issues have become a limited factor in keeping the project well maintained. Unfortunately at this time the project has been cancelled.

A water quality and reforestation project has also been planned for a property located east of Smithville. This project will see approximately 1000 feet of headwater stream buffered in a 12 metre swath of trees, shrubs, wildflowers and wetland grasses on each side of the swale. This will assist with issues associated from the adjacent cash crop field. The reforestation component of the project will see approximately 100 trees and 150 shrubs planted on an infill basis in an existing area of reforestation on the property.

At present, one manure storage project, located in Hannon is being planned. Staff met with the landowner and has corresponded with OMFRA to determine if the project is feasible. At present, the project appears to be moving forward. More details regarding this project will unfold in the near future.

Staff have also conducted several more site visits and it is expected that restoration plans for those sites will be prepared by the end of the month. Several more sites are scheduled to be visited in the near future.

#### Twelve Mile Creek Restoration

Staff received final approval of the Ontario Power Generation Carbon Sequestration funding application for the Decew Escarpment Tablelands project, amounting to \$44,000 over three years. Additional monetary and in-kind support has been promised by 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.

A triple-stream crossing and buffer project is planned for a cash crop farm in Upper Twelve Mile Creek. Buffers will total 3 km in length, as the site is the confluence of three little tributaries. Additional funding will hopefully be coming from the GreenCover (EFP) program.

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 exclosures. 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 a community clean-up in upper Dick's Creek. City operations will donate a bin as well as disposal/recycling services.



## Niagara-on-the-Lake Restoration

Staff continue to work on restoration plans with landowners leading up to the spring planting season. There will be a forest restoration, naturalization, nutrient management, as well as three riparian planting projects conducted in NOTL this spring. For the fall there are currently three projects being developed, which include forest, riparian and wetland restoration. Staff have had 5 site visits with landowners this month regarding projects to be developed for this spring and fall, 3 of which were for new projects.

Staff has attended 2 meetings with the Friends of One Mile Creek (FOMC) as well as cooperatively conducted an Earth Day clean up of One Mile Creek on April 19<sup>th</sup> with over 20 people volunteering their time. A Restoration program display was also set up at the Earth Day event giving staff an opportunity to discuss project possibilities in the area with interested landowners.

Staff has also taken part in several training opportunities this month related to the current Environmental Farm Plan program, Niagara Atlas GIS and a week long Temperate Wetland Restoration Course which was held in Kemptville ON.

## Outreach Programs

Staff participated in an Earth Day event at McKay Public School in Port Colborne. Students got to plant and take home Black-eyed Susan seeds and were taught the benefits of planting native plants.

Staff also participated in two City of Welland Earth Day events. One event at the Children's Safety Village and the other at Merritt Island. A program display was set up and children planted wild flower seeds to take home and were taught the benefits of planting native plants.

Staff participated in Frog Fest on May 3 as well. A display was set up with Fowlers Toad material as well as some restoration program material. Approximately 80 people attended the event, despite the rain.

In-school outreach programs have wrapped up for the year. A total of 19 elementary schools and 5 high schools were visited, including 5 French schools. Approximately 2700 students from junior kindergarten to grade 12 were taught lessons about improving the environment through small lifestyle changes, where water comes from, how it is treated and what they should do to avoid polluting it, and about the Niagara watershed and the amazing ecosystems within it.

Staff attended and assisted in the organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Niagara Envirothon. The competition was held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Heartland Forest, in Niagara Falls. Three high schools from the Niagara Region participated: Fort Erie Secondary School, Lakeshore Catholic High School and Ecole secondaire Jean-Vanier. Each team consisted of 5 members. A number of volunteers from many community groups assisted in the organization and the events, including Friends of Fort Erie's Creeks, Burt Miller Nature Club, Niagara Falls Nature Club, Heartland Forest. Land Care Niagara provided some financial support for the event, and the NPCA provided the lunch for 30 students and 10 volunteers.

