

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

FULL AUTHORITY

WELLAND

AGENDA

JULY 15, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

BUSINESS:

(1) MINUTES

(a) FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – JUNE 17, 2009

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting held June 17, 2009.

(2) DELEGATIONS

(a) Budget Guidance Presentation

Regional Niagara staff will be making a presentation of the budget guidance for the 2010 Budget year.

(b) Harmony Residents Group

A presentation will be made by a representative from the Harmony Residents Group regarding the Parks Canada lands – Lakeshore Avenue in Niagara-on-the-Lake. A copy of the group's background is attached.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

(4) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

(5) CAO'S REPORT

(6) BUDGET STATUS REPORT TO JUNE 30, 2009 - REPORT NO. 44-09

Attached is Staff Report No. 44-09 together with a copy of the Current Budget Summary to June 30, 2009.

(6) UPPER WELLAND RIVER FLOODPLAIN MAPPING – AWARD OF WORK – REPORT NO. 45-09

Attached is Report No. 45-09 regarding this matter.

(7) **50th ANNIVERSARY FORKS AND CORKS GALA – REPORT NO. 46-09**

Attached is Report No. 46-09 regarding this event.

(8) **2009 CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS - REPORT NO. 47-09**

Attached is Report No. 47-09, with respect to this matter.

(9) **CHANGES TO THE 2009 BINBROOK WATERFOWL HUNTING PROGRAM – REPORT NO. 48-09**

Attached is Report No. 48-09 regarding this matter.

(10) **ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT 2005 – REPORT NO. 49-09**

Attached is Report No. 49-09 together with policy statements on Training and Assistive Devices.

(11) **PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 50-09**

Attached is Staff Report No. 50-09 outlining the status of Authority projects and programs.

(12) **IN-CAMERA**

- (a) Complaint and Violation Status Report – Report No. CR-16-09
- (b) Tree By-Law Status Report – Report No. CR-17-09
- (c) St. John's Centre Discussions – Verbal Report on Progress

(13) **OTHER BUSINESS**

ADJOURNMENT

TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: July 9, 2009

SUBJECT: Budget Status Report - Report No. 44 -09

Attached is the budget status report for the period ending June 30, 2009.

As reported for the period of May 31, 2009, revenues for the administration fees in the Environmental Advisory Services and Flood Protection Services are less than anticipated. Staff will continue to monitor the revenues from these programs and make recommendations for adjustments in September.

There are no other major variances to report at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Budget Status Report for the period ending June 30, 2009 be received.

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

TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: July 6, 2009

SUBJECT: Upper Welland River Floodplain Mapping - Award of Work - Report No. 45-09

In 2009, the NPCA began working on the Upper Welland River Watershed Plan. Concurrent with the Watershed Plan, the Authority also updates Floodplain Mapping of the study area. This work will begin where the Central Welland River Floodplain mapping left off (just east of the Port Davidson weir) and extend to the upstream reaches of the Welland River and its tributaries in the City of Hamilton and Haldimand County (see map attached). The sub basins to be mapped include Welland River West, Wilson Creek, Mill Creek, Wolf Creek, Little Wolf Creek, West Wolf Creek, Buckhorn Creek and Elsie Creek. In all, 105 bridge and culvert structures will also have to be field surveyed.

In May of 2009, in accordance with our Consultant Selection Policy, Requests for proposals were issued to 3 firms known to be able to complete modeling works of this complexity. A copy of the Request for Proposal is appended. The proposal received ranged in cost from \$131,900 to \$139,720. All proposals received were reviewed by appropriate staff and the low bid proposal which was submitted by Aquafor Beech Limited, was found to address the needs of the project. Aquafor Beech has successfully completed past works for the Authority. With respect to financing, this is the 1st year of a 3 year project and \$65,000 was allocated in the 2009 budget to begin this work. The remaining \$66,900, will be financed from the 2010 or year 2 capital funds. The floodplain mapping component of the watershed plan is expected to be completed in June 2010.

Attachments:

1. Terms of Reference for Project
2. Study Area Map

RECOMMENDATION:

- i) That Report No. 45-09 regarding the Upper Welland River Floodplain Mapping Project be received for information.**
- ii) That the Board support execution of the Consulting Services Agreement with Aquafor Beech Limited with an upset limit of \$ 131,900.**

Prepared by: John Kukalis, Director, Water Management

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

TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority
DATE: July 10, 2009
RE: **50th Anniversary Forks and Corks Gala Report No. 46-09**

As part of the Authority's 50th Anniversary celebrations, the anniversary committee recommended that the NPCA host a Gala fundraiser. A sub-committee was formed to organize this event which is being called "Forks and Corks". The event will take place at Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation on Friday, October 30th, 2009. The committee felt that it was important to keep the cost of this event affordable and it was agreed that the ticket price would be \$100.00 per person. Due to space limitations, only 150 tickets will be available for purchase.

Recently, the sub-committee met to work out details of the event which will include a sit down dinner utilizing local food vendors. It is anticipated to host a wine tasting reception with a cash bar available. Entertainment will include a performance by the Lamplighters as well as musical entertainment.

