

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**FULL AUTHORITY**

**WELLAND**

**AGENDA**

**November 19, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**BUSINESS:**

**(1) MINUTES**

**(a) FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – OCTOBER 15, 2008**

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting held October 15, 2008.

**(b) BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING– NOVEMBER 5, 2008**

Attached are the Minutes of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting held November 5, 2008.

**(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**(3) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

**(4) CAO'S REPORT**

**(5) BUDGET STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 76-08**

Attached is Staff Report No. 76-08 and the budget status report.

**(6) PRELIMINARY 2009 CURRENT AND CAPITAL BUDGET UPDATE REPORT 77-08**

Attached is Staff Report No. 77-08 regarding this matter.

**(7) NPCA SAFETY MANUAL - REPORT NO. 78-08**

Attached is Report No. 78-08 regarding this matter as well as a CD of the manual.

**(8) JORDAN HARBOUR SITE UPDATE - REPORT NO. 79-08**

Attached is Report No. 79-08 regarding this matter.

**(9) 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE NPCA - REPORT NO. 80-08**

Attached is Report No. 80-08 for discussion purposes

**(10) PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 81-08**

Attached is Report No.81-08 outlining the status of Authority projects.

(11) **IN-CAMERA**

- (a) Budget Issues - Regional Niagara Tree-Bylaw – Report No. CR-12-08
- (b) Complaint and Violation Status Report – Report No. CR-13-08
- (c) Tree By-Law Status Report – Report No. CR-14-08

(12) **OTHER BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**FULL AUTHORITY MEETING**

**WELLAND**

**OCTOBER 15, 2008**

**7:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

D. Ransom, (Chairman) (with regrets)  
B. Bentley (with regrets)  
G. Burroughs (with regrets)  
B. Butters (with regrets)  
D. Goulbourne (with regrets)  
B. Henderson (with regrets)

**STAFF PRESENT:**

T. D'Amario, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer  
L. Sawatzky, Recording Secretary  
D. Baker, Director, Land Management  
J. Kukalis, Director, Water Management  
M. Stack, Director Communications  
T. McDougall, Executive Director Conservation Foundation

**BUSINESS:**

The Vice-Chairman advised that the Chairman was not able to attend the meeting and therefore he would assume the chair. He called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., welcomed everyone in attendance.

**(1) MINUTES**

**(a) FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – AUGUST 20, 2008**

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

**FA-121-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Greenwood

**SECONDED BY:** B. Heit

**THAT:** the Minutes of the Full Authority meeting held September 17, 2008, be received and approved.

**"CARRIED"**

**(b) TREE CONSERVATION BY-LAW COMMITTEE MEETING – SEPTEMBER 18, 2008**

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

**FA-122-08**

**MOVED BY:** T. Dalimonte

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

**THAT:** the Minutes of the Tree Conservation By-law Committee meeting held September 18, 2008, be received and approved.

**"CARRIED"**

**(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**(3) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Vice-Chairman noted that the Authority should expand on the report provided by Conservation Ontario which will be presented later in the meeting. By this he suggested that staff look into a strategic planning process and prepare a report card on the Authority comparing us to other CA's.

The Vice-Chairman found the recent member tour of several Conservation Areas quite informative and perhaps another one was in order.

**(4) CAO'S REPORT**

The CAO began by noting that the weather for the Thanksgiving Festival was perfect and that although a record with respect to numbers was not reached, approximately 25,000 persons attended with over 20,000 being paid attendance.

The CAO advised that he would be meeting with the Corporate Management Committee at the Region with respect to the 2009 Budget.

The CAO reminded the members of the upcoming Foundation's Elimination Draw on November 7<sup>th</sup> and encouraged all to attend this great event.

The CAO also reminded the member of the upcoming Conservation Achievement Awards Ceremony on November 25<sup>th</sup> at the Four Points Sheraton Suites.

(5) **BUDGET STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 71-08**

The CAO overviewed this report noting that at this point there are no significant variances and is within the approved budget. He advised that a detailed year end report will be provided at a later date. After a brief discussion the following resolution was presented.

**FA-123-08**

**MOVED BY:** A. Fevez

**SECONDED BY:** B. Steckley

**THAT:** the Budget Status Report for the period ending September 30, 2008 be received.

**“CARRIED”**

(6) **APPOINTMENT OF ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS – REPORT NO. 72-08**

The Director, Land Management presented this report noting that it is necessary in order for staff to enforce the Tree and Forest Conservation By-law. After responding to questions, the following resolution was presented.

**FA-124-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Steckley

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**THAT:** Mr. Dan Drennan and Mr. Jeff Vlasman be appointed as Enforcement Officers un The Conservation Authorities Act.

**“CARRIED”**

(7) **BINBROOK RESERVOIR DOCK LICENCE AGREEMENT - REPORT NO. 73-08**

The Director, Land Management outlined the necessity for this agreement and responded to questions. After a brief discussion, the following resolution was presented.

**FA-125-08**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**SECONDED BY:** A. Fevez

**THAT:** Report No. 74-08 regarding the Binbrook Reservoir Dock Licence Agreement be received; and

That the Licence Agreement be approved for use with all owners of docks on the Binbrook Reservoir

**“CARRIED”**

(8) **2007 CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STATISTICAL SURVEY REPORT NO. 74-08**

The CAO briefly outlined the results of this survey and responded to questions. A discussion took place with respect to the Authority doing a comparison including revenue, to determine how it relates to the overall program. The following resolution was then presented.

**FA-126-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Heit

**SECONDED BY:** B. Greenwood

**THAT:** Report No. 74-08 regarding the 2007 Conservation Authority Statistical Survey be received.

**“CARRIED”**

**(9) PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 75-08**

The CAO responded to questions and the following resolution was then presented.

**FA-127-08**

**MOVED BY:** C. D’Angelo

**SECONDED BY:** B. Bentley

**THAT:** Report No. 75–08 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.

**“CARRIED”**

**(12) IN-CAMERA**

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

**FA-128-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Steckley

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

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

Received at 7:34 p.m.

**“CARRIED”**

**FA-129-08**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**SECONDED BY:** C. D’Angelo

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

Received at 7:55 p.m.

**“CARRIED”**

**(13) OTHER BUSINESS**

A question was raised with respect to the weather consideration had ever been given to getting together with the organizers of the other craft shows in Jordan to have a shuttle service available. The CAO advised that discussions had taken place years ago, but to no avail. He also indicated that there is historically a post Festival meeting, where that topic could be once again visited.

Authority Meeting - Minutes  
October 15, 2008 – continued

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**FA-130-08**

**MOVED BY:** B. Heit

**SECONDED BY:** B. Greenwood

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

**Received at 8:06 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                                      November 5, 2008                                      3:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** M. Hunter  
D. Ransom  
B. Baty  
L. Holmes  
M. Holman  
E. Mitchinson

**Staff Present:** Tony D'Amario, CAO/Secretary - Treasurer  
D. Baker, Director, Land Management  
C. Hayward, Curator

**Regrets:** A. Petrie  
J. Mastroianni  
F. High

**BUSINESS:**

- 1) **Call to Order**  
The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.
- 2) **Minutes of Last Meeting – August 6, 2008**  
There being no errors or omissions, the following resolution was presented.

