

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

FULL AUTHORITY

WELLAND **AGENDA** **NOVEMBER 18, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.**

ROLL CALL

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

BUSINESS:

(1) MINUTES

(a) FULL AUTHORITY MEETING–OCTOBER 21, 2009

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting held October 21, 2009.

(b) BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - NOVEMBER 4, 2009

Attached are the Minutes of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting held November 4, 2009.

(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

(3) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

(4) CAO'S REPORT

(5) BUDGET STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 71-09

Attached is Staff Report No. 71-09 together with a copy of operating and capital budget summaries.

(6) SEWAGE SYSTEM – CHIPPAWA CREEK CONSERVATION AREA - REPORT NO. 72-09

Attached is Staff Report No. 72-09 regarding this matter.

(7) CYO LAND USE AGREEMENT BINBROOK CONSERVATION AREA - REPORT NO. 73-09

Attached is Report No. 73-09 together with a copy of the proposed Licence Agreement.

(8) MEMBERSHIP PASS SALES PROGRESS REPORT – REPORT NO. 74-09

Attached is Report No. 74-09 outlining the number of membership sales for 2009.

(9) FORKS & CORKS GALA SUMMARY - REPORT NO. 75-09

Attached is Report No. 75-09 with respect to this matter.

(10) JORDAN HARBOUR PROJECT

A report on the progress and work plan as adopted by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation for the Jordan Harbour Project will be presented at the meeting.

(11) RESERVOIR AND STREAM GAUGE SYSTEM

The Coordinator of Watershed Regulation and Coordinator of GIS will be providing a brief demonstration of the capabilities of the Authority's recently upgraded and web based Reservoir and Stream Gauging System.

(12) PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 76-09

Attached is Staff Report No. 76-09 outlining the status of Authority projects and programs.

(13) IN-CAMERA

- (a) Complaint and Violation Status Report – Report No. CR-23-09
- (b) Tree By-Law Status Report – Report No. CR-24-09
- (c) St. John's Centre – Report on Progress to be tabled.

(14) OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
OCTOBER 21, 2009

WELLAND

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

B. Butters (with regrets)
B. Heit (with regrets)
B. Steckley (with regrets)

STAFF PRESENT:

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

BUSINESS:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He welcomed everyone in attendance and requested that if anyone had a conflict of interest to so declare it.

(1) **MINUTES**

(a) **FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – SEPTEMBER 16, 2009**

There was an error regarding members shown as absent who were in attendance. They were B. Bentley, C. D'Angelo, N. Johnson and B. Steckley. The minutes will be revised accordingly. The following resolution was presented.

FA-102-09

MOVED BY: B. Greenwood

SECONDED BY: G. Burroughs

THAT: the Minutes of the Full Authority meeting held September 16, 2009, be received and approved as amended.

"CARRIED"

**(b) NIAGARA REGION TREE AND FOREST CONSERVATION BY-LAW
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - SEPTEMBER 17, 2009**

There was a typographical error on page 12. It read a woodlot tour should be “arraigned” instead of “arranged”. The following resolution was presented.

FA-103-09

MOVED BY: N. Johnson

SECONDED BY: T. Dalimonte

THAT: the Minutes of the Niagara Region Tree and Forest Conservation by-law committee meeting held September 17, 2009, be received and approved as amended.

"CARRIED"

(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(3) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman began by thanking Brian Baty for Chairing the September meeting in his absence.

The Chairman advised that at the recent Doors Open event, staff assisted and directed people to have them visit our sites including the Centre for Conservation at Ball's Falls. He noted that attendance was good and at 12:30 on Sunday there were 37 cars in the parking lot and at 3:30 there were 99.

The Chairman reminded the members of the upcoming 50th Anniversary Gala and if they wanted tickets, they were very limited and should not wait. Terry McDougall advised that they have currently sold 150. The Chairman advised that it will be an excellent evening and acknowledged the Gala Planning Committee for their efforts.

(4) CAO'S REPORT

The CAO advised that the Region has scheduled flu immunization clinics for the H1N1 virus and all of the information is available on their website.

The CAO noted that the Thanksgiving Festival was successful despite the low numbers, rain on Friday and the economic situation. He thanked the board for the prompt approval of the new road, which was met with enthusiasm and kept the traffic moving. He anticipated that when word gets out that there will be no waiting perhaps the numbers will improve. He noted that attendance was down 5,000 from last year.

(5) **BUDGET STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 61-09**

The CAO advised that there are no major variances relative to the projected year end which was provided at the September meeting and the budget is on target.

After responding to questions, the following resolution was presented.

FA-104-09

MOVED BY: G. Burroughs

SECONDED BY: T. Dalimonte

THAT: the Budget Status Report for the period ending September 30, 2009 be received.

"CARRIED"

(6) **ALTERNATIVE COSTS FOR PROVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES - REPORT NO. 62-09**

The CAO outlined this report noting that this had been discussed at the last meeting. He did a rough comparison of services and found that the costs were very much in line and in fact, we would likely pay more for an outside service. He recommended that this matter not be pursued further at this time. The following resolution was presented.

FA-105-09

MOVED BY: A. Fevez

SECONDED BY: G. Burroughs

THAT: Report No. 62-09 be received and the recommendations regarding IT Services be approved.

"CARRIED"

(7) **GENERAL LEVY APPORTIONMENT – REPORT NO. 63-09**

The CAO advised that items, 7, 8 and 9 would be presented together. He began with item 7 outlining the proposed changes and the reasons for the phase in period. He noted that because of this change, it was necessary to make adjustments to the 2010 operating and capital budgets. After responding to questions, the following resolution was presented.

FA-106-09

MOVED BY: T. Dalimonte

SECONDED: N. Johnson

THAT: Report No. 63-09 regarding the General Levy Apportionment be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved for implementation.

"CARRIED"

(8) REVISED PRELIMINARY 2010 OPERATING BUDGET – REPORT NO. 64-09

The CAO outlined the reasons for the change in this budget and the new resolution. It was noted that there was a change needed regarding the amount for the total expenditure which should have been \$7,409,720. The following resolution was presented as amended.

FA-107-09

MOVED BY: D. Goulbourne

SECONDED: B. Greenwood

THAT: Report No. 64-09 regarding the Revised Preliminary 2010 Operating Budget be received; and

That the Revised Preliminary 2010 Operating Budget with a total expenditure of \$7,439,060 and a general levy of \$2,165,650 and special levies of \$2,868,300 to the Region of Niagara, \$125,000 to the City of Hamilton and \$9,590 to Haldimand County be approved; and

That the 2010 matching levy in the amount of \$174,500 and the total non-matching levy in the amount of \$1,991,150 for the 2010 Operating Budget be apportioned to the member municipalities on the basis of the CA Levy Regulation (O Reg. 670/2000) for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority modified in accordance with the 4 Year Levy Implementation Plan for the Years 2010 – 2013 (NPCA Report No. 63-09); and

That the special levies for the 2010 Operating Budget be assessed in the amount of \$2,868,300 to the Region of Niagara, \$125,000 to the City of Hamilton and \$9,590 to Haldimand County.

"CARRIED"

(9) REVISED PRELIMINARY 2010 CAPITAL BUDGET – REPORT NO. 65-09

This was also changed as a result of the change to the levy apportionment report previously. There were no questions with respect to this report. The following resolution was presented.