The event is intended to be revenue neutral, although the committee is striving to raise funds for the Jordan Harbour Project. To this end, a silent auction component will be integrated into the evening's festivities.

A mailing list and promotional materials are being developed and tickets will be available for purchase in early August. Members are encouraged to mark their calendars for this celebration.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 46-09 regarding the 50th Anniversary Forks and Corks Gala be received for information purposes.

Prepared by: Mary Stack, Director of Communications

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



TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority
DATE: July 10, 2009
RE: **2009 Conservation Achievement Awards – Report No. 47-09**

In 1991 the Conservation Authority established the Conservation Achievement Awards to recognize the efforts of individuals, businesses and organizations who voluntarily contribute to the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources. These awards allow the board and staff an opportunity to recognize the efforts of watershed residents whose contributions to conservation efforts are evident through their direct actions. Nominations for awards have been invited from the public and internally through the board and staff.

In addition to the Conservation Achievement Awards the Authority also presents up to 3 Awards of Merit to recognize “significant achievements or contribution by an individual, group or business to improve and restore our local environment for the benefit of all watershed residents.” These awards are given at the discretion of the Board.

It has been the Authority’s practice to give an award to every person who has been nominated as this program was not intended to stress the amount of the contribution, but rather to serve as a means of thanking those people who voluntarily practice environmental stewardship. Recipients have been recognized at an awards reception traditionally held in November/December. The program has been highly successful with nominations reaching as many as 500 recipients in some years.

Staff believes that the time has come to re-examine the program and determine if it should continue status quo, or look at revamping the criteria structure of the conservation achievement awards. The costs of administering the program as it currently exists continue to climb, mainly due to the sheer numbers of awards given out. While many of our recipients do not look for recognition, they are pleased to note that their efforts are recognized through the conservation awards program and look forward to participating in this annual event.

In order to keep this program financially viable and more importantly, continue to make it one that is meaningful; staff recommends that the following alternatives be considered to replace the current program.

1. Establish award categories including criteria for nomination – basically this will expand on the Awards of Merit concept. We could establish as many categories as would be deemed appropriate. This could include categories such as Municipal Award, Public Service Award, Education Award, Corporate Award, etc.
2. Nominations would be invited from the public, board and staff.
3. Establish a nomination review committee.
4. Establish an annual deadline for nominations.
5. Establish a conservation achievement award pin.

It has been the practice that that all nominees would be invited to a reception and be called forward to accept an award. Staff is recommending that this process be revised to focus on the categories of awards, highlighting the significant works being achieved by the various groups and individuals.

Volunteers who work on projects either with the Authority or other community groups/agencies would still be invited to attend a reception and receive a small token of appreciation for their efforts. It is felt that this would provide a more memorable and meaningful experience for the volunteers. A printed program would still be produced detailing the participant's names and the various projects that have been contributed to and their particular names would be visible during the presentation portion.

A subsequent Board report will be prepared outlining further details prior to the event.

It has also been suggested that the awards ceremony be held at the Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation. While this would be desirable, space limitations would not allow for us to appropriately host the numbers that we traditionally draw for this event.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 47-09 regarding the Conservation Achievement Awards be received for information and discussion purposes.

Prepared by: Mary Stack, Director of Communications

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



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: July 7, 2009

SUBJECT: Changes to the 2009 Binbrook Waterfowl Hunting Program - Report No. 48-09

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority operates a controlled waterfowl hunting program on the reservoir at Binbrook Conservation Area. Eleven blinds are offered for rental on Saturday and Monday mornings during the program, allowing a maximum of 22 hunters to take part. During the first two weeks, blinds are assigned to hunters using a lottery system. After this time, blinds are available for reservation on a first-come basis. The program traditionally starts the last Saturday of September, and lasts until second Saturday in December, or ice-up conditions.

The Conservation Area is closed to day-use visitors and other activities while hunters are using the property. As the park facilities have improved, visitation has increased, including visitation during the autumn shoulder season. Over the past two years, staff have noticed an increasing number of park visitors being turned-away from the park between the start of the hunting program and Thanksgiving Weekend.

Staff have considered options that would permit both hunting and regular day-use activities to take place at the same time, however public safety concerns make this difficult. One option would be delay the start of the controlled hunt until the weekend following Thanksgiving. This would allow park visitors to continue enjoying the site during the traditional shoulder season and increase revenues from day use and facility rentals. The hunting program would take precedence in the weeks following.

Staff consulted with participants during the 2008 controlled waterfowl hunt. Although they were not eager to see changes to the program, they understood the challenges faced by the Authority. Although the Thanksgiving Weekend varies from year to year, in 2009, the change would result in a 3-week delay in the start of the hunting program. This equates to a loss of 6 hunting days. To make up for the loss, staff are proposing to add Wednesday hunting during November and December as well as extend the season one week in December. This would provide an additional 7 hunting days. As well, two additional hunting blinds will be available throughout the hunting season offering 52 more hunting opportunities to further offset earlier season losses.