**MOVED BY:** Brian Baty  
**SECONDED BY:** Marion Holman  
**THAT:** the minutes of the last meeting held August 6, 2008 be approved.

**"CARRIED"**

- 3) **Business Arising From Minutes**

The Curator advised that at the last Museums of Niagara Association (MONA) meeting she had spoken with the local Curators involved with planning and had extended an invitation for Ball's Falls and the new Centre to be considered as a possible venue for events or functions associated with the celebrations that may be planned to recognize the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812.



4) **Ball's Falls Volunteers - 2008 Conservation Achievement Awards – Report No. HC-09-08**

The Curator responded to questions regarding the criteria in place for nominating the heritage volunteers, noting that given the long history of programming at Ball's Falls and participation in the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards program, the criteria had been developed prior to the initiation of the NPCA Conservation Achievement Awards.

**MOVED BY:** Ellen Mitchinson  
**SECONDED By:** Linda Holmes  
**THAT:** Report NO. HC-09-08 regarding the 2008 Conservation Achievement Awards be received for information.

**“CARRIED”**

5) **Application for MAP Funding - Report No. HC-10-08**

The Curator provided an overview of the project and responded to questions regarding budget allocations, noting that if the MAP project is not approved, the NPCA would have to include the work noted in future capital budgets.

**MOVED BY:** Brian Baty  
**SECONDED By:** April Petrie  
**THAT:** Report NO. HC-10-08 on the Application for Funding through the Museums Assistance program be received for information purposes.

**“CARRIED”**

6) **Museum Policies Review - Report No. HC-11-08**

A brief discussion on the updated the museum policies took place.

**MOVED BY:** Brian Baty  
**SECONDED By:** Linda Holmes  
**THAT:** Report No. HC-11-08 regarding proposed revisions to the Statement of Purpose and museum policies for Ball's Falls Conservation Area be received; and further

That the revised Statement of Purpose and policies for Ball's Falls Conservation Area attached to Report No. HC-11-08 be approved.

**“CARRIED”**

7) **Ball's Falls Status Report – Report No.HC-12-08**

**MOVED BY:** Linda Holmes  
**SECONDED BY:** Ellen Mitchinson  
**THAT:** Report No. HC-12-08 on the status of Ball's Falls Conservation Area projects be received for information.

**“CARRIED”**

8) **2009 Meeting Schedule - Report No. HC-13-08**

**MOVED BY:** Brian Baty

**SECONDED BY:** Marion Holman

**THAT:** Report NO. HC-13-08 outlining the proposed 2009 meeting schedule for the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee be approved.

**“CARRIED”**

9) **Adjournment**

**MOVED BY:** Ellen Mitchinson

**SECONDED BY:** Marion Holman

**THAT:** This meeting does now adjourn.

Received at 4:30 p.m.

**“CARRIED”**

C. Hayward, Curator

Mike Hunter, Chair

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

**DATE: November 21, 2008**

**RE: BUDGET STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 76-08**

Attached is the budget status report for the period ending October 31, 2008.

**Recommendation:**

**That the budget status report for the period ending October 31, 2008 be received.**

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



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

**DATE: November 12, 2008**

**SUBJECT: Preliminary 2009 Current and Capital Budget Update Report 77-08**

### **Current Budget**

Staff have been involved with the Corporate Management Team (CMT) of Niagara Region in their deliberations regarding the 2009 Current Budget. As indicated in an earlier report to the Board on the 2009 Budget, the Region's direction regarding the Current Budget was for an overall amount less than 3.4% increase. In order to allow room for additional items, special cases and other commitments, the CMT direction was for all departments, boards and agencies to limit cost increases to 2.4% and the remaining funds (1% or less) would be distributed based on the internal ranking of business cases presented by the departments for additional items.

For the NPCA Current Budget, the 2.4% target was achievable with the removal of the following additional (and new) items identified in the previous Board Report. A business case was prepared and submitted to CMT in order to access the additional funds beyond the 2.4% target.

Business Cases were prepared and presented by staff for the following items.

Additional Funding for Increased Legal Fee (NPCA Regulations)	\$10,000
Gypsy Moth Spraying Program	\$20,000
Watershed Report Card	\$70,000
Additional Funds to Implement the Region's Tree By-Law	\$96,000

Following the presentation of all business cases, the CMT group made the following recommendations on the NPCA business cases. Department Heads as well as outside agencies (NPCA) were also involved in the meeting held to discuss the recommendations.

- Approval of additional funds for Legal Fees.
- One time (2009) approval for the Gypsy Moth Spraying
- Watershed Report Card – Not Supported
- Tree By-law Additional Cost – Discussed Separately

The one time Gypsy Moth Spraying allocation recommendation is reasonable. A business case for 2010 and beyond would be prepared if the problem persists.

For the Watershed Report Card, NPCA staff discussed other options with Regional Staff Dr. Robin Williams and Patrick Robson and they supported the possibility of funding this initiative through internal funds within their respective departments. NPCA staff therefore supported the

concept of removing this cost from the General Levy and identifying revenue from other sources for implementation in 2009.

### **Capital Budget**

NPCA have had preliminary discussions with Region Niagara staff regarding our 2009 and longer term capital requirements and how this plan fits into the Region's affordability strategy. The discussions included changing the current arrangement to allow the NPCA to operate and manage its capital budget within the guidelines set out by the Region rather than the current practise of ranking NPCA projects relative to other Regional Department projects. This arrangement would be similar to the current practice with Police Services. For 2009, the capital budget is achievable within the guidelines given the NPCA capital debt identified by the Region and the Region Niagara Capital Levy Contributions in the Current Budget.

### **Hamilton and Haldimand**

Staff received a request from the City of Hamilton to submit a draft budget by November 28, 2008 with a special meeting of the Committee of the Whole to entertain budget submissions scheduled for January 23, 2009. The outstanding Council resolution with respect to budgets is "That Boards and Agencies be requested to submit a budget to Committee of the Whole based on a 2.0% guideline and that Boards be requested to justify any increase above 2.0%." The preliminary budget approved by the Board in their September meeting outlines a total increase (current and capital) of 2.8% over 2008 for the City of Hamilton. Authority staff will prepare an appropriate presentation to the City for consideration at their scheduled meeting including justification for the 0.8% increase above the guideline.

The Authority has not received guidance on budget submissions from Haldimand County at this time but will be forwarding the NPCA budget in any event.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 77-08 regarding the Preliminary 2009 Current and Capital Budget be received.