The students that participated were all very enthusiastic about the Envirothon and all gave good evaluations at the end of the day. Staff from Cogeco was on-site on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to document the competition and the piece aired on The Source later that evening. In addition, there was a nice write-up in Niagara This Week about the competition and the winning school, Lakeshore

Catholic High School from Port Colborne. Lakeshore went on to the Ontario Envirothon which was held from May 7<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> in St. George, ON. Lakeshore Catholic won the rookie award and placed second overall in the presentation category. Overall, the 1<sup>st</sup> Niagara Envirothon was a great success. With the financial contribution from Land Care Niagara, the winning team members received a collection of 3 field guides and one non-fiction book about an environmental issue. In addition, all participating students took home a Niagara Envirothon t-shirt as well as a goodie bag with various promotional material and information about other NPCA programs.

### ECO School Program

The 2008 ECO School Program is now in full swing with all of the initial site visits completed and sod stripping and rototilling of the sites beginning. Participants seem very enthusiastic about the program this year, as the subject of school greening has a big role in schools today.

### Yellow Fish Road

Four Yellow Fish Road events involving schools and brownies groups occurred in April. Fish were painted on storm drains and information was put on people's door knobs in Fort Erie, Port Colborne and Grimsby. We received a positive response from all participating groups. There are a number of activities planned for the coming months.

### Water Quality Program

The NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Team has finished sampling all of the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network wells. Spring samples were collected at 15 groundwater wells and analyzed for several parameters including nutrients, metals, and bacteria. The laboratory results from these samples are pending.

The spring benthic invertebrate BioMAP sampling has begun for 2008. Spring samples have been collected from Hamilton International Airport and the Glanbrook Landfill. Additional sampling will be conducted at 20 regular NPCA monitoring stations and restoration sites. The Water Quality Team will also assist the NPCA Land Department in a bioassessment of Mud Lake Conservation Area. It is anticipated that the spring benthic sampling will conclude in mid-June.

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 hired a contractor to install an auto-sampler on the Twenty Mile Creek which will be operating in mid-May.

Monthly surface water quality monitoring has begun for the 2008 field season and samples were collected in April at 66 stations in the NPCA watershed. This month, the NPCA and MOE will be deploying dissolved oxygen sensor data loggers at 4 sites in the AOC as part of the Welland River Eutrophication Study.

## GIS (GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS) / INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

### Source Water Protection

- The 12 Mile Creek, Niagara-on-the-Lake, South Niagara Falls, 15,16 &18 Mile Creeks Watershed Planning Areas (WSPA) spatial surface water hydrology model inputs have been prepared and delivered to the consultant for the Water Availability study.

- The 20 Mile Creek, Upper Welland River, Central Welland River, Big Forks Creek and Feeder Canal, BeaverDams and Shriners Creeks, Lake Erie North Shore, and Fort Erie Creeks, 12 Mile Creek, Niagara-on-the-Lake, South Niagara Falls, 15,16 &18 Mile Creeks Watershed Planning Areas characterization maps (7 per WSPA) have all been drafted for the reporting components of the Water Availability study.
- The IPZ2 upland drainage area delineations are being reviewed as they are delivered by the Region of Niagara's consultants to make sure they meet the SWP Assessment Report Technical Standards.

#### Watershed Planning

- Two optional drafts 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. Geoprocessing model development continues for this business dataset as the policy gets finalized by Regional and NPCA planning staff.
- New DRAFT Ontario Evaluated Wetland System (OWES) wetland geometry has been delivered for Pelham, Welland, North Niagara Falls, and Thorold for use in the Natural Areas Inventory.
- Land owner contact analysis has been conducted for the 2008 Natural Areas Inventory field season focus area of Pelham and Welland and resulting letters will be sent in short order once the analysis has also been conducted for this field season's remaining focus areas in Thorold and North Niagara Falls.
- A summer contract position has been filled that will assist with the outstanding spatial data capture and information management activities associated with the Natural Areas Inventory.
- DRAFT Community Series ELC mapping has been completed for the Township of West Lincoln.

#### Corporate GIS

- GIS staff nears completion of 'Area of Concern' mapping templates for the Environment Canada Great Lakes Area of Concern Section.
- Data entry of the 2007 field season stewardship projects are being conducted in the Restoration Database.
- GIS staff met with GeoSmart Niagara staff about adding several Authority datasets to the public web mapping Niagara Navigator site to ease public inquiries on Authority staff time. The layers added will most likely simply be the fish habitat, floodplain and current plan review screening mapping datasets. A more official NPCA web mapping presence will be pursued as a separate NPCA site after the Region implements its new web mapping platform later this year.

## **LAND MANAGEMENT**

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

The Earth Day, Family Day workshop on April 20<sup>th</sup> was attended by 18 people. Participants enjoyed a variety of activities including a Cataract trail hike, learning about frogs and toads & their natural habitat and making a toad abode for the garden.

The Heritage Program Assistant attended a meeting of the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario (RWTO) on April 17<sup>th</sup>, to speak about site programming and encourage volunteer participation at Ball's Falls. The Authority is fortunate to have a number of retired teachers assisting with programs and events at Ball's Falls.

The "Spring Awakening" education program, offered from May 20 to June 23 is becoming more popular. Two programs are booked per day. To date 15 programs have been booked by 12 schools.

Staff were busy over the course of the last few weeks finalizing projects and arrangements to prepare for the opening of the Centre for Conservation.

An elementary class from Campden, Jordan and Vineland area schools will participate in a pilot program to test 3 education programs staff have under development for the Centre. The curriculum-linked programs will focus on conservation and green themes, the LEED philosophy and the CFC, natural heritage and the early development of Ball's Falls.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, members of The Ontario Association of Architects enjoyed a sneak preview tour of the new Centre and then visited some of the heritage buildings.

The Open House Weekend at the Centre for Conservation was well received with about 2000 visitors interested in touring the facility. Harald Ensslen and Greg Redden from Macdonald Zuberec Ensslen Architects provided building tours to hundreds of people. NPCA staff greeted visitors, providing information on the displays and programs and fielding questions about the new facility. Many local people attended the event.

The Girl's Afternoon Adventure on May 10 was well attended. Participants were the first guest to enjoy their tea in the education room at the Centre For Conservation.

Seasonal staff have been hired. The NPCA has received approval for funding through Employment Ontario - Job Gym and the Summer Jobs Service Program (\$2 /hr. wage subsidy) for up to 31 seasonal positions for 12 weeks at maximum 35 hours per week.

### **Beamer Memorial Conservation Area**

An episode of the 'Earley Bird' was filmed at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area. The film production crew was on site in mid April and the host Chris Earley, with Mike Street, highlighted bird identification tips at this hot Niagara birding spot. The filming covered two days.

### Binbrook Conservation Area

With OMNR approval/ permit, the Glanbrook Conservation Committee acquired and stocked 300 walleye in Lake Niapenco to assist in providing additional sport fishing opportunities for the area.

### St. Johns Conservation Area

On Saturday April 26, the pond was opened at 12 noon as part of opening season for Rainbow Trout. Approximately 250 people visited the site, trying their hand at catching the fish, and many being successful. Staff were on site for opening day welcoming visitors and informing them of the site rules and regulations and assisting with parking, and providing information on the works of the NPCA and the remaining 33 Conservation Areas. Following provincial regulations, daily catch and possession limit for rainbow trout is 2 for a sports fishing licence and 1 for a conservation fishing licence. Many of the site visitors were not familiar with the new regulations.

Temperature data for the pond and nearby streams were retrieved and analyzed for October through mid April. This data will be combined with the April – October 2008 data later this year.