Staff recommend that the 2009 controlled waterfowl hunt be changed to begin the first Saturday following the Thanksgiving Holiday. This would be a one-year trial, to allow tracking of day-use visitation between the last week of September and the Thanksgiving Weekend. Participation in the hunting program would also be tracked. The information would be used to assess the success of the changes and make recommendations on future program schedules. This exercise would include consultation with the Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters, the Glanbrook Conservation Committee and participants in the controlled waterfowl hunt.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 48-09 be received; and,

That the start of the 2009 Controlled Waterfowl Hunting Program at Binbrook Conservation Area be changed to the first Saturday following Thanksgiving (October 17th).

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: July 7, 2009

SUBJECT: Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005 - Report No. 49-09

Prior to the June Full Authority Meeting, Board Members and staff received a presentation on the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) from Steve Murphy, The Accessibility Advisory Coordinator for the Niagara Region. This orientation is required to train NPCA Board Members and staff on the Authority's obligations under AODA.

The NPCA will be required to adopt policies before the January 1, 2012 deadline. Staff are working with the Region of Niagara to meet these obligations by the January 1, 2010 deadline for Municipalities. In this regard, the Region of Niagara recently adopted two policy statements:

- 1) Policy Statement on Training
- 2) Policy Statement on Assistive Devices

Authority staff have modified the Regional Policy Statements for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. They are attached to this report for reference. These policies provide clear direction for Authority Board Members, staff, volunteers and contractors when dealing with Ontarians with Disabilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 49-09 be received; and,

That the Policy Statement on Training and the Policy Statement on Assistive Devices be approved.

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

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

**POLICY STATEMENT ON ASSISTIVE DEVICES
FOR
ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (the Authority) is committed to being responsive to the diverse needs of all its residents by striving to provide equal access to its programs, services and facilities, including people with disabilities.

POLICY PURPOSE/RATIONALE

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority will develop policies, procedures and practices which address integration, independence, dignity and equal opportunity, to comply with the legislative requirements prescribed under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), and to promote accessibility.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Board Members and staff of the Authority, including volunteers, contractors, agents and any other people who interact with the public or other third parties, on behalf of the Authority.

ASSISTIVE DEVICES

If a person with a disability requires assistive devices to access goods or services of the Authority, they are allowed to use such devices. The Authority provides assistive devices at some of its facilities.

GUIDE DOGS, SERVICE ANIMALS

If a person with a disability is accompanied by a guide dog or other service animal, the Authority will permit the person to enter the premises with the animal and keep it with him or her, unless the animal is otherwise excluded by law from the premises. If the service animal or guide dog is excluded by law from the premises, the Authority will look to other available measures to enable the person with a disability to obtain, use or benefit from the Authority's goods and services.

SUPPORT PERSONS

If a person with a disability is accompanied by a support person, they are permitted to enter the premises together and are not prevented from having access to each other while on the premises. The Authority may require a person with a disability to be accompanied by a support person while on its premises, but only if a support person is necessary to protect the health or safety of the person with a disability or the health or safety of others on the premises.

Where fees for goods and services are advertised or promoted by the Authority, it will provide advance notice of the amount payable, if any, in respect of the support person.

DISRUPTION OF SERVICES

If there is a disruption in a particular facility or service used to allow a person with a disability to access goods or services, the Authority will give notice of the disruption to the public by posting the reason for the disruption, the anticipated duration of the disruption, and alternative facilities or

services that may be available. This posting will be in a conspicuous place on the premises of the Authority, or by other reasonable methods in the circumstances. If the disruption is anticipated, the Authority will provide a reasonable amount of advance notice of the disruption. If the disruption is unexpected, notice will be provided as soon as possible.

FEEDBACK PROCESS

The public can provide feedback on the accessibility of the provision of goods and services by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority through the Conservation Authority's Information Officer:

- (a) by mail addressed to: 250 Thorold Road West, Third Floor
Welland, Ontario L3C 3W2
- (b) by phone to: 905 788-3135 ex 242
- (c) in person at: 250 Thorold Road West, Third Floor
Welland, Ontario
- (d) by email to: info@npca.ca

Feedback will be responded to within three business days of its receipt by the Authority.

Revised: July 7, 2009

DEFINITIONS

Assistive Devices

Auxiliary aids such as communication aids, cognition aids, personal mobility aids and medical aids (i.e. canes, crutches, wheelchairs, or hearing aids).

Disabilities

As per the Ontario Human Rights Code, disability means:

any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, a brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical coordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device;

a condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability;

a learning disability or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language;

a mental disorder; or;

an injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*. (“handicap”)

Employees

Every person who deals with members of the public or other third parties on behalf of the Niagara Authority, whether the person does so as an employee, agent, volunteer or otherwise.

Persons with Disabilities

Individuals who are afflicted with a disability as defined under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Service Animals

Any animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability.

Support Persons

Any person whether a paid professional, volunteer, family member, or friend who accompanies a person with a disability in order to help with communications, personal care or medical needs, or with access to goods or services.