FA-108-09

MOVED BY: C. D'Angelo

SECONDED: G. Burroughs

THAT: Report No. 65-09 regarding the Revised Preliminary 2010 Capital Budget be received; and

That the Revised Preliminary 2010 Capital Budget with a total expenditure of \$4,581,025 and a general levy of \$648,400 and special levies of \$1,198,350 to the Region of Niagara, \$271,400 to the City of Hamilton and \$68,750 to Haldimand County be approved; and

That the 2010 general levy in the amount of \$648,400 be apportioned to the member municipalities on the basis of the CA Levy Regulation (O Reg. 670/2000) for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority modified in accordance with the 4 Year Levy Implementation Plan for the Years 2010 – 2013 (NPCA Report No. 63-09); and

That special levies for the 2010 Capital Budget be assessed in the amount of \$1,198,350 to the Region of Niagara, \$271,400 to the City of Hamilton and \$68,750 to Haldimand County.

"CARRIED"

(10) NPCA LAND ACQUISITION STRATEGY - UPDATE – REPORT NO. 66-09

The Director, Water Management provided a power point presentation outlining this matter. There were numerous questions and a lengthy discussion. A suggestion was made that perhaps the Board could tour some of the possible acquisition properties. The following resolution was presented.

FA-109-09

MOVED BY: M. DiFruscio

SECONDED: C. D'Angelo

THAT: Report No. 66-09 be received for information.

"CARRIED"

(11) PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE TENDER STEVENSVILLE CONSERVATION AREA – REPORT NO. 67-09

The Director, Land Management outlined the results of the report noting that it had been advertised in several local newspapers. After responding to questions, the following resolution was presented.

FA-110-09

MOVED BY: N. Johnson
SECONDED: T. Dalimonte
THAT: Report No. 67-09 be received; and

That the tender submission, received from Stevensville Lawn Service, to construct a pedestrian bridge at the Stevensville Conservation Area for a price of \$87,091.20 be accepted.

"CARRIED"

(12) **CYO LAND USE AGREEMENT – BINBROOK CONSERVATION AREA– REPORT NO. 68-09**

The Director, Land Management outlined the report due to a request from the September meeting for more information on this matter. As a result of this, there was a lengthy discussion and further questions on some issues not covered by the agreement. Finally, it was agreed to defer this matter until a meeting could take place with the concerned board members and staff. The following resolution was presented.

FA-111-09

MOVED BY: B. Bentley
SECONDED: B. Henderson
THAT: the recommendation regarding Report No. 68-09 be deferred; and

That Carmen D'Angelo, Andy Fevez and appropriate Authority staff meet to further discuss their concerns and bring a revised report to the November meeting.

"CARRIED"

(13) **PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 69-09**

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

FA-112-09

MOVED BY: A. Fevez
SECONDED: D. Goulbourne
THAT: Report No. 69-09 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.

"CARRIED"

(14) IN-CAMERA

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

FA-113-09

MOVED BY: T. Dalimonte
SECONDED BY: N. Johnson
THAT: this meeting do now move in-camera.

Received at 8:37 p.m. **“CARRIED”**

FA-114-09

MOVED BY: M. DiFruscio
SECONDED BY: C. D’Angelo
THAT: this meeting do now move back into open session.

Received at 9:03 p.m. **“CARRIED”**

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

FA-115-09

MOVED BY: B. Baty
SECONDED BY: B. Henderson
THAT: staff be directed to carry out the recommendations contained within report CR-22-09.

“CARRIED”

(15) OTHER BUSINESS

(a) CONSERVATION ONTARIO PRELIMINARY BUDGET – REPORT NO. 70-09

The CAO provided the members with a report regarding the Conservation Ontario budget noting that it was in excess of the Authority’s limit imposed by the Region of Niagara and that we should not support it. The Board members concurred and the following resolution was presented.

FA-116-09

MOVED BY: T. Dalimonte
SECONDED BY: C. D’Angelo
THAT: the revised Conservation Ontario Operating Budget dated October 15, 2009 not be supported and that Conservation Ontario be requested to revise the Operating Budget in accordance with the economic constraints as outlined in the staff report.

“CARRIED”

Authority Meeting - Minutes
October 21, 2009 – continued

ADJOURNMENT

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

FA-117-09

MOVED BY: B. Greenwood

SECONDED BY: B. Bentley

THAT: this meeting do now adjourn.

Received at 9:07 p.m.

“CARRIED”

"L. Sawatzky, Recording Secretary

D. Ransom, Chairman"



BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Ball's Falls

November 4, 2009

3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

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

Staff Present: T. D'Amario, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
D. Baker, Director, Land Management
C. Hayward, Curator

Regrets: B. Baty
J. Mastroianni
F. High

BUSINESS:

1) Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

2) Minutes of Last Meeting – September 2, 2009

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

MOVED BY: Marion Holman
SECONDED BY: Ellen Mitchinson
THAT: the minutes of the last meeting held September 2, 2009 be approved.

"CARRIED"

3) Business Arising From Minutes

Accounting Department staff have indicated that volunteers and organizations assisting with or participating in NPCA programming are covered under the NPCA general liability insurance.

Staff and members of the Niagara Woodcarvers are in the conceptual stage of the woodcarving project for the Centre.

The Director Land Management advised that staff had met with Headspring Marketing and are in the process of re-visiting the 2004 Marketing Plan prepared by the firm as part of the Ball's Falls Master planning process.

4) **2009 Conservation Achievement Awards – Report No. HC- 11- 09**

The number of individuals and organizations nominated to receive recognition for their volunteer contribution or support of programming has increased in 2009.

MOVED BY: Ellen Mitchinson
SECONDED BY: Doug Ransom
THAT: Report NO. HC-11-09 regarding the 2009 Conservation Achievement Awards be received for information.

"CARRIED"

5) **Volunteer Service Awards - Report No. HC- 12- 09**

MOVED BY: April Petrie
SECONDED BY: Linda Holmes
THAT: Report NO. HC-12-09 regarding the 2009 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards be received; and further that Dave Dedrick and Leo Triggat be nominated to receive a 10 year Volunteer Service Award.

"CARRIED"

6) **Ball's Falls Status Report – Report No. HC-13-09**

MOVED BY: Marion Holman
SECONDED BY: Linda Holmes
THAT: Report No. HC-13-09 on the status of Ball's Falls Conservation Area Projects be received for information.

"CARRIED"

7) **2010 Meeting Schedule – Report No. HC-14-09**

The members agreed to maintain the current meeting schedule, that being the first Wednesday of any month in which a meeting is scheduled to be held, and to continue to start the meetings at 3pm.

MOVED BY: Ellen Mitchinson
SECONDED BY: Marion Holman
THAT: Report No. HC-14-09 outlining the proposed 2010 meeting schedule for the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee be approved.

"CARRIED"

8) **Other Business**

Staff will follow up on contacting the secondary schools regarding the upcoming "Everyday Attire" exhibit.

9) **Adjournment**

MOVED BY: Linda Holmes
SECONDED BY: Ellen Mitchinson
THAT: this meeting do now adjourn.

Received at 4:00 p.m.

“CARRIED”

C. Hayward, Curator

Mike Hunter, Chair



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: November 12, 2009

SUBJECT: Budget Status Report - Report No. 71-09

Attached is the monthly budget status report for the period ending October 31, 2009 and a summary of the operating and capital budget year-end projections. The year-end projections include the approved 2009 budget as well as the anticipated year end as received by the Board in September and the projected revised year end position as a result of further and up to date expenditure and revenues including the Thanksgiving Festival.

Below is a description of the major variances from those reported in September.

Operating Budget

- Corporate Services - Expenditures reduced as a result of further savings in the Communications budget.
- Resource Inventory and Environmental Monitoring - Increases Expenditures in the Water Quality Monitoring Program as a result of additional Provincial Grant for the Welland River Area of Concern.
- Flood Protection Services – Increase in legal fees due to continued enforcement activity.
- Conservation Land Programming – Anticipated revenues for the Thanksgiving Festival as well as the other revenue generating Conservation Areas (exception - Binbrook) are well below budgeted levels. For Niagara Conservation Areas, the anticipation is that the net operating cost will exceed the special levy allocation and user revenues by approximately \$71,000 and accordingly the year end position will require that same amount to be funded by Niagara Conservation Areas operating reserve. The 2008 year end balance in that reserve is \$301,449. Staff will review all cost saving options for the remainder of the year in order to minimize the amount required from the operating reserve. For the Binbrook Conservation Area, revenues were higher than anticipated and as such approximately \$67,000 will be added to the Hamilton Conservation Areas operating reserve (2008 year end balance is \$99,847). The actual amounts will be subject to other expenses and/or revenues that may be incurred up to December 31st.

Capital Budget

- Welland River Watershed Restoration – Miscellaneous Projects – Program activities increased by \$70,000 from additional revenue received from a Smartcentre compensation for development in Niagara Falls. The work will involve a fisheries improvement project in the Welland River in West Lincoln.
- The Natural Heritage Areas Inventory Project costs have increased as a result of the need to complete additional surveys data entry. More positive response from landowners to survey their properties than anticipated was received requiring the processing of significantly more data. Although the cost for the project has increased, the value and accuracy of the final product will also increase.
- Conservation Land Development
 - Chippawa Creek – Increase in cost up to approved budget as this work has advanced (report on contract award included in agenda)
 - Long Beach – Staff are now able to continue and complete much of the anticipated work for washroom and campsite upgrades as well as the pavilion.
 - Cave Springs – Time constraints as well as the need to finalize the master plan has delayed implementation of work in this area.
 - Mountainview – The expenditure was to reconstruct the parking lot however the project has been delayed as staff are considering options to relocate the parking area to prevent the continued problem of tire dumping at the site.
 - Woodend – Funds were allocated to reconstruct the road however staff have been exploring other less costly alternatives to complete reconstruction. The recent work undertaken by the “Gravel Doctor” that recycles the road base appears promising and may be a viable alternative to rebuilding the road. Staff will continue to monitor the performance of this alternative.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Budget Status Report for the period ending October 31, 2009 and;

That the year-end projections as outlined in the Operating and Capital Budget Summaries, be received.

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

TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: November 10, 2009

SUBJECT: Sewage System – Chippawa Creek Conservation Area – Report No. 72-09

Background

The campground at Chippawa Creek is serviced by two comfort stations. One facility, built in the late 1960s, services the western side of the park with toilets and showers. Another, much smaller washroom at the swimming beach is accessible by a small collection of nearby campsites. The entire east side of the campground relies on portable toilets, rented from a local supplier. Additional facilities are required to meet current demand for washrooms and showers. This lack of servicing also prevents the NPCA from expanding services at this campground.

In 2003, the treatment system at the main comfort station began to show signs of failure. For the next five-years staff worked on restoring the system, however the older technology and tile bed were reaching the end of their useful life. It was also clear that other facilities such as the trailer dump station and the holding tanks at the day-use pavilion were not in compliance with current standards. The capital plan for Chippawa Creek included allocations to replace the aging sewage systems, bring them into conformity and provide additional capacity for future comfort station development.

Discussion

The campground at Chippawa Creek consumes a large volume of water. Based on the number of existing washroom fixtures, it is considered to be a “designated facility” by the Ministry of the Environment, requiring stringent approvals and permitting. Any repair work or changes to the old sewage system will require engineering studies and geotechnical work to ensure protection of ground water and receiving surface water bodies.

The cost to replace septic tile fields with new infiltration beds is significant. The current tile bed for the main comfort station is undersized by today’s standards. It is also in close proximity to the river and campsites. A new system, with tanks and raised tile beds will have a negative impact on the campground operations in the vicinity. There are also sewage facilities that must be relocated outside of the floodplain or further from Dils Lake, which is used as the source of drinking water for the campground.

Ideally, the sewage treatment needs for the entire campground would be located in an area outside the floodplain, away from campsites. The challenge was to find a treatment that requires less space than traditional raised bed systems, that would work well with the seasonal demands of the campground and be able to treat the volume of effluent from the campground.

The NPCA operates a variety of systems in our Conservation Areas, however they could not meet the requirements of Chippawa Creek. Staff examined treatment options available and visited a number of facilities throughout the Niagara Area. Operators and owners were

consulted to get information on the performance and operational cost of sewage treatment systems. The most appropriate system was determined to be the Aqua Wetland System. This system has been installed at many large, industrial and commercial facilities in Niagara. The Ministry of the Environment is well aware of the process, and has permitted the system in similar applications.

The Wetland Biofilter system operates on a simple principle. Waste from washroom facilities goes into a traditional septic tank. Effluent from this tank is pumped onto the surface of a manufactured wetland cell where it slowly seeps to the bottom. Plants and soil in the wetland remove nutrients and toxins from the effluent. Effluent is collected in a system at the bottom of the cell, and then pumped onto the surface of another wetland cell. The process is repeated four times until toxins and nutrients have been removed and the water quality meets the surface water discharge parameters, established by the Ministry of the Environment. The cleansed effluent is then pumped into a small infiltration bed for sub-surface disposal.

This Wetland Biofilter system is only produced by one firm, Aqua Treatment Technologies, located in Campden, Ontario. Since this is a sole source provider, staff are bringing one quote for consideration. The quote was for a system of septic tanks and sewage force-main lines connecting all existing facilities to a centralized treatment system, located outside of the floodplain. The system will also have capacity for an additional comfort station to service the east side of the campground.

The price for the Aqua Wetland Biofilter is \$348,403.00 (plus taxes). The price includes design, engineering, Ministry of the Environment permits and all required tanks. This new system would bring the entire campground into conformity with current regulations. It would remove a trailer dump station from the floodplain, and eliminate two holding tanks. With the removal of holding tanks, our sewage system operating costs will be reduced.

Staff re-visited the information collected from the facilities using this treatment process and believe the cost is reasonable. Funds have been allocated in the 2009 capital budget for this project.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 72-09 be received; and

That the quote from Aqua Treatment Technologies for the design and construction of a sewage treatment system for the Chippawa Creek Conservation Area for a price of \$348,403.00 (plus taxes) be approved.

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

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



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: October 15, 2009

SUBJECT: CYO Land Use Agreement – Binbrook Conservation Area – Report No. 73-09

At the October meeting of the Full Authority, staff were directed to meet with Authority Board members from the City of Hamilton to discuss outstanding issues related to a proposed Land Use Agreement with the CYO and Marydale Park.

Board Members provided questions about the proposed development, its potential impact on the Tyneside Trail and fish habitat in the Binbrook Reservoir. The responses were forwarded to the two Board Members from Hamilton and circulated to volunteers working with the Glanbrook Conservation Committee. Staff also met with members of the Glanbrook Conservation Committee on November 10th, to further discuss the Marydale Park Project.

Following these meetings, the outstanding concerns appear to have been addressed.

As identified in previous Board Reports, the CYO is requesting permission to construct an access from the Marydale Park property, down to a proposed dock at the Binbrook Reservoir where their visitors can fish and take part in boating programs. The dock would be designed to accommodate wheelchairs and other assisted mobility devices. An area adjacent to the dock would be used for the storage of up to 20 watercraft, for park programming and instruction. This area will not be used for swimming.

In exchange for the access and dock facilities, the CYO is prepared to convey a 10 metre wide buffer to the NPCA. This area would be used to augment the natural vegetation for screening and to relocate areas of the Tyneside Trail that are currently being threatened by soil erosion

The Conservation Authority's lawyer has prepared the attached draft of a licence agreement between the NPCA and the CYO. It identifies permitted uses and specifically addresses issues such as impacts to existing Conservation Authority trails, resource management, fish habitat, special events and liability exposure. A copy of the agreement is attached to this report. If acceptable to the Board, the agreement will be sent to the CYO for review and consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 73-09 be received; and

That staff be authorized to complete the acquisition of a 10 metre corridor of land from the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton; and,

That staff be authorized to enter into a licence agreement with the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton for access to the Binbrook Reservoir and development of a dock facility.

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

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



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: October 14, 2009

SUBJECT: Membership Pass Sales Progress Report - Report No. 74-09

To date membership pass sales in 2009 from all sources total approximately \$34,724.

Below is the distribution of passes sold in the various areas:

Long Beach CA - 66
Chippawa CA – 72
Balls Falls CA – 58
Binbrook CA – 356
Head Office – 6

Total Sold – 558

For comparison, sales figures for previous years were as follows:

2006 135 passes - \$8,006
2007 268 passes - \$14,772
2008 412 passes - \$28,840

Authority staff in all Conservation Areas as well as the Administrative office will continue to promote the sale of passes and explore additional opportunities to increase sales. The NPCA Web page will be modified to further encourage the public to purchase passes for the 2010 season including purchases for Christmas Gifts.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 74-09 regarding the status of Season Pass sales be received.

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

TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: November 11, 2009

SUBJECT: Forks & Corks Gala Summary Report No. 75-09

As part of the 50th anniversary celebrations for the NPCA, a gala event was held at the Centre for Conservation at Ball's Falls on October 30th. This event was intended to celebrate a milestone birthday of our organization with those who support the work of the NPCA and are interested in ensuring the success of its conservation efforts well into the future.

The event was a sell-out, with 150 guests in attendance. The evening included a cocktail reception, with tasting samples provided by three local wineries. This was followed by a gourmet dinner and a special anniversary performance by The Lamplighter Tour, which took place in the historical barn. Musical entertainment was provided throughout the evening and a silent auction was also incorporated into the event as part of the festivities.

The event did generate approximately \$2,400 from cash donations and the silent auction, which will support the Jordan Marina redevelopment project. A number of positive comments have been received and staff will examine the potential of hosting this type of event on an annual basis.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 75-09 be received for information purposes.

Prepared by: Terry McDougall, Executive Director, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation

Respectfully Submitted By: _____

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

TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: November 17, 2009

SUBJECT: Jordan Harbour Redevelopment Project Report No. 77-09

Members will recall that the Authority adopted the redevelopment of the Jordan Harbour as its 50th anniversary project and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation agreed to assist the NPCA in raising funds to support the new vision for the former Campbell's Marina site.

Taking into consideration all of the proposed activities and uses recommended for this site in the Twenty Valley Tourism Strategy, a draft plan of the area was developed that include key elements such as public parking, washrooms, a picnic area, dock facilities and a boardwalk trail.

The recent fire that destroyed the current block building has resulted in media coverage that has afforded us the opportunity to talk about the fire as well as inform the public about future plans for the site. The draft plan was structured to be implemented in phases as support and partnerships develop and staff has been working to develop timelines for their implementation as well as potential funding targets and goals.

In order to encourage excitement and support for the proposed plan, staff believes that it is critical to take the necessary steps to prepare this site for public access. The first proposed phase would include cleaning up the site, creating a picnic area, enhancing the parking, lighting and roadway. The cost for this phase, which is anticipated to be completed by the fall of 2010, will be approximately \$360,000. A brochure will be developed by mid-January to outline the concept plan and assist in developing funding opportunities for this phase.

Further phases involve a Prudhomme Trail Connection and a Jordan Harbour Plank Trail that are anticipated to be completed by March, 2011. Funding for the plank trail in the amount of \$82,500 may be forthcoming as a result of a submission made in cooperation with the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, but we have yet to receive confirmation of this funding. Accompanying support materials will be developed in conjunction with each phase of the project.

The Board will be kept apprised of progress as this project moves forward.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 77-09 be received for information purposes.

Prepared by: Terry McDougall, Executive Director, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation

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

TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: November 19, 2009

RE: PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 76-09

WATER MANAGEMENT

I. 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. The public is able to access this real-time information through our website.

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

i) Permits

The NPCA has approved 76 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.

The Board's decision to refuse issuing a permit has been appealed by the applicant to the Mining and Lands Commissioner. Both the Appellant and the NPCA have filed their respective positions and evidence with the Commissioner's Office and the Hearing is scheduled to take place November 23 to 26th in Toronto.

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 63 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 25 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) Tee 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 Tee 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.

4) NPCA Stormwater Management Guidelines

In an effort to promote a uniform stormwater management standard across the watershed, and to take advantage of current state-of-the-art practices, the NPCA has retained AECOM to update and complete the NPCA's draft 2007 'Stormwater Management, Erosion, and Sediment Control Policies and Criteria Guidelines'. The NPCA anticipate the report to be finalized in December 2009.

II. Watershed Planning Division

1) Municipal and Development Plan Input and Review

Although new site plan and subdivision submissions are lower than anticipated, plan review activity has remained brisk, with the majority of work involving either existing files of record or smaller private dwelling proposals. This is directly attributed to the Authority's expanded mandate related to protection of wetlands.

Staff are also involved in several municipal Official Plan reviews in accordance with the Province's delegated responsibilities for Natural Hazards, the NPCA's regulations and the Planning Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with our municipal partners. The Province required municipalities to bring their Official Plans into conformity with the Provincial Growth Plan by June 2008. The Area municipalities in the Niagara Region have been given a one year extension on this deadline. The Region of Niagara's Growth Strategy Official Plan Amendment has been appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board. Currently the St. Catharines, Wainfleet, Pelham, West Lincoln and Welland Official Plans are underway. The City of Thorold is just starting their Official Plan review.

The update to the Lake Erie Shoreline Management Plan is nearing completion. The draft report is expected to be received from Shoreplan Engineering by the end of November 2009. The report will provide up to date technical information and mapping to support the planning and regulations programs.

The update to the Lake Ontario Shoreline Management Plan is almost completed. A final report is expected from the Consultants by the end of November 2009. The report will provide up to date technical information and mapping to support the planning and regulations programs.

2) Watershed Plan Preparation

a) Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan

Updates have begun on the Natural Heritage Resources section of the document to incorporate the NAI information into the Phase Two of the Watershed Plan. Not all sections of the document can be updated at this time as the Watershed Plan is waiting for the completion of several studies so the results can be incorporated into Phase Two.

Erosion pin field work was completed at both sites in study area. The first site is in Bearss Drain at the Friendship Trail. All 10 pins were located (5 on each bank) and both banks experienced a minimal loss of soil from May 2009. The second site is in Eagle Marsh Drain at Cement Rd. All 10 pins were located that we were unable to find in May because of water levels being too high. Water levels in October were reduced dramatically possibly due to the flood gate at the lake being open. Significant soil loss was experienced since October 2007 when the pins were last measured.

b) Central Welland River Watershed Plan

Work on the Restoration Strategy has been temporarily suspended to focus on the Upper Welland River and updating the Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan.

Erosion pin field work was completed at all 4 sites in study area. The first site is in Biederman Drain in the Wainfleet Bog but the pins were unable to be assessed due to high water levels. The second site is also in Biederman Drain but at Mud Lake CA. All 10 erosion pins were located and the site appeared to be experiencing minimal soil loss since May 2009. The third site is in Towpath Drain at Grisdale Rd. Only found one pin out of 5. The remaining pins appeared to be covered by crushed stone from adjacent road construction. The fourth site is at Saint George St. where 2 of 5 pins were located and appeared to be experiencing minimal soil gain: the others are likely covered.

c) Beaverdams and Shriners Creek Watershed Plan

A public workshop was held October 6th at the Allanburg Community Centre. The purpose of this workshop was to identify any issues the community may have with the study area that should be addressed by the Watershed Plan. The purpose of this workshop was also to identify the public's objectives for the Watershed Plan. Attendance was bleak with only 6 members of the public attending the meeting.

Erosion pin field work was completed at one site in study area. All ten pins were located (5 on each bank) with a noticeable level of soil loss from the upstream string of pins. The downstream set indicated little change.

d) Upper Welland River Watershed Plan

The first Steering Committee meeting was held on October 15. The purpose of this meeting was to review the objectives for the Watershed Plan. A second Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for November 25. The purpose of this meeting is to go over any concerns/comments the members may have about the Background Report.

A public open house was held on October 28 in Abingdon. The purpose of this open house was to inform the public about the Watershed Plan and the Watershed Planning process. Approximately 10 members of the public attended the event. Overall the open house was a positive event.

e) South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan

Erosion pin field work has been completed at all sites in study area. The first site at Baden Powell Park and the 2 locations along Grassy Brook each have 10 erosion pins. The first

location had minimal soil loss from May 2009 and the second location did not experience a marked difference from spring. Three pins were not recovered due to accumulation of sediment

f) 15-16-18 Mile Creeks Watershed Plan

Erosion pin field work has been completed at both sites in study area. The first site is in 15 Mile Creek in Rockway CA where 20 pins were originally inserted. 10 pins were covered in spring 2009 due to mass bank failure and the remaining 10 could not be located. The second site is in 18 Mile Creek where all 10 pins were located and appeared to be experiencing minimal soils loss. However it was noted that severe bank slumping and undercutting is taking place along that stretch of bank.

4) Natural Areas Inventory

The first draft of the final report for the Natural Areas Inventory is nearly complete. Staff are busy writing the introductory sections, finalizing bibliographic information, and contextual information about physical characteristics for the 107 technical summary documents. The Community Series mapping is complete and will be included with the final report. The Vegetation Type mapping is underway with staff working towards a draft of that mapping for later this fall.

The second volume of the final report includes reports on local data including a master plant list for Niagara with a list of local rarity. In addition, is a report on Birds of Niagara, Lepidoptera and Odonata of Niagara, Lichens of Niagara, Herpetofauna of Niagara, and a contextual paper outlining key Geological points of interest. These reports are in the process of being edited.

Expect to see an edited first draft the final report for the NAI in January 2010.

III. Source Water Protection Division

1) Source Water Protection Plan

-No SPC meeting was held in October due to lack of quorum from sickness and vacations, etc. The next meeting will be held November 10, 2009.

-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 working on the Threats and Issues study for Grimsby IPZ-1&2. Preliminary work continues on the IPZ-3s.

-NPCA SP staff have been focusing on the Assessment Report, the Highly Vulnerable Aquifers (HVAs) report, and a fall newsletter. An informal Lake Erie working group has been established between the source protection authorities, SPC Chairs and municipalities to consider lake-wide source protection issues.

2) Water Quality Monitoring Program:

a) Routine Water Quality Work

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

-The NPCA continues to collect groundwater level data at 15 monitoring wells as part of the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN). Water quality samples were collected from 13 PGMN wells last month and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment lab for analysis. Digital telemetry service has been established at the PGMN well located in Niagara-On-The-Lake and others are expected to follow in the coming year.

- Taxonomic identification of benthic invertebrates continues on samples collected during the spring 2009 sampling season. Plans are underway to collect benthic invertebrate samples later this month at Hamilton International Airport, as well as stations on Shriners Creek and Niagara-On-The-Lake.

b) Special Water Quality Projects

- Field work for the Welland River Eutrophication Study is on-going until the end of November with the monthly collection of grab samples and flow data at Welland River monitoring stations. At least three significant rain events have been captured so far this year. The next meeting for the Technical Working Group has been scheduled for February 2010.

- The auto-sampler installed on Twenty Mile Creek as part of the Lake Ontario Collaborative Study has been removed for the winter. Several significant rain events were captured this year.

- The NPCA has almost completed Phase 1 of a Special Joint Project with the Region of Niagara Public Health Department. The primary objective of the Joint Project is to determine the source and extent of elevated nitrate levels in private water wells located in close proximity to a PGMN well in Pelham. Letters were sent to 60 homeowners inviting them to participate in the water well testing. To date, NPCA and Public Health staff have tested 38 private wells and are scheduled to test an additional 3-4 wells later this week. Testing results will be available later this month.

IV. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division

1) Source Water Protection Support Activities

- Staff are incorporating the final data products from the consultants for the IPZ and Threat studies into the provincially prescribed Assessment Report Database and developing a local data management framework based on this standard for Source Water Protection information in the Authority's corporate GIS database.

2) Watershed Planning Support Activities

- Several tasks supporting the Natural Areas Inventory Project are still being addressed:
 - The final QA/QC pass of the Community Series ELC mapping is ongoing in Niagara Falls. Thorold, Welland, and Pelham have yet to go through this process which includes integrating the final wetland evaluation extents from MNR which are still pending. City of Hamilton has yet to be captured.
 - Site specific ELC Vegetation Type mapping, based on the data collected in the field has been completed for Port Colborne and Wainfleet. This information will be incorporated with the interpreted Community Series data to maintain class integrity throughout the hierarchical ELC system. Remaining municipalities to be captured includes Thorold, Welland, Pelham, West Lincoln, and Haldimand County.

3) Watershed Regulation Support Activities

- Staff continue to work on the development of the realtime radar based spatial precipitation data acquisition and archive system on the SQL database server. The application has been working and polling well so next step is to setup and calculate select 'views' of the information that will lend itself to flood forecasting and warning activities (i.e total precip spatially across the NPCA watershed in the last 5, 10 15, 30, and 45 minute, 1, 6, 12, and 24 hour, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 30, 60 and 90 day intervals). Once this is programmed and

tested within the database the information will be published using the spatial web services described in the next section so that it can be accessed by our GIS system.

- In the meantime, the Authority real time flow monitoring and reporting webpage (<http://www.his.npca.ca/xcreports/ui/index.asp> ('his' stands for Hydrologic Information System)) has been deployed live on the web and just a few minor errors are still being fixed by the consultant.
- Staff are currently adding free web links and images of real time weather data from the U.S. National Weather Information System such as the radar base reflectivity from Buffalo, and local community forecast magnets/buttons from the Weather Network.

4) Corporate GIS Support Activities

- Reorganization of the Authority's corporate spatial databases has been completed and will be pushed into the production environment shortly. Updates to the Niagara Atlas and development of the Niagara Navigator web mapping applications based on these new data structures will commence immediately for launch by years end.
- Staff have been busy configuring its spatial data services web server or 'Geoserver' which will distribute Authority mapping on the web using Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards such as the Web Mapping, Feature and Coverage specifications. These services will allow Authority partners and customers (i.e. land developers) to consume NPCA mapping within their own GIS, CAD or mapping systems without having to physically get a copy of it by streaming it in directly from our server. First mapping services planned are the radar based Spatial Cumulative Precipitation and the Generic Regulation Hazard Inventories and Screening products.
- Web data services for Authority Water Observation data (i.e. quality and quantity monitoring values) is also working well through its test phase in the development environment. This service will be published out to production once the Observation Database is populated with all of the Authority's historic and archived monitoring information which will result from an extensive internal collection and data entry effort.
- Staff has developed a central Authority contacts database to keep a central repository of contact information for individual and organizations having some business relationship with the NPCA..

V. Watershed Restoration Division

1) General Watershed Restoration

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

- Excavation was completed at 2 pit and mound restoration projects in the Vineland Drain watershed, totaling approx. 6.2 acres. Native trees were planted on each site, with the more planting planned for the spring of 2010.
- A fencing project was completed in the 40 Mile Creek watershed, to keep cattle out of a the watercourse.
- A landowner that completed the first phase of a riparian buffer/habitat enhancement project in 2009 has now completed applications for a manure storage improvement, a water well decommissioning project and further riparian buffer/habitat for 2010.
- Maintenance and repairs to the deer exclosures in Short Hills Provincial Park have been completed in partnership with the Friends of Short Hills Park and the Niagara Restoration Council to prepare for the winter months.

Staff have also been meeting with landowners to discuss and develop projects for the 2010 program year. Projects for next year include;

- planting of the two pit and mound projects in the Vineland Drain watershed. Plantings will include shrubs, wildflowers and grasses, both potted and seed.

2) Niagara River RAP/ Welland River Restoration

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

- 2 riparian restoration projects including the monitoring and stabilization of 150m of Welland River shoreline to reduce erosion and improve aquatic habitat as well as the adjustment of a section of Draper's Creek to reduce erosion and protect fish habitat.
- A Conservation Tillage project to reduce runoff, erosion to improve water quality and habitat potential in Mill Creek was completed in October.
- A 7 acre pit and mound restoration project is still underway and will be planted with native trees and shrubs in the spring of 2010
- 1 Best Management Practices project involving a manure management system has just recently been completed in the Ellsworth Drain sub-watershed
- 3 wetland projects in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada are in different stages of completion; two have been completed recently with planting expected for the spring and another will begin within the next month. These projects will greatly benefit wildlife in the form of pairing, nesting and possibly brooding habitat. Continued planning for future projects is underway using data gathered from watershed flights in April of 2009
- Late authorization and approval from DFO delayed the start of the **Smart Center Fish Habitat Compensation** project in Pelham. Initial excavation and soil stripping of the 5 acre wetland feature well under way and is planned to continue through the fall months and into the new year.

Staff have also been meeting with landowners to discuss and develop projects for the 2010 program year. Projects for next year include:

- 2 ac woodland and a 1 ac wetland restoration project in the Coyle Creek Watershed
- A grassed waterway, cattle restriction fencing and manure management system in the Welland River West sub-watershed
- Multiple habitat restoration projects

3) Fort Erie Creeks Watershed Restoration

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

- A riparian restoration project has been completed in the Black Creek watershed. The project involved the use of 5 single stone bendway weirs to relocate the stream thalweg to reduce erosion and create fish habitat. Bioengineering of this site will occur in the fall to further improve bank stabilization.
- A riparian restoration project within Black Creek sub-watershed to reduce erosion and protect/improve fish habitat is underway
- A partnership with the Niagara Parks Commission to help complete a riparian restoration project along the Niagara River; an infill planting at a riparian restoration project site completed in 2008 in partnership with the NPC.
- Staff is preparing to start up the Fort Erie Creeks Watershed Implementation Committee

4) Twenty Mile Creek Restoration

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

- A 200 m long hedgerow
- Seeding of two wetland projects
- Staff participated in Hamilton ReLeaf Network's "Green Futures Workshop" on Oct. 27th. The visioning exercise will help to focus the group's work, as well as strengthen its partnerships and communicating with public and decision makers.
- Staff participated in a Hamilton Stormwater Management Stakeholder Meeting on Nov. 5th. The aim of the meeting was to provide input for the development and delivery of a unique stormwater education program across the Hamilton area.

5) Twelve Mile Creek Restoration

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

- Stream buffer and bank stabilization project at Kala Hardware, funding support received from the St. Catharines Green Committee.
- Stream buffer and bank stabilization at Assumption Catholic School, funding support received from the St. Catharines Green Committee. This project is a continuation of our ECO School partnership.
- Two wetland restoration projects are just nearing completion. Both incorporate riparian buffers and connective corridor tree / shrub plantings.
- Two stream crossings at Agappe Christian Ministry located in the upper headwater of the Effingham tributary. The crossings were close to failing and were located in a critical Brook Trout Spawning Bed area. The Environmental Farm Plan and Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program assisted with funding for this project.
- A cattle fencing project to protect sensitive coldwater stream resources and sensitive Carolinian forest habitat is being designed.

6) Niagara-on-the-Lake Restoration

Staff are finishing up the last details of the 2009 restoration projects and continue to meet with Landowners to discuss restoration project ideas for 2010. As such applications are currently being reviewed and project plans are being developed.

Staff have met with the NOTL Drainage Superintendent and consulting firm hired to prepare the natural channel design for the demonstration site within the NOTL municipal drain system. The consultant report is expected to be completed by December. Project implementation is expected early in 2010.

Staff organized a creek clean up event for 2 Mile Creek on October 24th based on interest from the community. The event was well attended with 10 members of the Niagara Environmental Corps (NEC) and 10 local residents. The volunteers were able to gather the following:

- 30 Bags of garbage
- 28 Tires
- 1 Bike
- 1 Propane tank
- 4 Lawn chairs
- 10 Metal tubs/plastic buckets

Staff attended the launch of the Niagara Environmental Sector Team (NEST) portal website on Oct 27th. *“NEST is a collaboration of environmental organizations established to connect, support and expand the capacity of environmental groups in the Niagara Peninsula and surrounding communities.”* The event was well attended and should be of great assistance to the conservation authority and restoration department.

The NOTL Watershed Study Implementation Committee met on November 6th. Topics of discussion at the meeting included:

- The NOTL Natural Channel Design Demonstration Project
- Water quality and restoration activities for 2009, including in the ground projects, education, and water quality monitoring.
- Water quality and restoration activities for 2010

7) 15,16,18 Mile Creeks Restoration

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

- Excavation was completed on a wetland project in the 16 Mile Creek watershed. An existing pond will be connected to a newly created wetland to create a larger wetland complex
- Plans are being finalized for a large riparian project in the 16 Mile Creek watershed, just at the base of the escarpment, part of which is scheduled to take place this winter

Staff have also been meeting with landowners to discuss and develop projects for the 2010 program year. Projects for next year include:

- Planting of the new wetland in the 16 Mile Creek watershed. A small area around the wetland will be planted with trees; wildflowers, grasses and shrubs
- Planting of a large riparian project in the 16 Mile Creek watershed
- A livestock fencing project in the 16 Mile Creek watershed
- Creation of a windbreak and a grape pumice storage facility (nutrient management project) at a greenhouse in the 18 Mile Creek watershed

8) Niagara Envirothon

The NPCA will be participating as a partner in the 2010 Envirothon. Advertisements and registration packages for 2010 have been sent out to 42 different schools across the watershed. Staff are assisting Land Care Niagara with implementing a scholarship accessible to Envirothon participants. Funding has been secured from Land Care Niagara for the purchase of educational kits to be lent out to Envirothon participants to help them prepare for the competition.

9) Community Fisheries Involvement Programs

The Angler Diary Program continues to collect data from anglers in the Welland River watershed. Letters were sent out to all anglers in November to return their diaries so that the data can be collected and added to the diary database.

10) Community Outreach Program

A presentation was given to The Woodlands of Sunset staff and residents explaining the nature and significance of the Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) on their property. The presentation was well received.

Following the success of the Sharing Experiences workshop in March of 2009, staff are working with partners in planning the 2nd annual Sharing Experiences workshop for March 27th, 2010. The focus of the one day workshop for members of community based environmental groups will be to share ideas and experiences and bring new and exciting projects back to their communities. The goal is to link like-minded people so that they can work together to effectively preserve and improve our local natural environment.

Three presentations on backyard naturalization and the use of native plants have been scheduled for the beginning of 2010 with local Master Gardening Clubs.

vi) Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

1) Lyons Creek East

The Niagara River AOC Contaminated Sediment Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is currently reviewing the draft of the Administrative Controls Guidance Document for Lyon's Creek East. There is a commitment by Environment Canada (EC), the Ontario Ministries of the Environment (MOE) and Natural Resources (MNR) to implement a comprehensive ongoing monitoring program to ensure continued natural recovery and sediment stability. EC, MOE and MNR will monitor each of the lines of evidence used to evaluate the environmental risk posed by the creek sediment, i.e. sediment chemistry; sediment toxicity and invertebrate community

structure; bioaccumulation/biomagnifications; PCBs in sport fish and in snapping turtle eggs; fish community structure; and, sediment stability. The Sediment Transport Study involves examination of the physical properties and stability of the creek sediment by Golder & Associates (2009 – 2011).

The next TAG meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2009.

2) Stage 2 RAP Update

The RAP Coordinating Committee convened in late October and invited representatives from Niagara Region Health, National Water Research Institute and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake (engineering) to discuss new findings and concerns for Queen's Royal Beach, NOTL, one of the four beaches within the Area of Concern. It was agreed that an investigation of the nature of the flow through the outfall near the beach will be undertaken to address the status of impairment for the Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI): *Beach Closings*. Other BUIs for re-designation consideration, following review of new scientific reports, are *Fish Tumours* and *Bird or other Animal Deformities & Reproduction Problems*. All new data and rationale of BUI re-designation will be included in the draft Stage 2 Update report. The draft Stage 2 Update report is currently being reviewed by the RAP Coordinating Committee.

- The next RAP Coordinating Committee is expected to re-convene in late November.

3) International Liaison

- The RAP Coordinator attended the Remedial Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting at the NYSDEC office in Buffalo in mid-October. A discussion is underway on the status of impairment of Fish & Wildlife Populations and Fish & Wildlife Habitat. The next RAC meeting date is to be determined.

The State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) is one of the primary venues to report on ecological health of the Great Lakes ecosystem. SOLEC is now a triennial event and next scheduled for 2011 in the U.S.

4) Update: Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Ecosystem (COA).

Since 1971, the Parties (Canada and Ontario) have worked together through a series of Canada-Ontario Agreements Respecting the Great Lakes Ecosystem (COA) that have guided their efforts to improve the environmental quality of the Basin and contributed to meeting Canada's obligations under the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). Each of the previous COAs were in effect for a 5-year term.

The current COA is a three-year agreement, in effect until March 31, 2010. Annex 1 of the agreement addresses initiatives that directly support the restoration and protection of environmental quality and beneficial uses in Areas of Concern. It is anticipated that a new COA will not be negotiated until there is a better idea of the content of the updated GLWQA. One option might be to extend the term of the existing COA to March 31, 2011, while waiting for the official word on the status of the GLWQA negotiation. However, to date there has been no decision on interim plans from the higher tiers of government.

5) Update: Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

The current GLWQA is the revised Agreement of 1978 as amended by Protocol in 1987.

In 2006, the Binational Executive Committee initiated a review of the Agreement and its Annexes. The process included extensive stakeholder and public consultation efforts, culminating in the submission of a report to the governments of Canada and the United States in December 2008. Salient points from the IJC Biennial meeting will also be taken into consideration during the negotiation process, which may take up to two years.

LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Ball's Falls Conservation Area

The Centre for Conservation participated in the Annual Doors Open Niagara (free admission) on Saturday, October 17th and Sunday October 18th. MZE architects assisted NPCA staff in providing tours of the facility for close to 800 visitors.

The Monster Mash (ages 6-10 years) was held on Sunday October 25 in the Big Barn.

The first card-making workshop was presented by volunteer, Ann Adam to a small but enthusiastic group on November 6. More sessions will follow.

The Niagara Environmental Sector Team (NEST) held the Exploring Biodiversity Workshop on November 7 in the Centre. NEST, with the support of Trillium funding, is a collaboration of environmental organizations established to connect, support and expand the capacity of environmental groups in the Niagara Peninsula.

Weekend activities continue to be offered in conjunction with the "Hands on Nature" travelling exhibit.

Final planning is underway for "Everyday Attire"; an Exhibit of working Clothing from 1820 – 1920 This exhibit is on loan from the Fashion History Museum of Cambridge, Ontario and will incorporate some photos and artifacts from our own site collection. The exhibit will run November 21 – January 18, 2010, (closed December 24 to January 1).

Volunteers assisted over a 4 day period in providing close to 250 international students from Brock University a demonstration-focused education program including blacksmithing, quilting and weaving.

Alex Brown, an environmental tourism student from Brock has been hired to participate in the Brock internship program for 2009 -2010.

Updates to the LEED kiosk continue as necessary.

The 2010 Temporary Exhibit Schedule is currently under development.

Centre Staff have provided additional information to the "Trips with Kids for a video and on-line information.

The Ministry of Culture has confirmed the 2009 museum operating grant in the amount of \$14,000.

On December 5th from 7-9 pm, the 5th Annual public reading of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" will be held at the Centre for Conservation. Coordinated by Janet Foxcroft and Margaret Cliff, the event was previously held at the former Jordan Antiques Centre in conjunction with CBC Radio. Proceeds will go to a designated charity. Tickets will be available at the Centre.

Additional sections of split rail fencing have been installed along 6th Avenue and at the edge of the Centre for Conservation parking lot. This fencing, while enhancing the park appearance, was installed to help define park boundaries and help direct pedestrian traffic towards the entrance to the Centre.

