



**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
FULL AUTHORITY**

WOODEND

AGENDA

JUNE 22, 2011 – 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

BUSINESS:

(1) MINUTES FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – May 18, 2011

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting held May 18, 2011.

(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

(3) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

(4) CAO'S REMARKS

(5) DELEGATION

Representatives from the Thundering Waters Development Corporation will be in attendance to discuss the Oldfield Plan of Subdivision.

(6) OLDFIELD ROAD DRAFT PLAN OF SUBDIVISION – APPEAL TO OMB - REPORT NO. 30-11

Attached is Report No. 30-11 regarding this matter.

(7) WOODEND LIVING CAMPUS PROPOSAL – REPORT NO. 31-11

Attached is Report No. 31-11 regarding this Proposal.

(8) STAFF PRESENTATION CANOPIES FOR KIDS PROGRAM

Jocelyn Baker, Coordinator Watershed Restoration will be in attendance to provide the board with an update on the progress of this program.

(9) BUDGET STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 32-11

Attached is Report No. 32-11 updating the budget to date, together with summaries of the current and capital budgets.

(10) 2012 BUDGET SCHEDULE AND GUIDANCE – REPORT NO. 33-11

Attached is Report No. 33-11 regarding the 2012 budget and proposed meeting schedule.

(11) **NAMING OF NPCA ASSETS AND FACILITIES – REPORT NO. 34-11**

Attached is Report No. 34-11 outlining the Authority's policy regarding this matter.

(12) **PFOS COMPOUNDS AT THE BINBROOK RESERVOIR (UPDATE) – REPORT NO. 35-11**

Attached is Report No. 35-11 updating this matter.

(13) **PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER DESIGNATION – REPORT NO. 36-11**

Attached is Report No. 36-11 outlining the individuals to be identified as Provincial Offences Officers.

(14) **PROJECT/PROGRAM STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 37-11**

Attached is Report No. 37-11 outlining the status of Authority Projects/Programs to date.

(15) **OTHER BUSINESS**

(16) **IN-CAMERA**

- (a) Complaint and Violation Status Report - Report No. CR-10-11
- (b) Tree By-Law Status Report – Report No. CR-11-11
- (c) Proposed Land Acquisition – Report No. CR-12-11
- (d) Saine Application Report – Report No. CR-13-11

ADJOURNMENT

TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: June 18, 2011

SUBJECT: Oldfield Road Draft Plan of Subdivision - Appeal to OMB – Report No. 30-11

This report has been prepared to provide some background for the NPCA Board with respect to a current Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) appeal.

In February of 2010, application was made to the City of Niagara Falls for Draft Plan Approval of a 23 hectare development application known as the Oldfield Road Plan of Subdivision. The proposal includes the creation of lots and blocks for residential uses, stormwater management, and protection of natural heritage, along with the associated roads. Through the subsequent review process, the Proponent's Consultant identified 3 Species of Concern (SOC) under the Region of Niagara's Official Plan (O.P.A. 187), in existence on the property. Of these, the most rare is Round Leaved Greenbrier, which is also identified by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) as a Provincially Endangered Species.

Pursuant to the MOU for Planning Services in Niagara, NPCA has been delegated responsibility to approve habitat delineation and mitigation for 2 of the 3 rare species identified by the Developer's Consultant. However, as the Round Leaved Greenbrier is on the Provincially Endangered Species list, NPCA's role is limited to that of screening for compliance with Endangered Species requirements. MNR has retained sole authority to approve the delineation of lands that are to remain undisturbed to avoid impact to the provincially rare species. This can be referred to as a Habitat Preservation Area (HPA) and includes both the land occupied by the species and any adjacent buffers required.

To date, the MNR has indicated that the HPA proposed by the Developer's Consultant is insufficient. In an effort to facilitate a resolve, on March 4, 2011, NPCA held a meeting at its offices with the MNR and Developer (and their consultants). After lengthy discussions, the MNR did not accept the block proposed by the Developer's Consultant as being sufficient for the HPA. At that time, MNR indicated that a larger and more linear area of land was required to protect the Greenbrier. Nonetheless, the Developer requested and MNR agreed to reexamine the extent of lands they believed were required. To date, MNR has advised that they require more time to conduct field inspections, etc. before they can consider any revision to their previous position.

It is important to note that when making planning decisions the NPCA, RMON and City must have regard for protection of Provincially Endangered Species under section 2.1.6 of the Provincial Policy. While NPCA has no objection to the development of a subdivision here, the NPCA is the review agency responsible for screening for impact of the development on the natural habitat features as set out in the Provincial Policy Statement.

Subsequently, in May of 2011, the Developer requested the City of Niagara Falls to have the Draft Plan Application considered by Council, prior to completion of MNR's HPA review. The

NPCA did not object, but rather requested that the City simply include a condition requiring that the final plan be revised to recognize the limit of the HPA once finalized by MNR; and that the habitat be protected through appropriate related Amendments to the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw (see Attachment No.1). The Region of Niagara also requested a similarly worded clause as a condition of draft plan approval.

Accordingly, City of Niagara Falls staff did include an appropriate clause in the draft plan conditions that would have satisfied both the NPCA and the RMON. However, on April 18, 2011, the Council of the City of Niagara Falls passed a resolution deleting that same clause.

In staff's opinion, the approval as granted by the City of Niagara Falls Council does not bring any closure to the matter. The effect of the Draft Plan approval as granted is creation of lots for residential development in what is currently recognized as habitat of an endangered species. By removing the condition suggested by City staff, the City's approval is contrary to Provincial legislation (i.e. the Planning Act), the Provincial Policy Statements, 2005, and the Region of Niagara Policy Plan. Further, under the Endangered Species Act anyone proceeding with works that disturb an endangered species, is liable for significant penalties.

Although NPCA staff is sympathetic to the frustrations expressed by the Developer with regards to the timelines associated with an MNR reevaluation, there is both a public and legislative expectation that NPCA will help conserve significant natural heritage features. Based on the City of Niagara Falls Council's decision to delete the clause addressing endangered species, this agency was given no reasonable choice other than to appeal the decision to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). This was done on May 18, 2011 (see Attachment No. 2). The RMON and the MNR via the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing have also appealed to the OMB.

It is NPCA's staff opinion that the matter of the appeal can be readily resolved by either the City of Niagara Falls re-instating the draft plan condition to ensure protection of the Greenbrier habitat, or the MNR completing their reevaluation of the HPA and the draft plan amended accordingly. Both of these options can be exercised before the matter reaches the OMB Hearing stage, however both options are outside of NPCA's direct control.

Attachments:

- 1) NPCA e-mail to N.Falls dated April 15, 2011; Re: Draft Plan Condition
- 2) NPCA letter to N.Falls dated May 18, 2011; Re: Appeal to OMB
- 3) Relevant Clauses from the Niagara Memorandum of Understanding for Planning Services and Provincial Legislation

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 30-11 regarding the NPCA appeal for the Oldfield Road Subdivision be received for information.