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



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

**DATE: November 12, 2008**

**SUBJECT: NPCA Safety Manual– Report No.78-08**

The Joint Health & Safety Committee completed a draft safety manual for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. This is a large document, with 34 Sections. Rather than printing and shipping this amount of paper to Board Members, staff copied the files to the enclosed CD for reference on your own personal computer.

In late 2007, a health & safety gap analysis conducted by Dunk and Associates identified the need for a formal policy document detailing the implementation of the NPCA's Health and Safety Policy Statement. It is intended to be a staff resource, and reference manual for all work activities undertaken by NPCA staff.

Since Conservation Authorities span a wide range of business sectors (forestry, municipal, construction, etc.) it is usually difficult to find one single resource with policies covering all the work activities undertaken by staff at the NPCA. Fortunately, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority recently updated their manual and offered it to our Health & Safety Committee to be used as a model. The NPCA Joint Health & Safety Committee adapted the document and policies to suit our watershed and our working environment.

This document is intended to be dynamic. It will be reviewed annually and modified as necessary.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 78-08 regarding the NPCA Safety Manual be received; and,

That the NPCA Safety Manual, dated November 2008, be approved.

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

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



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

**DATE: November 12, 2008**

**SUBJECT: Jordan Harbour Site Update – Report No. 79-08**

Over the past two months, staff have been meeting with members of the Twenty Valley Tourism Association to discuss plans for developing the Jordan Harbour Site, and solicit support for the project.

Overall, response is very positive. Existing tenants are excited by the prospect of improved access to the harbour, with a focus on paddle sports. Businesses in the vicinity see a great potential for partnerships with the NPCA, and others who may be involved in the operation of the facility.

Since the call for proposals was not successful, this project will rely on creative partnerships and support from the local community. There is a strong commitment to improve public access to the Jordan Harbour, especially one that focuses on non-motorized exploration of the area.

Over the next few weeks, NPCA staff will develop a concept plan for review at the December meeting. Once approved, staff would begin a detailed exploration for partnerships and funding of this new facility.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 79-08 regarding the Jordan Harbour Site be received for information purposes.

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

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



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

**DATE: November 21, 2008**

**RE: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NPCA – Report No. 80-08**

On April 30, 1959, a community wide effort came to fruition when the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) was formed in response to the need to protect and renew our natural resources. Currently, the NPCA's jurisdiction encompasses 2424 square kilometres which includes portions of Haldimand County and the City of Hamilton, as well as the whole of the Niagara Region.

Of the 36 Conservation Authorities in the province, Niagara has one of the most complex watershed areas. We are the leading agency for water management locally. One our greatest legacy is our 35 conservation areas and the 2,870 hectares of conservation lands that we are protecting and managing for future generations.

As we reflect on the impact of local conservation efforts in our watershed, we need to pay tribute to the efforts of the many partners who have taken up the challenge of ensuring that we will have a healthier environment in which to live, work and play. By taking a proactive role in conservation, restoration, development and wise use of precious natural resources within our watershed, the NPCA will be in a position poised to accept the continued challenges and opportunities facing us.

In anticipation of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of incorporation, staff is looking at ways to commemorate this momentous occasion. Since the organization was formed on a 'grass roots' perspective, the underlying thought is to keep the events family oriented and at very minimal costs for residents to participate in. Some preliminary thoughts include plans for a 'roving birthday party' with the idea to hold a number of family events at several of our conservation areas. Staff is looking at the opportunity to bring in a Key Speaker/Entertainer to attend the various events.

We are also looking to dovetail with some of the events being planned as part of the Boundary Waters Treaty Centennial Celebrations which will take place in Niagara/New York on June 13, 2009. The NPCA is taking an important role in the planning of this event which will bring together Canadian and U.S. Federal Government Leaders.

Staff will be seeking input and partnership opportunities from community members past and present to help in the execution of these events and a more definite timetable will be brought forward in the early part of 2009.



**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 80-08 regarding the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority be received for information and discussion purposes.**

Prepared by: Mary Stack, Director, Communications

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

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

**DATE: November 21, 2008**

**RE: PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 81-08**

**WATER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

**I. Watershed Regulation Division**

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

The reservoir water levels for the last 30 days have generally fluctuated between 650.3 feet and 651.7 feet. For reference, the dam holding level is 650.5 feet. The reservoir water level currently sits at 651.4 feet. NPCA staff continue to monitor the reservoir water levels daily.

On October 9, 2008, the primary underground hydro service to the dam control house failed. NPCA staff coordinated the repair work. Upon undertaking work on the underground hydro service, it was noted that the cable was in poor condition. The electrician undertaking the repairs indicated that it would only be a matter of time until the underground cable failed again. As such, the NPCA is commissioning the installation of a new overhead hydro service from Harrison Road to the dam control house. Work is expected to be completed by the end of November.

**2) Spring Garden Creek – City of St. Catharines**

The NPCA is presently undertaking the necessary calculations, field work, and map analysis to accurately determine the extent of the 100 year flood elevations for Hunter's Drain in the City of Niagara Falls.

**3) Hunter's Drain – City of Niagara Falls**

The NPCA is presently undertaking the necessary calculations, field work, and map analysis to accurately determine the extent of the 100 year flood elevations for Hunter's Drain in the City of Niagara Falls.

**4) 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 47 permit applications for the 2008 calendar year.

**5) Violation of the NPCA's 'Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses' Regulations**

Please refer to the associated Report under "in camera" section of agenda.

**6) NPCA-DFO Partnership Agreement**

The NPCA is under agreement with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to review works in or near water to determine whether the work is likely to result in the harmful alteration,

disruption or destruction of fish habitat (HADD). During the current calendar year NPCA staff has reviewed 74 applications and proposals under this agreement.

As part of the NPCA-DFO Partnership Agreement, NPCA staff work as a liaison between DFO Assessors and proponents to recommend appropriate fish habitat compensation projects. NPCA staff is currently working on the following fish habitat compensation projects:

- Niagara Health Services hospital project in St. Catharine's. To date, staff have been able to work collaboratively with DFO to address the majority of the compensation required. Nonetheless, a minor amount of compensation remains outstanding and staff had provided DFO with a number of sites thought to be suitable. As such, in September a letter was sent requesting DFO to reconsider the candidate sites provided by NPCA. NPCA also offered to complete additional compensation through our restoration program in an effort to satisfy DFO and allow the NHS to bring closure to this issue.

In this regard in late September, DFO representatives expressed conceptual approval for habitat enhancement works adjacent to the Authority's Shriners Creek facility proposed by the Aquatic Biologist. The Aquatic Biologist has prepared a conceptual design that was subsequently approved by DFO. Staff anticipate commencing earth work at the Shriner's facility shortly.

#### **7) Municipal Drain Maintenance Review**

Through the NPCA-DFO Partnership Agreement, as well as policies adopted to administer the NPCA Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses, NPCA staff work cooperatively with staff from local municipalities to review and assess proposed municipal drainage projects. NPCA staff has reviewed 30 municipal drain project during the current calendar year.