**POLICY STATEMENT ON TRAINING
FOR
ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

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POLICY PURPOSE/RATIONALE

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority will develop policies, procedures and practices which address integration, independence, dignity and equal opportunity, to comply with the legislative requirements prescribed under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), and to promote accessibility.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Board Members and staff of the Authority, including volunteers, contractors, agents and any other people who interact with the public or other third parties, on behalf of the Authority.

TRAINING

The Authority will provide training about the provision of its goods and services to persons with disabilities. All Authority employees, volunteers, agents, contractors and others who deal with the public or other third parties, and those involved in developing customer service policies, practices, and procedures, will receive Accessibility Awareness Training within six months of beginning their duties. The Authority will also provide ongoing training with respect to changes in its policies, practices, and procedures to those individuals who require such training as soon as practicable. The Authority will keep records of the training provided, including dates training is provided and the number of persons trained.

Accessibility Awareness Training will include the following:

- (a) How to provide goods and services in a manner that respects the dignity and independence of persons with disabilities;
- (b) How to interact and communicate with persons in a manner that takes into account their disabilities;
- (c) The process for people to provide feedback to the Authority, its provision of goods and services to persons with disabilities, and how the Authority responds to the feedback and takes action on any complaint;
- (d) How to interact with persons with disabilities who use an assistive device or require the assistance of a guide dog, service animal or a support person to access goods and services;
- (e) Information on other Authority policies, practices, and procedures dealing with the AODA;
- (f) A review of the purposes of the AODA and the requirements of the customer service standard.
- (g) How to use equipment or devices available on Authority premises or provided by the Authority that may help with the provision of goods and services;

- (h) What to do if a person with a disability is having difficulty accessing the Authority's goods and services.

DISRUPTION OF SERVICES

If there is a disruption in a particular facility or service used to allow a person with a disability to access goods or services, the Authority will give notice of the disruption to the public by posting the reason for the disruption, the anticipated duration of the disruption, and alternative facilities or services that may be available. This posting will be in a conspicuous place on the premises of the Authority, or by other reasonable methods in the circumstances. If the disruption is anticipated, the Authority will provide a reasonable amount of advance notice of the disruption. If the disruption is unexpected, notice will be provided as soon as possible.

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a condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability;

a learning disability or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language;
a mental disorder; or;
an injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*. (“handicap”)

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Every person who deals with members of the public or other third parties on behalf of the Niagara Authority, whether the person does so as an employee, agent, volunteer or otherwise.

Persons with Disabilities

Individuals who are afflicted with a disability as defined under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Service Animals

Any animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability.

Support Persons

Any person whether a paid professional, volunteer, family member, or friend who accompanies a person with a disability in order to help with communications, personal care or medical needs, or with access to goods or services.

TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: July 10, 2009

RE: PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 50-09

WATER MANAGEMENT

Watershed Regulation Division

1) Binbrook Reservoir & Gauge Stations

Staff continue to 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.

New state-of-the-art control and monitoring systems have been recently installed within the control house which allow staff to accurately determine the water levels within the reservoir and operate the valves remotely.

Staff are continuing to work with the vendor in order to finalize the installation of equipment which will allow the NPCA to post real-time water level information onto our website from Binbrook and our 12 surface water gauge stations.

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

i) Permits

The NPCA has approved 42 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 40 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 21 municipal drain projects during the current calendar year.

3) Floodplain Mapping

i) 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.

ii) 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

Research for Phase Two: Restoration Strategy has been temporarily suspended to focus on Background and Characterization Report for the Upper Welland River Watershed Plan. Research and writing will resume in the fall.

Natural Areas Inventory data has been queried out for this study area to be used when research continues.

b) Central Welland River Watershed Plan

Research for Phase Two: Restoration Strategy has been temporarily suspended to focus on Background and Characterization Report for the Upper Welland River Watershed Plan. Research and writing will resume in the fall.

The organization and collection of field work for the Central Welland River Fluvial Geomorphology Study continues. June saw the completion of seven assessments in Unnamed Creek, Coyle Creek, Towpath Drain and Drapers Creek. Collected data is being entered into its respective database during.

c) Beaverdams and Shriners Creek Watershed Plan

Comments and concerns regarding Phase One have been received by some members of the Steering Committee and a reminder to those that have not yet submitted comments has been issued.

Two copies of the Phase One: Draft Characterization and Issues Identification have been submitted to the Lincoln Public library and to two branches of the Niagara Falls public library for public commenting. A small display with a map of the study area and the documents are set out for the public to review.

d) Upper Welland River Watershed Plan

Background data collection and geophysical research is in underway for this study area. In addition, RFP's for the floodplain mapping were issued in July and award of this work will be dealt with under a separate report.

4) Natural Areas Inventory

Staff are reviewing the contributors' documents for the Herpetofaunal Study on Reptiles and Amphibians and the Lichens and Bryophyte Report for the second volume of the final document. The introductory sections are currently being peer reviewed and changes and additions made. Technical Summaries for all 530 visited sites are being written and reviewed for inclusion in the first volume of the final document.

Many requests for information are coming in. Consultants, landowners and other agencies are all interested in the data we have collected. The project management team is carefully considering each request and producing a subset of data. The quality checking process is well underway with many experts contributing their time to make sure we have the best possible dataset.

III. Source Water Protection Division

1) Source Water Protection Plan

-SPC meetings were held on June 9 and July 2, 2009. The Welland WTP Threats and Issues Draft Report, and the Conceptual Water Budget Report were presented to the committee on June 9. The Tier 1 Water Budget, and Rosehill and Grimsby Surface Water Vulnerability reports were presented at the July 2 SPC meeting.

-NPCA staff and Niagara Region continue to meet on a regular basis to review the SP work undertaken on the Intake Protection Zones (IPZs). Stantec Consulting is currently completing the additional IPZ-2 surface water modeling for Grimsby and Rosehill Water Treatment Plant intakes.

NPCA SP staff have been working on the Assessment Report, and making revisions to the Tier 1 Water Budget report that were requested by the MNR.

2) Water Quality Monitoring Program:

a) Routine Water Quality Work

- Routine surface water quality monitoring continues until November of 2009.

-The NPCA continues to collect groundwater level data at 15 monitoring wells as part of the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN). The NPCA is also continuing to work with the Ministry of the Environment to establish digital service at PGMN telemetry sites.

- Taxonomic identification of benthic invertebrates continues on samples collected during the fall 2008 and spring 2009 sampling seasons.

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.

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

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

IV. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division

1) Source Water Protection Support Activities

- 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.

4) Watershed Regulation Support Activities

- 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 have been installed on the server and the Binbrook Reservoir is now connected via the server for real time data and remote camera capture. Work to connect the remaining gauge stations will continue.

V. Watershed Restoration Division

1) General Watershed Restoration

The following are the restoration projects that are currently being implemented:

- 2 woodland restoration projects
- 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

2) Niagara River RAP/ Welland River Restoration

The following are the restoration projects that are currently being implemented:

- 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
- 3 wetland projects

3) Fort Erie Creeks Watershed Restoration

The following are the restoration projects that are currently being implemented:

- 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

The following are the restoration projects that are currently being implemented:

- W Woodland restoration and riparian planting projects
- A wetland creation project in Smithville is underway. The wetland is part of a comprehensive restoration plan that includes woodland restoration, nesting boxes, and prairie-meadow habitat.

5) Twelve Mile Creek Restoration

The following are the restoration projects that are currently being implemented:

- About 7 acres of hilly pasture land in Upper Twelve was machine and hand-planted for reforestation, including two stream crossings.
- 2 Stream buffers and reforestation on different tributaries of Richardson's Creek.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

The following are the restoration projects that are currently being implemented:

- 2 shelterbelt within the Four Mile Creek watershed totalling approximately 400 m
- 1 woodland enhancement project within the Four Mile Creek watershed totalling approximately 1.5 ac.
- 1 riparian improvement projects along One Mile Creek 90 m²
- 2 riparian improvement projects along Four Mile Creek 500 m²

7) 15,16,18 Mile Creeks Restoration

The following are the restoration projects that are currently being implemented:

- 2 woodland restoration projects. In total, an area of approx. 8 acres has been restored.
- 1 conservation farm practices project, consisting of a sediment trap and planting of a row of wildflowers within an existing vineyard.
- One nutrient management project is underway in partnership with OMFRA.

- 5 riparian buffers projects

8) ECO School Program

The Eco school plantings are completed, in total 28 schools participated this past year. In total, 112 schools have participated, engaging well over 2000 students since its inception in 2006.

9) Landowner Work Shop – EC. Brown

Staff are currently developing the format for a public work shop at the E.C. Brown Westland Restoration Conservation Area. A half day event is tentatively scheduled for Thursday July 23rd from 9:00 am until noon. Registration will be open to 80 participants. The session would begin with an hour long tour of the site, staff will take participants through each eco zone and discuss the restoration efforts and how they can be applied on the broader landscape (including private properties). Following the tour, participants will have the opportunity to join four different areas for an in-depth learning session on the following topics: native plants (wildflowers & grasses), wetland / pond ecology, pit & mound forest ecology (including native trees), water quality and fisheries. Each session will last 30 minutes, participants will rotate between stations, or stay at a particular station of interest.

IV. 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.

The next TAG meeting is scheduled for late September 2009.

2) Stage 2 RAP Update

- The RAP Coordinating Committee is scheduled to meet in early July to discuss the timelines around the availability of the draft Stage 2 Update report for public review and the protocol around submission of the document for internal COA review. The agenda will also include discussion around outstanding Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) and the compilation of new scientific information for consideration towards the re-designation of the BUIs for Beach Closings, Restrictions on Wildlife Consumption and Bird or other Animal Deformities & Reproduction Problems; discussion on obtaining "sign-off" by RAP implementers on the new RAP work plan; and the focus of the next PAC meeting (anticipated to be in September).

- The next meeting of the RAP Implementers is scheduled for November 2009.

- The RAP Science Committee is expected to re-convene in fall 2009.