Prepared by: John Kukalis; Director, Water Management

Respectfully Submitted By: _____

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

Relevant Clauses from the Niagara Memorandum of Understanding for Planning Services and Provincial Legislation:

- Section 3 of the Planning Act: Policy statements and provincial plans

(5) A decision of the council of a municipality, a local board, a planning board, a minister of the Crown and a ministry, board, commission or **agency** of the government, including the Municipal Board, in respect of the exercise of any authority that affects a planning matter,

- (a) shall be consistent with the policy statements issued under subsection (1) that are in effect on the date of the decision; and
- (b) shall conform with the provincial plans that are in effect on that date, or shall not conflict with them, as the case may be. 2006, c. 23, s. 5.

Same

(6) Comments, submissions or advice affecting a planning matter that are provided by the council of a municipality, a local board, a planning board, a minister or ministry, board, commission or **agency** of the government,

- (a) shall be consistent with the policy statements issued under subsection (1) that are in effect on the date the comments, submissions or advice are provided; and
- (b) shall conform with the provincial plans that are in effect on that date, or shall not conflict with them, as the case may be. 2006, c. 23, s. 5.

- Section 2 of the Planning Act, the Council of a municipality, in carrying out their responsibilities under this Act, shall have regard to matters of provincial interest including (a) the protection of ecological systems including natural areas, features and functions;

- Section 3(5) of the Planning Act, a decision of the Council of a municipality...in respect of the exercise of any authority that affects a planning matter, (a) shall be consistent with the policy statements issued under subsection (1) that are in effect on the date of the decision; and (b) shall conform with the provincial plans that are in effect or that date, or shall not conflict with them, as the case may be.

- Section 2.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement, 2005, natural features and areas shall be protected for the long term.

- Section 2.1.3 of the Provincial Policy Statement, 2005, development and site alteration shall not be permitted in (a) significant habitat of endangered species and threatened species.

-Section 2.1.6 of the Provincial Policy Statement provides the “Development and site alteration shall not be permitted on adjacent lands to the Natural Heritage features and areas identified in policies ...2.1.3 (endangered and threatened species)... unless the ecological function of the adjacent lands has been evaluated and it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or on their ecological functions.”

- Region’s Core Natural Heritage Map identifies and designates natural heritage features throughout the Niagara Region. The Core Natural Heritage System consists of Core Natural Areas, classified as either Environmental Protection Areas or Environmental Conservation Areas (policy 7.B.1.1 (a)). Environmental Protection Areas include significant habitat of

threatened and endangered species (policy 7.B.1.3). Given that the Greenbrier habitat is a significant habitat of endangered/threatened species, and having been evaluated during an ongoing planning application, the Region's Environmental Protection Area policies apply. Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in Environmental Protection Areas, except for forest, fish, and wildlife management, conservation and flood erosion control (subject to demonstrated need), and small scale, passive recreational uses all of which are subject to an Environmental Impact Study (policy 7.B.1.10).

- **Section 3.1 of the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** signed by the NPCA, Region of Niagara and Area Municipalities states: "The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority shall be responsible for ensuring the proper review of all Planning Applications for impacts on the natural environment as required by – Municipal planning documents such as the Regional Policy Plan through which the Province implements its requirements under the Planning Act , the Provincial Policy Statement, the Provincial Greenbelt Plan and Places to Grow Plan as they relate to the Natural Heritage and Natural Hazards".

- **Section 3.3 of the MOU states:** "In addition to providing comments regarding the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority statutory responsibilities, the Conservation Authority shall provide both Provincial Plan Review Comments and/or Technical Clearance for those matters outlined in Schedule B – Matters Subject to Conservation Authority Review and Technical Clearance Regarding Planning Applications Affecting the Natural Environment [*in this particular case, Comment on impacts on endangered and threatened species (MNR to be contacted if necessary)*].

To: Chairman and Members of the Authority

Date: June 22, 2011

Re: Bilkszto vs Niagara Escarpment Commission - Irrigation pond construction and fill placement in NEC Control Area; Provincially Significant Wetland, Jordan Valley/20 Mile Creek, Town of Lincoln, – Report No. 38-11

The purpose of this report provide some background for the Board in relation to correspondence to the NPCA Chair dated June 14, 2011 from Mr. Richardson, the Solicitor acting for Mr. Bilkszto in the subject matter which was previously provided to the Board.

The key points with respect to this matter are discussed briefly below.

In the later half of 2007, the Mr. Bilkszto commissioned the excavation of an irrigation pond and allowed fill to be placed within a Provincially Significant Wetland as well as, the regulatory floodplain of the Twenty Mile Creek, contrary to Authority policy and Ontario Regulation 155/06. The area is also within the Niagara Escarpment Plan Control Area and the work was done without the approval required from the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC).

The matter was first brought to NPCA's attention in April of 2008 and at that time, in so far as NPCA staff could determine, the work was completed outside of the six(6) month limitation period that applied to offences under the Conservation Authorities Act (the limitation period has recently been extended to two years). Nonetheless, the limitation period for offences under the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act had not expired. Therefore, NEC Enforcement staff took the lead in pursuing resolve of the matter. The NEC ultimately filed charges against the owner, Mr. Bilkszto in relation to the works, in the May of 2009.

Subsequently in March of 2010, Mr. Bilkszto applied to the NEC for a Development Permit to allow the irrigation pond and fill to remain. After considering the application, at its July 19, 2010 meeting, the NEC Board denied a permit for the works. The reason for the NEC's denial was as follows:

The proposal: does not conform to the objectives of the Escarpment Natural Area nor the Development Criteria under Parts 2.3.6, 2.6.10, 2.6.21 and 2.14.1 of the Niagara Escarpment Plan which addresses the permissibility of this form of development within the Escarpment Natural Area designations and related Provincially Significant Wetlands and Life Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest.

Subsequently, on August 3, 2010 Mr. Bilkszto appealed the decision/refusal of the NEC to the Niagara Escarpment Hearing Office as is his right, pursuant to section 25(8) of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act. A pre-hearing conference was held on September 7, 2010, and the main Hearing was set for December 8, 9 & 20, 2010.

The Provincial Court Trial related to Mr. Bilkszto's alleged offences of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act was adjourned, pending outcome of the December 2010 Appeal Hearing.

The Appeal Hearing took place as scheduled. NPCA staff were initially scheduled to give evidence for NEC, however direct testimony from NPCA staff experts was ultimately not necessary. To elaborate, the usual course of a Hearing would be for the NEC to "lead" with its witness' and the Appellants Solicitor would then have the opportunity to cross examine them. The Appellant would then follow and present their case. However at this hearing, the Solicitor for the Appellant (Bilkszto) requested to "lead" and the Hearing Officer granted the request. This shifted the initial presentation of evidence, to the Appellant's Solicitor (Mr. Richardson) who choose to enter expert evidence on the environmental impacts of the works. Upon concluding cross examination of Mr. Bilkszto's experts, the NEC Solicitor as was her prerogative, choose not to have NPCA staff present further evidence in relation to the potential impacts of the works.