A sampling of comments in the visitor book include: Great, Awesome, Congratulations, excellent, At last! Beautiful!!, what a beautiful building! Beautiful building and landscape, fabulous design! Wow Amazing, Great job! Enjoyed, great educational, very educational, very well presented, very nice to see Balls Falls again, great experience, nice walking, great hikes-cold though! All new to us, beautiful and really good guide!, amazing, Great, very good, excellent should have got the map 1st, beautiful!, I love this place, very cool! Beautiful, inspiring, This is a great place, We will be back! Very impressed, fantastic, very nice, lovely place, Great Show, Very nice! Wonderful, very well kept, wonderful building, very nice, beautiful bldg, Beautiful park.

Visitors in the last month were from: Phoenix, Arizona, St. Catharines, Kitchener, Poland, Fort Erie Conservation, Hamburg, Carman (Manitoba), North York, Deer Park Villa, Ste. Anne (NB) Calgary (AB) Toronto, Killarney, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, N-O-T-L, Queenston, Denmark, Hanover, Port Colborne, Burlington, Binbrook, Niagara Falls, Fonthill, Paris, Welland, Hamilton, Mississauga, Rochester (NY), Dunnville, Smithville, Pelham, Stratford, Coldstream, Cambridge, Netherlands, Olds(AB), Campden, Richmond Hill, Beamsville, London, Paisley, Wallaceburg, Harrisburg (PA), Thorold, Grimsby, Griffin (GA), Yankton, (SD), Halifax (NS), Hobart (IN), Vineland, Fenwick, Milton,

They heard about us through: internet, driving by, paper, road signs, word of mouth, grew up here, family member, internet, live in area, brochure, Bruce Trail Association, Doors Open, and Crush Wine Tours.

Binbrook Conservation Area

As part of the building permit process with the City of Hamilton, building inspections were completed in October by our building engineer for the new park pavilion and store. The building exterior and site cleanup is now complete and staff are continuing on with the interior finish work in advance of the winter ice fishing season. The pavilion enclosed boat storage area is viewed by staff as a possible shelter area that could support winter fish derby and park events.

This past month staff reviewed the gatehouse trail and noticed areas where access could be improved for wheelchair users and for park maintenance equipment. The conservation planner created a trail plan noting these areas, along with a map of proposed trail segments that could provide visitors with the choice of walking a shorter or longer trail loop. These trail work projects are currently under review by staff with the capital projects for the park.

Long Beach and Chippawa Creek Conservation Areas

Campground systems have all been winterized. Staff are working with Mediamix Interactive on the design of a new reservation system to replace the 1997 DOS-based CAMIS system, which is no longer being supported. Mediamix has been selected by a number of Conservation Authorities to develop a reservation system that allows better website access and is easier for gate staff to use. The new reservation/registration system is proposed to be in place in time for the 2010 operating season.

Several capital projects are being completed at both parks. A major renovation of Comfort Station 3 is underway at Long Beach in addition to electrical service upgrades at campsites. At Chippawa Creek, staff are working on the final plans for a design-build project that will address sewage treatment issues for the entire campground.

Staff have drawn up preliminary building plans for a proposed comfort station to supply the east side of the campground with new washroom and shower facilities. This new facility is being contemplated with the proposed upgrading of the sewage facilities for the park.

Staff have been exploring ways and means of introducing more revenue generating campsites that would complement the existing capital plans for the park. There is an opportunity to

introduce at least 39 new serviced campsites near the existing playground area. Preliminary plans have been drafted by staff and are currently under capital review.

During this time of year, area staff are monitoring the hunting activities at these two sites and speaking with area users to ensure that they are aware of the annual hunting program.

Stevensville CA

The contract for the bridge replacement project is now executed and bridge plans supplied by the contractor have been submitted to the Town of Fort Erie for their review and comment. Once the Town comments are satisfied, the bridge order will be placed with the manufacturer.

Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area

Six existing water table wells were replaced with larger wells to accept data loggers. These wells have standing water and are more difficult to access on a monthly basis due to recent beaver activity at the site. The data will continue to monitor the effects of the restoration work, effects of beaver influences and will assist staff in determining any necessary restoration techniques. Funding contributions for the majority of this project was provided by OMNR Community Fisheries Wildlife Involvement Program, in-kind contributions of 2 data loggers by OMNR Peterborough.

An educational display has been created to increase the understanding of the Massasauga Rattlesnake and the bog ecosystem. A permit was obtained to house a rattlesnake which had died of natural causes and have it taxidermied for educational purposes. This snake 'Fred' has been preserved showing its original markings and near size, in a non-threatening position. The skull was also preserved and mounted for comparison and structural information. The snake will be on display and used in educational programming at the Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation. It will help in highlighting how snakes function, how to identify them, their habitat needs and similarity to other animals.

Gypsy Moth Monitoring on NPCA lands

Gypsy Moth monitoring on NPCA lands has been completed for 2009. The sites include St. Johns, Ruigrok Tract, Hedley Forest, Chippawa Creek, Willoughby Marsh, Smith-Ness and Comfort Maple Conservation Areas.

The 2009 findings show low gypsy moth populations with no/low defoliation effects. Overall gypsy moth populations are decreasing at Ruigrok Tract, Hedley Forest, and the Comfort Maple and increasing at Chippawa Creek Conservation Area. Natural conditions of a wet spring, cold/rainy summer weather assisted in reducing the gypsy moth population in 2009. In addition, a spring spray was administered to St. Johns and Smith-Ness with minimal defoliation resulting.

NPCA Hunting Program

The 2008 harvest reports have been reviewed and analysed. Based on harvest per hours of effort, the following areas were most successful:

- small game at the Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area;
- deer at the Humberstone Marsh Conservation Area;
- wild turkey at Wainfleet Wetlands
- waterfowl at Wainfleet Wetlands

a) Waterfowl Hunting Program

Mud Lake Waterfowl Hunting program will be completed November 30, Binbrook Conservation Area will continue to December 12

b) NPCA Hunting Permits

Staff have issued an additional 39 hunting permits (November). To date 262 hunting permits have been issued for 2009. Of these, 29 permits are issued to individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Conservation Achievement Awards

The 2009 Awards Presentation and Reception will be held on Wednesday, November 25, 2009 at the Centre for Conservation, Ball's Falls commencing at 7:00 p.m. Invitations have been sent to all nominees. Board members are encouraged to advise staff as soon as possible if they are planning to attend and be willing to assist in handing out awards.

Watershed Report Card

Staff has been in discussion with the new WaterSmart Project Manager regarding this project. Further discussions will take place to determine the most appropriate manner to move this project forward.

16th Annual Latornell Symposium

The 2009 Symposium will take place from November 18-20, 2009. The A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium was started in 1993. Since then, the Symposium has grown to be Ontario's most prestigious and well-attended annual conservation conference.

Schools in Bloom Program

The Conservation Authority was recognized for its ongoing support of this program which is coordinated through the City of Niagara Falls.

Media Relations

On October 24, staff attended a funding announcement through the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund for projects undertaken in the Area of Concern. The NPCA has received project funding for Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Programs for the Niagara River AOC. The announcement was made on behalf of Canada's Environment Minister by Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Rob Nicholson.

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Forks & Corks Event

This event, held on October 30th, was a resounding success. Guests enjoyed the 50th anniversary gala at the Centre for Conservation and approximately \$2,400 was raised in support of the NPCA's 50th anniversary project, the Jordan Harbour redevelopment.

Niagara Community Foundation

The Niagara Community Foundation is continuing with its environmental grants program. As such, an application will be submitted by the December deadline in support of educational materials related to the annual Niagara Envirothon.

Recommendation:

Report No. 76-09 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

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