



**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**FULL AUTHORITY**

**BALL'S FALLS**

**AGENDA    APRIL 21, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**BUSINESS:**

**(1)    MINUTES**

**(a) FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – MARCH 17, 2010**

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting held March 17, 2010.

**(b) BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – APRIL 7, 2010**

Attached are the Minutes of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held April 7, 2010.

**(2)    BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**(3)    CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

**(4)    CAO'S REPORT**

**(5)    DELEGATIONS**

**(a) 35 Years Service Presentation – Dan Kaine**

Dan Kaine recently celebrated 35 years of service as an employee of the Authority and he will be presented with an award for this.

**(b) Award Presentation – Ontario Museum Association**

The Centre for Conservation at Ball's Falls will be presented with an Award from the Ontario Museum Association.

**(c) Woodend – Members of the District of Niagara School Board will be making a presentation on proposed renovations at Woodend Conservation Area.**

**(6)    BUDGET STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 19-10**

Attached is Report No. 19-10 together with the Current and Capital Budget summaries regarding the status of the budget to March 31, 2010.

(7) **HST IMPLICATIONS PRELIMINARY REPORT - REPORT NO. 20-10**

Attached is Report No. 20-10 regarding this matter.

(8) **CONSERVATION AREA PROPERTY TAXES – REPORT NO. 21-10**

Attached is Report No. 21-10 regarding this matter.

(9) **NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION – REPORT NO. 22-10**

Attached is Report No. 22-10 regarding this matter.

(10) **PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 23-10**

Attached is Report No. 23-10 regarding the status of Authority projects.

(11) **IN-CAMERA**

- (a) Complaint and Violation Status Report: Report No. CR-09-10
- (b) Tree By-Law Status Report – Report No. CR-10-10
- (c) Land Acquisition Matters

(12) **OTHER BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**



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

**Ball's Falls                      April 7, 2010                      3:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

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

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

**Regrets:** B. Baty  
F. High  
T. D'Amario, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

**BUSINESS:**

**1) Call to Order**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

**2) Election of Officers**

Darcy Baker, Director Land Management, assumed the chair to oversee the election of the slate of Officers for 2010 and declared all offices vacant.

D. Baker then called for nominations for the office of Chairman.

April Petrie nominated Mike Hunter.

D. Baker called once again for nominations for the office of Chairman.

D. Baker called for the third and final time for nominations for the office of Chairman.

Darcy Baker asked Mike Hunter if he would stand for office, and Mike advised he would.

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

**MOVED BY:** Doug Ransom  
**THAT:** nominations for the office of Chairman, Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee for 2010 be closed.

**"CARRIED"**

Mike Hunter was declared Chairman by Acclamation. Mike Hunter assumed the Chair.

The Chairman then called for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman.

April Petrie nominated Linda Holmes.

The Chairman called once again for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman called the third and final time for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman asked Linda Holmes if she would stand for office, and Linda advised she would.

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

**MOVED BY:** Doug Ransom  
**THAT:** nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman, Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee for 2010 be closed.

**"CARRIED"**

Linda Holmes was declared Vice-Chairman by Acclamation.

**3) Minutes of Last Meeting – February 3, 2010**

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

**MOVED BY:** Marion Holman  
**SECONDED BY:** Linda Holmes  
**THAT:** the minutes of the last meeting held February 3, 2010 be approved.

**"CARRIED"**

**4) Business Arising From Minutes**

The Curator advised that a letter of thanks had been sent to John Mastroianni in recognition of his past service on the Committee. Chris advised that the Full Authority would be seeking a new committee member as stipulated in the terms of reference for the committee.

**5) Ball's Falls Marketing Plan - Report No. HC- 06- 10**

Discussion on the status of the marketing plan took place. Staff advised that in the absence of a defined corporate marketing strategy, the survey questions were expanded to help gauge public awareness of the NPCA as well as Ball's Falls and the Centre. This would enable the Consultant to prepare a more focused and comprehensive Marketing Plan, and provide the Authority with a better idea of its profile within Niagara.

**MOVED BY:** April Petrie  
**SECONDED BY:** Marion Holman  
**THAT:** Report NO. HC-06-10 regarding the Ball's Falls Marketing Plan be received for information purposes.

**“CARRIED”**

6) **2010 Capital Projects - Report No. HC- 07- 10**

**MOVED BY:** Doug Ransom  
**SECONDED BY:** Ellen Mitchinson  
**THAT:** Report NO. HC-07-10 regarding the 2010 capital projects be received for information purposes.

**“CARRIED”**

7) **Status Report – Report No. HC-08-10**

**MOVED BY:** Marion Holman  
**SECONDED BY:** Ellen Mitchinson  
**THAT:** Report No. HC-08-10 on the status of Ball's Falls Conservation Area Projects be received for information.

**“CARRIED”**

8) **Other Business**

The Curator invited the members to attend the Full Authority meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 7:00 pm to be held at the **Centre for Conservation at Ball's Falls**. Kathy Powell, Chair of the Ontario Museum Association will present the OMA Corporate Service Award of Excellence that was awarded to the Centre for Conservation in 2009.

The next meeting of the Committee has been rescheduled from June 2 to **Wednesday June 16** 2010. Please note the meeting will start at **2:00 pm** at Ball's Falls.

9) **Adjournment**

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

Received at 4:30 p.m.

**“CARRIED”**

C. Hayward, Curator

Mike Hunter, Chair



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

**DATE:** March 8, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Budget Status Report - Report No. 19-10

Attached is the budget status report for the period ending March 31, 2010.

The Board members will note a significant increase in miscellaneous revenues under Corporate Services. The anticipated revenues reflect a recent agreement with the Niagara Region to undertake additional work relating to Water Quality Protection Strategy.

Although early in the year, staff are monitoring other revenue sources including administration and permit fees. Budget adjustment recommendations will be made as soon as possible in the event the revenues do not meet expectations.

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Budget Status Report for the period ending March 31, 2010 be received.

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

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

**DATE: March 8, 2010**

**SUBJECT: HST Implications Preliminary Report - Report No. 20-10**

The following preliminary report summarizes the anticipated implications of HST. At this time the implementation policies, regulations, rules and other issues have not been fully finalized. Staff are keeping up to date on these matters and will be making revisions to the accounting process in due course.

As staff understand it at this time, the significant impact of HST on Authority operations as of July 1, 2010 are as follows:

#### Expenditures

- NPCA will pay an additional tax on purchases currently subject to GST only. These will include consulting, contractor, legal, IT, audit and other similar services. Other increases due to the HST will include advertising, fuel, garbage disposal, sewage system maintenance and postage.
- The NPCA is listed as a “municipality” for the purposes of HST rules and as such most purchases made by the Authority subject to HST will qualify for a 100% rebate of the GST portion (already in place from previous years) and 78% of the PST portion (new).
- Overall, while the NPCA will be paying more for services not previously subject to PST, the 78% rebate on the PST portion of all NPCA expenditures will more than offset this increase. If the rebate amounts were applied to the 2009 final budget, the estimated annual sales tax savings based on the above assumptions would amount to approximately \$100,000.
- Given the rebate opportunities available after July 1, 2010, staff intend to make all efforts to make major purchases subject to HST after that date.

#### Revenues

- Similar to above, the NPCA will be required to collect and remit the HST on all revenues subject to the tax. This will include administration, permit, camping, retail sales and entrance fees.
- In keeping with the government objective of a zero overall impact of HST on the general public, staff believe it appropriate to utilize the expenditure savings to the extent that all NPCA charges will not be increased as a result of HST. Although the Authority will need to remit the tax amounts, the costs and fees charged by the NPCA could be inclusive of HST.

A final report detailing the HST process, anticipated savings and costs, as well as recommendations regarding the use of NPCA savings will be presented at the May or June Board meeting, depending on the timing of receipt of final documents/instructions regarding HST.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the HST Implications Preliminary Report be received.

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





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

**DATE:** April 14, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Conservation Area Property Taxes – Report No. 21-10

The NPCA owns 6,938 acres (2,807 hectares) of property throughout the watershed. There are 5743 acres in the Region of Niagara, 260 acres in Haldimand and 935 acres in Hamilton. The total assessed value of this property is \$ 8,010,786.

Conservation Authority lands are subject to municipal property taxes. Prior to 1994, the Ministry of Natural Resources provided grants to Conservation Authorities to help offset the cost of municipal property tax on Conservation Areas, however this program was eliminated in 1995. The Province established two new programs that would extend tax incentives to all owners of conservation lands, not just public agencies. The Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program provides up to 75% relief of property taxes for properties with approved forest management plans in place. The Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program covers 100% of the taxes for sensitive natural areas such as Niagara Escarpment Natural designated property, Provincially Significant Wetlands and habitat for endangered or threatened species. Fortunately, the majority of lands owned by the NPCA are significant natural areas that are eligible for tax relief programs.

Each year staff review MPAC assessment reports to ensure that the Authority receives the maximum possible benefit from these programs. In 2009, approximately 78% of our land holdings were enrolled in a tax incentive program, reducing the overall property tax bill to \$15,000. It should be noted that this figure includes more than \$4,000 in assessment for works under the Drainage Act.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 21-10 be received for information:

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

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



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

**DATE: April 6, 2010**

**RE: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation – Report No. 22-10**

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation is a registered charitable organization that acts as the fundraising arm for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, providing additional financial assistance by encouraging individuals, service clubs, members of the business community and private foundations to support the conservation initiatives of the NPCA. It also serves a public relations role by raising community awareness of the Authority's programs and needs as well as the Foundation's role in addressing these needs.

Incorporated in 1969 and active in soliciting gifts since 1990, the Foundation is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors whose members live or work in the watershed. To date, more than \$2.14 million (net) has been contributed by the Foundation to the Authority to support projects that promote environmental education, restore vital wetlands that cleanse our water, provide habitat that promotes wildlife diversity and offer opportunities for people of all abilities to enjoy their natural world. In addition, parcels of ecologically-sensitive lands valued at more than \$300,000 have been acquired with the assistance of the Foundation. Please refer to the attached revenue/expenditure table for more detailed information.

Many initiatives are undertaken by the Foundation to encourage gifts, including special events such as the annual Bob Welch Memorial golf tournament and the Elimination Draw & Dinner, memorial tree and bench programs, the sale of break-open lottery tickets in many municipalities and the direct solicitation of gifts.

As a result, a number of Authority projects have received funding, like the construction of wheelchair-accessible fishing piers, pathways and boardwalks at St. Johns, Beamer and Chippawa Creek, restoration of the church and cabin at Ball's Falls, installation of an observation tower and lookouts at Beamer, construction of the Twenty Valley Trail, the acquisition of the Wainfleet Bog, dune restoration at Morgan's Point, numerous rehabilitation projects along the Welland River and most recently, the Centre for Conservation at Ball's Falls.

Providing the Authority with the talents and energy of its volunteer Board members, the Foundation's role in developing community partnerships that provide access to funding resources is critical to helping the Authority continue to meet its ongoing conservation objectives. Authority and Foundation staff will continue to work closely to identify projects where the Foundation's involvement would be most beneficial.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 22-10 regarding the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation be received for information purposes.**

Prepared by: Terry McDougall, Executive Director

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



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

**DATE: April 16, 2010**

**RE: PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 23-10**

## **WATER MANAGEMENT**

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

#### **1) 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 18 permit applications for the 2010 calendar year pursuant to the NPCA's 'Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses' regulation (Ontario Regulation 155/06).

##### **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 14 applications under this agreement.

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

a) The NPCA continues to represent CA's located in Central Ontario on the DART Committee with representatives of the OFA, DSAO, OSPE, ARMO, OMAFRA, MNR and CO. The purpose of the DART is to develop a consistent approach and technical direction with regard to municipal drainage project review under CA Regulations. NPCA staff has reviewed 6 municipal drain projects during the current calendar year.

b) Staff also attended a meeting on March 25, 2010 hosted by the Niagara Soil and Crop Association and gave a brief presentation regarding NPCA's mandate with respect to drainage.

### **3) Floodplain Mapping**

i) Lyon's Creek – Cities of Welland and Niagara Falls

The NPCA has finalized 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 has finalized the 100 year flood elevations for Tee Creek located in the Cities of Welland & Niagara Falls.

iii) 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.

iv) Eagle Marsh 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 Eagle Marsh Drain located in the City of Port Colborne.

## **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 continue to spend a considerable amount of time reviewing updated municipal official plans. Municipalities are working towards a June 2010 Provincial deadline for updating their official plans to reflect Places to Grow legislation.

Work continues on updating the Niagara Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Planning.

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

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

Edits to the Draft Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan are well underway to reflect the comments received from staff. A final Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4pm. The purpose of this meeting is to review the Watershed Plan and address any questions or concerns the Steering Committee members may have about the final phase of the watershed planning process and the Final Document.

A copy of the DRAFT Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan has been posted on the NPCA website and been placed in Port Colborne and Wainfleet libraries with a small display map of the study area and a copy of the document for public commenting until May 31, 2010.

A public open house is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Roselawn Centre in Port Colborne. The purpose of this open house is to present the Watershed Plan to the public and receive any feedback they may have before presenting the document to the NPCA Board of Directors.

Erosion pin assessments have been completed at 2 sites in this study area; Bearss Drain subwatershed 10 pins were measured, and Eagle Marsh Drain subwatershed 11 pins were measured with one missing.

**b) Central Welland River Watershed Plan**

Work on the Restoration Strategy has been temporarily suspended to focus on the Upper Welland River and completing the Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan. Work on this Watershed Plan will resume later this year.

Erosion pin assessments have been completed at 2 sites in this study area in Biederman Drain subwatershed; 10 pins were measured at Mud Lake and 10 pins were measured in the Wainfleet bog.

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

Work on the Restoration Strategy has been temporarily suspended to focus on the Upper Welland River and completing the Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan. Work on this Watershed Plan will resume later this year.

Letters have been sent to approximately 100 properties in this study area requesting permission to enter private property in order to access the watercourse to conduct field work for the NPCA Fluvial Geomorphology Study. Three confirmations have been received to date. Field work is expected to begin in June.

**d) Upper Welland River Watershed Plan**

Edits to the Draft Phase One: Watershed Characterization and Issues Identification Report have been completed to reflect the comments received from senior municipal, agency staff and steering committee members. A public workshop is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9 pm at Caistor Community Centre in Abingdon. The purpose of the workshop is to give the public an opportunity to identify any issues and concerns they may have about the study area and their objectives for the Watershed Plan.

**e) Lower Welland River Watershed Plan**

Research for a Terms of Reference for this study area is well underway. The intent is to submit the Terms of Reference to the Board of Directors in May.

**3) Natural Areas Inventory/Heritage System**

The Project Management Team has been busy compiling information for preparing the draft Terms of Reference for the functioning of both the Technical and Steering Committees for the Natural Heritage Systems Project.

Staff met with the provincial MNR team that developed the pilot project for a Natural Heritage System in Niagara. This helped to answer questions about the logistics of the work plan and technology transfer. Staff also attended a Scenario Development Team meeting of the Hamilton NHS. This was instrumental in clarifying the process for our team.

Staff are planning an internal Management Team meeting to discuss the draft workplan and timeline.

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

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

The Draft Proposed Assessment Report was posted on the internet on March 5, 2010. To ensure the public and key stakeholders were informed about the public consultation period, notices were placed in local daily newspapers and about 1000 letters were sent to landowners in key vulnerable areas. Also, three public meetings were held in Port Colborne, Thorold, and Grimsby. The public meetings included a presentation on the Assessment Report and the Source Protection process.

The public consultation process ended on April 12, 2010, and currently Source Protection staff are reviewing all comments received to determine what revisions should be made to the Draft Proposed Assessment Report.

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

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

- Routine surface water quality monitoring has begun this month with the spring melt and will continue until November 2010.
- The NPCA continues to collect groundwater level data at 15 monitoring wells as part of the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN). Spring samples have been collected from 12 of 15 PGMN wells and analysis will be completed once the lab results are received. Digital telemetry units have been installed at 7 PGMN wells; these units enable the MOE to access the wells remotely and upload data to their central server.
- NPCA staff are currently preparing the 2009 annual water quality report which will be submitted to the Board for review in May 2010.
- NPCA staff have submitted the final report to Hamilton International Airport for the 2009 annual biomonitoring assessment, and have completed the spring sampling for the 2010 airport water quality assessment.
- NPCA staff will be completing the water quality assessment for the City of Hamilton's Glanbrook Landfill this spring and fall, as per the bi-ennial monitoring agreement.

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

- the third and final field season for the Welland River Eutrophication Study is currently underway. Weekly sampling and flow monitoring has been initiated at three problem tributaries identified by the Technical Working Group: Beaver Creek, Big Forks Creek, and Oswego Creek. Dissolved oxygen sensors will also be deployed at 6 locations in 2010 which include the three tributaries listed above. Monthly chlorophyll-a sampling will also resume in 2010 at all Welland River watershed stations.
- The NPCA continues to receive requests for applications for the NPCA Water Well Decommissioning Grant Program.

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

- Technical tasks associated with addressing the MOE and other general comments from posting the DRAFT Assessment Report for public consultation on the web will potentially be a part of this month's workload.

- Staff has also received and is testing a logical data model for the water quantity component (water budget) of the ARDB as a pilot project for MNR.
- Site specific ELC Vegetation Type mapping, based on the data collected in the field has been completed for Port Colborne, Wainfleet, Niagara Falls, Welland and Thorold which constitutes over 70% of the sites visited. Efforts are currently underway in Pelham. 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 West Lincoln, and Haldimand County.
- Several additions and refinements to our Section 28 Hazard Inventories (i.e. FPM for Lyons Creek and Tee Creeks, new Lake Ontario Shoreline mapping etc) are completed and updated screening and Niagara Natural Environment Information layers have been posted to our internal mapping systems. This information and mapping updates will be circulated amongst the Niagara Area planning authorities shortly.
- Staff are currently carrying on with the capture of the toe of slope features for the riverine erosion hazard. When combined with the existing top of slope mapping for this hazard, explicit valleyland polygons will be capable of being produced which will make geoprocessing the screening layer extents more efficient and also provide ecological valleyland extents for natural heritage needs.
- Staff has been heavily involved with the project management and planning of the Natural Heritage System (NHS) Design project the Authority is completing with funding from the Niagara Water Strategy. Staff recently met with the IM & Spatial Analysis Unit of the MNR's Southern Science & Information Section to discuss the collaborative natural heritage systems design process they've developed that is the basis for this exciting project in Niagara. and see the intimate consultation in action.
- Mapping of and data entry for the restoration projects and stewardship activities that have taken place over the last two field seasons by the Authority are currently taking place.

## **V. Watershed Restoration Division**

### **1) Spring Project Implementation**

- Staff are preparing for spring field season where the majority of effort will be on woodland restoration projects and riparian buffer plantings. In total 32 woodland restoration projects are being implemented across the watershed through partnerships with Landcare Niagara (funding provided through Trees Ontario Foundation and 50 Million Tree Program), Ontario Power Generation (bio-diversity and carbon sequestering funding) and the Niagara Restoration Council. Staff are currently coordinating plantings with contractors, volunteers and landowners.

### **2) Watershed Plan Implementation Committees**

- Watershed Implementation Committee meetings are scheduled in April / May for NOTL Watershed Plan, Twelve Mile Creek Watershed and Fort Erie. The Implementation Committee for 15,16,18 Mile Creek will be established this fall.

### **3) Watershed Plan Workshops**

- Staff will be assisting with the public workshops for the Lake Erie North Shores Watershed Plan and the Central Welland River Watershed Plan to be held in late April / early May.

#### **4) ECO School Program**

- Staff have approved the 2010 ECO School program participants. 23 applications were received, with 14 of these being first time applicants. Letters of approval will be sent out by the third week of March and site visits will begin at the end of April. Site prep will take place in May and planting in June.

#### **5) Yellow Fish Road**

- A grant application to Trout Unlimited Canada / Shell Canada was successful in securing \$2700.00 to further promote and enhance the delivery of the Yellow Fish Road program. Requests to participate from teachers and parents have already started coming in for the 2010 season.

#### **6) Earth Day**

- Staff will be hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Earth Day event on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the E.C. Brown Wetland Restoration Project site. 8 schools (4 in the am and 4 in the pm) will be on hand to assist in the planting of trees and shrubs, assisting with monitoring exercises for both flora and fauna. Staff from the District office of the MOE will also be attending.
- Staff will be assisting OPG with a 'staff team building' planting at our Decew Tablelands partnership projects site on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### **7) 2010 Niagara Regional Envirothon**

- 65 students from 7 area schools have registered for the 2010 Niagara Regional Envirothon scheduled in April at the Stevensville Conservation Area. Through continued fund raising \$1000.00 has been secured from Ontario Power Generation to help offset the cost of the Envirothon. \$4,202.40 of additional funding has been obtained from the Niagara Community Foundation for the purchase of educational kits to be lent out to Envirothon participants to help them prepare for the competition. Staff continues to work with the organizing committee members to plan the event.

#### **8) Community Fisheries Involvement Programs**

- The Angler Diary Program continues to collect data from anglers in the Welland River and Twelve Mile Creek watersheds. 2010 Angler Diaries for both watersheds have been sent out to anglers that have returned their 2009 diaries. Additional Angler Diaries are in the process of being printed.
- Our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Angler Derby is being planned again for Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup> as part of Family Fishing Weekend. This year we will be hosting it with the City of Niagara Falls and the Welland River Keepers at George Bukator Park located on the Welland River near Chippawa. Our intent is to encourage new participation, obtain fisheries information from a different part of the Welland River and assist the WRK in expanding their membership.



## **9) Native Plant Workshop**

- Plans are underway for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Native Plant Workshop. This year it will be a full day venue with the morning at the Balls Falls Centre for Conservation and the afternoon spent touring 3 restoration project sites including the E.C. brown wetland site. Tentative dates are mid-late July.

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

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

The Lyon's Creek East Long-Term Monitoring Plan has been drafted and is currently under review by the Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

The next TAG meeting date will be set upon receipt of all comments on the Draft 2 Administrative Controls report. A newsletter for a public mailing will be compiled once all the review comments have been received. Next steps involve establishing a Management Framework Agreement between the stakeholders and the NPCA and a public communication strategy for Lyon's Creek East.

The RAP Coordinator sent a letter to the City of Welland during the City's new OP review period to ensure that accommodation around the area of contaminated sediments in Lyon's Creek East was included in the plan.

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

The Niagara River (Ontario) AOC Update 2010 is now available in English and French. It will be circulated throughout the AOC, including the U.S. Niagara River and Buffalo River RAPs.

The final draft of the Stage 2 Update report will be available for public outreach and stakeholder consultation purposes in mid-April.

The RAP Coordinating Committee is scheduled to meet on April 20 to discuss the 2010/2011 RAP Work Plans, Monitoring Plans, Reporting and Communications Strategies, Roll-out of the Stage 2 Update report to stakeholders and workshops, etc.

### **3) 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). Originally, COAs were in effect for a 5-year term; however, due to the review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the most recent COA (2007-2010) was for a 3-year term.

On March 31, it was announced that the COA will be extended for one more year.

#### **4) International Liaison**

- The next U.S. Remedial Advisory Committee (RAC) is to be announced.

#### **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. Discussions are underway as to how negotiating talks will be handled, and the tentative date for completion is December 2010.

### **LAND MANAGEMENT**

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

March Break Camp was a great hit with the 31 children that attended over the course of the week. Single, multiple day and full-week registrations were received. Extended hours were increased again to accommodate commuters. The Town of Pelham took advantage of the March Break day visit program with 35 participants. Ted E. Medic, a special guest during the week (filmed by Cogeco) offered first-aid and medical advice to the teddy bears visiting with their young owners. Summer Camp information was distributed to parents of March Break visitors.

The Region of Niagara partnered with the NPCA to present a Smart Gardening workshop at the Centre on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Kathy Smith, Conservation Planner, presented information about the landscaping around the Centre. All participants received an NPCA plant guide in addition to the Region's material. This was a good event to expose people to the centre as most indicated they had never visited before.

Since the last week of January, there have been more than 3500 visitors on site with just over 1000 individuals attending for group bookings or for events and rentals; there were 2400 individual admissions and 119 people who entered with a pass. At present we are unable to fully track season pass visitors who do not enter the Centre.

Education program bookings continue for the Legendary Bear program. A Native drum workshop was also booked in March. Staff have designed a score orienteering course and it is now available for schools as a pre-booked self-guide program for \$5 per student.

All materials have been delivered for the collections storage project. Arrangements are underway for installation.

"The Ribbet Exhibit Returns" will open in the temporary gallery on April 17<sup>th</sup> and run through July 5.

Project funding has been received from the "TD Friends of the Environment Foundation" for the 'Family of Skeletons Project' at the Centre for Conservation. This project involves purchasing educational materials of snakes, turtles and frogs and showing the similarities of these species

to humans. These similarities will help increase the understanding and appreciation of species and encourage protection of habitat.

Rental bookings continue. There are only 5 Saturdays remaining open for the barn from April 24 to October 31. The number of Centre bookings for weddings and receptions has increased substantially, but the barn continues to be in greater demand.

A variety of programs and events have been scheduled to the end of June. Upcoming events include Bird Banding (April 18), Earth Day at Ball's Falls (April 25) Spring Wildflower Walk (May 2).

Applications for funding assistance through summer employment programs have been submitted to both federal and provincial levels of government.

Headspring Marketing has completed a telephone poll of more than 300 Niagara residents to gauge awareness of the NPCA and Ball's Falls Conservation Area as part of the Marketing Plan review.

This May will mark the 2 year anniversary of the new landscaping at the Centre for Conservation and the planting areas are flourishing. Favourable weather last summer was a good boost for the trees, shrubs and perennials. Tree staking is now being removed and perennials will be divided this spring for planting out in other areas on the property. The pond pumps are coming out of storage and the waterfalls are being checked over to prepare for start-up in the warmer weather.

### **Binbrook Conservation Area**

Funding support for a 'Rods and Reel' Project at Binbrook has been received from the "TD Friends of the Environment Foundation". With this generous project support the park will be obtaining fishing equipment and providing a day lending program for 'hands-on' fishing experience. This project is focused on young children, disabled people, senior citizens and the general public where they can experience and learn about the aquatic food chain, and the need for protection and wise use of natural resources.

Interior fit and finish of the new park pavilion and store will have the building ready for spring operation. City of Hamilton building and health unit staff are reviewing with staff all permit items required for the store operation. Food handling safety requirements will be implemented with park staff operating the store.

The internal park signage is under staff review to prepare the necessary sign replacements this season. The highway signage for the park is noted separately in this report.

### **Long Beach Conservation Area**

Spring clean-up has been completed and staff are busy preparing the park infrastructure for opening season in May. The water plant has been re-assembled and is going through a series of start-up tests. Staff are focusing efforts to complete upgrades to washroom facilities on the north-side campground. These upgrades were started at the end of the 2009 camping season.

### **Chippawa Creek Conservation Area**

Work is continuing on the wetland bio-filter treatment system for the Chippawa Creek Campground. Permits are currently under final technical review by the Ministry of the

Environment. Staff expect that the campground will be opening with the existing sewage treatment systems in place. Once the new system receives certification, the park facilities will be brought on-line. Campers should not experience any disruption to services as we migrate to the new system.

### **Park Reservation/Admission System**

Mediamix Interactive is putting the final touches on the NPCA's new on-line reservation system. Long Beach, Chippawa Creek and Binbrook have been equipped with high-speed internet connections which will link our areas with the central reservation system.

Staff will be testing software and system configurations over the next month, with a goal to have the full system up and ready in time for the May opening weekend.

### **Beamer Memorial Conservation Area**

On April 2, the Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch Group held their Annual Hawkwatch Open House at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area. Attendance was estimated at nearly 1,000 people. The public was exposed to the phenomenon of migration, received instruction on identification of raptors, and learned about the importance of monitoring the migration for environmental health. NPCA staff were on site to help increase the public's awareness of the NPCA's work in protecting ecosystems, and to promote public programming at Ball's Falls Conservation Area. Special thanks are given to the Royal Ontario Museum for lending 'hands-on' materials to the NPCA.

### **St. Johns Conservation Area**

The trout pond has been stocked for the season, with the season opening on Saturday, April 24. Staff will be present at the season opening to help increase the public's awareness of the site's significance and the NPCA's various roles in ecosystem and habitat protection.

Staff are completing modifications to the dam outlet at

### **Central Workshop**

A new high-speed internet connection was installed at the Central Workshop. This will allow better communication and distribution of information from the Main Office.

Capital improvements continue with the installation of new bay doors on the drive shed. This is the third of four development phases to improve the sheltered storage at this site.

### **Stevensville CA**

Within one week of construction completion, students in the NPCA Envirothon were enjoying the new bridge installed at Stevensville CA. Staff are receiving positive comments on the new bridge. Substantial completion of the bridge project was achieved March 31<sup>st</sup> with the final installation of the bridge anchors, trail approaches and site restoration. The contractor was also retained to smooth out the loop road in the park and repair road shoulders. Final holdback on the bridge contract will be released once the seeded areas are fully established.

Staff took advantage of this project to conduct hazard tree trimming and maintenance along our property lines. The Fort Erie Conservation Club chipped all this material and will be using it for trail work later in the year.

### **Wainfleet Bog Conservation**

Regional Niagara Health Unit completed a Black legged Tick Study in the Wainfleet Bog in 2009. Conservation Authority staff met with individuals from the Health Unit to discuss communications and warnings for visitors to this Conservation Area. The study confirmed the presence of Black legged Ticks, which are known vectors for lyme disease. Staff will be working in cooperation with the Regional Health Unit to develop signage and information leaflets for distribution at all of our Conservation Areas.

The warm spring conditions have resulted in early appearance of ticks throughout Niagara. This project will be fast-tracked to ensure this important message is getting out to our visitors in a timely manner.

### **NPCA Hunting Program**

Staff have issued an additional 43 hunting permits for NPCA Properties. To date staff have received and issued 128 hunting permits for 2010. Of these, 22 permits are issued to individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

### **Communities in Bloom**

We are in partnership again this year with the Town of Lincoln for their Communities in Bloom participation and are assisting on the programme committee. Promotion of the program will be rolled out in the local media starting mid April. Planned for this year in the Town of Lincoln is a spring clean-up sponsored by Tim Horton's, a garden contest, school litterbug program, and judges tour. The judges tour is scheduled for July 12-14<sup>th</sup> starting with a meet and greet BBQ at the Lincoln Centre. The NPCA van will be used once again for the judges tour July 13<sup>th</sup>. Judges comments from last year noted a strong desire for more time on the tour at Ball's Falls. This year the judging time at Ball's Falls has doubled, allowing almost two hours for a tour of the Centre, Falls, and Heritage Buildings. Information updates to follow later this spring.

### **Canadian Society of Landscape Architects Awards of Excellence Program**

We have received a letter from CSLA President Linda Irvine and Awards of Excellence Program Coordinator Alan Tate congratulating NPCA on winning a CSLA National Merit Award for our EC Brown Wetland project. A total of fifty eight submissions were received from across the county, and we were one of 13 entries that received a national award. Our project will be featured in the summer publication of *Landscape / Paysages* magazine and posted to the CSLA website ([www.csla.ca](http://www.csla.ca)).

The official National Award presentation will take place during the CSLA Congress in Edmonton from 19-21 August 2010. The national jury commented that "This is a project that saw the landscape architect act as the guiding force to engage the local community in the development of a storm-water quality control project. A longer-term vision for this restoration project demonstrated impressive results in the first year alone, encouraging the implementation of similarly strategized projects elsewhere in the country."

## **CA Highway Signage**

Last November NPCA Staff met with representatives from Canadian Tourism Oriented Directional Signage (CTODS) and Niagara Region Public Works to discuss our highway signage for Ball's Falls, Long Beach, and Chippawa Creek. Staff discussions with CTODS and Tourism Hamilton have also been held to push our need for replacement highway signage for Binbrook. A number of our highway signs are over ten years old and in dire need of replacement.

Staff are pleased to report that our sign contracts with CTODS are now confirmed for the next three years to cover our existing signs in the current inventory. We will also be adding two new TODS directional signs for Long Beach directing traffic down Station Road from Highway 3.

In April the Region confirmed costs for sign replacements for our highway signs under their jurisdiction and staff are now finalizing the details of the sign replacement program with public works staff and the region sign shop. Look for new highway signs to be replaced throughout the region over the course of this year by Niagara Region public works staff.

Our highway signs for Binbrook CA are currently under review with CTODS, Tourism Hamilton, and Hamilton traffic staff. These signs were "grandfathered" in during Hamilton amalgamation, and traffic staff have had a blind eye to these signs stating they could remain in place as –is until they are no longer readable or the NPCA wished them to be replaced. The signs are in poor condition and require replacement; our staff have initiated discussions to not only replace but expand our signage to major routes currently not serviced (i.e. highway 6, QEW, Red Hill Valley expressway etc.). Over the next two months staff will be working to sort out sign locations and replacement agreements with all parties involved.

- 1- installation of high-speed internet at C.W.
- 2- installation of fish screen- smaller diameter- at St. John's pond
- 3- contractor beginning installation of new bay doors -6- in drive shed of C.W.
- 4- tree trimming at Stevensville CA for new bridge installation
- 5- interior finishing work almost completed at new pavilion in Binbrook CA
- 6- interior refurbishing of north washroom at Long Beach CA is in process- Rob

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

### **Earth Day Activities**

A number of requests for participation in community Earth Day activities are being received. Staff will support and assist as resources allow. It's very gratifying to see our watershed communities coming together to celebrate this event.

### **St. Johns Conservation Area Trout Season Opening**

The annual Trout Season Opening Day at St. Johns Conservation Area will be held on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 12:00 noon. This is a great opportunity for families to enjoy the celebrations. A valid fishing license is required and conservation limits will apply.

## **Science and Engineering Fair**

The Authority has sponsored this event for over 16 years. The awards were presented on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **Simply Tree-mendous Challenge**

Staff is continuing to promote the challenge to watershed residents. Interest in the program is high and we are receiving numerous requests for Plant Guides.

## **Source Water Protection**

Public Consultation meetings on the Draft Assessment Report were held March 29<sup>th</sup> in Port Colborne, March 30<sup>th</sup> in Thorold and March 31<sup>st</sup> in Grimsby. These were well attended. Staff will receive comments until April 12<sup>th</sup> and then move forward towards the second phase of the consultation period.

## **Niagara Beaches Symposium**

Staff attended a symposium coordinated through the WaterSmart program. It was an excellent day with various presentations on the state of Niagara's beaches. The program manager is continuing to work with our community on this and a report will be forthcoming in the near future outlining goals and objectives.

## **Privacy Training**

Staff attended a workshop relating to some of the new issues relating to Privacy issues and protocols. This was coordinated through Niagara Region.

## **NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**

### **Elimination Draw & Dinner**

The Foundation's Elimination Draw & Dinner was held on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Welland Lions Community Centre on River Road in Welland. Tickets were sold for \$65 each and included a five-course meal, beverages and the chance to win more than \$1,000 in cash prizes. As a result \$2,400 was raised to support the Jordan Harbour project. Many thanks to Board members and staff who attended and supported this fundraising event.

### **Funding**

The Foundation has received a bequest of slightly more than \$30,000 from the estate of Edith Kees. She and her late husband Stephen, residents of Pelham, were both long-time donors to the Foundation.

PepsiCo Canada recently held its first senior leadership conference in Niagara-on-the-Lake. In lieu of branded conference mementos for participants, a charitable donation was offered on behalf of each attendee. As a result, our Foundation was the recipient of a cheque for \$2,420.

The students at E.L. Crossley Secondary School are presenting the musical 'Urinetown' on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Based on a future world without private toilets as a result of severe drought, the cast and crew are encouraging audience members to make a small donation in order to use the public restrooms during the run of the show. All monies collected will be given to the Foundation in support of the restoration efforts at the Wainfleet Bog.

### **Golf Tournament**

Organization and planning for the *2010 Bob Welch Memorial Charity Golf Classic* taking place on Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at the Whirlpool Golf Course is well underway. Currently there are 47 golfers registered, sponsorship amounting to \$2,500 has been secured and a few silent auction items have been committed. In addition, a local business is sponsoring the hole-in-one contest, with \$5,000 being awarded to the golfer should they get the hole-in-one and \$5,000 donated to our Foundation. Board members are encouraged to notify staff as soon as possible if they are planning to attend the event and if they have any leads for potential sponsors or donors of silent auction items.

### **Recommendation:**

**Report No. 23-10 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.**

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