- The Technical Working Group for the Welland River Eutrophication Study is scheduled to meet in January 2010.

3) International Liaison

- The International Joint Commission's (IJC) Centennial celebration of the International Boundary Waters Treaty took place during June 5 – 14, 2009. The official ceremony took place on June 13 on the Rainbow Bridge, Niagara Falls, during which Hilary Clinton announced that the U.S. and Canada will renew the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The new RAP banner was displayed at Oakes Theatre Garden at a reception hosted by the Niagara Parks Commission following the celebration ceremony.

- The IJC's Water Quality and Science Advisory Boards co-hosted a public meeting in Niagara Falls, NY, on June 11. It included the recognition of some citizens and organizations that have contributed in the long-term to the efforts of reducing pollution in the Niagara River and surrounding area. The awards were presented by Jim Vollmershausen, Canadian Co-chair of the Water Quality Board and Regional Director General for Environment Canada in Ontario and Gary Gulezian, U.S. Co-chair of the Water Quality Board and Director of the Great Lakes National Program Office at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The recipients were the NPCA, the Niagara Restoration Council, the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, Paul MacClennan (retired journalist, Buffalo Evening News), Doug Draper (journalist & writer), Margaret Wooster (author & member of regional NGOs), Ken Sherman (member of numerous environmental NGOs), and Valerie Cromie (previously Community Liaison Coordinator for the RAP Public Advisory Committee).

- The RAP Coordinator attended the joint meeting of the IJC's Water Quality and Science Advisory Boards on June 11. The meeting included a tour of several hazardous waste sites in Niagara Falls, NY. On June 12, a Connecting Channels conference was hosted by the University at Buffalo in Tonawanda, NY.

- The next meeting of the U.S. Remedial Advisory Committee is scheduled for July 29 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 Biennial meeting is scheduled for October 7 & 8, 2009 in Windsor, Ontario.

LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Ball's Falls Conservation Area

The Summer Day Camp and Mini- Trailblazers Adventures program began June 29th. Visits to the Centre for Conservation have been incorporated into the program this year.

The exhibit "We All Alive Downstream" will be featured in the temporary gallery from July 1 – September 18, 2009. Centre staff have taken this opportunity to integrate information on the NPCA programs into this travelling exhibit.

"The Real Decoy", Woodcarvings by the Niagara Woodcarvers Association (April 18 – June 25) exhibit had approximately 2000 visitors. Other groups attending included schools, Women's Institute, guests at the donor wall unveiling, Carolinian Canada meeting attendees, girl guides and LHIN meeting participants.

In May and June, ten schools took part in the Spring Awakening education program for a total of 265 students. Several schools booked hikes with their Spring Awakening Program, while others participated in the "Ready, Set Green" program (centered on the LEED building). Staff are currently revamping the Ready, Set, Green program to develop a more diversified school program.

On June 22, Briardale School in St. Catharines booked hikes for their 170 students. Staff coordinated 3 simultaneous hikes to accommodate the older students. The kindergarten groups went on discovery walks and the children completed a nature match activity - using paint chips, they had to find items that matched that colour in nature.

Cooking Up A Storm took place on June 14, 2009. The children made apple pie in the bake oven, apple crisp in a Dutch oven, homemade ice cream and herbal tea from herbs in the pioneer garden).

For the first time in several years the Boys Afternoon Adventure was cancelled since there were no registrants. Heritage Birthday parties are being offered upon request. On June 22, a Spring Awakening themed birthday party took place. The children made yarn dolls, made bread in the bake oven, took part in potato sack races and built a barn.

Birds of Prey Day was featured July 5th for regular park visitors. Dave Gibson from Skyhunters provided a 2 hour presentation for approximately 200 visitors on raptor habitats, care and conservation issues.

Only six spots remain open for the blacksmithing workshops scheduled this year (6 Beginners, 2 Intermediate, and 1- 2hr. evening). Response has been so positive; staff are looking to expand this offering.

Angela Wallace is now on maternity leave. Jill Walters-Klamer will be filling in while she is away.

Judges from the Town of Lincoln Communities in Bloom program will tour the gardens at Ball's Falls on July 14th. Staff will be meeting with the judges on site.

The Community Museums Operating Grant application was forwarded to the Ministry of Culture on June 29th. A letter will be forwarded to the Ministry this year to request re-consideration of our operating funding in light of the expanded operations since opening the Centre in 2008.

The Department of Canadian Heritage has approved our MAP application for funding in the amount of \$32,900 to assist with purchasing compact shelving for the artifact collections storage area in the Centre.

Recent entries in the Guest Book include: I ♥ed it, Very impressive for environmentalwise conservation, great area to visit, cool! Many trees, I like the picnic, great displays, it's our one year anniversary, excellent, excellent, most impressive, Have been here years before, This centre is a welcome addition, delightful! Keep it Up, nice visitor centre, Merci, very interesting, wonderful, thank you, very nice tour, Andrea is very informed, beautiful, awesome trail, falls need more water, very informative!, wonderful, congrats on a beautiful building!, GREAT! Congratulations!!, beautiful building, thanks, lovely oasis, great centre and trails, Great facility! Well done!, very interesting,

From: NOTL, Cobourg, Acton, Fonthill, GRCA, Toronto, Bloomville-Ohio, Niagara Falls, Welland, Port Colborne, Lowbanks, Wainfleet, Thorold, Carp, Georgetown, Mississauga, St. Catharines, Sault St. Marie, Lunenburg- NS, Calgary-AB, St. Anns, Grimsby, Jordan, Beamsville, Hamilton, La Junta-Colorado, Leicester-UK, Ottawa, Victoria-Australia, St. Johns-NL, Regina,-SK, England, Saskatoon-SK, Houston-TX,

Heard about us: work of mouth, road sign, tour book, St.Catharines Standard, newspapers, Wayne Gretzky Winery, local paper, road atlas, Santa Fe, Brochure

Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation

The landscape contract for the Centre is now wrapped up, our landscape contractor was on site this past month attending to warranty replacements and completing a minor planting program around the grounds. With the rainfall this season, all new plantings on the property, including the trees planted at the "Simply Tree-mendous" event in May are thriving and filling in nicely.

Our new cedar split rail fencing is now installed along 6th Avenue in the lower park area. While revitalizing this area of the park, the fence is an important security feature that protects our grounds and directs pedestrians across 6th Avenue at defined locations. Staff are continuing to work with the Town of Lincoln roads department on pedestrian safety items, and parking and traffic flow issues on 6th Avenue. We are also reviewing with the Town preliminary ideas to move the white picket fencing out in front of the Ball Home and enhance the road frontage in this area. Along with this work, staff would also like to modify the location of the maintenance gate between the Ball Home and the bridge to restrict unauthorized parking in this area by visitors.

The new electronic parking gates system at the park and staff training on the gate operation was completed before the end of June. As of July 2nd the parking gate system was in full operation in the park. The parking gates are located at the entrance into the Centre for Conservation parking lot, and the lower park entrance by the Barn. Visitors will need to have either a token (available upon payment inside the Centre), security code from NPCA, NPCA season pass card, or credit card for payment at the gate. Staff can use an NPCA card, code, or vehicle tag to automatically operate the gate.

Binbrook Conservation Area

Season passes are selling well, and the Conservation Area is fully operational for the summer. Although the weekend weather has been far from perfect, attendance is in line with last year.

After some negotiation on development charges for the building permit, staff obtained a permit from the City of Hamilton for the new Park Pavilion and Store for Binbrook. This project is now proceeding to the construction stage and staff are lining up the materials and contractors for the job. Look for the site work to start later this month near the old boat launch area.

Long Beach Conservation Area

The mid-week celebration of Canada Day resulted in lower attendance over the Canada Day / July 4th start of the summer. The campground was busy, but not full, over the July 4th weekend.

Seasonal camper numbers are up at both Long Beach and Chippawa, although staff have noticed fewer camping equipment on the highways. In spite of the less-than-ideal weather at the start of the camping season, revenues appear to be on track with budget projections.

Chippawa Creek Conservation Area

The Annual Bass Derby will take place Saturday July 13 at Chippawa Creek Conservation Area. Catch and release, and use of live wells will continue to be promoted as part of the conservation practices for sustainable resources. This year a 50th Anniversary BBQ will be provided with free hotdogs for those in attendance.

Mud Lake Conservation Area

Staff met with Ducks Unlimited on site to assess the recent management works at Mud Lake. While vegetation has increased in the water area, further advancement is deemed necessary before water levels restored to its previous height. An additional 2 years of lower water is anticipated to accomplish this. The site will continue to be monitored by staff for changes to plant coverage, plant diversity, benthic abundance and species inhabiting the area.

NPCA Hunting Program

Staff have issued an additional 6 hunting permits. To date staff has received and issued 143 hunting permits/permission for 2009. Of these, 16 permits are issued to individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

Ontario Family Fishing Weekend

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

Communities in Bloom – Town of Lincoln

The authority is partnering with the Town of Lincoln for the judge's tour. Staff and volunteers will make short presentations to the tour group at Charles Daly Park and Ball's Falls Conservation Area. The programme this year will see the judges here July 13 to 15 with a tour of Ball's Falls the morning of July 14th.

Wainfleet Wetlands Conservation Area

Staff have completed a GPS mapping exercise and review of the current trail network on the property. All existing trails, including informally created footpaths and horse trails have been mapped by staff with our GPS equipment. The mapping of these trails will be used to manage and guide future trail use on the property; neighbouring landowners may also be contacted regarding their horse riding on the land and discussion to limit the horse trail network which seems to have mushroomed on site.

Rockway Conservation Area

Over the past month our field staff have been working off and on at Rockway on trail improvements. Despite rainfall and slippery conditions limiting some of the work on site, good progress is being made on trail access down into the creek area from the road with trail brushing, drainage improvements, and grading. This work improves access and allows for our equipment into the site to complete the remainder of the trail improvements down in the valley over to the dam area. Work on the trails will also provide the Authority with a means of access into the property for maintenance and emergency/security purposes.