### Gypsy Moth

Staff completed the annual monitoring of gypsy moths at several of the Conservation Areas, including Hedley, Ruigrok and Chippawa Conservation Areas. The number of egg masses and level of defoliation later in the season are assessed and compared with previous years to determine the population levels and effects and if management techniques are required. This will also be used to assess the effects of the spring Btk spraying on the moth population this year.

The results of the initial spring 2008 indicate decreasing populations of gypsy moths at Hedley Forest and Ruigrok Tract Conservation Areas with a severe defoliation forecast, and increasing at Chippawa but with populations levels below those required for invasive management activities or spraying.

At the time of writing this report, the aerial spray program is expected to begin during the week of May 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Recycling

Once again, the NPCA will be partnering with the Niagara Region for the collection of recyclable materials at the Chippawa Creek and Long Beach Conservation Areas. The materials will be collected for the operating camping season to assist in diverting these resources from the landfills and to reusable areas.

### NPCA Hunting Program

Staff have issued an addition 52 hunting permits. To date, 137 hunting permits have been issued for 2008. Of these, 5 permits are issued to individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

## Frogfest

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, NPCA staff attended 'Frogfest' in Niagara Falls. The event was organized to increase the awareness of habitat needs and the role of the NPCA. Special attention was given to protecting toads and Species at Risk.

## Binbrook Conservation Area

May 3 was clean up day with participation from scouting groups and the Glanbrook Conservation Committee. Several projects were completed within the park boundaries as well as a clean-up along a 2km section of Kirk Rd.

To date there are 32 pavilion rental reservations and two day-camps have reserved space for the summer. One is a returning camp, expanding their use over a longer period than 2007.

Work on the emergency spillway is almost completed. The contractor will be completing restoration work throughout the construction area, as equipment is pulled out.

## Long Beach and Chippawa Creek Conservation Areas

Staff have been working hard to bring the campgrounds back into operation. Water plants are now up and running. Campsites have been cleaned and prepared for a new season of camping. The season officially kicks-off May 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

### Source Protection Planning

Staff has had a number of meetings with staff at the Region of Niagara to apprise them of the progress in developing the Terms of Reference for the Source Protection process. Staff and the Source Protection Committee continue to meet in order to complete a draft Terms of Reference. Once this is completed, the draft will be posted on the internet and three (3) public open houses/consultations will be held in the latter part of June to receive comments/input from the public.

### Earth Day Activities

Staff supported several Earth Day projects throughout the watershed.

### Schools in Bloom

Staff attended the launch of the 2008 Schools in Bloom competition on April 22. The Authority is assisting with this program which is coordinated by the City of Niagara Falls and the Niagara Parks Commission.

### Centre for Conservation

Several hundred people and a number of media outlets were in attendance at the official opening of the Centre for Conservation at Ball's Falls on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The facility was open to the public over the weekend free of charge.

### Twenty Valley Tourism Association

The Authority continues to collaborate with the Twenty Valley Tourism Association in several joint marketing and outreach initiatives as appropriate. The association has received some funding through the Rural Economic Development Program for some marketing and communications projects. As a partner, the Conservation Authority is eligible to tap into the 50% funding for these initiatives as appropriate.

### Niagara Children's Water Festival

Staff is proceeding with the planning and development of activities for this program and the public day which will be held on Sunday September 14, 2008 at Ball's Falls Conservation Area.

## **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. To date, 87 golfers are confirmed and \$5,000 in sponsorship has been received. Staff are working to secure items for the silent auction. Events will include 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.

### Conservation Education Bursaries

Information and applications have been forwarded to schools and former recipients. An advertisement has been placed in area newspapers 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.

### Centre for Conservation

Foundation staff assisted with the opening day events. An event is being planned at a later date for donors and sponsors which will include the unveiling of the recognition wall.

### Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation

Staff will be attending an award ceremony at the Hart House on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> commemorating the work of the Neptis Foundation. This group is being recognized for their efforts towards solidifying the Greenbelt as a global leader.

### **Recommendation:**

**Report No. 45-08 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Tony D'Amario, P.Eng. CAO/Secretary-Treasurer