The NPCA continues to represent Conservation Authorities located in Central Ontario on the DART Committee. Other members of the DART include representatives of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Drainage Superintendents Association of Ontario, Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (Land Drainage Committee), Association of Municipalities of Ontario – Rural Caucus, OMAFRA, MNR and Conservation Ontario. The purpose of the DART is to develop a consistent approach and technical direction with regard to municipal drainage project review under Conservation Authority Regulations.

## **II. Watershed Planning Division**

### **1) Municipal and Development Plan Input and Review**

On Friday, November 14, 20087 a workshop will be put on by the Planning Department at Ball Falls Center for local area Planning and Building Officials in order to outline the new responsibilities and information flow under the joint Memorandum of Undersigning that has been executed between the NPCA, RMON and the Tier One municipalities. The Source Water Protection Division will also be giving a presentation on what will be coming into effect in the next two years pursuant to the Clean water Act.

## **2) Watershed Plan Preparation**

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

The second draft of the formatted version of the Watershed Plan from Caters-Hardy has been reviewed. Comments and necessary edits have been forwarded to the Communications Director to forward to the printing company handling the project. Once completed, a copy of the final publication will be presented to the members of the Steering Committee as a token of appreciation for their efforts on the project. Committee presentations have been scheduled to provide Tier One Councils with an overview of the plan. The Township of West Lincoln occurred on October 20<sup>th</sup>; Town of Lincoln on November 10<sup>th</sup>; and Town of Pelham is scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **b) South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan**

The second draft of the formatted version of the Watershed Plan from Caters-Hardy has been reviewed. Comments and necessary edits have been forwarded to the Communications Director to forward to the printing company handling the project. Once completed, a copy of the final publication will be presented to the members of the Steering Committee as a token of appreciation for their efforts on the project. Committee presentations have been scheduled to provide Tier One Councils with an overview of the plan. The City of Welland presentation took place on November 4<sup>th</sup> and a tentative date of December 1<sup>st</sup> has been set for the City of Niagara Falls presentation.

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

- All comments from the Steering Committee and the new suite of maps have been incorporated in the Draft Background Report entitled *Watershed Characterization and Preliminary Issues Identification*.

- Arrangements have been made with the Port Colborne and Wainfleet public libraries to set up a display and have copies of the document laid out for public review and commenting. Flyers indicating the dates and locations of the upcoming public workshops have also been placed at the display. Two public workshops have been arranged in the study area; one in Port Colborne on November 25<sup>th</sup> at the Roselawn Centre and the second workshop has been scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Lions Club in Long Beach in Wainfleet.

- A Steering Committee meeting was held on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this meeting was to provide the members with information on some of the other projects that the NPCA is conducting in the study area and what these studies have revealed.

- An intern position through Brock University was posted and interviews were conducted on prospective students. The student awarded the position started October 3<sup>rd</sup>, and will be assisting the Watershed Planning Technician one day a week for the duration of the school year.

- Geomorphic information has been collected on the following watercourses: Wignell Drain, Oil Mill Creek and Welland Canal South. Field notes from the summer field season were reviewed and data entry of collected field data has commenced into an Access database.

### **d) Central Welland River Watershed Plan**

- All comments from the Steering Committee have been incorporated in the Draft Background Report entitled *Watershed Characterization and Preliminary Issues Identification*.

- Arrangements have been made with the Welland and Pelham public libraries to set up a display and have copies of the document laid out for public review and commenting. Flyers indicating the date and location of the upcoming public workshop have also been placed at the display. One public workshop has been arranged in the study area at the Lions Club in Welland on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

A Steering Committee meeting was held on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The purpose of this meeting was to provide the members with information on some of the other projects that the NPCA and other groups are conducting in the study area and what these studies have revealed.

#### **e) Beaverdams and Shriners Creek Watershed Plan**

Writing and research for the Background Report continues and will not be complete until early 2009.

#### **3) Lyons Creek East Fluvial Geomorphology Study**

The Phase One report was submitted by the consultant on October 8<sup>th</sup>; and a meeting took place on October 17<sup>th</sup> with the consultants conducting the study; Parish Geomorphologic and Phillips Engineering. At the meeting staff reviewed concerns with the draft Phase One Report, as well as other issues that must be addressed before proceeding with Phase Two of the project.

#### **4) Natural Areas Inventory**

After meeting with The Technical and Steering Committees for the project, staff have completed the draft layout for the final report and have begun the technical writing for the introductory chapters. Crews (staff and volunteers) will continue to collect field data (weather permitting) until the end of October at which time they will begin entering the field data into the project database. The Project Coordinator has been invited to present preliminary findings of the project to various partners and interest groups.

### **III. Source Water Protection Division**

#### **1) Source Water Protection Plan**

-The Ministry of Environment (MOE) held their September 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting with the Source Protection Committee (SPC) chairs in Niagara-On-The-Lake (NOTL), instead of the regular Toronto location. The change in venues, which came about thanks to an invitation extended by Mark Neufeld, Niagara's SPC Chair, provided the chance to highlight the SPA and promote the Niagara Peninsula. The meeting was initiated with speeches by Mark Neufeld and Gary Burrows, Mayor of NOTL.

-On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the MOE and MNR held an Information Exchange Session (otherwise known as a program audit) for the Source Protection (SP) program at NPCA. The full-day meeting, which was attended by senior provincial officials in charge of the SP program, offered NPCA staff the chance to show what NPCA has accomplished, as well as ask questions and express any concerns about the provincial program. The MNR and MOE officials were pleased with the progress and management of the SP program at NPCA to-date.

- The Proposed TOR is expected to be submitted to the MOE on Monday, October 06.

-NPCA will be meeting with Niagara Region staff on October 9 to review the progress of the SP work undertaken on the Intake Protection Zones (IPZs). A detailed workplan from the consultant, (Stantec), is to be submitted to Niagara Region by October 7<sup>th</sup>.

-Work is progressing on the Tier 1 Water Budget as scheduled.

-The proposed Terms of Reference (TOR) was submitted to MOE in early October, well before the October 20 deadline.

-NPCA met with Niagara Region staff on October 9 to review the progress of the SP work undertaken on the Intake Protection Zones (IPZs). A work plan to complete MOE source protection guidance modules 5 and 6, and the remaining portion of module 4 was submitted from the consultant, (Stantec), to Niagara Region. Several revisions to the work plan were requested by NPCA. Niagara Region is expected to complete negotiations with the consultant by mid-November.

-Work is progressing on the Tier 1 Water Budget. The MOE Permit to Take Water (PTTW) database is being used in the estimation of water use.

-The SPC met on October 28. The purpose of the meeting was to visit the Intake Protection Zones (IPZs) for Welland, Port Colborne, Rosehill (Fort Erie), and Niagara Falls Water Treatment Plant (WTP) intakes. The meeting/tour proved to be educational for the SPC members and liaisons who attended.

The MOE is expected to release the Assessment Report Regulation and Director's Rules in early November 2008.

## **2) Water Quality**

### **a) Routine Water Quality Work**

- Routine monthly monitoring continues at 66 surface water stations and 15 groundwater wells located throughout the NPCA watershed in September.
- The Water Quality Monitoring Department has completed a technical summary for the AOC Welland River Eutrophication Technical Working Group to evaluate existing sampling efforts.
  - Taxonomic identification of benthic invertebrate samples collected during the spring sampling season continues.
- Data entry and database management are on-going as large quantities of water quality data are generated through various monitoring initiatives.
- Three wet-weather events were sampled in September 2008 for the Lake Ontario Collaborative Study on Twenty Mile Creek. Since late-May the NPCA has collected water quality samples on 13 wet weather events with an auto-sampler installed in Jordan.

-Routine monthly monitoring continues at 66 surface water stations and 15 groundwater wells located throughout the NPCA watershed in October.

-The NPCA has commenced BioMAP sampling for the fall at 15 water quality monitoring stations.

-The sampling for both the Hamilton International Airport and Glanbrook Landfill bioassessment studies has been completed.

-The Lake Ontario Collaborative Study on Twenty Mile Creek has concluded for 2008. This project may be restarted in Spring 2008.

### **b) Special Water Quality Projects**

- The NPCA and the Region of Niagara's Public Health Unit will be sampling residential water wells in the vicinity of a PGMN well in Niagara-on-the-Lake. This confirmatory sampling will be completed in mid-October in an effort to characterize the nitrate contamination in this area. The sampling offered is voluntary and individual landowners will be provided with their water quality results. The NPCA expects to complete this survey in October 2008.
- The NPCA has received approximately a dozen calls in September requesting applications for

the NPCA Water Well Decommissioning Grant Program due to recent advertising in local papers.

-The NPCA and the Region of Niagara's Public Health Unit completed sampling of residential water wells in the vicinity of a PGMN well in Niagara-on-the-Lake in October. This confirmatory sampling was conducted to characterize the nitrate contamination in this area. The sampling offered was voluntary, and individual landowners will be provided with their water quality results, once the report is completed. No results for this October sampling exceeded the Maximum Acceptable Criteria (MACs) for health related parameters, including nitrate results. A report presenting the results should be available in December 2008.

#### **IV. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division**

##### **1) Source Water Protection Support Activities**

SWP technical efforts have scaled down as analytic tasks for the T1WB have been completed. Cartographic mapping efforts remain underway.

##### **2) Watershed Planning Support Activities**

a) Several tasks supporting the Natural Areas Inventory Project are being addressed.

- DRAFT Community Series ELC mapping for the Town of Lincoln has been completed.
- DRAFT Community Series ELC mapping development is underway for the City of St. Catharines.
- Tract Code assignment on the natural area mapping which functions as a the bridge to the database of survey observation data continues.
- Several performance issues with the tabular database have been resolved.

b) Updates to the Authority Generic Regulation hazard layers and derivative Screening and Niagara Natural Environment Information layers have been completed and DVDs of this information has been circulated to the member municipalities.

c) A DRAFT of the Niagara Natural Environment Information mapping required by Authority as new responsibility under the implementation of Niagara Planning Function Review MOU has been completed and is currently under review by Regional staff.

##### **3) Corporate GIS Support Activities**

-The Authority has renewed its Service Level Agreement with the Region of Niagara Information, Development and Mapping group for enterprise GIS services. The new agreement includes the additional development of an Authority specific web mapping application that is available to the public using the GeoSmart infrastructure.

-Staff has been investigating with Region of Niagara Information Services the possibility of implementing several hosted Microsoft SQL server databases for corporate Authority data management needs.

-GIS continues the 'Areas of Concern' mapping project for Environment Canada. Progress is limited to how fast Environment Canada can facilitate comments back to staff.

- Technical work on our 1:2000 surface water spatial framework continues

- Staff is continually participating in the Region of Niagara Emergency Management GIS Plan development.

## **IV. Watershed Restoration Division**

### **1) General Watershed Restoration**

Areas where current watershed plans have not yet been developed continue to have priority water quality and habitat projects delivered through the general restoration program. The following are some of the current implementation highlights:

-15 water quality and habitat improvement projects have been completed or are near completion in priority areas across the watershed. Projects include riparian buffers, cover crop demonstrations for erosion control, aquatic bank stabilization project, 3 wetland projects, 2 nutrient management projects and several tree planting projects.

-The recent Releaf Hamilton Network meeting saw presentations by MNR staff on Strategic Tree Planting Program tools and Southern Region Natural Heritage Systems. The committee will be utilizing funding for Strategic Conservation Planning for Hamilton which will work with existing watershed plans to prioritize tree planting initiatives in the upper Welland River, upper Twenty Mile Creek and Forty Mile Creek watersheds.

-Restoration staff attended the Aquatic Habitat Restoration/Creation Workshop organized by Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Staff learned about innovative and state of the art mitigation and restoration techniques being used by restoration professionals throughout Ontario.

### **2) Welland River Restoration**

- 13 water quality improvement projects are on-going through the fall and into the spring of 2009. All projects are within the Niagara River Area of Concern and are working towards improving water quality and habitat within this AOC.

- Staff will be working in partnership with Ducks Unlimited (DU) on the construction of 3 wetland restoration projects within the Welland River watershed. Project construction will begin within the next week and all 3 will hopefully be completed in 2008. Staff also is working with DU on future projects to be included in the 3 year project partnership between the NPCA, Ducks Unlimited and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

-A riparian restoration project is underway and will be completed in mid November. The project will involve the installation of BioD-Block coir bioengineering system (an innovative bioengineering product that will be used for the first time within the Welland River watershed) along with various other bioengineering techniques and the planting of a riparian buffer. The ultimate goal being to reduce erosion and sediment loads while increasing diversity and aquatic habitat. Staff is presently meeting with prospective contractors and working on the project design.

- A Best Management Practice project is near completion in the Oswego Creek subwatershed. The project involves the construction of a manure storage for turkeys to reduce runoff into Oswego Creek.

-Site visits with interested Welland River watershed landowners continue as staff discusses a wide range of project possibilities.

### **3) Fort Erie Creeks Watershed Restoration**

The Fort Erie Creeks Watershed Plan has been received by restoration staff for implementation. Staff are reviewing the recommendations and assembling the Implementation Committee. Staff are building the communications in the watershed with landowners and community groups in order to promote project interest. The following are some of the current implementation highlights:

- A shoreline stabilization project was completed along the Niagara River in partnership with the Niagara Parks Commission. The 90 meter stretch suffered from severe erosion and a lack of vegetation. Large armour stone was installed to stabilize the bank. Fish habitat improvement



will be accomplished through the spring planting of a riparian vegetated buffer along the project length.

- Landowner contact programs and other outreach initiatives are being explored such as newspaper articles and direct mailings.