Subsequently, on April 13, 2011, the Niagara Escarpment Hearing Office delivered a detailed ruling on the Application which supported the NEC's initial refusal of a Development Permit for the works. Briefly put, the predominate issue being that the construction of a pond within a PSW are contrary to NEC policies. The decision was not therefore based on the NPCA position regarding the pond. Included as an attachment are pages 22-23 of the decision which confirms the position of the Hearing Officer in this regard.

On June 17, 2010 the Provincial Court Trial in relation to the violation of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act proceeded and Mr. Bilkszto entered a guilty plea. A further court date to consider arguments in relation to penalty is pending. We are also of the understanding that a further NEC Board meeting to consider the matter of restoration is scheduled for July 21, 2011.

With respect to pond NPCA staff would advised as follows. The matter of impacts to the Provincially Significant Wetland from the pond itself remains an unknown. This is because proper engineering/soils tests were not conducted to determine if the pond is hydraulically isolated from the local groundwater regime. Furthermore, even if it is assumed that hydraulic isolation is present today, no proper engineering/quality control was in place during construction to ensure the adequacy of the quality or thickness of the earth material used to line the pond. In addition, NPCA staff also continue to have concerns over the reported environmental benefits of a pond constructed within a Provincially Significant Wetland. These requirements and concerns were identified very early in the process (repeatedly) as critical information to be addressed, however was not provided.

The pending Provincial Court (and NEC Board) proceedings are between the Niagara Escarpment Commission and Mr. Bilkszto. As such, NPCA staff would advise that it would be prudent for the Board to refrain from taking a formal position at this time.

Attachments: Pages 22-23 of the NEC Hearing Officer Decision

RECOMMENDATION

THAT: Report No. 38-11 be received for information.

Prepared by: John Kukalis, Director, Water Management

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



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: June 14, 2011

SUBJECT: Woodend Living Campus Proposal – Report No. 31-11

Conservation Authority staff met with staff from the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources to discuss the Woodend Living Campus Project. Members will recall that the new proposal was presented by the District School Board of Niagara at the Authority Board Meeting in April.

The latest proposal differs slightly from the original proposal brought to the Conservation Authority in April 2010. The first proposal recommended demolishing two aging structures at the site and replacing them with two new buildings to accommodate administration and classroom instruction. The updated proposal also recommends removing the existing structures, however a single new building is proposed that combines all activities under one roof. The new proposal includes the addition of a sheltered outdoor classroom to replace an outdoor learning space in the courtyard.

The design of the Woodend Living Campus respects the cultural resources and the historic buildings. It incorporates green building initiatives and provides much needed facilities for educational programming. Overall, the project is in keeping with the Master Plan for Woodend, and the current designation under Part Three of the Niagara Escarpment Plan. Unfortunately, these documents refer to a smaller education centre, housed in the existing buildings. Although the new facility does not extend beyond the limits of the area currently used for educational programming, the building provides a slightly larger physical space under cover. This issue is not overwhelming and should be easily addressed through an update of the Woodend Master Plan.

The current Master Plan was approved in 1981. Since that time a significant residential community, a post-secondary education facility and hotel have been developed at the base of the Escarpment at the intersection of Taylor Road and Glendale Avenue. All of the people living, learning and working in the area are now using Woodend for recreation. This demand was not considered in the 1981 document. Staff at the MNR are recommending that the Master Plan be updated to reflect the current stresses being placed on the site by nearby residents and the expanded role of the DSNB. Once completed, the updated plan would provide additional information for review of the Living Campus development application.

Based on the above, staff recommend that the Conservation Authority Board provide conditional approval for the latest concept for the Woodend Living Campus and ask Authority staff to begin the process of updating the Woodend Master Plan to ensure the proposed development is in keeping with the long-range plans for the site.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 31-11 regarding the Woodend Living Campus be received;

That the Woodend Living Campus proposal be approved in principle;

That the School Board be requested to complete detailed plans for the development prior to receiving final approval by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority; and,

That staff be directed to update the Master Plan for the Woodend Conservation Area.

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

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



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: June 16, 2011

SUBJECT: Budget Status Report - Report No. 32-11

Attached is the budget status report for the period ending May 31, 2011.

Expenditures in the operating budget are generally in line with the approved budget for 2011. Expenditures in the Land Management Program are lower as our parks have only recently opened. Late in the year programs such as the Children's Water Festival and the Thanksgiving Festival will also show low expenditures. Revenues are also in line with expectations and it is expected that user fees at the parks will increase as the operating season goes into full swing.

Many capital projects are underway although some were delayed due to extreme wet weather conditions earlier this year. Expenditures will be realized in subsequent budget reports. As previously noted, staff closely monitor expected revenues from non levy sources such as through Provincial and Federal programs with the objective of not incurring expenditures until funding is confirmed.

Staff will continually monitor all revenue sources and make appropriate adjustments for any significant variances.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Budget Status Report for the period ending May 31, 2011 be received.

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



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: June 15, 2011

SUBJECT: 2012 Budget Schedule and Guidance - Report No. 33-11

The Niagara Region has requested a preliminary budget be submitted by September 8, 2011. Traditionally, the Conservation Authority has formed a Budget Review Committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and a minimum of 3 additional Board members to consider a preliminary budget for the concurrence of the Full Board. In order to meet the Niagara Region deadline the schedule for the 2012 budget preparation would be required as follows.

June Board Meeting: Establish Ad Hoc Budget Review Committee.

July 31st Staff to Prepare Preliminary Budget and Submit to BRC

Week of Aug 8-10th Budget Review Committee to meet and review the preliminary budget and develop a recommendation for the Board's consideration.

August 17 Full Board to consider and approve the 2012 Preliminary Budget for formal submission to the member municipalities.

The above schedule requires meeting attendance during a popular time of the summer holiday period. Should this be a concern, then an option would be to call a special Board meeting in the first week of September. This would result in an additional 3 weeks available for scheduling meetings and preparing reports.

GUIDANCE

At the time of preparing this report, the Niagara Region Budget Review Committee of the whole adopted a resolution requesting agencies, boards and commissions submit a budget that has an aggregate increase, less than or equal to \$0.8 million representing 0.3% on the levy including any increases in the debt servicing costs. The NPCA has not received official budget direction and actual numbers from Niagara Region at the time of writing this report but it is hoped that the details will be available in time for the June meeting. There has been no indication of budget direction or guidance from the Haldimand County or the City of Hamilton at this time.

DISCUSSION

General

The NPCA Operating Budget for 2011 was approved at \$8,042,923 of which \$5,427,440 is funded by the member municipalities. Included in the levy amount to the Niagara Region is an amount of

\$1,683,090 for capital debt charges and \$300,000 from the Niagara Region Water and Wastewater Budget to support the Water Quality Monitoring Program as well as the Children's Water Festival.

Historically, the debt charge repayment amount (Niagara Region only) varied from year to year and was funded independent of any guidance approved by Council. For the NPCA, this process was acceptable as the Authority budget is a statutory levy amount to the municipalities and therefore we are not involved in decisions regarding the source of funds. For 2012, it appears any increases in debt costs are to now be included in the guidance amounts. This will be especially challenging as debt service management has historically not been part of the NPCA budget process.

The \$300,000 amount for the Water Quality Monitoring Program/Children's Water Festival has not increased over several years and additional program financial needs have been achieved through other sources of revenue (charitable and sponsorship support). These other revenue sources cannot continue to support program increases over the long term.

Capital Budget

NPCA staff are continuing discussion with Niagara Region staff to address their concerns that the NPCA projects identified in the Capital Budget do not meet the requirements of the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) for municipalities. Although the NPCA is not defined as a municipality under this program, Niagara Region staff believe it not appropriate to continue to finance these programs under their capital budget. The resolution is to include NPCA projects in the operating budget and discussions to this point have been in regards to options for funding within the operating levy. Further meetings in this regard have been scheduled.

Staff Salaries

The Public Sector Compensation Restraint to Protect Public Service Act, 2010 excludes municipalities and local boards of municipalities (including Conservation Authorities). In spite of this, there may be compelling arguments that the NPCA continue to follow in the spirit of this legislation and either freeze or significantly limit salary increases for 2012. Historically the NPCA has followed compensation increase amounts approved at the Niagara Region for non-union staff however this information has not been disclosed at this time.

NPCA staff will continue to dialogue with the member municipalities with respect to final guidance direction and include these objectives in the preliminary budget for consideration of the NPCA Budget Review Committee.

The staff recommendation does not include direction with respect to the above matters and is respectfully requested.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Report No. 33-11 regarding the 2012 Budget Schedule and Guidance be received, and;

That the Ad Hoc Budget Review Committee be comprised of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman

_____, _____ and _____

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



TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: June 29, 2011

RE: Naming of NPCA Assets and Facilities – Report No. 34-11

At the May 18th, 2011 meeting of the Board a discussion ensued regarding appropriate recognition of Mr. Andy Fevez who served on the Authority as the representative from City of Hamilton for 19 years.

A number of recognition ideas were discussed including a naming opportunity at the Binbrook Conservation Area. Staff was instructed to make a recommendation regarding an appropriate naming opportunity to recognize Mr. Fevez.

Staff would like to draw the board's attention to the Naming of NPCA Assets and Facilities Policy (a copy of which is attached). The policy was developed in order to deal with matters of naming opportunities which arise from time to time. The policy was adopted by the board at the August 13, 2008 meeting and outlines the purpose, procedures and criteria for consideration of naming requests.

Item 4 of the policy states that *"the assets and facilities which may be considered as a subject for dedication, naming or renamed under this policy will be at the sole discretion of the NPCA Board of Directors and may include any structure, building, conservation areas in its entirety or partially, ore specific described areas."*

There are a number of areas at Binbrook that could be dedicated to honour Andy's commitment and achievements at the NPCA including pavilions, boardwalk, fishing pier, trails to name a few. At this time staff would like to request the board's direction on this matter as outlined in the policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 34–11 be received for information purposes.

Prepared by: Mary Stack, Director of Communications

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



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: June 14, 2011

SUBJECT: PFOS Compounds at the Binbrook Reservoir (update) – Report No. 35-11

This past month the Ministry of the Environment released results from City of Hamilton Public Health Department study of Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) in domestic wells and ponds. The study involved surface and groundwater tests along the watercourse between the Binbrook Conservation Area and the Hamilton International Airport.

Twenty-five water wells tested for 13 variants of Perfluorochemicals, which includes PFOS. The study also tested for 3 different types of Glycols, including Propylene glycol, which is used in de-icing operations at the airport. In addition to the wells, seven irrigation ponds or swimming areas were sampled.

The results of the study are shown on the attached map. In summary, two of the 25 wells tested positive for PFOS at levels just above the minimum detection level of 0.02 micrograms per litre. Four of the seven surface water sites tested positive for PFOS, including the swimming beach at Binbrook Conservation Area. As stated in the May update report, the levels are not considered hazardous to humans. Conservation Authority staff plan additional testing at the end of July to monitor the levels of PFOS in the drinking water well and swimming area.

The topic continues to be raised by visitors to the Conservation Area. Fact sheets and information signage is helping to educate the public, however local media coverage of the topic is raising concern. Outside of the Binbrook Conservation Area the issue has re-kindled concerns about airport expansion and environmental stewardship of the facility. A copy of the June 14th, article from the Hamilton Spectator is attached for reference.

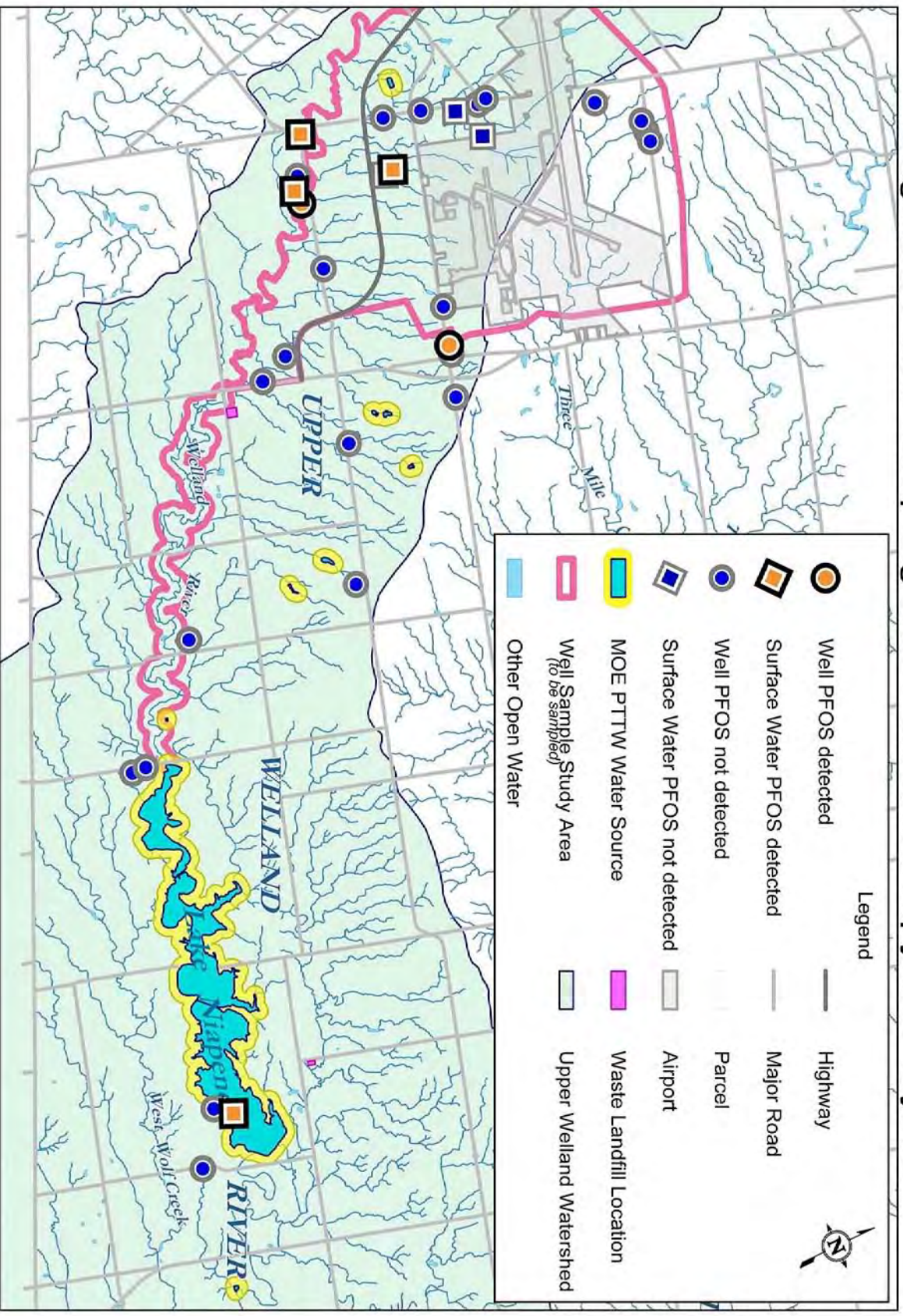
RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 35-11 regarding PFOS Compounds at the Binbrook Reservoir be received.

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

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

Irrigation Pond Sampling for PFOs and Propylene Glycol





TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: June 14, 2011

SUBJECT: Provincial Offences Officer Designation – Report No. 36-11

The Minister of Natural resources has provided the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority a Delegation of Authority to appoint Provincial Offences Officers to carry out the enforcement of Sections 28 and 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act (and the regulations made under them).

A number of staff have already been designated enforcement officers under the NPCA regulations (see attached list). Recent changes to the *Private Security and Investigative Services Act* require staff to now be identified as Provincial Offences Officers, rather than Enforcement Officers. Although the difference is minor, the new designation provides staff with the necessary standing in the court process.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 36-11 regarding Provincial Offences Officer Designations be received; and

That the following individuals be identified as Provincial Offences Officers:

Dave Drobitch	Steve Miller
Bob Hayslip	Ian Barrett
Greg Furtney	Tim MacGillvary
Nate Devos	
Rob Kuret	
Jeff Fazekas	
Cameron VanHell	
Matthew Vanveld	

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

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



TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: June 29, 2011

RE: PROJECT/PROGRAM STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 37-11

WATER MANAGEMENT

I. Watershed Regulation Division

1) Monitoring

i) 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. Due to the prevailing wet conditions, maintaining standard operating level at the reservoir has been challenging.

Staff also continue to monitor the water levels and undertake routine repairs at our 13 gauge stations, as part of the NPCA's routine flood forecasting/warning duties.

The public is able to access this real-time level and rainfall information through the NPCA's website.

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

i) Permits

To date, the NPCA has approved 37 permit applications for the 2011 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 27 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 8 municipal drain projects during the current calendar year.

3) Floodplain Mapping

i) Lower Welland & Thompson Creek – City of Niagara Falls

The NPCA is reviewing the hydraulic and hydrologic modeling completed by our consultant AMEC Engineering.

ii) Singers Drain – City of Thorold

The NPCA met with AMEC Engineering to review the final outstanding items of the Singers Drain Floodplain Mapping Report. AMEC Engineering to submit finalized report as part of the Port Robinson West Subwatershed Plan.

iii) 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.

4) Gauge Station Expansion

In 2010, the NPCA received funding from the Niagara Water Strategy to undertake gauge station network improvements/expansion to both rainfall and water quality monitoring. By the end of 2011;

- nine (9) rainfall stations will be integrated into NPCA system (6 RMON & 3 new);
- three(3) permanent water quality monitoring units will be installed;
- an abandoned gauge station on Big Forks Creek will be recommissioned;
- a new “state of the art” flow and water quality station will be built on the Welland River adjacent to E.C. Brown.

- 1) **Rain Stations:** All six Regional co-operative are constructed, running and reporting at this time. The stations include: Crystal Beach, Lincoln Town Hall, Port Dalhousie, Chippawa-Niagara Falls, Seaway-Port Colborne and Welland WWTP. Permission from City of Hamilton has been granted but waiting for Locates for both Haldimand (Ruigrok) and Hamilton installation sites. Locates should be completed by June 17th, and contractors will be employed at that time to erect posts at the chosen locations.
- 2) **Water Quality Stations:** (Caistors and Balls Falls): Bases have been constructed for both units. Caistors will be installed on June 16th, Water Survey Canada will connect to the logger the next time they're available. Awaiting permission from the Town of Lincoln to run conduit along the bottom of the bridge at Balls Falls. Installation for this station must be conducted during low water conditions.
- 3) **Big Forks:** Hydro and Bell installations are complete. The rain gauge and conduit have been installed. The rest of the equipment for Big Forks should arrive by the end of the month, at which time the station will come online.
- 4) **E.C. Brown:** Preliminary permission has been granted by the Region for the installation, awaiting final comments at this time. A design has been agreed upon and contractors are ready to build the sensor mount. Sensors will be mounted on piers during low water conditions. Conduit will be installed by contractor this summer while they complete the O'Reilley's Bridge.

II. Watershed Planning Division

1) Municipal and Development Plan Input and Review

Staff continue to respond to a steady stream of planning and building permit applications. A significant amount of work continues on the review of locally adopted Official Plans that are currently before the Region of Niagara for approval.

To date, approximately 280 matters have been reviewed ranging from complex Zoning Bylaw Amendments to simple Variances.

2) Watershed Plan Preparation

a) Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan

The Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan is complete, was submitted to the Board in February and is pending approval.

b) Central Welland River Watershed Plan

This Central Welland River Watershed Plan is complete, was submitted to the Board in February and is pending approval.

c) Beaverdams and Shriners Creek Watershed Plan

Final updates to the Phase One Report are currently being made.

d) Upper Welland River Watershed Plan

The Upper Welland River Watershed Plan is complete and can be submitted to the Board.

e) Lower Welland River Watershed Plan

Research and writing of the Lower Welland River Characterization draft report is complete and is currently being reviewed by staff for commenting.

3) Natural Areas Inventory/Heritage System

The Scenario Development Team (SDT) has completed the constraint and target setting portion of the project. This information will now be inputted into the MARXAN model and the learning scenarios will be generated over the course of the summer. The Scenario Development Team will reconvene in the fall to come to consensus on a Preferred Scenario.

The Outreach and Education Committee is working on the communications strategy for the project. The Plan will be finalized with the Steering Committee later this summer.

Findings of the Natural Areas Inventory and the process of assessing that information through the Natural Heritage System project have been presented to the Niagara Falls Nature Club on May 18th and at The Leading Edge Niagara Escarpment Conference on May 26th.

In addition, Deanna Lindblad, Project Coordinator received an Inspiring Conservation Award at the Carolinian Canada Coalition Annual General Meeting in Port Rowan on May 27th. The Natural Areas Inventory, the Natural Heritage System Project and the ongoing partnership with the Niagara Parks Commission were highlighted. Upon accepting the award, she thanked the other members of the project team and acknowledged the invaluable contribution of local volunteers.

III. Source Water Protection Division

1) Source Water Protection Plan

Source protection staff continue to work on developing the Source Protection Plan (SPP), with assistance from Niagara Region, and key Source Protection Committee (SPC) members.

The *Amended Proposed Assessment Report* was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) by May 20, 2011 as required.

2) Water Quality Monitoring Program:

a) Routine Water Quality Work

Water quality staff are currently sampling for the 2011 field season at 72 stations. NPCA staff are conducting biological monitoring at WQ stations in the spring field season. To-date 17 stations have been sampled.

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 stations has been conducted and results are pending.

Water quality staff are analysing the 2010 water quality data for the annual water quality report.

Water quality staff have received five requests in May for water quality data by consultants, governmental agencies and the public.

3) Special Projects

- Water quality staff are continuing to work on the Final Report of the Welland River Eutrophication Study. Staff are working through the comments from Technical Working study partners. The deadline for the final report has been delayed to accommodate this reviewing period.
- Water quality staff have completed the Glanbrook Landfill Assessment and presented the results at a Glanbrook Landfill Committee Meeting on May 30th. The Committee and the City of Hamilton staff were satisfied with the report. The results of this study show the Glanbrook Landfill operations are not affecting the water quality of the Welland River and Buckhorn Creek.
- Water quality staff have been assisting the Ministry of the Environment and Conservation Ontario with the Niagara 20 Mile Creek Integrated Climate Change. A site visit has been scheduled for June 17th to finalize details for this project.
- NPCA Water Well Decommissioning Grant Program: Requests for application continue to be received for this program. To-date three decommissioning projects have been approved.

Hydrogeology and water resources work in the last month included:

- 9 private servicing study reviews/consultation.
- 1 Permit to discharge review/technical assistance.
- 1 development application review adjacent to provincially significant wetlands; and
- Technical assistance for the Ministry of the Environment Climate Change Monitoring at Balls Falls.

IV. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division

1) Source Water Protection Support Activities

- Staff has uploaded the Vulnerable Areas and Threats modules of the Assessment Report Database to CAMaps.ca as per the MOE/Conservation Ontario request to all Source Protection Regions.
- The Highly Vulnerable Aquifers mapping has been refined based on direction by NPCA Source Protection staff.

2) Watershed Planning Support Activities

- Analytic support for the Natural Heritage System project over the past month has been extensive and focused on setting region wide conservation objectives around Biodiversity representation. These were the final targets required from the Scenario Development Team so technical efforts will now shift to setting up the decision support tool and to run the various learning scenarios which will take most of the summer.

3) Corporate GIS and Information Management Support Activities

- The Large Scale Hydrology Mapping Maintenance pilot project has also been a focus with the documentation and reporting phase which is in full swing and about halfway done in anticipation of a first draft by the end of the month. The Authority is completing this project in partnership with the Water Resources Information Program from the Ministry of Natural Resources with the objective of determining how to keep the critical large scale surface water inventory that drives both our hydrologic and hydraulic analysis capabilities current, and of optimal value in so far as operational use when it comes to regulations.
- Staff has also entered the 2010 restoration projects into the restoration database.

V. Watershed Restoration Division

Restoration Division

1) Project Implementation

The Watershed Restoration Program is responsible for improving water quality, water quantity and biodiversity within the NPCA Watershed. The Restoration Program advances these areas through the implementation of a comprehensive cost-sharing program that offers local landowners financial incentives to implement water quality and habitat improvement projects on their properties, thereby, rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest. In total, over 100 restoration projects will be completed in 2011.

2) Spring Project Implementation

- Staff have completed the woodland reforestation and riparian planting projects. In total 35 woodland restoration / riparian projects were implemented across the watershed through partnerships with private landowners, 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. 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.

- Project implementation now focuses on wetland restoration, aquatic in-stream works (during construction season), and BMP's such as livestock fencing and nutrient management projects.

3) Outreach/Education

i) Canopies for Kids

The *Canopies for Kids Program*, is a new NPCA program aimed at planting shade trees in school grounds to engage young students and volunteers in environmental learning. The goal is to learn through hands-on involvement, the benefits that trees provide, not only for a healthy environment, but also to recognize the important contribution trees make to our health.

The science-based program is adapted for grades 1 to 8 and meets the Life Systems Strand of the Ontario curriculum. The program provides a deeper look at how trees improve biodiversity, water quality and air quality.

In total for this our first year, 45 applications were received and evaluated for the 10 available spots. The following schools were successful this year:

Alexandra Public School (St. Catharines), Connaught Public School (St. Catharines), Kate S. Durdan Public School (Niagara Falls), St. Gabriel Lalement Catholic School (Niagara Falls), St. Augustine Catholic School (Welland), Holy Name Catholic School (Welland), Fort Erie Elementary Public School (Fort Erie), St. Therese Catholic School (Port Colborne), Winger Public School (Wainfleet), Covenenat Christian Private School (West Lincoln).

The actual plantings were completed early this months. Each school received 10 large sized (60 mm calibre) shade trees native to Niagara including Silver Maple, Tulip, Freemans' Maple, Red Maple, and Sugar Maple. In addition, each school received up to 30 smaller trees (10 gallon pots) for students to hand plant.

The entire student body participated in the planting day and have been left with the task of watering the trees and caring for them. The NPCA will have the trees watered over the summer. Students were sent home with a small leaflet which asked parents/ guardians to ask their child about the trees they helped plant today, in order to generate a discussion at home about the Authority and our programs.

Each school will receive a certificate of participation, a large colour airphoto of the school property with the location of the planted trees listed by species and a project evaluation form for program feedback.

VI. Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

1) Lyons Creek East

The Administrative Controls Protocol for Monitored Natural Recovery in Lyons Creek East has been signed by all of the participating agencies. The digital version of the final documents is

available and hard copies will follow soon. Plans are being made to post it as an information item on the Ministry of the Environment's Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) web site.

The NPCA will act as the lead coordinating agency in implementing the Protocol. Next steps will involve establishing a Management Framework Agreement between the stakeholders and a public communication strategy.

2) RAP Monitoring & Assessment

Discussions are underway between MNR and the RAP Coordinating Committee Co-chairs on the assessment component of the multi-stakeholder workshop (March 29) to address the BUI: *Loss of Fish & Wildlife Habitat*. In the meantime, the draft workshop report is under review.

A workshop to assess the BUI: *Eutrophication and Undesirable Algae* in the Welland River is anticipated to be held in early 2012. In the meantime, a report on monitoring results over the last 3 years is under preparation. Monitoring will continue through 2011.

3) RAP Stage 3: confirmation through monitoring, that the issues identified in Stage 1 have been addressed successfully through the remedial actions described in Stage 2. This final stage results in the "delisting" of the Area of Concern.

The RAP Coordinating Committee is scheduled to meet in mid-July 2011. A draft Table of Contents for the Stage 3 (and final) report is under review.

RAP input was provided during the Natural Heritage Strategy meetings (Sept/10 – June/11). RAP input was provided at the Niagara Region's *Sustainable Niagara* initiative interview sessions (April) and workshop (May).

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

The 2007 Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem (COA) has been extended until June 24, 2012.

5) International Liaison

The RAP Coordinator attended the U.S. RAC meeting on May 24 at the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation office, Buffalo, and provided a RAP update.

The RAP Coordinator will attend the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual Meeting and Conference 2011 in Niagara Falls, June 15 – 17, 2011. The Boundary Waters Treaty Centennial Plaque Dedication Ceremony will take place on June 17.

6) Update: Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

The current GLWQA is the revised Agreement of 1978 as amended by Protocol in 1987. Negotiations between Canada and the U.S. for renewal of the Agreement may extend into 2012.

LAND MANAGEMENT

Ball's Falls Conservation Area

"Our Feathered Friends", a travelling exhibit from the Canadian Museum of Nature, is the latest exhibit to occupy the rotating gallery at the Centre for Conservation. The exhibit is receiving

very positive feedback. Staff continue to work with local media to promote the exhibit. TV Cogeco has already posted a video segment at:

<http://www.tvcogeco.com/niagara/gallery/the-source/4051-may-source-stories/39553-feathered-friends>

Staff have created a learning garden on the east side of the field centre. The garden consists of plants to attract monarchs, other butterflies and hummingbirds. A composter and a rain barrel have been added. The rain barrel was donated by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation. The garden has been designed to provide students with authentic environmental experiences that can be transferred to their homes. It will be used for programming with school groups and the summer day-camp.

Bat Research on migrating bats in Ontario is being conducted at the Ball's Falls Conservation Area. Staff are working in partnership with the University of Western Ontario and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources by downloading data May through November 2011.

Christine Hayward will be retiring from the position of Site Administrator at the end of June. She began work at the NPCA close to 35 years ago as a guide at Ball's Falls Conservation Area. Over the preceding years she became more involved in site restoration, capital development and programming. Christine was the coordinator of the Thanksgiving Festival, which is recognized as one of the Top 100 Festivals across Ontario. A competition is ongoing to select a replacement for the position.

Binbrook Conservation Area

The season began on May 1st, with mostly cloudy skies every weekend since. Attendance is down, mainly due to the weather. The populations of ticks also appear to be lower. Pavilion rentals are up from the same time last year, however season passes are down slightly. Overall, park maintenance is behind due to extremely wet weather conditions.

Staff continue to receive questions regarding PFOS in the reservoir. The reaction to NPCA information and fact sheets is mostly positive. Some are confused due to a rather negative viewpoint being expressed by coverage in the local media.

Retrofit of the splash pad recirculation system is now at 90% completion with final plumbing and tank hook-ups being finished. The system will require a final Health unit inspection before the pad is brought back into service in the park. Staff are co-ordinating the inspections with the health unit and contractor for compliance.

Upgrades to the gatehouse trail are underway to improve accessibility for users and equipment. Ditches and culverts have been installed to improve drainage; work is proceeding as the site dries out and is workable.

On May 20th, the Conservation Area was used as a set for an episode of the "Mayday" television program. The crew recreated an airplane crash that occurred in Gander, Nfld. Since the shoot extended into the early morning hours, this activity did not impact day use visitor enjoyment of the park.

Long Beach and Chippawa Creek Campgrounds

Staff are finally catching up on all the weather delays and storm damage caused by this wet spring. Efforts are now turning to control of a robust crop of Poison Ivy at Chippawa Creek. This is being achieved using a broadleaf spot application in hazard locations, as per the due diligence requirements under the Noxious Weeds Act.

Despite weather, reservations look good and appear to be up from previous years, especially on 30amp campsites. Staff firmly believe that online reservations is the reason for this. However, one glaring exception: un-serviced camping; which continues to decline; and supports the North American camping trend in which customers require more services.

Mud Lake Conservation Area

Entrance welcoming and information signs were completed and installed at the parking lot trail head. The signs include a map of the site and trails, along with information on the feature points, site significance, history and permitted activities.

Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area

New information signs are being prepared for the Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area. The signs will replace the existing, degraded signs and will include the standard welcome/site history/importance/what you can do/site rules and a site map. The signs should be installed in late summer or early fall.

NPCA Events Ballots

Authority staff attended three spring events ('Guys Weekend Out' at Seaway Mall in Welland; St. Johns Trout Pond Opening and Hawkwatch Open House at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area) to promote NPCA Conservation Areas, campgrounds and amenities. Those attending could complete a ballot for a chance to win a 'Party Screen Kitchen Shelter'. The name was drawn at the opening of the NPCA Campground Season in May. The Fonthill winner was notified.

NPCA Hunting Program

Staff issued an additional 15 hunting permits for NPCA Conservation Areas in 2011. To date 151 hunting permits have been issued for 2011. Of this total, 25 were issued to individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

Volunteer Event

On Saturday May 21 and Saturday May 31, 2001, the NPCA held a volunteer event to increase awareness of invasive species and the techniques to manage them. Volunteers assisted staff in hand pulling garlic mustard to help improve a forested section of the Twenty Mile Creek. Two volunteers attended Saturday and 3 volunteers from the Great Lakes Christian School assisted on May 31 for a half day each, to complete the removal of garlic mustard in this area. The program will continue for another 3 years at appropriate spring timing, to consistently remove the plants seed bank from this area. Future events will be scheduled for weekdays or outside of holiday weekends to attract more volunteers.

Gypsy Moth Surveys

Staff completed the gypsy moth monitoring program in selected NPCA properties. Using permanent plots in Chippawa Creek, Hedley Forest, Ruigrok Tract, Smith-Ness, St. Johns, Willoughby Marsh and Comfort Maple Conservation Areas, the number and sizes of egg masses were counted using the Modified Kaladar Plot Methodology. The number of egg masses appears to be down, in comparison with other years. Staff attribute this to past weather conditions, winter temperature, signs of natural virus and presence of a natural fungus that affects the insect. The population of gypsy moth is expected to be low in 2011, with little to no defoliation. As a result no spray or management activities are required.

Defoliation surveys will be conducted by Ontario Forest Health in the summer to assess the population forecasts for next year. Egg masses will be continued to be surveyed in the fall of 2011 for the upcoming 2012 management forecast.

Ontario Family Fishing Week

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, in partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters have designated July 2-10, 2011 as this year's summer 'Ontario Family Fishing Week' (OFFW). During this week Canadian residents are able to sample Ontario's fishing opportunities, licence free, while learning the importance of fishery resource management. The goal of the program is to educate residents on the need to sustain these resources for future generations while being aware of the economic value to the economy of Ontario.

Binbrook Conservation Area and the '24th Annual Bass Fishing Derby' at Chippawa Creek Conservation Area have been promoted as destinations for fishing during the 'Family Fishing Weekend' campaign. Binbrook offers a rental and fishing equipment lending program for the public. The Chippawa 'Bass Derby' was promoted as a fishing destination during the Ontario Family Fishing Week.

Jordan Harbour

Bid packages for the proposed pavilion are out to contractors for quotation. It is anticipated that the project would be completed in two phases. First would be site work and installation of a concrete pad area at the boat ramp, and then followed by installation of the pavilion structure.

Communities in Bloom Town of Lincoln

The NPCA will be assisting during the judges' tour of the Town of Lincoln from July 11 to 13th. Ball's Falls and the Centre for Conservation will be one stop on the tour. The judges will be in the park for about an hour to view the property and meet staff as well as our volunteer gardeners and master gardeners. The properties that the judges view during their tour of the area for 3 days influence their opinion and scoring of the Town of Lincoln. Ball's Falls is always considered an important stop on the tour.

EC Brown Conservation Area

Trail work has commenced at the 'old' EC Brown site to create a new walking loop from the parking area through the woodlot. Woodlot management will also be conducted while staff are working on the trail. The potential for a trail link to the new EC Brown wetland site is being proposed by staff that would need to cross a narrow land parcel between our two properties

which is owned by the airport. Staff are in discussion with the airport to see if a trail connection can be made across their land.

Stevensville Conservation Area

Our field staff has completed work on the new trail installed during the Ontario Trails Conference in late April. The new trail will be monitored over this season to see how the design and surface hold up to use.

Beamer Memorial

Staff are in discussion with members of the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club regarding maintenance and work to be performed on a portion of the Bruce Trail below the escarpment near Gibson Street. Natural erosion of the slope in one area is threatening trail safety, a re-route of the trail around this area is proposed by staff and being looked into on site with members of the club.

Conservation Area Highway Signs

Staff have confirmed sign locations and contracts with Canadian Tourism Orientation Direction (TODS) for new highway signs for our Binbrook Conservation Area. The signs will be located on Highway 6 and on Highway 6 at the 403 intersection to direct visitors down Whitechurch Road/Binbrook Road to Fletcher Road over to the park. Sign installation by TODS is anticipated late summer.

Comfort Maple

Staff are reviewing a detailed arborists report to determine next steps in caring for the tree and safeguarding the public from hazardous limbs. One option being explored is fencing the tree off from the public and re-arranging the signs and plaques to create a viewing / photo area at a safe distance from the tree.

Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)

This program, administered by MNR, provides tax relief for properties owned by the NPCA. The Authority currently has 50 properties enrolled in the program with 87% of the total acreage eligible for tax relief.

New to the roster for this application year are new land parcels for Beamer and Woodend and a land parcel for Louth that was excluded previously. MNR has revised their mapping and advised us of minor reductions to our eligible acreage for Beamer, Two Mile Creek, Ruigrok and Oswego. They have also made adjustments for MFTIP acreages on our Ball's Falls and Hedley Forest properties.

Applications for 2012 are due July 31st and staff are preparing the paperwork to send in to the MNR. We will be making a special application to have the CLTIP mapping for our Long Beach north parcel confirmed and brought back into the program. It was in the program in the past, but mapping conflicts between CLTIP, MFTIP and active campground use caused MNR to pull it from the program.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Niagara Children's Water Festival

To date 77 schools are registered for the 2011 school program. The public day is scheduled for Sunday, September 18 from 12:00 to 4:00. This is always a popular event and provides an opportunity for families to come out to learn about our water resources. The website is being redesigned and will be ready to go live in July.

Community Outreach

Staff continues to participate in a number of community partnership initiatives to promote the work of the Conservation Authority. Promotional initiatives are focused to the revenue producing areas in an effort to increase visitation and encourage the purchase of Membership Passes.

Niagara Natural Heritage System Project

Staff has been attending meetings of the Scenario Development Committee for the past several months. The committee's work wrapped up at the June 2nd meeting and staff is in the process of developing public outreach and education materials as part of the communications component of the program. This will include coming up with an appropriate name and tagline for the Communications Plan.

GLSLCI Annual Meeting and Conference

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual Meeting and Conference (The Power of Shared Waters) will take place June 15-17 in Niagara Falls. The event will include the unveiling of a special plaque to commemorate the Boundary Waters Treaty Centennial. The plaque will be placed on land near the Rainbow Bridge. Approximately 225 people will attend the conference.

Source Water Protection

The committee met to finalize the Amended Draft Proposed Assessment Report. The primary goal of the AR is to provide the necessary information to develop the source protection plan and make local policy decisions for the management and protection of our drinking water sources. Several technical studies have been initiated by the NPCA and Regional Municipality of Niagara under the source protection program. The results of these are included in the AR. Technical studies were prepared according to provincial regulations and AR Technical Rules: Watershed Characterization Report; Water Budget and Water Quantity Stress Assessment; Groundwater Vulnerability; Surface Water Vulnerability; Threats Inventory and Issues Evaluation. The development of the AR incorporates a significant public consultation process that includes two public commenting periods.

The Working Group is now working on policy approaches to deal with significant drinking water threats. No written policies are completed at this time.

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Rain Barrel Sale

The Foundation hosted a successful truckload sale of rain barrels at the West Lincoln Community Centre & Arena on May 28th. A total of 85 barrels were sold, resulting in \$1,275 being raised for the Foundation. Thanks are extended to all of the volunteers that assisted as well as Mayor Joyner and staff for their assistance with the arrangements.

Golf Tournament

The 2011 Bob Welch Memorial Golf Classic held Tuesday, June 7th was once again a successful fundraising event. The weather cooperated and 65 golfers participated this year, \$4,500 in sponsorships was received, the silent auction raised \$1,000 and overall, the event will net around \$8,500. Many thanks are extended to the volunteers and members who participated or assisted with this event. Follow-up is currently proceeding in the form of thank you letters and receipts.

Funding

As part an Earth Day sales promotion, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Henry Schein distribution centre will be donating monies to purchase 250 trees and assist in their planting along with restoration staff at the end of June.

Conservation Education Bursaries

The Chairman and staff will meet to review applications received this year to determine their eligibility for a bursary. This program supports students from Fort Erie and surrounding area that are pursuing a post-secondary education in a field related to conservation and resource management. Since 1992, 119 bursaries totaling \$118,600 have been awarded as a result of the conservation education bursary program.

Rock 'N Ribs Event

Harbour Estates Winery will once again host this popular event at their winery on September 10th. Featuring a rib dinner and intimate concert by April Wine, our Foundation will once again have the opportunity for a silent auction table. Last year, approximately \$2,000 was raised. Staff is requesting assistance to secure items for this year's silent auction.

Recommendation:

Report No. 37-11 outlining the status of Authority projects/programs be received for information.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

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