Virgil Dams and Reservoir

Staff have completed a GPS mapping exercise and review of the current trail network on the property. All existing trails, including informally created footpaths and man-made clearings have been mapped by staff with our GPS equipment. The trail mapping will be used to manage

and guide future trail work on the property. Staff also investigated our property behind homes on Henry Street and GPS mapped the extent of property encroachment from the neighbouring homeowners. A number of homeowners have “enlarged” their property by mowing clearings and trails onto our land. The accurate mapping of these encroachments is being prepared for staff review discussion.

Property Assessments Update

At the end of March staff filed request for reconsiderations to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation for thirteen of our properties. Since that time staff have been in discussion with MPAC on our property assessments.

We are pleased to report that Minutes of Settlement have been reached with MPAC to change tax assessments in our favour for EC Brown CA, Port Davidson Weir, Stevensville CA, Morgan’s Point CA , Wainfleet Bog CA, and Cave Springs CA. We also contested assessed values for our Central Workshop, Chippawa Creek, and Long Beach, but MPAC held firm on their market valuation for these lands. Our Hedley Forest property recently had the managed forest plan updated and submitted for review, so assessment consideration is dependent on the MFTIP process before an assessment ruling. Staff are waiting on MPAC for their review of Jordan Marina, Louth, and EC Brown wetland to complete our request for reconsideration applications for 2009.

Managed Forest plans are being updated for Hedley, Binbrook, and Binbrook Tract to submit into the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Programme (MFTIP). These new applications will help maintain our managed forest status on these sites for the next ten years. Acreages eligible under the MFTIP programme provide 75% tax relief to our agency.

Staff are also in the process of preparing our property applications for the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP). Planning and environmental data is being pulled together with the intent of applying for more tax exempt acreage under the Community Conservation Lands (CCL) category. Our CLTIP application is due the end of July. The Authority currently has 46 properties in the CLTIP programme which provides 100% tax relief for our eligible acreages enrolled in the programme.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Niagara Children’s Water Festival

The 7th Niagara Children’s Water Festival is booked to capacity for the week of September 13th – 18th. As part of the Authority’s 50th Anniversary a Public Day will take place on Sunday, September 13.

A.D. Latonnell Conservation Symposium

A healthy environment builds a strong and lasting economy and a healthy society. The 16th annual A.D. Latonnell Conservation Symposium will take place November 18.19.20, 2009, at the Nottawasaga Inn located in Alliston, Ontario. The 2009 theme is The Currency of Ecology emphasizing the important role our environment plays in helping to sustain a healthy economy. As we grapple with the impacts of our population’s widening footprint (climate change, rapid growth, deteriorating water resources), we see just how closely the environment is linked to the economy.

Protecting, restoring and enhancing our wetlands, lakes, rivers, streams, forests and biodiversity to build a more resilient world is a good place to invest right now. Such a cost effective investment will pay important dividends to us and our children for a very long time.

Delegates at this year's symposium will hear more about the intrinsic links between our environment and economy. This year's speakers are invited to identify innovative policy and program approaches, new ways of valuing and pooling resources, and to share tips on how to shake us and society as a whole out of our collective complacency.

Conference streams under the main Program theme for 2009 include: Watershed Management; Water; Ecological Economics; Inspiring Sustainability; Natural Heritage; Community Stewardship; Fish and Fish Habitat; Geospatial Technology; Environmental Communication and Social Media

Keynote speakers for 2009 include: Dr. Robert Costanza - Ecological Economist, University of Wisconsin; Peter Victor - Economist, York University Environmental Studies; Wade Davis - Explorer, Adventurer; Thomas Homer-Dixon - Global Visionary; Deborah Kimmitt - Wit with Wisdom; Lisa Glithero - Environmental Educator, Youth Activist and Community Innovator; Mitch Joel - Marketing & Branding Expert

Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival

The 35th annual festival will be held October 9 -12, 2009. This event is recognized as a Niagara Classic tradition. Members are encouraged to mark your calendars.

Boundary Waters Treaty Centennial

2009 has been designated across Niagara as the Year of Our Shared Waters which was formally established through municipal resolution. On June 13th, 2009 a ceremony to recognize this significant event was held on the Rainbow Bridge. Distinguished guest included The Honorable Hilary R. Clinton, United States Secretary of State, The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada, along with a number of official delegates from both the United States and Canada. 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.

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Conservation Education Bursaries

The Foundation Chairman and staff discussed applications received this year to determine their eligibility for a bursary. Supporting students from Fort Erie and surrounding area that are pursuing a post-secondary education in a field related to conservation and resource management, this year there were five successful applicants that will receive \$1,000 each. Since 1992, 115 bursaries totalling \$114,600 have been awarded as a result of the conservation education bursary program.

Thanksgiving Festival

The Foundation will once again hold its annual raffle at the Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival taking place October 9th through 12th. As in the past, festival artisans will be solicited for donations to include into themed gift baskets. Other prizes will be finalized in the near future.

Recommendation:

Report No. 50-09 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Tony D'Amario, P.Eng.

Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer