

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

FULL AUTHORITY

WELLAND

AGENDA

JUNE 17, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

**BUSINESS:**

(1) **MINUTES**

(a) **FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – MAY 20, 2009**

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting held May 20, 2009.

(b) **BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – JUNE 3, 2009**

Attached are the Minutes of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting held June 3, 2009.

(c) **NIAGARA REGION TREE AND FOREST CONSERVATION BY-LAW ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – MAY 21, 2009**

Attached are the Minutes of the Niagara Region Tree and Forest Conservation Bylaw meeting held May 21, 2009.

(2) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

(3) **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

(4) **CAO'S REPORT**

(5) **BUDGET STATUS REPORT TO MAY 31, 2009 - REPORT NO. 37-09**

Attached is Staff Report No. 37-09 together with a copy of the Current Budget Summary to May 31, 2009.

(6) **STATUS REPORT SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM UPDATE – REPORT NO. 38-09**

Attached is Report No. 38-09 regarding the Source Water Protection Program.

(7) **PICNIC PAVILION CONTRACT – BINBROOK CONSERVATION AREA – REPORT NO. 39-09**

Attached is Report No. 39-09 regarding this contract.

(8) **REQUESTS FOR USE OF NPCA FACILITIES REPORT NO. 40-09**

Attached is Report No. 40-09, with respect to this matter.

(9) **TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET REQUEST FOR FREE DAY USE – REPORT NO. 41-09**

Attached is Report No. 41-09 regarding this matter.

(10) **CHAIR FOR THE UPPER WELLAND RIVER WATERSHED PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE – REPORT NO. 42-09**

Attached is Report No. 42-09 with respect to this committee.

(11) **TREE BY-LAW IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

NPCA Staff will be providing a power point presentation to update on the Conservation Tree By-law in advance of a similar presentation to the Niagara Region Planning/Public Works Committee.

(12) **PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 43-09**

Attached is Staff Report No. 43-09 outlining the status of Authority projects and programs.

(13) **IN-CAMERA**

(a) Complaint and Violation Status Report – Report No. CR-14-09

(b) Tree By-Law Status Report – Report No. CR-15-09

(14) **OTHER BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Ball's Falls**

**June 3, 2009**

**3:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** M. Hunter  
M. Holman  
E. Mitchinson  
A. Petrie  
L. Holmes

**Staff Present:** D. Baker, Director, Land Management  
C. Hayward, Curator

**Regrets:** D. Ransom  
B. Baty  
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 – February 4, 2009**

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

**MOVED BY:** Linda Holmes

**SECONDED BY:** April Petrie

**THAT:** the minutes of the last meeting held February 4, 2009 be approved.

**"CARRIED"**

**3) Business Arising From Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**4) Blacksmith Shop Project – Report No. HC-04-09**

The Curator outlined the proposed work items to be undertaken as part of the continued implementation of the Ball's Falls Master Plan (2001).

**MOVED BY:** Ellen Mitchinson  
**SECONDED BY:** Marion Holman  
**THAT:** Report No. HC-04-09 on the blacksmith shop project be received and that the work items be completed as recommended.

**"CARRIED"**

5) **Community Museum Operating Grant - Report No. HC-05-09**

The Curator provided an overview of her report and distributed the Executive Summary of the report titled "Research into the sustainability of Ontario's community museums, CMOG SNAPSHOT 2000-2004". The Ontario Museum Association had studied the operations of museums funded by the Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG) museums and determined that there had always been a shortfall in funding recommendations, based on the Ministry's own formula and included recommendations to improve the sustainability of museums.

The members concurred that given the opening of the Centre and the improved facility and other developments, the NPCA should request re-consideration of the amount of funding awarded through CMOG.

The following resolution was presented.

**MOVED BY:** Linda Holmes  
**SECONDED BY:** April Petrie  
**THAT:** Report NO. HC-05-09 regarding the Ball's Falls Community Museum Operating Grant be received: and further that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

**"CARRIED"**

6) **Status Report – Report No. HC-06-09**

**MOVED BY:** Ellen Mitchinson  
**SECONDED BY:** Linda Holmes  
**THAT:** Report No. HC-06-09 on the status of Ball's Falls Conservation Area Projects be received for information.

**"CARRIED"**

7) **Other Business**

Ellen Mitchinson noted that fellow gardener and volunteer, Alan Large had almost completed the arbour in the Ball Home gardens and invited the members to have a look at the grounds.

- 8) **Adjournment**  
**MOVED BY:** Ellen Mitchinson  
**SECONDED BY:** Marion Holman  
**THAT:** this meeting do now adjourn.

Received at 3:45 p.m.

C. Hayward, Curator

**“CARRIED”**

Mike Hunter, Chair



## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **NIAGARA REGION TREE AND FOREST CONSERVATION BY-LAW**

**Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority**

**Ball's Falls CA**

**May 21, 2009**

**7:00 p.m.**

### **MINUTES**

**Members Present:** R. Miller (Pelham municipal rep)  
L. Campbell (Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee)  
T. Platts (Lincoln municipal rep)  
J. Schonberger (Niagara South Federation of Agriculture)  
K. Durham (Niagara North Federation of Agriculture)  
J. Paulino (St. Catharines municipal rep)

**NPCA Staff Present:** D. Baker, Director, Land Management  
D. Drennan, Forester  
J. Vlasman, Forestry Technician

**Regrets:** B. Baty (NPCA Board member)  
D. Ransom (NPCA Board member)  
H. Rempel (Thorold municipal rep)  
K. Stayzer (Wainfleet municipal rep)  
T. D'Amario (NPCA CAO/Secretary-Treasurer)  
P. Robertson (Niagara Woodlot Association)  
F. Berardi (Niagara Falls municipal rep)

### **BUSINESS:**

#### **1) Call to Order**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7.08 p.m.

2) **Accept/Review minutes of previous meeting (March 26, 2009)**

J. Schonberger asked to amend under section 4, item 4 that: "The consultant intended to send letters to several agencies and organizations..." as that the federation of agriculture never received any correspondence regarding this matter.

**MOVED BY:** K. Durham  
**SECONDED BY:** J. Schonberger  
**THAT:** The minutes of the previous meeting, held March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009, be accepted as amended

**"CARRIED"**

3) **Review of Action Items from previous meeting (March 26th, 2009)**

***Action Item 1-2009: Paul Robertson to email comments to the NPCA. (Carried forward)***

***Action Item 9-2009: Dan Drennan will investigate this issue and possible revision to the Bylaw. (Completed)***

The wording for assessing a permit's conformance with good forestry practices is already in the Bylaw. It states, trees to be cut are marked by a certified Tree Marker in accordance with a prescription, FMP or plan and only such trees are cut. Therefore no revision is required for this item.