- Staff have been working with the owners of the well known Marcy's Woods property to address issues related to sand dune degradation and stability along the Lake Erie shoreline. The owners have been working diligently to restore areas of the property damaged by ATV use and trespassing on the sensitive dune ecosystem. Staff are currently developing a restoration plan for the owners that considers closing beach access trails and having native dune grasses custom grown and planted to dynamically stabilize dune sands.

#### **4) Twenty Mile Creek Restoration**

- The Twenty Mile Creek Watershed Implementation Committee will meet next month to discuss strategy implementation deliverables, work plans and timelines. The following are some of the current implementation highlights:

- Staff continue to visit with landowners interested in reforestation projects on their properties. To date, 12 acres of reforestation projects for 2009 are confirmed.

- Three nutrient management projects have been completed in conjunction with the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP).

- Beef cattle farmers near Caistor Centre have expressed interest in fencing livestock from a tributary of Twenty Mile Creek. As a best management practice, cattle restriction fencing offers an extremely economical and effective means of restoring riparian habitat. This project, which would be implemented in 2009, would protect and restore approximately 600 meters of riparian habitat that is identified as a priority restoration option in the Twenty Mile Creek Watershed Plan.

- Staff have been contacting and visiting previous landowners with reforestation projects to determine infill tree needs for 2009. The very liberal amount of rainfall in Niagara over the 2008 growing season resulted in very high post-planting survival rates for the majority of this year's bare-root plantings.

- The restoration program was presented with an Environmental Hero award from College Street Public school for its efforts in completing a tree planting with one of the schools students.

#### **5) Twelve Mile Creek Restoration**

- The Twelve Mile Creek Watershed Implementation Committee will meet soon to discuss strategy implementation deliverables, work plans and timelines. The following are some of the current implementation highlights:

- Last week deer exclosure fencing was installed around three of the planted plots at the Decew project. Plots closest to the forest edge were selected, as these are browsed most heavily by deer. The plot locations were recorded using GPS and mapped into GIS, laying the ground work for future monitoring, which is required under the Carbon Sequestration Program. Once established, much of the monitoring work will be carried out by Niagara College students; a mutually beneficial partnership.

- Site research and preparation work continues on the Lathrop Property project, a partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Niagara Restoration Council (NRC), and LandCare Niagara, with Species at Risk funding from OMNR. NPCA's main contribution is the restoration of three old fields, which are ready to be direct seeded next spring.

- Land owner contact and outreach continues for developing 2009 projects.

- Staff are working with Niagara College students on another "Year Long" project. This time students will work with two farmers in this watershed to provide a detailed plan to convert part of their lands to native prairie forage grasses. There are some very palatable and nutritious grass species that were almost extirpated from our landscape early in the settlement period. New

research has shown their value for livestock, and re-establishing them provide valuable perennial habitat for native insects.

#### **6) Niagara-on-the-Lake Restoration**

-The One Mile Creek Watershed Implementation Committee met on September 25 to discuss several issues outlined in the plan such as:

- Including recommended plan items in the Town's budget and official plan (replacement of undersized culverts; storm water management pond placement),
- The extraneous overflow and rain barrel program being implemented by the Town of NOTL,
- The development of the NPCA's One Mile Creek Stewardship manual to be given out to residents along the creek,
- The upcoming fall creek clean up day,
- The Lansdowne pond ownership search by the MNR,
- The recently received William Street landfill report prepared by AMEC

-As projects are finalized for the 2008 season more projects are being developed for the spring 2009 season. The following projects are currently underway: two greenhouse water recycling systems, a compost storage project to supplement a power generating anaerobic digester, 2 wildflower cover crop demonstrations, aquatic erosion remediation to be implemented along the escarpment, and several tree planting projects.

#### **7) 15,16,18 Mile Creeks Restoration**

-In anticipation of the finalized 15,16, 8 Mile Creek Watershed Plan, staff spent several days touring / analyzing Aerial Photography of the 15, 16 18 mile creeks watershed, identifying properties where restoration opportunities exist.

- More than 60 properties were identified as having some form of environmental impairment, such as livestock access to watercourse, manure storage problems, lack of riparian buffers, wetland restoration, etc.

-Staff will be compiling a list of such properties and targeting landowners with a letter discussing restoration program opportunities.

-These letters will be sent in January of 2009.

-Site preparation work was completed at 2 properties in 16 mile creek. Staff prepared the site for buffer strip plantings, which will be planted in the spring of 2009.

- Staff are also working to complete a tree planting and buffer project which connects with an existing Niagara Restoration Council Project, also on 16 mile creek. This project is expected to begin in the spring of 2009.

#### **8) E.C. Brown Wetland Project**

-Staff will be working with Niagara College students to develop a long-term restoration, monitoring and outreach plan for the site.

- Staff assisted Welland River Keeper volunteers with the installation of bench at E.C. Brown Wetland. The bench was dedicated to a long-time, devoted Riverkeeper volunteer and is located at the western end of the wetland. The bench dedication was followed by the annual River Keepers Fall Hike.

#### **9) Yellow Fish Road**

Staff are preparing for the delivery of Yellow Fish Road 2008/2009 school season. Schools are being contacted in conjunction with the promotion of the Eco School Program.

## **10) ECO School Program**

- Applications continue to be received for the 2009 program. Schools are being contacted in conjunction with the promotion of the Yellow Fish Road. Applications are also available online through our website, which is generating higher response. 12 schools have expressed interest so far in the 2009 program, 7 of which are repeat applicants. Applications will be formally sent out the first week in January, with a March 1 deadline, as in the past. Staff are working with teachers to include seed harvesting into the program so that students can harvest the seeds in the fall and grow them in the classroom during the winter months, along side the ever so popular bean plant. This will link with the science curriculum's for both elementary and secondary schools, and help promote the use of native plants. One public school in Smithville expressed interest in seed harvesting, so staff met with them to discuss proper techniques and offer ideas. Staff will follow up with this school to discuss their success. Plaques are also being created for the 2008 participants. These plaques will be handed out at school board meetings in the new year.

## **10) Source Water Protection – Stewardship**

- Staff received updates to the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP) during a teleconference on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The program provides funding for “Early Actions” projects including well decommissioning, septic upgrades, buffers and BMPs and pollution prevention audits for small and medium businesses within Intake Protection Zones. The NPCA was allocated \$27,000 for these projects. Additional funding can be applied for if the original allocation is utilized. Due to the very limited area of Intake Protection Zones across Niagara, additional funding will not likely be required.

## **V. Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Division**

### **1) Lyons Creek**

The Niagara River AOC Phase 1V Report: Sediment Management Options for Lyon's Creek East and West (August 2008) is now available. Copies have been distributed to the project participants (i.e. NPCA, Environment Canada, Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources, Transport Canada, Regional Municipality of Niagara, City of Welland, Hydro One, Golder Associates Ltd., and Dillon Consulting Ltd).

The Lyon's Creek East Community Liaison Committee (CLC) met on September 23 at the NPCA and eleven citizens attended. A variety of issues were raised and discussed, including plans to present the recommended sediment management strategy of Monitored Natural Recovery to the Welland RiverKeepers prior to the upcoming public Open House.

The Technical Advisory Group met on September 30, 2008 to plan for the public Open House at Lyon's Creek East, where the recommendation of Monitored Natural Recovery will be presented. It was agreed that the meeting schedule should be revised to allow for a further review of the project evaluation criteria and the rationale for Monitored Natural Recovery with the CLC prior to the Open House. The revised schedule is as follows:

- October 28: CLC meeting to review the committee's Terms of Reference and the project evaluation criteria. Staff from MNR will present information on property ownership along the impacted section of Lyon's Creek East.
- November 18: presentation of recommended option to the Welland RiverKeepers
- November 25: Public Open House - Lyon's Creek East

Plans were also developed to update the community on the activities at Lyon's Creek West in a fall season newsletter drop.

The Technical Advisory Group met again on November 4 to prepare for the Open House and discuss the various components that will comprise the sediment management strategy.

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

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

## **3) Stage 2 RAP Update**

Planning is underway to convene an inaugural RAP Implementers meeting, scheduled for November 27, 2008 at the Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation. All the components necessary to develop a strategic work plan (i.e. the draft Stage 2 Update report, draft RAP Work Plan, and the Technical Review of Impairments and Delisting Criteria report) for the Niagara River AOC will be presented for discussion. The intent is to establish a committee that will meet (biannually or annually) to report on progress. Planning is underway to convene a meeting of the RAP Science Committee in the Fall. Updates will be provided for each of the monitoring projects, including initial data from the Eutrophication and Water Quality Assessment project for the Welland River.

-The Niagara River RAP Update – 2008 is currently being distributed to stakeholders and the public.

-A RAP presentation was made on October 21, 2008 to the Central Welland River Watershed Steering Committee.

## **4) International Liaison**

- The Niagara River RAP (New York) Advisory Committee met on September 30 at NYSDEC Region 9 Headquarters in Buffalo to further develop delisting criteria for the Niagara River.

- The Buffalo Niagara River Keepers and the Niagara River RAP Coordinating Committee members has meetings in October of 2008 to discuss future activities.

- Plans for the Boundary Water Treaty Centennial Celebration will be publicized at the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference. The festival of environmental programs is expected to run from June 5 to June 14, 2009.

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

Discussions are underway between the NRTMP agencies on the future issues and challenges for the program. 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.

## **Land Management Division**

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

The Centre for Conservation participated in 'Doors Open Niagara' on October 18 & 19<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 1000 visitors took advantage of this free admission weekend. In conjunction with the "Doors Open" event, the Binational Tourism Association hosted "Conservation and Design with MZE Architects" part of the Niagara By Design Speaker Series, at the Centre on Saturday evening. NPCA staff and Greg Redden from MZE Architects provided a presentation on the Construction of the Centre. Greg also provided building tours for the public on the weekend.

Centre staff provided media tours for Frommers Guide, AAA, the LCBO Food and Drink Magazine, "Trips for Kids" and several freelance writers in the past month.

A number of functions have been held in the Centre, including weddings, corporate meetings, professional development sessions and community organizations and NPCA functions. Feedback on the facility has been mostly positive.

The Niagara Escarpment Commissioners and the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources toured the Centre and then had dinner at the facility on October 15. Many in attendance were impressed by the facility and the programming now being offered on site.

The ROM Traveling Exhibit - "Listen to the Night" Bats of Ontario", featured in the temporary gallery from September 6 – November 2, attracted close to 4500 visitors in total with a full schedule of community and educational programming offered. The exhibit and related programming received excellent media coverage. More than 500 children attended on Saturdays to participate in "bat-themed" activities. Special programs were provided for youth groups, scouts, guides and birthday celebrations. Approximately 600 students attended the education programs designed by Centre staff for pre-school, special education classes and students from JK/SK to grade 12. On October 29 the Centre partnered with the Lincoln Public Library and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation to present award winning author Kenneth Opiel. Opportunities for sponsorship were solicited by the NPCF through presentations to local Rotary Clubs. Opiel's writings related well to the "Bats Exhibit". Two sessions were offered and more than 350 attended this event, including the general public.

Promotion for the next exhibit, "Canadian Feed Bag Quilts - Recycled then & Now" (November 15 to January 4<sup>th</sup>) is underway. Registration is underway for a Feed Bag Quilts workshop scheduled at the Centre on Saturday November 22.

Our Brock interns are working on their respective projects to supplement gallery exhibits. Christian Wilson is working on an archaeological project and Lacey Willmot is preparing a wetland component for programming.

The NPCA received just over \$8000 from the Canada Summer Jobs funding program towards wages for programming staff at Ball's Falls, Chippawa and Long Beach.

Full registration for Monster Mash had 30 children enjoying the activities.

Volunteers are still needed to assist with the "Christmas in the Country education program" (November 17 – December 11).

The "free" public Christmas Open House will not be held this year. Staff were unable to confirm enough volunteers in time to adequately promote the event. Traditionally 50 to 100 visitors have frequented this afternoon event.

### **Ball's Falls Capital Improvements**

The Town of Lincoln Roads Department and NPCA staff are in partnership to improve the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue roadway, drainage, and pedestrian crossings in the lower park area near the heritage buildings. Road construction crews will be on site later in November to start installing new culverts and digging ditches. The work area is marked for utility locates and the old wood fence along 6<sup>th</sup> Ave will be removed by NPCA staff. Plans for site restoration include installation of new split rail wood fencing and berming along 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue; a marked and signed pedestrian crossing in 2009; and a new entrance island and gate improvements into the lower parking area.

Operations and parking on site are changing to reflect the Centre for Conservation becoming the primary entrance into the park. The lower parking area is now gated and closed to public access, with temporary signage directing public to the parking lot at the Centre. Permanent signage is being planned for the park that will complement the rollout of the new highway signs and Ball's Falls logo.

The region has reviewed the sign plans provided by staff, and given approval to permit our new entrance sign to be installed at the highway. Plans for the highway sign and a new entrance sign at the Centre have also been discussed with Town of Lincoln. The new entrance signs will be non-illuminated but include a sign cabinet that allows for message updates to replace the mobile sign currently in use. We are currently negotiating with suppliers for supply and delivery of the signs.

The landscape contractor has addressed all outstanding site items and the pond waterfall has been shut down and winterized. With this complete, staff are now focused on the finishing touches outside and inside the building. The site furnishing industry in Canada traditionally has relied on distribution of American manufactured products. To follow our LEED philosophy staff are taking time and making efforts to source items locally, made in Canada, with recycled material content, and supportive of sustainable design principles. New bike racks and benches have been purchased from a Simcoe supplier and will be arriving in December. The benches have recycled plastic slats, and along with the bike racks, are completely Canadian designed and manufactured. We are also working with a Niagara Falls supplier on the recycling containers and trash cans to be used at the Centre. Separating waste, recyclables and organics are part of the product selection process.

### **Binbrook Conservation Area**

There were large crowds out over the Thanksgiving weekend. The good weather extended the day-use numbers this fall.

Waterfowl hunter numbers up in comparison to last year, however the bird harvest count is down.

The Signal Corps used Binbrook for military camp and exercises. The area is used more frequently now for scouting activities, police and military exercises.

Capital improvements continue. The parking lot was expanded as grassed fields were levelled and drainage was improved. The driveway entrance and base was upgraded at all the grassed lots.

The Glanbrook Conservation Committee has completed the first of two walleye stockings at the Binbrook Conservation Area reservoir. In 2008, the Committee purchased a total of 700 fingerlings (300 stocked in spring 2008, and 400 stocked in fall 2008). Sizes ranged from 7.6 cm to 20.3 cm (2' to 5-8"). Under the terms and conditions of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources permit, all fish were confirmed to be disease free including VHS free. The remaining stocking will be conducted in several years

This stocking is aimed at enhancing the existing walleye population for future recreational fishing at the site. At present the walleye population is low with a no catch (i.e. catch and release only of walleye or other sports fish (bass, pike etc)). The catch and release policy will remain in effect until a sustainable population of this fish species is achieved.

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

Staff conducted a site tour for the Niagara Horticultural School, focusing on the sites varied and significant natural ecosystems. The students are researching methods to design and restore these natural ecosystems.

### **Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area**

Additional tour requests are being received for educational tours of the Wainfleet Bog and its restoration work. A group of more than 100 university students will be touring the site later this month.

Two site tours were conducted at the Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area for the University of Waterloo and the Niagara Horticultural School. These tours highlighted aspects of bog restoration and natural ecosystems.

### **Willoughby Marsh Conservation Area**

The Species at Risk Stewardship Project surveys will be completed in mid November. A final written report of the findings will then be completed in February 2009. In addition, an Interim Funding Report has also been submitted, with a Final Funding Report to be completed in February 2009.

### **NPCA Hunting Program**

Staff have issued an additional 42 hunting permits. To date staff has received and issued 243 hunting permits for 2008. Of these, 14 permits are issued to individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

The Waterfowl Hunting Program is nearly finished. The season closes November 29<sup>th</sup> at Mud Lake Conservation Area and December 13<sup>th</sup> at Binbrook Conservation Area

The week of November 3<sup>rd</sup> was the first Provincial Controlled Shotgun Hunt for Deer. Staff made additional visits to the Conservation Areas to check that hunters had their required NPCA hunting permits. Those that did not display permits on their vehicles received a note on requirements and phone number for further details. These visits made the site users aware of the Conservation Area Rules and Regulations.

### **St. John's CA**

Steel parts for the bridge replacements are on order with an estimated time of delivery to our workshop mid November. We are scheduling start of the bridge and walkway replacement projects upon receipt of the materials.

### **Campgrounds**

Staff completed winterizing at both campgrounds. Focus is now shifting to general maintenance and removal of hazard trees before the cold weather sets in.

Over the winter months the conservation master plans for the campgrounds will be updated by the Conservation Planner. The updates will take into account information gathered by the Park Superintendent, the work of our GIS staff, co-op student work, and information on file.

### **Property Assessments**

Staff will be reviewing MPAC's valuations of our property assessments as they come into the office in November.. We have until March 2009 to file any appeals on our property assessments so staff have time to fully investigate each assessment and report back on the findings. The last province-wide assessment update was three years ago, so we will be carefully checking our market valuations for significant changes. Assessments of other properties of interest will also be compared via the new web service offered by MPAC.

### **Conservation Ontario Workshop**

Staff attended the "Take the Trail" workshop held at Geneva Park, Orillia which was well attended by other conservation agencies. Workshops on trail building, geocaching, enforcement, atv use, and recreation trends were of interest, and suppliers were on hand to demonstrate new products. Staff came away with new contacts and supplier information to apply to our park operations.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

### **Conservation Achievement Awards**

The 2008 Awards Presentation and Reception will be held on Tuesday, November 25, 2008 at the Four Points Sheraton Suites commencing at 7:00 p.m. Invitations have been sent to all nominees. Board members are encouraged to advise staff as soon as possible as to their availability to assist in handing out awards.

### **Watershed Report Card**

Staff participated in a meeting to determine future coordination of the Watershed Report Card. A discussion ensued regarding the need to produce this report on an annual basis. Further discussion with the partners will take place to determine how this project moves forward.

### **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Latornell Symposium**

The 2008 Symposium will take place from November 19-21, 2008. There are several notable speakers attending including Stephen Lewis, Elizabeth May, Quentin Chiotti, Bob MacDonald, Jean Lemire and Kelsi Prince. The theme of this year's symposium is ***Local Solutions for Global Challenges***, focusing on the urgent need to rethink how we manage local natural resources in order to adapt to a changing global environment. In addition to exploring some of the global challenges, delegates will discuss our role in identifying gaps in local policies and programs as well as making sure we are communicating the science in a clear and understandable way.

Over 1,100 delegates are expected to attend the Symposium. The A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium was started in 1993. Since then, the Symposium has grown to be Ontario's most prestigious and well-attended annual conservation conference.



### **Schools in Bloom Program**

The Conservation Authority was recognized for its ongoing support of this program which is coordinated through the City of Niagara Falls. Staff attended an awards event on October 30 to recognize all the participants in this important program.

### **OPG Open House**

On November 1 OPG held a 110 Anniversary Open House at the DeCew Generating Station and the NPCA participated to help celebrate this milestone event. Over 5,000 people were in attendance, giving us an opportunity to speak with many visitors.

### **Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation**

#### **Thanksgiving Festival**

The Foundation's annual raffle will once again take place in the barn at this year's Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival. More than \$2,000 in prizes will be given away and include a quilted wall hanging donated by the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee, a handcrafted rustic bench donated by Black Creek Timber Framing, and four gift baskets with items donated by the Festival artisans. Board members are encouraged to support festival activities.

#### **Centre for Conservation Presentation**

As a complement to the bat exhibit currently on exhibit at the Centre for Conservation, award winning Canadian author Kenneth Oppel will be on hand to make two presentations about his novels on Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Staff has made requests and a presentation to local Rotary Clubs to request their financial support of this initiative.

#### **Elimination Draw & Dinner**

The Foundation's 7<sup>th</sup> annual event that involves an evening of delicious food, plenty of fun and a chance to win cash prizes is taking place on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Welland Lions Community Centre on River Road. Board members are encouraged to attend and help spread the word about this fundraising event, noting that for only \$70 a ticket, guests will be treated to a five-course dinner, all drinks and the chance to win more than \$1,000 in cash prizes. Proceeds will support the new Centre for Conservation at Ball's Falls. Please notify staff if flyers or tickets are required.

#### **Recommendation:**

**Report No. 81-08 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.**

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Tony D'Amario, P.Eng.  
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer