

(11) **IN-CAMERA**

- (a) Complaint and Violation Status Report: Report No. CR-23-10
- (b) Tree By-Law Status Report – Report No. CR-24-10

ADJOURNMENT



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: November 10, 2010

SUBJECT: Budget Status Report - Report No. 66-10

Attached is the monthly budget status report for the period ending October 31, 2010. The budget revenues and expenditures are generally in line with the approved revised 2010 budget.

Revenues at the Conservation Areas, including the Thanksgiving Festival are lower than expected however anticipated expenditures have also been reduced by similar amounts.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

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



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: November 9, 2010

RE: Appointment of Enforcement Officers – Report No. 67-10

In October, Ms. Amy Brant was hired to replace the NPCA Forestry Technician, who resigned earlier in 2010. As members are aware, staff in the Land Management section of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority are responsible for working with our municipalities and local landowners to provide advice and assistance through the municipal planning process as well as the processing of permits and investigation of potential violations of the Region's Tree and Forest Conservation By-Law. Currently, a number of staff are NPCA Enforcement Officers appointed by the Board under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario. The service level agreement with the Region of Niagara designates NPCA Enforcement Officers as By-Law Enforcement Officers for the purpose of the Tree and Forest Conservation By-Law.

Based on the above, it is recommended that Ms. Amy Brant, Forestry Technician be appointed as Enforcement Officers under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario for the term of her employment with the Conservation Authority, as specified under Section 28 (e) of said Act.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Ms. Amy Brant be appointed as an Enforcement Officer under The Conservation Authorities Act.

Prepared by: Darcy Baker – Director, Land Management

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Tony D'Amario, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: November 9, 2010

RE: Modification to Jordan Harbour C.A. Master Plan – Report No. 68-10

The first year of operations at Jordan Harbour has been very successful. The NPCA had two organizations renting facilities (Niagara Rowing School and Niagara Dragon Boats), that helped to offset the cost of maintenance and gate operations.

Shortly after the opening ceremony, staff were approached by donors interested in funding the construction of a roofed shelter or pavilion on the site. Over the course of the summer, staff visited the property to observe how the facility operated and to speak with those who used the site. Through this investigation it appears that a roofed shelter, located at the launch ramp/boat dock, would be appreciated and welcomed.

Accordingly, staff believe that the addition of a shelter to the site master plan is appropriate. It would provide a protected area for people to set-up while launching. The design and construction would have to take into consideration the potential for vandalism in this day-use site.

The Jordan Harbour Master Plan was adopted by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation, who has been actively raising funds for the project. If the proposed modification to the master plan is approved, the revised plan will be forwarded to the Foundation for their support and fundraising efforts.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Jordan Harbour Conservation Area Master Plan be modified to include a roofed shelter near the boat launch; and,

That the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation be notified of the plan change.

Prepared by: Darcy Baker – Director, Land Management

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Tony D'Amario, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: November 9, 2010

RE: 2011 Hunting Permit Fees – Report No. 69-10

During the presentation of the 2010 Fee Schedule Report, Board Members asked to have the hunting permit fee included as part of the 2011 fee schedule. Staff are still collecting information to prepare the 2011 Conservation Area Fee Schedule, however we have received several requests for 2011 hunting permits.

NPCA Hunting Permits are valid for the entire calendar year. This coincides with renewal dates for Provincial Hunting Licenses. During the fall staff experience a rush of hunters who want to get an NPCA Hunting Permit for the following year to take advantage of the rabbit hunting season, beginning in January. Unfortunately staff can not issue permits until a fee has been set.

The fee for an NPCA Hunting Permit has been set at \$25.00 since it was implemented in 2008. Although the hunting community was not pleased with the implementation of a fee, there was an understanding that the funds would be used to offset the administrative cost of processing the request, issuing Permits and site enforcement. Staff have reviewed the costs associated with the program and believe the \$25.00 fee is sufficient and it should not be increased.

This is one of the few fees that comes into play at the start of the year. It would be a great assistance to staff if the fee can be set in November, allowing us to meet the need of hunters. If the fee is approved, staff will issue permits for 2011, with the understanding that 2010 harvest forms must be returned before April of 2011 to be eligible for hunting in the following year. The fee will also be added to the 2011 Conservation Areas Fee Schedule, which will be presented to the Board at the December Meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Report Number 69-10 be approved; and,

That the 2011 Fee for a Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Hunting Permit be set at \$25.00.

Prepared by: Darcy Baker – Director, Land Management

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Tony D’Amario, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: November 12, 2010

RE: PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 70-10

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 13 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 the NPCA's website.

The design work and construction specifications for the capital erosion work at the north west end of the reservoir is out for quotations. A contractor is expected to be selected by month's end.

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

i) Permits

The NPCA has approved 73 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 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 21 municipal drain projects during the current calendar year.

3) Floodplain Mapping

i) Wignall 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 Wignall Drain located in the City of Port Colborne.

ii) Beaver Dam 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 Beaver Dam Drain located in the City of Port Colborne.

iii) Point Abino Drain – Town of Fort Erie

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 Point Abino Drain located in the Town of Fort Erie.

II. Watershed Planning Division

1) Municipal and Development Plan Input and Review

While considerable amount of time was spent by the biologist and planners on preparations for the Bay Beach Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing, at the last minute the lawyers determined that the NPCA biologist would not have to testify. Engineering staff were still expected to appear as a witness with respect to the engineering review of the application regarding “dynamic beach”.

2) Watershed Plan Preparation

a) Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan

The Lake Erie Shoreline study and mapping has been received by NPCA staff and final additions into respective sections of the Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan have been completed.

Final collection of erosion pin data was conducted at the 2 sites in this study area before the watershed planning program concludes. This data has been entered into the erosion pin database to be used by NPCA staff in the future.

b) Central Welland River Watershed Plan

Research and writing of the Phase Two: Restoration Strategy is complete and the Watershed Plan has been posted for commenting by staff and the public. The final Steering Committee meeting to go over any questions, comments or concerns the Steering Committee may have regarding the final document is scheduled for November 17th.

The Central Welland River Geomorphic Report is complete and has been submitted to the Watershed Planning Specialist for review. Final collection of erosion pin data was conducted at the 3 sites in this study area and this data has been entered into the erosion pin database to be used by NPCA staff in the future.

The Central Welland River Floodplain mapping and draft report have been submitted by Aquafor Beech Limited for staff review.

c) Beaverdams and Shriners Creek Watershed Plan

The Final Phase One: Watershed Characterization and Issues Identification Report is complete and has been posted on the NPCA website. Final updates to the Phase One Report will take place in spring before the Watershed Planning program is terminated. Due to time restraints there will not be a Phase Two: Restoration Strategy for this study area.

Geomorphology field work is complete, data input has been initiated, and final collection of erosion pin data was conducted at the 2 sites in this study area and this data has been entered into the erosion pin database to be used by NPCA staff in the future.

Analysis of the field data and research and writing of the Recommended Actions for Public and Private Lands has also been initiated.

d) Upper Welland River Watershed Plan

The Final Phase One: Watershed Characterization and Issues Identification Report is complete and has been posted on the NPCA website. Research and writing of Phase Two: Restoration Strategy will be initiated early 2011.

The draft Hydrology report has been submitted by Aquafor Beech Limited for staff review.

e) Lower Welland River Watershed Plan

Research and writing of the Lower Welland River Characterization Report has been temporarily resumed while the Central Welland River Watershed Plan is in commenting phase.

3) Natural Areas Inventory/Heritage System

The second meeting of the Scenario Development Team took place on November 4th. This group of stakeholders from across the watershed is responsible for identifying constraints to the natural heritage system, and setting targets for what will be included in the system.

Staff gave a presentation on the project to the Niagara Chapter of the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association. A presentation was also given to the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Implementation team on November 10th.

III. Source Water Protection Division

1) Source Water Protection Plan

Source protection staff continue to work on developing policies for the Source Protection Plan (SPP), with assistance from Niagara Region and key SPC members. The Source Protection Plan Working Group meets about once per month to review progress. Source Protection Committee members recently attended a training workshop on Source Protection Plan policy writing hosted by MOE. Technical staff also continue to work on the Updated Assessment Report and the MOE's Assessment Report Data Base (ARDB) project.

2) Water Quality Monitoring Program:

a) Routine Water Quality Work

Routine surface water quality monitoring continues at all NPCA stations until November 2010. Spot-flow monitoring, to compliment water quality sampling, is completed monthly at thirty-one

(31) stations in the Welland River, Forty, Twenty, Eighteen, Sixteen and Twelve Mile Creeks until November 2010. The NPCA continues to collect groundwater level data at 15 monitoring wells as part of the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN). Water quality sampling at 13 PGMN wells was postponed from October but is now scheduled for the second week in November.

Biological monitoring studies using benthic macroinvertebrate are scheduled for the Hamilton Airport, the Glanbrook Landfill, Frenchman's Creek, and Thompson Creek for November.

3) Special Projects

The Welland River Eutrophication Study: Weekly sampling and flow monitoring continues at Beaver, Big Forks and Oswego tributaries. Dissolved oxygen (DO) sensors have been collecting data at 6 locations in the summer of 2010, including the three above-noted tributaries and portions of the Welland River. All of these DO sensors were removed in October. The auto-sampler in Beaver Creek was also removed in October.

NPCA Water Well Decommissioning Grant Program: Requests for application continue to be received for this program.

St. David's Well Decommissioning: NPCA staff continue to provide technical expertise and assistance to Niagara Region Public Works for abandoning the former St. David's municipal well field and reservoirs. The project is expected to continue into 2011.

Hydrogeology reviews completed in the last month include:

- 1 private servicing study review for Watershed Planning.
- 1 development application adjacent a provincially significant wetland; and
- Two (2) Regulation 153 reviews - potable conditions and areas of natural significance.

IV. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division

1) Source Water Protection Support Activities

- Populating the threats inventory into the prescribed Assessment Report Database task has expanded this month to include those within groundwater vulnerable areas now that the inventory for surface water vulnerable areas has been completed.
- The Spills Action Centre tabular data from MOE has been geocoded and mapped spill incidents within the Niagara Watershed between 1988 and 2010 now exist.

2) Watershed Planning Support Activities

- MNR has delivered the latest and greatest version of the Haldimand evaluated wetlands which will be incorporated back into the NAI ELC Community Series fabric in the coming months through another the QA/QC pass of the municipality.
- The GIS services firm performing the NAI ELC Community fabric interpretation for the Authority's watershed within the City of Hamilton has delivered the first sample of their efforts and the mapping looks excellent so far.
- The Lake Erie Great Lakes Flood and Erosion Mapping specifically and several other hazard inventory updates continue being updated into the Authority's plan review and regulations screening mapping
- Stakeholders on the NHS Scenario Development Team (SDT) met for a second time to assigning conserved (included), preferred and excluded statuses to the detailed inventory of potential social political constraints that will inform the site selection in the system design process.
- Derivatives from the base ELC Community Series fabric mapping continue to be developed for the NHS ecological objective/value target setting process.

3) Corporate GIS and Information Management Support Activities

- Staff has been working with Region of Niagara GIS Services staff on fine tuning the performance of the BETA version the NPCA Niagara Atlas internal web mapping site by changing the various scale dependencies (range of map scale when a layer is visible) for certain datasets.
- The tasks surrounding the BETA external NPCA web mapping Niagara Navigator site for the public are currently focused on establishing the proper legal disclaimers and citations to prevent liability and to remind users that the information provided is not a substitute for professional review.
- The HydroServer website which will function as a data discovery and access tool for the Authority's water data web services (mapping and observations) continues to be fine tuned for official launch later this month and will compliment the existing real time monitoring network data access in the corporate website.
- The Grand River Conservation Authority has delivered the pixel correlated DEM for the Large Scale Hydrology Maintenance Pilot project.
- The SWOOP 2010 Partnership agreement was recently amended by MNR based on several issues about redistribution rights that were identified by the stakeholders. It will be signed this month with the products for the Niagara Region portion of the watershed becoming available for delivery on the 15th, Hamilton on December 1st, and Haldimand on March 15th, 2011.

V. Watershed Restoration Division

1) Project Implementation

- Staff have completed the woodland reforestation and riparian planting projects. In total 32 woodland restoration / riparian projects were implemented across the watershed through partnerships with private landowners, Land Care 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. Well over 100,000 trees and shrubs were planted. Over 10,000 wildflowers and grass plugs were planted and over 10 kilograms of native seed was seeded into restoration sites.
- Construction projects such as wetland restoration, aquatic in-stream works, erosion and bank stabilization projects are currently in implementation. Over 15 wetland projects across the watershed are scheduled for completion this season.
- BMP projects such as nutrient management projects, livestock fencing, cover crops and erosion control projects such as rock chutes and check point dams are currently being implemented. In total over 40 BMP projects are being implemented across the watershed.
- In total across all watershed plan areas, over 120 restoration projects will be completed this year.
- Staff are researching opportunities to work with landowners who live adjacent to the Welland River between the Old Welland Canal Siphon and HWY 24. The goal is to locate riparian wetland restoration opportunities in this location as it is the most affected by water level and flow reversal issues. These projects will advance our commitments under our OPG agreement.

2) Special Projects

- The NPCA in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada has been working to restore interior forest at the Lathrop Nature Reserve in Fonthill. Two old agricultural fields have been put back into forest habitat.

- The NPCA in partnership with Ontario Power Generation and the Niagara Region has been working to restore escarpment edge forest habitat on a 14 acre old agricultural field adjacent to the Decew water treatment plant and the Bruce Trail. This year concludes the third year of the aggressive restoration plan timeframe. Two interpretative signs explaining the efforts will be installed this fall at two locations adjacent to the project on the Bruce Trail for hikers to enjoy.
- The NPCA in partnership with Ontario Power Generation, the City of St. Catharines and Niagara College have been working to establish snapping turtle nesting sites in the Twelve Mile Creek valley. Lafarge Inc. donated the staff time and the material and supplies for the project. NPCA staff supplied the invasive species removal and the native plant installation. The Snapping Turtle is a special concern species under Ontario's Endangered Species Act, 2007. It has also been assessed nationally as a special concern species by the federal Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Funding for this project was secured from the St. Catharine's Green Committee.
- The NPCA in partnership with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Smart Centre is undertaking a wetland restoration / compensation project on Chanlter Rd in the Coyle Creek watershed. The purpose of this wetland is to provide fisheries compensation as part of the mitigation for the Smart Centre development. This wetland project is a significant undertaking and will provide up to 8 acres of additional wetland habitat in the Welland River and the Niagara River Area of Concern (AOC).
- The NPCA in partnership with Kala Hardware in St. Catharine's have been working to restore 200 metres of riparian stream buffer along a tributary of Richardson's Creek. Funding for this project was secured from the St. Catharine's Green Committee.
- The NPCA in partnership with Big Valley Campground in Lincoln have been working to restore 300 metres of riparian stream buffer along Fifteen Mile Creek.
- The NPCA in partnership with the City of Welland have been continuing restoration efforts along Drapers Creek within Maple Park and at Colbeck Dr. Interpretive Signage was installed at both locations in order to explain the importance of protecting and restoring water quality and biodiversity.
- The NPCA in partnership with the Niagara Restoration Council have been working on a restoration plan for Landsdowne Pond in One Mile Creek in NOTL. Funding has been secured from Eco Action (\$63,000) for the implementation of various biodiversity and water quality improvements such as invasive species removal and sediment catch basins.
- The NPCA in partnership with the Niagara Restoration Council and the Friends of Short Hills Park have been working on a restoration plan for the agricultural land adjacent to Short Hills Park. The 100 year leases around the park are expiring and will be put back to natural areas. Both Eco Action and Trillium will be funding this two year restoration initiative.

3) ECO School Program

- Naturalization plots were planted at 23 schools across the watershed in June. Watering and weeding by participants continued through summer. Site visits were conducted at each school at the end of July/beginning of August to monitor plots. Most of the plots were doing well. Watering tends to always be an issue in the summer. A final program report will be available in November.
- Program evolution – as this was the last year in the original five year program, staff are working with the Niagara Water Smart Program to evolve this program into a school yard tree planting initiative.

4) 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. This year over 170 drains have been painted thanks to the dedication of over 150 volunteers with participation from 4 different municipalities.

5) 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 are arriving back to the NPCA. Data will be collected and interpreted by staff and incorporated into our annual report.
- Staff continue to work with Biotactic's (fisheries research biologist) to study various areas of the Welland River in terms of species presence/ absence. This is part of our Welland River Angler Catch and Release Program. Three days were spent netting fish (seining) from various parts of the river. This information will be incorporated into our annual report; however it is worth noting that young of the year Muskellunge were captured in Grassy Brook. This is a significant find because it indicates sufficient spawning habitat and a reproducing population of this very desirable sport fish. Another interesting find was many Grass Pickerel (species of special concern) were located in various sections of Oswego Creek. Although this species has been found in this system before, the abundance and health of the species was encouraging.

6) Landowner Stewardship Guide

- Building on the success of the One Mile Creek Landowner Stewardship Guide, staff are working to modify this guide to a watershed wide "How to" guide for landowners. Main topics sections will focus on improving water quality and biodiversity. An application to the Niagara Community Foundation is being made in order to secure additional funding for this document. It is anticipated to be completed in early 2011.

VI. Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

1) Lyons Creek East

The Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met in mid-October. The agenda included update presentations on the Sediment Transport Study (Golder Assoc.) and the Lyons Creek East Contaminated Sediment Long-Term Monitoring Plan (Environment Canada). There was consensus that, due to the delays of the Administrative Controls document and the Sediment Transport Study, TAG will remain in place. Discussion on the roles and name of the new committee has been deferred until early 2011. In the meantime, signatures from each of the committed agencies will be included in the Administrative Controls Protocol document.

Next steps for Lyons Creek East involve establishing a Management Framework Agreement between the stakeholders and the NPCA and a public communication strategy.

2) Stage 2 RAP Update

The Niagara River (Ontario) RAP Stage 2 Update report & Update 2010 fact sheets are posted on the NPCA web site.

The RAP Coordinating Committee met in mid-October and discussed plans for the Implementation Committee workshop (scheduled for November 10). Content, timeframe and requirements for a workshop to address the BUI: *Loss of Fish & Wildlife Habitat* will be identified

in November, with the intention of holding a workshop with partners in March 2011. The RAP Habitat Strategy is anticipated to be the outcome of the workshop, as well as who will implement it.

The next RAP Coordinating Committee meeting is scheduled for mid-January 2011.

The RAP Stage 2 Update report (Dec.2009) is expected to receive agency approval and sign-off in November 2010.

The RAP Coordinator in collaboration with MOE presented a RAP update to the Niagara Area Planners on October 22, 2010.

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 (COA) Respecting the Great Lakes Ecosystem 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). The current COA is in effect until March 2011, after which there may be an extension of one more year.

4) International Liaison

The RAP Coordinator attended the Connecting Channels RAP Coordinators' workshop in London on October 26, 2010.

The RAP Coordinator attended the U.S. Niagara River RAC meeting on October 28 in Buffalo and extended an invitation to the RAP Implementers' Workshop in mid-Nov/10.

The International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) Conference will be held in Duluth, Minnesota, May 30 – June 3, 2011.

5) Update: Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

The current GLWQA is the revised Agreement of 1978 as amended by Protocol in 1987. A review of the Agreement and its Annexes has been underway since 2006. 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.

A recent update indicates that negotiations between the governments are moving slowly and may extend into 2012.

LAND MANAGEMENT

Ball's Falls Conservation Area

Approximately 1500 visitors were on site during the free admission "Doors Open" weekend on October 16 & 17. This marked the 3rd year of our participation in the event. Approximately 2/3 of the visitors came into the Centre, the feature of the weekend, while 1/3 took advantage of the opportunity to hike and enjoy the outdoors.

The Ministry of Tourism & Culture recently approved our Community Museum Operating Grant application in the amount of \$14,161. This amount has remained unchanged despite the opening of the Centre for Conservation and the expanded museum programming, facilitated by the new galleries and storage space. The Ministry recently announced an influx of new funding to the program, but advised that these funds will be allocated to support the entry of new eligible

applicants into the program, rather than to museums already participating in the program. In a subsequent announcement, the Ministry advised that it will be undertaking a 3 year assessment process to assess all clients in the CMOG program and in the future, funding decisions will be based on applicants meeting performance criteria and standards. Changes will be in effect for the 2011-12 funding year. Staff are required to complete an initial survey in this regard by January 30, 2011.

Engineering and heritage conservation consultants have completed their review of the Grist Mill and Barn. Staff anticipates completing the recommended work on the barn by year end. Discussions continue concerning the preferred approach for remedial work on the mill.

The travelling exhibit from the ROM, "Northern Owls" continues at the Centre until November 14. Schools have been participating in the education program offered around the exhibit. An "Owl Prowl" was also held on November 6. More than 2000 visitors have been to the site since the exhibit opened, not including festival weekend.

Linda Vickers, our intern from Mount St. Vincent University has completed her internship. The Ball's Falls Blog will be carried on by one of two Brock interns from the Department of Recreation & Leisure Studies currently working at the Centre.

The Department of Canadian Heritage has approved our application for funding under the Museums Assistance Program; MAP- Exhibit Circulation Fund for a traveling exhibit from the Canadian Museum of Nature entitled "Our Feathered Friends". This exhibit is scheduled for the spring of 2011.

Staff are finalizing the schedule for the War of 1812 Exhibits – (2010 -2014) in conjunction with the War of 1812 Bicentennial. The first in this series of exhibits, "War on the Lakes" will run from November 20, 2010 – February 4, 2011. Our application to the War of 1812 Legacy Council to assist with a special event planned for was unfortunately denied, due to a large number of applications. The special event, "The War on the Water – 1812 -1814: An afternoon of Art, Archaeology & Music" will still be held on Saturday, November 27 from 2-4pm at the Centre. Tickets for the print, *In Company*, by marine artist Peter Rindlishbacher (drawn at the event) are available at the Centre and the office.

Sixty individuals, including organizations and businesses will be recognized for their contributions to the programming Ball's Falls at the upcoming NPCA Conservation Achievement Awards ceremony.

Recent programs have included "Monster Mash" and the final 2010 Blacksmithing workshops. The Soap making workshop is scheduled for Sunday, November 14th.

Comments in the Book: Wonderful walk on a Perfect Day, fun for our little 3 year old guy lots of great photos too, Fantastic views! Great, excellent presentations!, Great Fall Escape, beautiful fall fair, so enjoyable!, Loved the owls & crafts – a great time! Visitors heard about us through: newspaper, internet, pamphlet, local, family, Museums of Niagara Association brochure, festival, Conservation Association, The Standard, Doors Open, NPCA website, CHCH TV11, Ontario Yours to Discover.

From: Willowdale, Sherwood Park (AB), Burnaby, Hamilton, Brampton, Waterdown, Port Erie, Toronto, Amherst (NY), Duncan (B.C.), Bristow, (VA), Newfoundland, Waterloo, Windsor, Oakville, Cranbrook (B.C.), Stouffville, Scarborough, Middleport (N.Y.), Bournemouth (UK), Dayton (NJ), Calgary (AB), Niagara, Aurora, Dortgund (GER),

Town of Lincoln Communities in Bloom

NPCA staff are meeting in early November with the Town of Lincoln and CIB Committee to wrap up the work for this year and look ahead to improvements for next years' programme. We anticipate continuing our support to this programme, promoting opportunities for our Ball's Falls property, and discussing tree planting partnerships with the Town on their lands.

Jordan Harbour Conservation Area

The first season of operations at the Jordan Harbour Conservation Area is now complete. The docks have been removed and everything stored for the winter season. Public response to this site has been very positive. The Peninsula Paddlers, a local kayak group, said that the site provided very important access to the Jordan Harbour that allowed them to explore the area with ease.

Neighbouring landowners had concerns that the Conservation Area would adversely impact the enjoyment of their properties. Staff are pleased to report that there were no complaints resulting from the season's operations.

Long Beach and Chippawa Creek

The facilities at both campgrounds are now winterized. Staff resources will be turned to completing the finishing landscaping to complete the Chippawa Sewer Project.

Over the next several months, staff will be removing old "hybrid poplar" trees from Chippawa Creek campground. These trees have started to drop large limbs, and are considered to be over-mature. Since these are hazard trees, permits will not be required under the Region of Niagara Tree and Forest Conservation By-law.

Binbrook Conservation Area

The Waterfowl Hunt got off to a good start, but has slowed dramatically over the past few weeks. The hunt will continue until the second week in December, or reservoir freeze-up. Ice fishing inquiries have already started to roll in for 2011.

The docks have all been removed in preparation for the winter season. Water lines and splash pad facility have been drained and winterized as well.

Rockway Conservation Area

In the past month staff have completed trail improvements in the valley lands at Rockway to improve trail access near the old dam and Bruce Trail. Trail improvements will be monitored from time to time over the winter months when staff are in the area doing other work.

Twenty Valley Trail Jordan

Staff are reviewing the condition of the wood steps down the escarpment located behind the museum in Jordan. Deterioration of the wood structure is now evident and staff are assessing the safety concern to the public. In the short term routine monitoring and patch repairs can be implemented to address any immediate safety issues. However, the lifespan of the wood structure and replacement options will be investigated in further detail by staff and recommendations tabled for the 2011 work season.

Elm Street Landfill Port Colborne

This new site with walking trails and a dog park is now in use by the public and the Region is handling construction warranty and completion items while our field staff are conducting routine park maintenance. Our Conservation Planner has conducted a full site review and photo inventory of the completed restoration project for our reference and file.

Conservation Ontario Signage Inventory Project

Conservation Ontario is gathering information from all conservation areas on the number and condition of conservation area highway signs in the province. The intent is to get a clearer picture of the needs/gaps in signage across all Conservation Areas, as well as develop a budget for a potential province wide sign replacement programme with Conservation Ontario branding. Our staff have just submitted inventory information on the signs at our properties and are waiting to hear more information about this programme.

Conservation Ontario Conservation Areas Workshop

In October our field staff attended this annual three day workshop held in Orillia at the Geneva Park conference centre. This is a good opportunity for our field operations staff to share information and experience with their peers at other conservation authorities.

Binbrook Superintendent Jim Douglas led a session on Tourism Success stories in which Binbrook was highlighted, Ken Phillips, CAO for Halton Conservation and Don Pearson of Conservation Ontario were in attendance during seminar. The Ministry of Tourism and Culture also presented at this session along with the Collingwood Scenic Caves.

Our staff assisted Conservation Ontario with the launching of the "Innovation Award" competition at the conference. This was conceived as a friendly competition amongst all conservation authorities to showcase innovative ideas and projects they are working on. The submissions were voted on by secret ballot by conference participants, with first second and third prizes and the „bragging rights' granted to the most popular entries. Our staff assisted in receiving the nomination packages and preparing materials for the award display area at the conference. A total of thirteen projects were entered by eight conservation authorities. We refrained from entering the competition as we were actively involved in the planning and support this time around.

Conservation Lands Property Assessments

Property assessment notices for our conservation lands are starting to arrive from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). Our staff review the assessment information and compare it to historic assessment records and current property conditions and use. A full report is prepared by the Conservation Planner for internal staff review, noting any concerns about the information received and recommendations to accept or appeal the assessment. Usually by the end of December we have sufficient information to make an informed decision, and have until March 31 of the tax year to file paperwork with MPAC. More information from staff will follow in the near future.

Long Beach Conservation Area

Staff drafted a work permit for continued beach maintenance at Long Beach. This permit is required annually to ensure the Species at Risk (SAR) are adequately protected in any shoreline activity, such as beach maintenance. The application is being reviewed at a staff level and will then be submitted for the 2011 season.

Morgan's Point Conservation Area

Staff completed maintenance on the prairie-savannah site. To regenerate the native plants and seeding of this landscape, non-native invasives, woody materials and saplings need to be removed every 3-7 years. As fire is not a method easily accommodated, an alternate method of mowing and clipping removal (unwanted nitrogen source) is used at this site.

Mud Lake Conservation Area

Staff have been working on the development of a new information sign for Mud Lake Conservation Area to replace the existing sign. The sign will contain general information and photos on the site's history, significance, a site map with trail information and policies.

Conservation Area Resource Inventory

Staff are working on a funding application to conduct an inventory of critical species and habitat areas within the Conservation Areas that we own and protect. Based on the funding source, it will address a few species at risk and will focus on several escarpment properties. Areas with high site usage and possible negative effects will be focused on first. Species with high priority on the funding sources list will be inventoried as well. Additional funding will continue to be sought for mammals and critical habitat areas (hibernation/gestation/feeding) which are of priority to the Region/NPCA which may not make the Provincial or National lists.

NPCA Hunting Program

Staff have issued an additional 39 hunting permits for the NPCA Conservation Areas. To date 297 hunting permits have been issued for 2010. Of these, 46 permits are issued to individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

The first controlled deer hunt season of the year was held November 1 through 7. Staff visited Conservation Areas to ensure hunters had NPCA Hunting Permits and to communicate rules and regulations for the parks. Controlled deer hunts are found to be the most effective opportunity to reach the largest number of hunters. Staff also field a number of additional calls regarding hunting rules/regulations for the Conservation Areas during the November controlled deer hunt.

The second controlled deer hunting season is scheduled for November 29 through December 5.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Conservation Achievement Awards

The 2010 Awards Presentation and Reception will be held on Wednesday, November 24th, 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 is working with the new WaterSmart Project Manager regarding this project. An update will be provided through the Region's Green Scene publication which is sent to all households in the region.

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.

Community Relations

Staff is working with region communications on several community engagement sessions geared to help residents understand the scope of services offered. The first session is scheduled for November 18th at Niagara Region headquarters.

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Niagara Community Foundation

The Foundation will be making application to the Niagara Community Foundation for this year's round of environmental grants. Deadline for submission is December 3rd.

War on the Lakes Raffle

As part of the *War on the Lakes, the War of 1812*, exhibit at the Centre for Conservation, a framed print by renowned artist Peter Rindlisbacher, known for his Great Lakes and War of 1812 subjects, will be raffled off at an event in conjunction with this exhibit at the Centre on November 27th. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and can be purchased at Ball's Falls or from staff at the main office.

Recommendation:

Report No. 70-10 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.

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