***Action Item 10-2009: Dan Drennan will see if a woodland tour can be arranged for the May meeting or the following meeting in July. (Carried forward)***

No tour was arranged for the May meeting. Instead Dan Drennan will be delivering a presentation (see section 4) about forest management and tree marking as a way to inform the members before a tour is conducted. A tour may be arranged for the July meeting.

***Action Item 11-2009: Dan Drennan will add the list to the mail-out package for the May meeting. (Completed)***

***Action Item 12-2009: Dan Drennan will add member affiliation to the March meeting minutes. (Completed)***

4) **Tolerant Hardwood Management & Tree Marking Presentation**

Dan Drennan gave a presentation on tolerant hardwood forest management and tree marking in southern Ontario and how it applies to good forestry practice permits in the Niagara Region. The presentation was modified from a presentation given during the Ontario Tree Marking Course that Dan attended on May 4-8, 2009.

Question arose as a result:

1. K. Durham asked since creating openings is part of good forestry practices, if the committee could address strategies to combat garlic mustard in the region as it applies to forest management.

**Action Item 13-2009:** Dan Drennan will supply information on measures being taken to control garlic mustard in the July meeting package.

**5) Status and Work Report**

A copy of the work report was circulated to members with the agenda package. The floor was opened up to questions regarding specific items.

Some explanations of specific items were given:

- a) a new investigation commenced for a bylaw violation in Fort Erie,
- b) logging contractor was asked to cleared tops off the Bruce Trail as a result of improper logging practices. The committee questioned staff authorization to direct activities on private land. Dan responded that the infraction was connected to a condition in a Good Forestry Practices permit,
- c) citizen in Grimsby called to get a second opinion on town's decision to remove old trees on her street,
- d) conducted a site visit for a NEC concern.
- e) Two Good Forestry Practices permits were issued in Fort Erie,
- f) Dan responded to tree clearing in West Lincoln on an unopened road allowance. There was no violation to the bylaw, but involves trespassing on town property,
- g) Dan addressed the NPCA policy on Emerald Ash Borer. No pre-emptive salvage is permitted.

**6) Other Business**

**a) Chair and Vice-Chair, Terms of Office**

R. Miller asked for clarification from the NPCA on the terms of officer for the chair and vice-chair positions on the committee.

*D. Baker provided that the committee will elect or re-elect the chair and vice-chair at the first committee meeting of each calendar year.*

R. Miller inquired of the status of Albert Witteveen's membership on the committee representing the Agriculture Sub Committee.

*D. Drennan responded that the last the NPCA had heard that Albert was still on the committee representing the Ag Sub Committee, and was still willing to serve as Vice-Chair. The committee will need to confirm this with Albert at the next meeting he attends.*

**b) Quorum of the Committee**

K. Durham asked if the committee could declare that quorum is met at the beginning of each meeting regardless of the number of attendees. Given that the attendance of meetings fluctuates greatly, this would allow the committee to operate effectively if the attendance is low.



Authority staff advised the group that a quorum is defined in the Terms of Reference as being one-third (1/3) of the committee members. Where possible, staff record regrets in advance of the meeting and will advise the chair if a quorum will not be met.

**c) Role of the Committee Moving Forward**

J. Schonberger asked for clarification of the expectations of the NPCA for the Advisory Committee. Some frustration has occurred because members of the committee don't feel that they play an important role in decision making by the NPCA.

*D Baker responded that the NPCA relies on the committee members to communicate back from each of the respective organizations. This provides valuable feedback to staff on the effectiveness of the Bylaw and the educational program .*

K. Durham stated he shares the same concerns and believes the committee needs to have a better defined role in general administration of the Bylaw.

**7) Scheduling of Next Meeting**

The next committee meeting target date will be on or around Thursday July 16th, at 7:00 PM. However this date will be adjusted according to scheduling needs of members and agenda items.

**8) Adjournment**

**MOVED BY:** J. Schonberger

**THAT:** this meeting do now adjourn. Received at 9:55 p.m.

**“CARRIED”**

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

**DATE:** June 17, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Source Water Protection Program Update - Report No. 38-09

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the current status of the Source Water Protection process.

As one of the follow up actions to the Walkerton Enquiry, in 2007, the Provincial Government passed the *Clean Water Act (CWA)*. The purpose of the CWA is to protect existing and potential sources of drinking water from contamination and/or depletion. The first step in the process laid out in the legislation is the establishment of Source Protection Authorities (SPA) which are tasked with facilitating and overseeing the preparation of a science-based Source Protection Plan.

In accordance with the regulations, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) has been designated as the Source Protection Authority (SPA) to administer source protection planning initiatives within the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area (NPSPA). The development of the actual Source Protection Plans is overseen by a Source Protection Committee (SPC) which is headed by a Chairman appointed by the Province. The SPC includes appointed representation from municipalities, farmers, industry, and residents. The Niagara SPC has been in operation since November of 2007.

Simply put, the SPA is legislated to complete three(3) deliverables by the end of 2012, which are broadly described as follows:

**1. Terms of Reference (TOR):** This is a detailed Work Plan describing how the SP Plan will be developed, who is responsible for each task, and detailed schedules of when significant tasks will be completed. This was completed and approved by the Ministry of Environment on April 14, 2009.

**2. Assessment Report (AR):** This is a Summary of the main technical reports that will be completed to identify municipal residential drinking water threats. The technical studies that must be completed for each source of drinking water are as follows: Watershed Characterization, Water Budget, Groundwater Vulnerability, Surface Water Vulnerability, Threats & Issues Identification and Risk Assessment. Based on this information, "inlet protection zones" (IPZ) will be established around each source of drinking water. Each inlet has three(3) zones as follows:

- IPZ 1 - is a fixed distance directly adjacent to the drinking water intake. This area is considered the most vulnerable to any contaminant of concern that may be released in the zone.
- IPZ2 - extends beyond IPZ1 and incorporates streams, rivers and watercourses that directly impact the intake. The limits of IPZ2 are based on a 2 hour time of travel or the minimum response time for a water treatment plant operator to respond to an adverse condition.

- IPZ3 - extends beyond IPZ2 and includes those sections of land where activities can significantly affect source water quality at the intake from an extreme storm up to the 1:100 year event.

Currently the SPC is reviewing the Technical Reports that are generating the IPZ zones and associated risks/hazards. It is expected that this will be completed by early August 2009 at which time, they will be forwarded to appropriate municipal technical staff for comment. The technical reports and AR will then be revised by the SPC if required by mid October 2009.

**3. Source Protection Plan (SPP):** This Report/Plan will address how significant drinking water threats identified in the Assessment Report will be mitigated. This will commence in 2010 and be completed in 2012.

In Niagara, this AR technical exercise is somewhat less complicated from a technical perspective, as all six(6) of the Regions Water Treatment Facilities are fed from either the Great Lakes, the Welland Canal or the Niagara River. Areas serviced by groundwater are generally more complex because of higher uncertainties associated with groundwater flow mechanisms. Furthermore, as less private property is expected to be affected by the IPZ's in Niagara, it is hoped that establishing the IPZ's and mitigation plans will be less contentious.

Once the Draft AR has been revised to address any issues raised by municipal staff, the first public consultation on the IPZ's and Draft Assessment Report will begin in late October 2009 and conclude in December 2009

The Draft Assessment Report will be provided to the SPA after the first round of public consultation and revision in late January 2010.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the report be received for information.**

Prepared by: John Kukalis; Director, Water Management

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



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

**DATE: June 8, 2009**

**SUBJECT: Picnic Pavilion Contract – Binbrook Conservation Area - Report No. 39-09**

Members will recall that staff did not receive prices on the Binbrook pavilion project in time for the May Board Meeting. Contractors advised staff that previous commitments and a busy construction market prevented them from meeting the deadline.

Over the past few weeks, prices came in for labour components of the project, however only one price was provided for the entire construction job. The following prices were provided for labour to erect the structure:

<u>Firm</u>	<u>Price</u>
J B Korten	\$6,094
Dean Martin	\$8,715
Keancor	\$8,900

Based on the information received, staff recommend that the NPCA contract the firm JB Korten to erect the structure. The NPCA will purchase all materials and act as General Contractor on this project, coordinating the various sub-contractors to complete the pavilion. Staff believe this approach will keep prices low, and allow us to complete the project in less time than relying on others to schedule trades.

The estimated cost of this pavilion is \$75,000. The remaining components including site preparation and grading, materials purchase and servicing will be contracted, in accordance with the NPCA Purchasing Policy.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 39-09 be received for information purposes; and,

That J B Korten be contracted for a price of \$6,094, to erect the pavilion structure.

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

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



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

**DATE: June 8, 2009**

**SUBJECT: Requests for Use of NPCA Facilities - Report No. 40-09**

Each year the NPCA receives many requests for free use of land, facilities and equipment. These requests come from a number of sources such as watershed municipalities, outside agencies, not-for-profit groups, businesses and partner organizations.

Our standard practice is to review each request on its own merit. A discounted price is available to not-for-profit groups renting facilities. In the case of fund-raising events, additional discounts may be applied if donations are being directed back to the NPCA or a particular facility. In every situation the objective is to cover the operating cost (staffing, consumables, utilities) for the facility. Ideally, the Authority will benefit from their involvement with the group or organization.

Staff expect an increase in requests as economic times become more difficult. There will also be additional pressures to provide facilities at no cost, rather than the current approach to cover operating expenses. In anticipation of the above, staff are requesting confirmation from the Board that events should continue to be assessed on their own merit, and that the NPCA seek, at a minimum, to have operating costs covered. Organizations that wish to pursue free use of properties or facilities would be able to pursue their request by appearing before the Board.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 40-09 be received; and,

That the current practice of considering events be supported.

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

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



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

**DATE:** June 8, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Township of Wainfleet Request for Free Day Use – Report No. 41-09

The Township of Wainfleet has asked the NPCA to consider offering free day-use at Long Beach Conservation Area to residents of Wainfleet. Recent changes to the municipal parking by-law will make it difficult for beachgoers to safely access public beaches without creating parking problems on local streets.

This is not the first time this issue has been raised. In 2004, when the Township transferred the Morgan's Point Park to the Conservation Authority, there was a request to provide free access to the Long Beach Conservation Area. The rationale behind this was the limited public access to the waterfront at a point where washrooms and visitor facilities were available. In 2005, the NPCA agreed to provide free access to Long Beach during the week. Regular day-use fees were charged on the weekend. It was also determined that this benefit could not be restricted to residents of Wainfleet Township, so the offer was extended to all visitors, regardless of their origin.

Free day-use was discontinued in 2007, when the Morgan's Point Conservation Area was officially opened. The area now has picnic tables, washrooms, trails and a play structure. Although it is not a swimming beach, it is a popular site, used to access the Lake Erie Shoreline.

During the 2-year period when the Authority did not charge weekday fees, staff noticed an increase in visitation, however it did not appear to be local residents. Visitors were often from more distant locations, evidenced by out-of-Province license plates and auto dealership badges. Increased visitors also consumed more washroom supplies, resulting in higher operating costs.

There were additional problems encountered with large parties and difficulty keeping track of visitors. On occasion, cars would be left in the parking lot well beyond the 8:00 pm deadline for day-use visitors. Without charging a fee and issuing a day-use permit, staff had no method to track down individuals or vehicles unlawfully in the park. These problems were significantly reduced when the fees were re-implemented.

Based on previous experience, staff recommend that the day-use fee structure remain in place at Long Beach Conservation Area.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 41-09 be received; and,

That the Township of Wainfleet be advised that the Conservation Authority is not able to offer free day-use privileges to residents.

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

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

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

**DATE:** June 16, 2009

**RE:** **Chair for the Upper Welland River Watershed Plan Steering Committee – Report No. 42-09**

The purpose of this report is to establish a Chairperson for the subject Watershed Plan Steering Committee.

The Upper Welland River Watershed Plan study area includes Local Management Areas 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and a portion of 2.7 as identified in the *NWS* (RMN 2006). The study area falls within the municipal boundaries of the Township of Wainfleet and Township of West Lincoln and extends into the boundaries of the City of Hamilton and Haldimand County. The subwatersheds that form the Upper Welland River Watershed Plan study area include Welland River West, West Wolf Creek, Little Wolf Creek, Wolf Creek, Buckhorn Creek, Elsie Creek, Oswego Creek, Mill Creek, Moores Creek, Wilson Creek, Sugar Creek Drain, James Drain, Michner Drain, Chick Hartner Drain, and Unamed Creek.

Land use in the study area is a mix of rural residential and agriculture with a focus on grain and oilseed, animal production and miscellaneous specialty (e.g. greenhouse). Aside from Hamilton International Airport there are no major concentrations of urban landuses (residential, commercial, industrial) within the study area, however smaller concentrations of rural residential areas are present throughout the study including for example, Binbook and Caistor Centre.

The intent of this project is to produce a watershed plan developed in consultation with appropriate government agencies, landowners and interest groups that assists with the management of water, land/water interactions, aquatic life and aquatic resources to protect and improve the health of the watershed ecosystem. The Upper Welland River Watershed Plan will provide a systematic strategy to guide development, identify and recommend alternative and preferred restoration programs, and strengthen stewardship and partnerships in the watershed. Once complete, the Upper Welland River Watershed Plan will characterize the watershed; identify and prioritize key issues in the watershed and recommend strategies based on the key issues. The project is identified to start in the 2009 capital budget and will extend over three years.

Membership for the steering committee for the Upper Welland River Watershed Plan will be based on the list of community stakeholders provided in the Province's White Paper on Watershed-based Source Protection Planning, February, 2004. As such, local government, agricultural groups, naturalist groups and others with a vested interest in the watershed are represented on the committee. Each committee will have a maximum membership of 12 people. Respective stakeholders will be contacted winter of 2009 and asked to provide a representative from their group so that the first steering committee meeting can be arranged for early spring of 2010. One Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board member who represents either the City of Hamilton or Haldimand County



is requested to act as the Chair Person for the Upper Welland River Watershed Plan given that the study area is comprised predominantly of these two jurisdictions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That \_\_\_\_\_ of the NPCA Board be nominated as chair of the Upper Welland River Watershed Plan Steering Committee.**

Prepared by: John Kukalis, Director, Water Management

Respectfully Submitted by:

---

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

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

**DATE: June 16, 2009**

**RE: PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 43-09**

## **WATER MANAGEMENT**

### **I. Watershed Regulation Division**

#### **1) Binbrook Reservoir & Gauge Stations**

Staff continue to visually monitor the water levels at the Binbrook reservoir on a regular basis and adjust the valve settings as required based on forecast weather. Staff also continue to monitor the water levels at our 12 gauge stations on a daily basis as part of the NPCA's routine flood forecasting/warning duties.

The contract for the instrumentation system upgrades has been finalized and executed by the Authority. A coordination meeting was held with the contractor's technicians at the Binbrook dam control house on May 26 & 27. Work is scheduled to be undertaken at the dam control house June 22-26.

#### **2) NPCA 'Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses'**

##### **i) Permits**

The NPCA has approved 31 permit applications for the 2009 calendar year. The NPCA has also refused to issue approvals for 3 development proposals during this same time period. Two of the applications were voluntarily withdrawn; the third was refused by the NPCA Board.

##### **ii) Violations**

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

##### **iii) 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). 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. During the current calendar year NPCA staff has reviewed 33 applications under this agreement.

##### **iv) Municipal Drain Maintenance Review**

The NPCA continues to represent Conservation Authorities located in Central Ontario. on the DART Committee with 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. NPCA staff has reviewed 17 municipal drain projects during the current calendar year.

### **3) Floodplain Mapping**

#### **i) Ussher's Creek – City of Niagara Falls**

The NPCA has finalized the 100 year floodplain mapping study for Ussher's Creek in the City of Niagara Falls.

#### **ii) Bayer's (Boyer's) Creek – City of Niagara Falls**

The NPCA has finalized the 100 year floodplain mapping study for Bayer's Creek in the City of Niagara Falls.

#### **iii) Lyon's Creek – Cities of Welland and 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 Lyon's Creek located in the Cities of Welland & Niagara Falls.

#### **iv) Bearss Drain – City of Port Colborne**

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 the Bearss Drain located in the City of Port Colborne.

## **II. Watershed Planning Division**

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

Plan review activity has remained brisk through this traditionally slower time of year.

Staff continue to work with the Region of Niagara to update the Environmental Impact Study Guidelines. The Guidelines are being updated to reflect the Region's new Environmental Policies and the NPCA's Regulation 155/06 requirements. This joint project is being conducted under the Niagara Planning Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

### **2) Watershed Plan Preparation**

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

A combined Steering Committee meeting with the Central Welland River Watershed Plan Steering Committee was held on April 23. The purpose of this meeting was to review the steps in Phase 2 of the watershed planning process. A representative from the Ministry of Natural Resources joined us and gave a presentation on Species at Risk and what makes the two watershed plan study areas unique to a number of species.

The 'Recommended Restoration Options' from the Lake Erie North Shore Geomorphic Assessment has been submitted to the Watershed Planning Specialist for incorporation into Phase 2 of the Watershed Plan.

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

The Phase One document has been pulled out of the Pelham and Wainfleet libraries. The document is still available in the history section of the Welland Library. No comments were submitted during the public commenting period. Once Phase Two is completed the document will be put back into the libraries to give the public another opportunity for commenting.

The field work as part of the NPCA Geomorphic Assessment has been initiated. To date over 17 sites have been assessed. In addition, erosion pin data was collected at 5 sites in the study area. The pins were inserted in 2008 and are monitored every spring and fall. One site was lost during the winter due to mass bank failure; the remaining sites have either gained sediment or remained the same.

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

All comments and concerns regarding Phase One are expected to be submitted by the Steering Committee by June 26.

The public open house to inform the public of the study and how they can become a part of the watershed planning process has been postponed until fall and will take place a month or two before the public workshop.

Erosion pins have been inserted in 3 sites throughout the study area as part of the NPCA Geomorphic Assessment. These pins will be monitored every spring and fall.

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

Background data collection and research is in full swing for this study area. A request for representation by a Board Member for Chair of the Steering Committee has been submitted to the NPCA Board of Directors.

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

A Final Phase One Report was received on April 27 accompanied by project data and models. This report has been forwarded to respective staff. A meeting will be scheduled in the future to address any outstanding project questions.

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

With the data entry essentially wrapped up, staff is busy writing the technical summaries for the 100 plus Study Sites throughout the watershed, working towards a fall deadline for the draft of the report to go out for peer review.

Project contributors have recently completed the Herpetofaunal Study Final Report and the Lichens and Bryophytes of Niagara report that will be included in the second volume of the final NAI report.

Introductory sections of the report include Hydrogeology, Physiography and Topography, Geology and, Natural Heritage Systems and Landuse are also being finalized at this time.

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

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

-No Source Protection Committee (SPC) meetings were held in May 2009. The next SPC meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2009.

-NPCA staff and Niagara Region staff have been meeting on a regular basis to review the progress of the SP work undertaken on the Intake Protection Zones (IPZs).

Stantec Consulting is proceeding to complete the IPZ delineations and additional IPZ-2 surface water modeling for Grimsby and Rosehill Water Treatment Plant intakes. Stantec has submitted draft reports on the threats and issues for the Welland, Niagara Falls, and Port Colborne IPZs.

Currently, NPCA staff are also starting to prepare the Assessment Report, which is a detailed summary of all the SP technical reports (Surface Water Vulnerability reports, Water Budget reports, Threats Inventory reports, etc.). The first draft of the Assessment Report is expected to be completed by August/September.

-NPCA met with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and its water budget peer reviewers on May 27<sup>th</sup> to present the Tier 1 Water Budget (WB). Overall the MNR and peer reviewers were happy with the approach that NPCA took in preparing the Tier 1 WB. Several technical issues were resolved at the meeting, and a second draft of the Tier 1 WB report is expected to be completed by the end of June.

#### **2) Water Quality Monitoring Program:**

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

- Routine surface water quality monitoring has resumed and will continue until November of 2009. The Water Quality Monitoring Program 2008 Annual Report was presented to the NPCA Board and also distributed to watershed partners and other agencies.

-The NPCA continues to collect groundwater level data at 15 monitoring wells as part of the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN). Spring groundwater quality samples were collected at the wells and analyzed for routine parameters. Nitrate exceedances continue to be reported at monitoring wells located in Niagara-On-The-Lake and Pelham. The NPCA is also continuing to work with the Ministry of the Environment to establish digital service at PGMN telemetry sites.

- Spring BioMAP sampling has been completed and several new sites have been sampled, including stations on Mill Creek, Beaver Creek, Beaver Dam Creek, Shriners Creek, and watercourses in Niagara-On-The-Lake. BioMAP sampling will resume again in the fall.

-Taxonomic identification of benthic invertebrates continues on samples collected during the fall 2008 sampling season.

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

- Field work for the Welland River Eutrophication Study is on-going with the monthly collection of grab samples and flow data at Welland River monitoring stations. A total of four dissolved oxygen sensors have been deployed to determine areas with low dissolved oxygen. These sensors will record dissolved oxygen hourly from May to October in the Welland River and Oswego Creek. Additional data collected in 2009 will include sediment quality, chlorophyll a, and benthic macroinvertebrates.

- Spring BioMAP samples have been collected at Hamilton International Airport as per the annual monitoring agreement. Additional BioMAP samples will be collected in the fall of 2009.

-The Lake Ontario Collaborative Study on Twenty Mile Creek has been extended through 2009. The auto-sampler has been installed and is capturing spring wet weather events on Twenty Mile Creek.

-The NPCA continues to receive requests for applications for the NPCA Water Well Decommissioning Grant Program.

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

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

- Cartographic figure production for the DRAFT Tier 1 Water Budget Report has wrapped up and ramping up for the Assessment Report Cartographic figures has begun.
- Staff participated in two provincial workshops about populating the drinking water systems vulnerability module data model for the Assessment Report Database via a geodatabase checkout environment hosted by Conservation Ontario through CAMaps.ca.
- Staff will be working with the Water Resources Information Program from the province on a working group to develop the water budget/ quantity risk module data model for the Assessment Report Database based on the unique fact that the Authority's Tier 1 was largely completed in house and predominantly through heavily GIS supported methods.
- Staff is working with MOE to pilot GIS based methods for extracting regional office files (i.e. C of As.) that may be useful under the Threats and Issues identification process.

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

- Several tasks supporting the Natural Areas Inventory Project are still being addressed:
  - DRAFT Community Series ELC mapping QA/QC activities continue.
  - Statistics continue to be generated to facilitate the development of the site summaries for the final reports.
  - Custom querying from the ELC project database are being generated to support data needs of the external contributors to final report.
  - Staff attended a meeting in Peterborough to learn of updates to the tabular ELC database and application developed by MNR that is being used to store and organize NAI field data.
- The *Niagara Natural Environment Information Map Layer* as an NPCA requirement under the Niagara Planning MOU has been delivered to the municipalities. This product replaces the NPCA's Generic Regulations *Screening Layer* as it is the combination of this information with the Regional Environmental Policies and provides a comprehensive screen for all Authority plan and permit review activities. Updating this product has already begun as several inventories have recently been updated as well and include

evaluated wetlands in Niagara Falls, floodplain mapping in Niagara Falls, and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest across the watershed.

- Staff are capturing Toe of Slope information for our Riverine Erosion Hazard dataset so that these features can be closed into polygons with the Top of Slopes which will make Regulation easier to update through automation and polygon overlays but will also enable a GIS based determination of stable Top of Slopes that will further refine the final hazard extents for riverine erosion.

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

- Staff attended the third annual Conservation Authority Collaboration in Information Systems conference in Kingston where it was informed of initiatives such as Natural Resources Canada's 'Groundwater Information Network' which is a great example of distributed information management, the MOE EMRB GIS Data Portal where CA staff can go to download increasing numbers of MOE datasets, Land Information Ontario's SWOOP 2 Orthoimagery and potentially DTM capture project being planned for 2010, and the Water Resources Information Program's pilot project to develop a unique permanent public identifier or cataloguing system form hydrographic or surface water features. Other presentations included GIS and information management innovations from colleague Conservation Authorities within our similar business lines.
- The server hardware that will host the Authority's new Sutron XConnect remote stream gauging and web reporting software has been delivered and initially setup. Microsoft Windows Server and SQL Server are on order and will be installed prior to Sutron's arrival later this month to setup and configure the system.

## **V. 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 the restoration projects that are currently being planned for 2009:

- Woodland restoration and riparian planting projects are almost completed.
- Weather this year has again been favorable for our planting initiatives.
- Pod plantings of hardwoods, white pine, and shrubs have been planted on a property adjacent to Wolverton Conservation Area in the Lake Ontario 39 watershed. This site is also being evaluated for its potential for wetland habitat enhancement and the installation of an osprey nesting platform.
- 3 wetland creation project located in 40 Mile Creek Watershed, totaling approximately 2 hectares
- Project located in the 40 Mile Creek Watershed, approximately 0.75 hectares
- 2 shelterbelt riparian planting projects
- 1 grassed waterway, will greatly reduce erosion and stabilize sediment run-off into Forty Mile Creek.
- 2 pit and mound restoration projects in the Vineland Drain watershed, totaling approx. 6.2 acres
- 1 reforestation project in the 40 Mile Creek watershed with a total area of 1.8 acres being restored.

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

The spring planting season has almost come to an end as staff are working on the implementation of Water Quality and Habitat Improvement projects for 2009. Projects currently underway include:

- 4 riparian restoration projects including the establishment of 2 riparian buffers, the stabilization of 150m of Welland River shoreline, reducing erosion and improving aquatic habitat.
- 5 woodland habitat restoration projects totaling approximately 20 acres
- 1 pit and mound restoration project
- 1 Best Management Practices project involving a manure management system
- 3 past restoration project enhancements including in-fill planting and seeding
- The NPCA's partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada for 2009/2010 is underway and projects are in the early stages of design and completion.

A 825m livestock restriction fencing project has been completed within the Oswego Creek sub-watershed. The fencing will prevent sheep access to Oswego Creek and will help to improve the water quality and shoreline vegetation within this stretch of the creek.

Staff presented at the Port Colborne Conservation Club about the Welland River and on-going restoration efforts.

Staff also continues to visit with newly interested landowners to determine future water quality and habitat improvement projects within the AOC.

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

- The following are the restoration projects that are currently underway for 2009:

- 2 riparian restoration projects and 1 Best Management Practices projects within the Black Creek watershed.
- An alternate watering source project in the Six Mile Creek watershed.
- A partnership with the Niagara Parks Commission to help complete a riparian restoration project along the Niagara River

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

-Twenty Mile Creek projects planned to date for implementation in 2009 include:

- Woodland restoration and riparian planting projects are almost completed.
- A wetland creation project in Twenty Mile Creek in Smithville is scheduled to be excavated during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June. The wetland is part of a comprehensive restoration plan that includes woodland restoration, nesting boxes, and prairie-meadow habitat.
- Staff have been busy with site visits for upcoming habitat restoration projects and tree in-fill projects and potential woodland restoration sites for 2010 projects.

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

The following are the restoration projects that are currently underway in 2009:

- About 7 acres of hilly pasture land in Upper Twelve was machine and hand-planted for reforestation of an important head-water area. Next a wildflower/grass buffer will be installed to filter driveway and outbuilding runoff. Additionally, we are investigating partnering with EFP to assist with the funding of two stream crossings.



- 2 Stream buffers and reforestation on different tributaries of Richardson's Creek. One of these will receive financial support from the St. Catharines Green Committee. Site preparation began a few weeks ago, and we are waiting on contractors to proceed.
- The Green Committee is also co-funding a stream buffer project in a school on Beamer Creek. Students will participate in the planting and long-term care of the plant material, and learn about stream protection and water quality.
- An update on the Fonthill (Marlene Stewart-Streit Park) erosion problem arising from Highway 20 runoff, has been obtained from the consultants hired by Regional Niagara to study the problem which threatens Brook Trout downstream. The draft report will be completed this week. It is hoped the work could be undertaken this summer, in tandem with works at the Haist-Hwy 20 intersection.
- Year Two of the Decew Escarpment Tablelands Restoration, a partnership with OPG, Region of Niagara, NRC, Bruce Trail Conservancy, and Niagara College, will see planting of about 10 acres. Last week a volunteer event was held with OPG summer staff to weed the nucleic plantings and plant potted shrubs.
- A farm in Upper Twelve Mile Creek will undergo an ecological transformation this spring, in partnership with EFP funding. Buffers will be planted on 1.5 km of stream, dispersion sandwich technology will be employed to filter runoff, which will then flow into the restored floodplain wetland. Three stream crossings for cropping machinery will be installed. In addition, the most highly impacted areas of the stream will have some erosion control, and pool restoration through excavation. The latter will serve to trap sediments in the short-term.
- About 3 acres of old field will be direct-seeded with prairie and tree species at the Lathrop property. Trail work by the Nature Conservatory has delayed the seeding date, but the result will be improved citizen access from Pelham St.
- Two smaller Stream-buffer/reforestation projects are planned in Upper Twelve Mile Creek on rural-residential properties.
- Floodplain wetland restoration and reforestation in a western Twelve Mile Creek headwater area. A wetland will be re-excavated in a former meander area of a "straightened" stream.

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

Flow monitoring within NOTL began on May 21<sup>st</sup> with sites on One, Two, Four, Six and Eight Mile Creeks. Flow monitoring on these creeks will augment the water quality data also being collected at these sites and will give the NPCA valuable information regarding the quality and quantity of water that flows through NOTL.

The Friends of One Mile Creek held their Annual General Meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Staff attended and presented a report to the group which reviewed the activities of the NPCA within the One Mile Creek Watershed this past year. The report also presented an outlook on what the NPCA hopes to accomplish in the year that lies ahead.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> David Derrick (Hydraulic Engineer with the US Army Corps, specializing in stream restoration principals) came to Niagara and lead a full day of training for NPCA staff and other participants from local resource management organizations. The training day focused on topics related to stream morphology and restoration. Several sites along Four Mile Creek were visited as part of this training opportunity.

Projects within the NOTL watershed are progressing well. To date there are:

- 2 projects completed. One with the assistance of the Friends of One Mile Creek group
- 4 Partially completed
- 1 to be started within the coming weeks
- 3 new sites with plans in the developmental stages
- 1 new site visit along the Escarpment

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

- The following are the restoration activities underway in the 15, 16 & 18 Mile Creeks watersheds;

- Reforestation of two sites in the 15 Mile Creek watershed has been completed. In total, an area of approx. 8 acres has been restored. 2 riparian buffer projects in the 16 Mile Creek watershed have been completed, with an length of approx 100m being restored.
- 1 conservation farm practices project, consisting of a sediment trap and planting of a row of wildflowers within an existing vineyard for pollinating insects, will be underway in the next month.
- One nutrient management project is underway in partnership with OMFRA.
- Several riparian buffers will be planted within the next few weeks.
- 2 new riparian buffer projects are being planned.

### **8) Yellow Fish Road**

- The Yellow Fish Road Program was very active in Niagara during the month of May. Six different schools participated in the program, including schools from Grimsby, St.Catharines, and Stevensville. A total of 251 storm drains were painted and 761 fish-shaped information brochures were distributed in the neighborhoods of the participating schools. The program reached over 1000 students across Niagara with presentations about the program and over 80 students were directly involved in painting events.

- June 5<sup>th</sup> was National Yellow Fish Road Day across Canada. Media advisories were sent out to local newspapers with information about the program and the participants. St. Catharines Community Living did a painting event to celebrate on June 5<sup>th</sup> that involved 12 adults with disabilities.

### **9) ECO School Program**

-Site Visits for the ECO School Program continued in May and site prep was finished by the end of the month. Staff organized plant material and equipment and began planting at the schools on June 1st.

-Students along with their ECO School representative have been out planting their ECO plots, watering and then applying mulch. Staff assist with two plantings every day. Students are given a short presentation prior to planting to teach them about the benefits of native plants to water quality and wildlife.

### **10) Landowner Stewardship Guide**

Staff are currently developing a Landowner Water Quality and Habitat Stewardship Guide. This guide is being developed to be specific for each sub-watershed in the Niagara Peninsula; currently One Mile Creek in Niagara-on-the-Lake is being developed as the prototype. Once this document is completed it will be adapted to all sub-watersheds within our jurisdiction. The expected completion date for One Mile Creek is September.

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

### **1) Lyons Creek East**

The Niagara River AOC Contaminated Sediment Management Work Plan has been approved by the Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The work plan captures any work that has to be done in the AOC. Under a new agreement with MOE, the NPCA will coordinate the development of the Monitored Natural Recovery strategy for Lyon's Creek East in collaboration with local stakeholders. Plans are being made by TAG for the preparation of an Administrative Controls Guidance Document and a Management Framework Agreement between the stakeholders and the NPCA before winter 2009.

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

- The RAP Coordinating Committee is re-formatting the draft Stage 2 Update report to align with those from other AOCs in order to satisfy some of the requirements of the Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) review process. Similarly, the Niagara River AOC report card has been revised to comply with COA's format and consistent with those from the other Ontario AOCs. What remains to be done in each AOC will be considered for the renewal of the Agreement in 2010.
- It is anticipated that the draft Stage 2 Update report will undergo internal agency review later this year. In the meantime, the RAP Coordinating Committee Plan is updating the draft Stage 2 Update report with new scientific information and examining the source of information on which certain beneficial use impairments (BUIs) were designated as "Impaired", such as Fish Tumors & Deformities and Bird or other Animal Deformities & Reproduction Problems.
- A revised RAP work plan has been circulated to the RAP implementers for their review and/or comments. The next meeting is scheduled for November 2009.
- It is anticipated that the PAC will be reconvened this summer to review the draft Stage 2 Update report.
- A proposed celebratory event to recognize the completion and success of the Niagara Restoration Council's fish barrier removal project has been postponed till spring 2010.
- The Welland River Eutrophication Study 2009 field season is underway.
- The RAP Science Committee is expected to re-convene in fall 2009.

### **3) International Liaison**

- The RAP Coordinator attended the U.S. Remedial Advisory Committee's meeting on June 3 at the NY Power Vista in Lewiston. A funding announcement for the U.S. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, part of which will be allocated to AOCs, is anticipated in summer 2009.
- The International Joint Commission's Centennial celebration of the International Boundary Waters Treaty will be held in multiple locations within the Niagara area. From June 5 – 14, 2009, the Niagara River Corridor will be host to a variety of events, climaxing with the official celebration of the Boundary Waters Treaty on June 13 at the Rainbow Bridge, Niagara Falls. The new RAP banner will be displayed at Oakes Theatre Garden in Niagara Falls, Ontario, on June 13. Further information is available at: [www.oursharedwaters.com](http://www.oursharedwaters.com)
- The RAP Coordinator will attend the IJC's Water Quality and Science Advisory Boards meetings on June 11 and a Connecting Channels workshop on June 12. On the evening of June 11, the IJC will host a public meeting in Niagara Falls, NY.

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

- The NRTMP Secretariat is considering options for the future mandate and structure of the NRTMP for addressing the remaining water quality challenges. Consultations on the proposed options are underway.

- A NRTMP "State of the Niagara" conference will be included in the IJC's Boundary Waters Treaty Centennial celebrations in June/09.

## **LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

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

The Centre for Conservation was nominated by the Ontario March of Dimes staff and participants of the P.E.T. (personal effectiveness training) program to receive the "Breaking the Barrier" Award for Education. The award recognizes efforts to integrate persons with disabilities into community life and is awarded during National Access Awareness Week. Mike Hunter, chair of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee, Andrea Wilson, Centre Program Assistant and Christine Hayward, Curator attended the award ceremony on June 3 in St. Catharines.

The NPCA has received approval for summer employment funding through Canada Summer Jobs for 2 positions for 12 weeks.

Advertising is underway for the Summer Day Camp and Mini- Trailblazers Adventures program. Registration has also begun for both of these programs.

Allan Large, one of our volunteer gardeners has generously donated his time to construct a beautiful arbour along the east side of the Ball home fence leading towards the church.

The current exhibit in the temporary gallery, "The Real Decoy", Woodcarvings by the Niagara Woodcarvers Association (April 18 – June 25) has been well received by visitors. Cheryl Clock, a reporter from the Standard visited the exhibit and met with Andrea Wilson and members of the Woodcarvers. She featured a full page colour article on the exhibit in the June 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the paper. Unfortunately the May 30<sup>th</sup> event on bird banding with the Haldimand Bird Observatory had to be cancelled since the presenter was ill. Staff are hoping to be able to re-schedule the event. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 18 people attended the woodcarving workshop presented with the Niagara Woodcarvers Association. A number of school groups and organizations have participated in a variety of educational programs at the park throughout the month of May.

Acceptance notices for the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Thanksgiving Festival have been mailed to exhibitors.

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

The landscape plantings at the Centre have been in place now for one year. Staff met recently with the landscape contractor to review the trees and shrubs under warranty and note any plants that require replacement. We were pleased to note that we experienced a very low mortality rate of 1% of plants that had to be replaced. On many landscape projects a 10% loss is not uncommon, so this is a testament to the care and maintenance efforts staff have taken with the property.

A minor planting programme for this season will add more shrubs to three areas around the Centre. This planting programme targets enhancing the landscape buffers for the neighbours, protection and screening of the septic tank area by the staff entrance, and covering some bare areas near the outlet pipe over the main cistern tanks.

## **Ball's Falls Capital Works**

Trail construction has been completed in the park to improve the trail connections from the Centre to the upper and lower falls. New granular trail has been installed and hazard trees trimmed from existing trails in the woodlot areas.

Installation has started on the new split rail fencing for 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the lower park area. Work is being co-ordinated around the wedding bookings for the barn and church. Once complete, this will improve the appearance and security of the heritage area in the park.

Installation of the new electronic parking gates is tentatively scheduled for mid June, we anticipate end of June start-up of the paid gate system once staff training and troubleshooting is completed.

## **Binbrook CA**

The park opened on May 1<sup>st</sup>, which is earlier than previous years. The Haldimand District Scouts Camp, in early May, attracted 163 participants to the site.

Staff completed parking lot improvements, trail upgrades and the installation of floating docks at the new boat launch.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, the first Great Outdoor Community Festival attracted 550 people. The event was an opportunity for the various groups and organizations using the park to speak with park visitors and promote their activities to the general public. The event included craft exhibitors, children's crafts, entertainment and demonstrations by the local fire rescue and police departments. Staff received many positive comments on the event resulting in the sale of season passes and pavilion rentals.

May 31<sup>st</sup> was the 6th Crappie Derby, held by the Glanbrook Conservation Committee. The event attracted more than 400 anglers to the park, and provided \$10,000 in prizes to participants. As in previous years, Fishing World, a Hamilton outdoors store, was a major corporate sponsor of this event. Funds raised by this event went to children's charities and conservation projects.

Staff are still proceeding with the new park pavilion, store, and boat rental facility for the park, despite minor setbacks on issuance of the building permit and receipt of quotations from bidders. Staff are in negotiation with city planning staff on the permit requirements. In the meantime, staff have been circulating the building package to contractors for quotations and receiving bids for portions of the work. Rather than contracting the entire project out, the NPCA will act as General Contractor, using successful bids from sub-contractors for services and labour. Staff expect this approach will save several thousand dollars on the project.

Staff monitoring of the pike spawning bed at Binbrook Conservation Area continues. In late May the site was assessed for pike young-of-the-year. Results indicate no pike reproduction in this area in 2009. Some factors contributing to this may include the plant loss in the site channels. Staff will review the issue and look for opportunities to improve the potential for successful spawning.

## **Chippawa Creek and Long Beach Conservation Areas**

The camping season officially opened May 15<sup>th</sup>. Since that time staff have been working to hire the full compliment of summer staff for both campgrounds. Various capital improvements are also taking place in preparation for the summer.

Staff are preparing for the Chippawa Creek Bass Derby, to be held on July 11, 2009. This event will coincide with the Ontario Family fishing Weekend. This provides an additional opportunity to promote the event.

The Canada Goose population at Chippawa Creek Conservation Area was recently assessed by staff. Considering the present number of geese and the upcoming site activity, there is no need for relocation of the geese in 2009.

## **Communities in Bloom – Town of Lincoln**

For the second year in a row, the Authority is partnering with the Town of Lincoln to support their efforts in the Communities in Bloom programme. The NPCA provides assistance on the steering committee, with promotional materials, and hosting the judges at Ball's Falls Conservation Area during their tour of Lincoln. The programme this year will see the judges in our area July 13 to 15 with a tour of Ball's Falls the morning of July 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **Woodend Conservation Area**

Staff have completed a GPS mapping exercise reviewing current trails and potential new trail work for the property. All existing trails, including informally created footpaths have been mapped by staff with our GPS equipment. The mapping of these trails will be used to manage and guide future trail work on the property.

## **Beamer Memorial Conservation Area**

Spring Hawkwatch monitoring is now completed. The Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch Group observed just over 17,500 birds flying over Beamer Memorial Conservation Area this spring. The total number of birds has been the most birds per hour of observation since 1990. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, they observed over 4,300 Broad-winged Hawks in one day.

## **Gypsy Moth Surveys on Conservation Area Lands**

Both Smith-Ness and St. John Conservation Areas were sprayed with Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) bacteria to reduce the potential effects of gypsy moth damage. The spray was completed by helicopter, using Trees Unlimited Forestry Consultants. Staff will continue to monitor these sites to assess the effects of the spray on the gypsy moth populations and future management needs.

## **NPCA Hunting Program**

Staff have issued an additional 7 hunting permits. To date staff has received and issued 137 hunting permits/permission for 2009. Of these, 15 permits are issued to individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

## **Ministry of Natural Resources Funding**

Staff received funding from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program (CFWIP) for educational materials on the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake and for monitoring of the bog water levels. These monies will be used to complete a taxidermy of a deceased rattlesnake and install data loggers for hard to access water wells at the Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area. Both will assist in the Conservation Authorities continued efforts to reduce fears and unnecessary persecutions of the threatened rattlesnake, and its habitat.

## **Ontario Family Fishing Weekend**

July 10 through 12, 2009 is Ontario Family Fishing Weekend. This is an event where Canadian Residents can experience fishing and nature without a fishing license. Both Binbrook Conservation Area and Chippawa Creek Conservation Areas are being promoted as destinations for this Provincial initiative.

## **Ecological Monitoring**

Staff are continuing to work with volunteers to monitor the biodiversity and ecosystems throughout the watershed. In 2009, 52 individuals are assisting with amphibian and/or marsh bird surveys. The information collected will help identify trends over time and will assist in determining habitat or site activity impacts. This information will also be used to determine ecological and restoration needs as part of the NPCA Watershed Report Card.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

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

Registrations for the 2009 festival are coming in quickly, to date 45 schools numbering 3,000 students are registered. A public day to coincide with the celebration of the Authority's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is scheduled for Sunday, September 13 from 11:00 to 4:00. Staff recently attended the second Children's Water Festival sponsored by the City of Hamilton and are looking at some opportunities to collaborate on this.

### **Boundary Waters Treaty Centennial**

2009 has been designated across Niagara as the Year of Our Shared Waters which was formally established through municipal resolution. Staff have been actively involved in the planning of the 2009 Boundary Waters Treaty Centennial Celebration culminating with an official ceremony taking place on the Rainbow Bridge on June 13, 2009. In addition a number of activities are planned on both sides of the border to commemorate this unprecedented relationship. A Limited Edition 2009 Boundary Waters Treaty Centennial Pin has been designed and will be sold through the Hard Rock Cafes with 15% of the sales benefiting the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper.

### **Community Outreach**

Staff continues to participate in a number of community partnership initiatives to promote the work of the Conservation Authority. Promotional initiatives geared to Ball's Falls and the Centre for Conservation, Binbrook, Long Beach and Chippawa Creek are being undertaken in an effort to

increase visitation to the revenue producing sites and encourage the purchase of Membership Passes.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The Authority has been involved in planning a number of special events to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Recently we held the Great Outdoor Community Festival at Binbrook Conservation Area which was planned in partnership with the Glanbrook Conservation Committee. Although the weather was a bit cool, the sun shone and visitors had a wonderful day. Sincere thanks are extended to the Glanbrook Conservation Committee who worked very hard to organize a great event. We noted that there were many visitors that had never been to the conservation area previously.

The Gala originally planned for August 12 has been moved to Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. The event will take place at Ball's Falls Conservation Area. More details will be provided at the July meeting.

There are several events planned in the next few months including the NPCA member/staff and families re-union on July 25<sup>th</sup> at Long Beach Conservation Area.

### **Simply Tree-Mendous Challenge**

Staff have been making presentations to our watershed municipalities regarding the Simply Tree-Mendous Challenge and this is now complete. All our municipalities will participate. We have received fantastic media coverage and much interest from the public and look forward to a successful program. Staff will be following up with each of the municipalities to ensure that they have all the pertinent information needed and to make arrangements to provide them with their first 50 trees.

## **NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**

### **Golf Tournament**

A wonderful day was had by all at the 2009 Bob Welch Memorial Golf Classic held Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The weather was tremendous, we had 83 golfers participate, \$5,750 in sponsorships was received, the silent auction raised \$1,500 and overall, the event will net around \$10,000 in support of the Jordan Harbour project. Many thanks are extended to the volunteers and members who participated or assisted with this event. Follow-up is currently proceeding in the form of letters of thank you letters and receipts. Next year's tournament is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Conservation Education Bursaries**

The Chairman and staff will meet to review the six applications received this year to determine their eligibility for a bursary. This program supports students from Fort Erie and surrounding area that are pursuing a post-secondary education in a field related to conservation and resource management. Since 1992, 106 bursaries totaling \$105,600 have been awarded as a result of the conservation education bursary program.



## **Donor Wall Unveiling**

More than 100 guests are planning to be in attendance for the unveiling of the new donor wall on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Centre for Conservation. The evening includes remarks from the Chairs of the NPCF and NPCF, words from a few of our donors, the official unveiling and a reception, which the Foundation hopes to turn into an annual event, given the positive response that has been received.

## **Recommendation:**

**Report No. 43-09 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.**

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

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