

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
FULL AUTHORITY**

WELLAND

AGENDA

DECEMBER 14, 2011 – 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

BUSINESS:

(1) MINUTES FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – November 16, 2011

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting held November 16, 2011.

(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

(3) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

(4) CAO'S REMARKS

(5) CORRESPONDENCE

Attached for your information is a copy of a letter received from the Town of Fort Erie regarding their approval process for alternative energy projects.

(6) WATERSHED PLANS – LAKE ERIE NORTHSORE & CENTRAL WELLAND RIVER – REPORT NO. 67-11

Attached is Report No. 67-11 with respect to this matter.

(7) NATURAL GAS EXTRACTION - REPORT NO. 68-11

Attached is Report No. 68-11 regarding this matter.

(8) BUDGET STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 69-11

Attached is Report No. 69-11 regarding this matter, together with the current and capital budget summaries.

(9) PROPOSED 2012 CONSERVATION AREAS FEE SCHEDULE – REPORT NO. 70-11

Attached is Report no. 70-11 outlining the proposed 2012 Conservation Areas Fee Schedule.

(10) BINBROOK CONSERVATION AREA PFOS UPDATE – REPORT NO. 71-11

Attached is Report No. 71-11 updating this matter.

(11) ST. JOHN CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – REPORT NO. 72-11

Attached is Report No. 72-11 and Terms of Reference regarding this matter.

(12) PROJECT/PROGRAM STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 73-11

Attached is Report No. 73-11 outlining the status of Authority Projects/Programs to date.

(13) OTHER BUSINESS

(14) IN-CAMERA

- (a) NPCA Regulations – Violation and Complaint Status Report - Report No. CR-24-11
- (b) Tree By-Law Status Report – Report No. CR-25-11

ADJOURNMENT



To: Chairman and Members of the Authority

Date: December 14, 2011

Re: Watershed Plans – Lake Erie Northshore & Central Welland River Report No. 67-11

Attached for the Board's reconsideration please find copies of the Reports dealing with adoption of the Watershed Plans for the subject Planning areas.

Members may recall that the Watershed Plans were first brought forward at the January 2011 meeting of the Board and at that time, the Board deferred the matter to allow more time for the new/incoming Board members to familiarize themselves with the actual study documents. At last month's meeting the Chair expressed the sentiment that sufficient time had elapsed and requested that the matter again be brought forward.

By way of background, in 2004 the Authority began completing Watershed Plan's for its' designated Watershed Planning Areas (WPA's). To date, plans had been completed for 10 of the 17 WPA's but during the 2010 budget process, the decision was made to abandon completion of plans for the remaining WPA's due both to budget constraints and concerns respecting the relevancy of plans in 4 of the more urbanized WPA's.

It should be noted that each Watershed Plan was developed under the guidance of a Steering Committee composed of diverse local representatives. The process put significant effort into obtaining public input through open houses and workshops. Currently, the NPCA's Restoration Division has targeted programs in 5 WPA's implementing various cooperative projects, including those identified in previously adopted Watershed Plans.

The Watershed Plan Reports attempt to quantify and categorize the environmental health of a WPA at a high level, relative to generally accepted matrices. From this it develops a list of proposed enhancements including projects and develops a corresponding budget, should the NPCA wish to undertake a future targeted implementation program. Nevertheless, the adoption of a Watershed Plan by the NPCA does not obligate this agency, nor any other agency, group or municipal body to actually do or expend funds on anything. A Watershed Plan can be considered a fundamental tool to guide natural habitat and environmental stewardship efforts.

The resolutions for these watershed plans are contained within each report which are attached.

Attachments: 1) Final Report – Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan – Report No. 09-11
2) Final Report – Central Welland River Watershed Plan – Report No. 10-11

Prepared by: John Kukalis, C.E.T.; Director, Water Management

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



To: Chairman and Members of the Authority

Date: December 8, 2011

Subject: Natural Gas Extraction; Report No. 68-11

As requested at the November meeting, attached for the Board's information please find a technical memo from Jayme Campbell, P.Eng., Source Water Protection Hydrogeologist that responds to a number of questions raised from a recent newspaper article regarding a natural gas harvesting technique known as "fracking", including its probable use in both Ontario and New York State. With reference to the attached, staff would draw the Board's attention to the following.

Currently the Niagara Falls Water Board (NFWB) is contemplating the treatment of "fracking" fluids at the existing Niagara Falls New York Treatment facility that currently processes various toxic effluents. With reference to Map #2 in the attached memo, it is clear that New York State has significant shale formations in which commercially viable quantities of natural gas can be expected to be found. "Fracking" is considered by both industry and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as being a viable extraction method (subject to site specific controls, etc.) in these rock formations. Given the increasing demands for energy, the economic pressure to extract natural gas from these formations will remain. Therefore, it is likely that a suitable treatment facility will be required locally, in New York State.

At this time the Niagara Falls Water Board (NFWB) is still studying the feasibility of treating "fracking" fluids at the existing Niagara Falls New York Treatment facility, including whether or not toxic chemical discharge effluent limits from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation can be achieved. Therefore, until it can be determined what limits the plant can achieve, it is not possible to speculate with any certainty what, if any, effect discharges may have on tourism, fisheries, agriculture, etc.

For "fracking" to be considered, rock formations of significant size are a prerequisite to support commercially viable natural gas operations. With respect to Ontario, although we are not aware of any formal applications/proposals for "fracking", if it was to be contemplated, it would most likely be in relation to the shale formations of south western Ontario, as shown on Map #1 of the attached memo. It is unlikely that it would prove to be feasible in Niagara.

Attachments:

- 1) Article from the November 5, 2011 St. Catharines Standard
- 2) Memo from J. Campbell, P.Eng. Re: Hydraulic Fracturing for Shale Gas
- 3) Map 1 - Potential Gas Shale Formations in Ontario
- 4) Map 2 - Prohibited Drilling Areas in New York State
- 5) Map 3 - Niagara River Shorewells
- 6) Map 4 - Dissolved Methane, South West & Central Ontario

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. FA-68-11 be received for information.

Prepared by: John Kukalis, C.E.T.; Director, Water Management

Respectfully Submitted By: _____

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

From Mackey

SAT NOV 5/01

■ ENVIRONMENT

NOTL seeking support for moratorium on fracking

SUZANNE MASON
Special to The Standard

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — The town is seeking support from Canadian and New York State governments and agencies for a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, for natural gas and the treatment of its byproducts within the Great Lakes basin.

Coun. Jamie King's motion Monday calls for a dialogue between various levels of governments and native groups on the impacts of the fracking process, which uses large volumes of water and a mix of chemicals and fluids to fracture rock containing the gas.

The motion was in response to a plan by the Niagara Falls Water Board in Niagara Falls, N.Y., to treat the fracking wastewater that results from gas extraction in Pennsylvania.

King said there is no federal or provincial legislation on fracking and the oil and gas industry is not required to publicly disclose chemical formulas. He said there are serious concerns about water contamination near fracking sites and there is documented evidence of adverse health and environmental impacts.

"Being a riverfront community, the wise stewardship of Niagara-on-the-Lake's water resources involves protection of our water supplies and water sources for generations to come," King's motion stated. "(It) is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation."

King said the chemical-laden water could affect the agriculture and tourism industries, adding

that visitors would not want to take a ride on a jet boat and be sprayed with this type of water.

"One drop of fracking fluid in the Niagara River is one drop too much," he said, calling on the town to be proactive in getting discussions started before the water board gets approval to accept wastewater from Pennsylvania.

While King said he respects the autonomy of the New York Water Board, he said communities in the Great Lakes basin are "one integrated watershed and therefore decisions in one region have the ability to affect other regions as well as the whole basin."

“One drop of fracking fluid in the Niagara River is one drop too much.”

Coun. Jamie King

He noted that the United Nations Human Rights Council passed a resolution last year affirming the right to safe drinking water and that contamination by fracking fluids is a violation of this right. He said France and some U.S. cities, including Buffalo, have banned water fracking.

"We know that North America is starving for energy," said Coun. Jim Collard, "but there has to be a moral code in place that they are not going to pollute."

The town will be seeking support for the moratorium and discussions on the fracking issue from the other 11 Niagara municipalities.

DATE: November 28, 2011

MEMO TO: John Kukalis, C.E.T., Director, Water Management

FROM: Jayme Campbell, P.Eng., Source Protection Hydrogeologist

RE: Hydraulic Fracturing for Shale Gas

Is shale gas fracturing expected to occur in Ontario? If so where? And what controls are there?

At this time it is unknown if Ontario shale gas is present in sufficient quantities to be economical, and if it can be recovered without interfering with people's use of groundwater (B. Parfitt, 2010).

If shale gas fracturing occurs in Ontario it will likely be in the counties of Lambton and Kent in the Kettle Point shales (see figure Gas Exploration – attached). As of August 2010, only one shale gas exploration well had been drilled in the province of Ontario. This happens to correlate well with naturally occurring methane (see figure Bedrock wells Dissolved Methane - attached).

The Ministry of Natural Resources reviews drilling applications and decides whether or not drilling may interfere with fresh water aquifers, and if so, whether or not license applications are approved with conditions or rejected.

Any water used in a gas well that was "fracked" would likely require Ministry of the Environment approval. Under Ontario's Water Resources Act and regulations, water takings over 50 m³ of water per day must obtain a Permit To Take Water. No such application to use water for "fracking" purposes has been made (B. Parfitt, 2010).

Is shale gas fracturing expected to occur in New York State? If so where? What controls are there?

Since 2008 there has been a moratorium in place, however it may be lifted in the near future. The public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Horizontal Drilling and Hydraulic Fracturing closes December 2011. Some details from the Draft EIS include:

- Recommendations for site-specific environmental assessments in sensitive areas;
- The Department requiring at least three strings of cemented casing;
- Conclusion that spills or releases in connection with hydraulic fracturing could have significant adverse impacts on water resources. The extra water associated with such drilling may result in adverse impacts to water supplies, wastewater treatment and disposal and truck traffic.
- It is highly unlikely that groundwater contamination will occur by fluids escaping from the wellbore from hydraulic fracturing. The developable shale formations are vertically separated from potential freshwater aquifers by at least 300 metres of sandstone and shales of moderate to low permeability.

The areas where drilling may occur can be inferred from the Department of Environmental Conservation's map of prohibited drilling areas (see attached).

Will 'fracking' fluids be treated at the Niagara Falls (New York) wastewater treatment plant? Can they be treated there? What are the potential Canadian risks?

The Niagara Falls Water Board (NFWB) is completing a feasibility study to treat shale gas hydraulic fracturing wastewater at their wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). They have not finalized the study as they are waiting to include toxic chemical discharge effluent limits from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. One EPA source has indicated that this facility is already approved to treat toxic waste and is the most advanced municipal wastewater treatment plant in operation, despite past challenges. However the ability of the plant to treat the fluids is still unknown to the public.

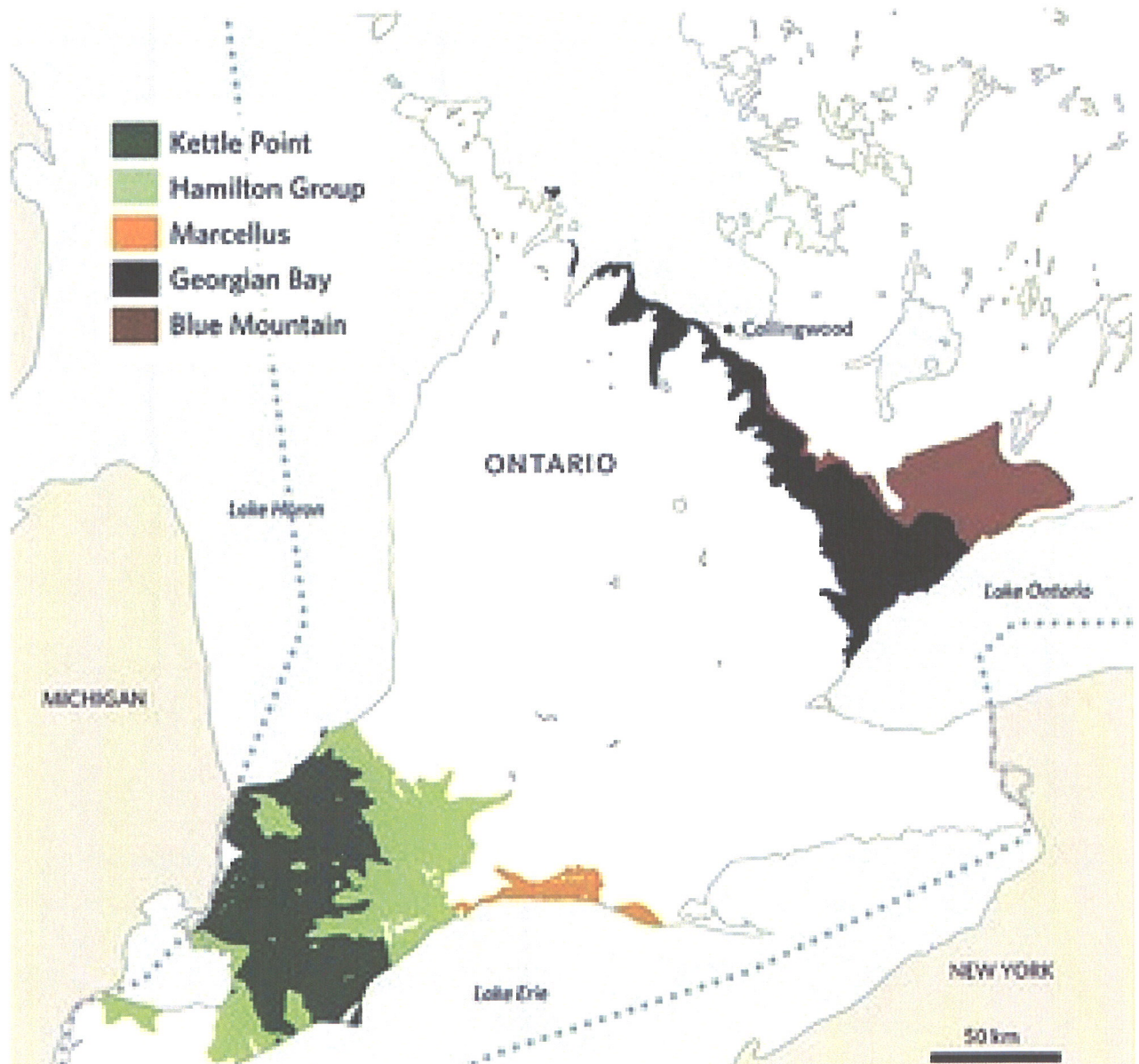
The NFWB WWTP (located at 4700 Buffalo Avenue) is located above the Canadian Falls but outlets to the Niagara River gorge over a kilometer downstream of the Canadian falls. The WWTP discharge is downstream of the Niagara Region Niagara Falls/River municipal water supply. However there are Niagara River water lines and shorewell uses in Niagara-on-the-Lake (see figure attached). The effects on these supplies, as well as the effects on tourism, fisheries and agriculture is currently unknown.

Reference

Parfitt, B., 2010. Fracture Lines: Will Canada's Water be Protected in the Rush to Develop Shale Gas? University of Toronto, Munk School of Global Affairs.

Gas exploration

Potential gas shales in southern Ontario.



MAP # 1

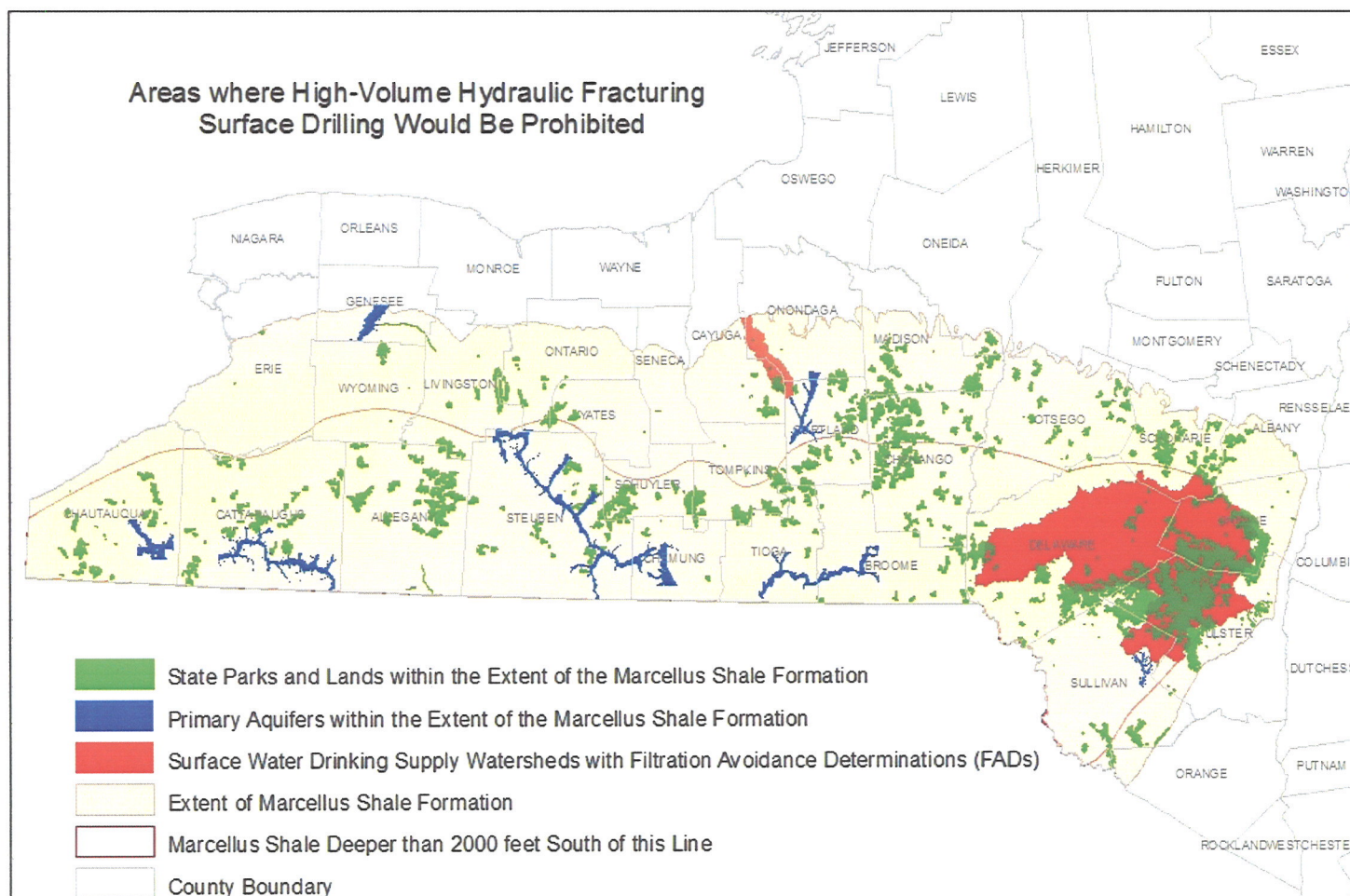


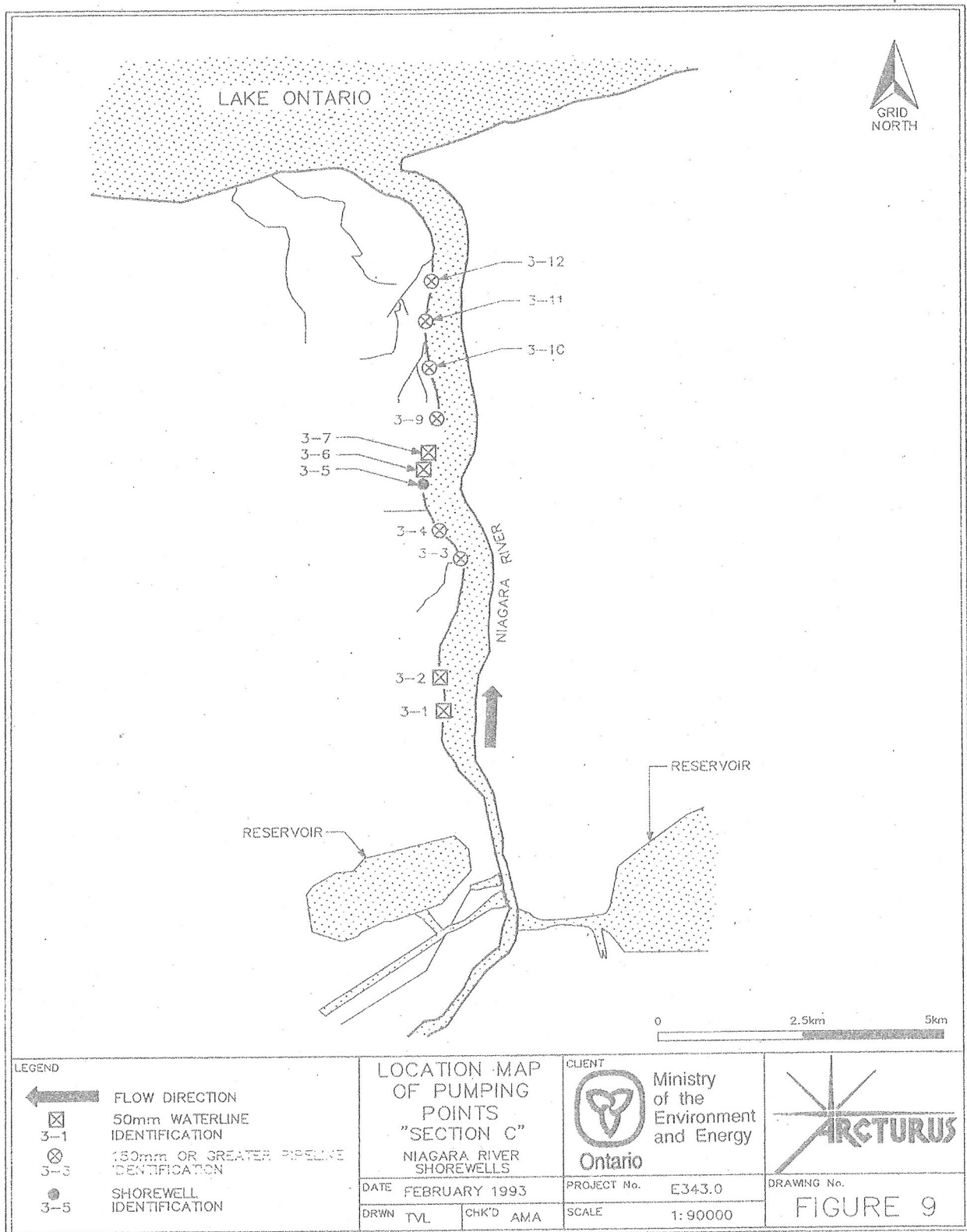
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Map of Prohibited Drilling Areas

About DEC





MAP # 3

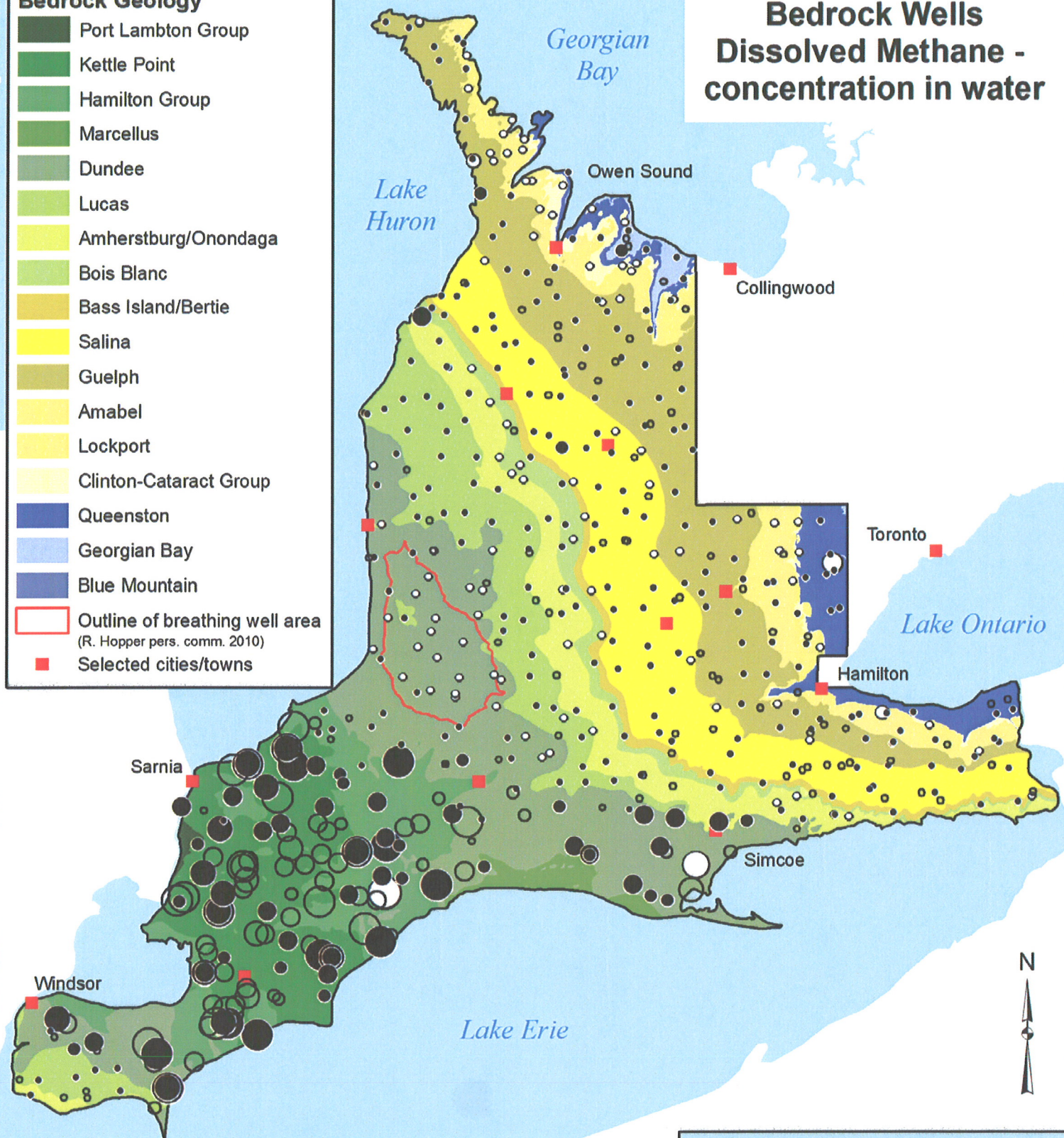
Bedrock Geology

- Port Lambton Group
- Kettle Point
- Hamilton Group
- Marcellus
- Dundee
- Lucas
- Amherstburg/Onondaga
- Bois Blanc
- Bass Island/Bertie
- Salina
- Guelph
- Amabel
- Lockport
- Clinton-Cataract Group
- Queenston
- Georgian Bay
- Blue Mountain

Outline of breathing well area
(R. Hopper pers. comm. 2010)

Selected cities/towns

Bedrock Wells Dissolved Methane - concentration in water



Interface wells - wells ± 1 m from the bedrock surface
Subcrop wells - wells in the subcropping bedrock unit
Deeper wells - wells in a deeper bedrock unit

| Legend | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| Interface wells | Subcrop wells | Deeper wells | CH _{4(aq)} mg/L |
| | | | < 2 |
| | | | 3 - 15 |
| | | | 16 - 40 |
| | | | 41 - 60 |
| | | | 61 - 251 |

MAP #4



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: December 8, 2011

SUBJECT: Budget Status Report - Report No. 69-11

Attached is the budget status report for the period ending November 30, 2011.

Expenditures and revenues in the operating budget are generally in line with the year end estimates as provided in the October Board meeting.

Capital expenditures are continuing in accordance with the year-end projections and although many projects are underway or contracted out, there is the likelihood that they will not be completed by Dec 31st and will require capital budget carryovers into 2012.

A year-end report outlining the above will be prepared for approval of the NPCA Board early in 2012.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Budget Status Report for the period ending November 30, 2011 be received.

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

To: Chairman and Members of the Authority

Date: December 7, 2011

Subject: Proposed 2012 Conservation Areas Fee Schedule - Report No. 70-11

The proposed 2012 Conservation Areas Fee Schedule has been attached to this report for reference. The fees are based on comparisons to similar facilities operating in the NPCA watershed, and with parks in neighbouring Conservation Authorities. It appears that most agencies will be holding their fees with only modest increases in some sectors. Since the NPCA is one of the first agencies to set fees, many of our comparisons are based on 2011 rates and discussions with facility staff. The proposed 2012 rates are as follows:

Membership Pass

The membership pass will remain at \$70.00 (plus HST). This program continues to grow, and the price is a great value. In 2012, there are several incentives that will be added to the membership program, making the pass even more valuable.

Day Use Fees

Day use fees were adjusted between 4.5% and 6% in 2011 to compensate for impacts arising from the implementation of HST. The current day use fees are competitive with local facilities and do not recommend any increases for 2012.

Camping Fees

In 2011, the Board approved a “zero increase” to camping fees to address economic concerns. No other public camping agency reviewed by NPCA staff did this; rather, they all increased fees. As a result, NPCA fees were notably lower than other agencies. This has placed the NPCA in a good position from a camping fee perspective. So, for 2012, recommended fee increases will address concerns or rising operating costs yet will still keep NPCA fees among the lowest of the camping agencies reviewed

The fees set by private campgrounds are noticeably different. This is attributed to the fact that these parks offer a different range of camping types / services / amenities compared to public parks. Comparing NPCA fees to “private” campgrounds is done to ensure that our public agency charges fair market fees by comparison. In Ontario, organizations such as the Ontario Private Campground Association (OPCA) have actively lobbied to ensure that they do not have to unduly compete with their own tax dollars in the form of publicly-funded camping agencies. It should be noted that NPCA staff have developed successful contacts with the OPCA and maintain strong, positive contacts among the private campground owners / operators throughout the watershed

Based on the above, staff are proposing to eliminate the “weekly” fee category and replace it with promotional incentives linked to the Membership Pass. This will allow more public service by allowing more online reservation options.

Staff recommend that the “unserviced seasonal” fee category be eliminated as it has not been used since 2009.

The fees for 15 amp serviced sites are below the marketplace trend. Staff recommending increasing these fees to sit between unserviced sites and 30amp serviced sites.

Ball’s Falls

In 2010, the board approved rates for 2011 and 2012. This was in response to the high demand for bookings at Ball’s Falls for events several years in advance.

The 2012 rates are at the higher end of the wedding/event marketplace in Niagara. In spite of this, all the available weekend barn rentals in 2012 have been booked. Staff believe this is largely due to pre-approved rates which allow perspective renters to firm-up their arrangements, well in advance of the actual event.

Staff recommend that the Authority continue with the practice of setting fees two years in advance. Corrections in 2011 fees brought facilities in-line with comparable local facilities and the pre-approved 2012 rates are competitive. An increase of 5% is proposed for all rental packages in 2013. Staff will review the marketplace next year to ensure that the existing and proposed rates are keeping pace with similar facilities in the watershed.

Hunting Permits

Staff recommend that the 2012 hunting permit fee remain unchanged at \$25.00. This is not a revenue generating program. It is a cost-recovery initiative, aimed at tracking hunting activities and resource consumption. The information collected through this program assists staff when making resource management decisions.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 70-11 regarding the 2012 Conservation Areas Fee Schedule be approved;

Prepared by: Darcy Baker – Director, Land Management

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

Proposed 2012 Fee Schedule

Long Beach and Chippawa Creek

| Day Use (tax included) | 2011 | 2012 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| Adults | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| Seniors | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| Students | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| Max Car | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| Bus (over 20 / vehicle) | 79.10 | 79.10 |

| Camping (non-serviced) | 2011 | 2012 |
|------------------------|----------|----------|
| one night | 30.00 | 32.00 |
| weekly | 155.00 | |
| seasonal | 1,550.00 | 1,600.00 |

| Camping (15Amp+Water) | 2011 | 2012 |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| one night | 34.00 | 36.00 |
| weekly | 180.00 | |
| seasonal | 1,750.00 | 1,800.00 |

| Camping (15Amp premium) | 2011 | 2012 |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| one night | 36.00 | 38.00 |
| weekly | 200.00 | |
| seasonal | 1,900.00 | 1,957.00 |

| Camping (30Amp+Water) | 2011 | 2012 |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| one night | 38.00 | 40.00 |
| weekly | 210.00 | |
| seasonal | 2,000.00 | 2,060.00 |

| Camping (30Amp premium) | 2011 | 2012 |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| one night | 40.00 | 42.00 |
| weekly | 220.00 | |
| seasonal | 2,150.00 | 2,205.00 |

Binbrook Conservation Area

| Day Use (tax included) | 2011 | 2012 |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| Car and Driver | 5.25 | 5.25 |
| Adult | 4.25 | 4.25 |
| Senior/Students | 3.25 | 3.25 |
| Max Car | 16.00 | 16.00 |
| Bus (over 20/vehicle) | 79.10 | 79.10 |

| Facilities Rental | 2011 | 2012 |
|----------------------|-------|-------|
| Picnic Pavilion | 75.00 | 75.00 |
| Open Air Picnic Area | 40.00 | 40.00 |
| Registration Fee | 10.00 | 10.00 |

| Outdoor Weddings | 2011 | 2012 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|
| service & non-lic. Reception | 525.00 | 525.00 |
| service & lic. Reception | 650.00 | 650.00 |
| Outdoor Weddings | 290.00 | 290.00 |

Proposed 2012 Fee Schedule

Ball's Falls Conservation Area

| Day Use (tax included) | 2011 | 2012 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Adults | 5.75 | 5.75 |
| Seniors | 4.25 | 4.25 |
| Students | 4.25 | 4.25 |
| Family (2 adults + children) | 18.00 | 18.00 |
| Bus (over 20/vehicle) | 110.00 | 110.00 |

| Field Centre | 2011 | 2012 |
|------------------|-------|-------|
| Organized Groups | 95.00 | 95.00 |

| Historical Tours | 2011 | 2012 |
|---------------------|-------|-------|
| School Group/person | 4.50 | 4.50 |
| Adult Group/person | 6.25 | 6.25 |
| Minimum Tour Fee | 55.00 | 55.00 |

| Church Rental | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Wedding | 525.00 | 550.00 | 577.00 |
| Church Service (50 guests) | 105.00 | 110.00 | 115.00 |
| Church Service (100 guests) | 160.00 | 165.00 | 175.00 |

| Barn Rental | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Non-Wedding (Fri&Sat) | 565.00 | 595.00 | 625.00 |
| Non-Wedding (Sun-Thu) | 390.00 | 410.00 | 430.00 |
| Education (weekday) | 100.00 | 105.00 | 110.00 |
| Licensed Reception | 730.00 | 765.00 | 800.00 |
| Non-Lic. Reception | 565.00 | 595.00 | 625.00 |

| Multi Purpose Room (Centre) | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Non-Wedding (Fri&Sat) | 995.00 | 1,045.00 | 1,100.00 |
| Non-Wedding (Sun-Thu) | 465.00 | 490.00 | 515.00 |
| Glen Room | 340.00 | 360.00 | 380.00 |
| Non-Profit (weekday) | 245.00 | 255.00 | 270.00 |
| Licensed Reception | 1,155.00 | 1,220.00 | 1,280.00 |
| Non-Lic. Reception | 995.00 | 1,045.00 | 1,100.00 |

| Education Room (Centre) | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Non-Wedding (Sun-Thu) | 130.00 | 135.00 | 140.00 |

| Packages | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| Church Wedding & Non-Lic. Reception at Barn | 1,075.00 | 1,130.00 | 1,185.00 |
| Church Wedding & Licensed Barn Reception | 1,190.00 | 1,250.00 | 1,320.00 |
| Church Wedding & Non-Lic Reception at Centre | 1,495.00 | 1,570.00 | 1,650.00 |
| Church Wedding & Lic. Reception at Centre | 1,650.00 | 1,730.00 | 1,820.00 |

| Group Camping | 2011 | 2012 |
|--------------------|-------|-------|
| Site Fee | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| Per Person / Night | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| Minimum Charge | 50.00 | 50.00 |

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N |
|----|--|--|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | <u>2012 "Proposed" Fee Comparison</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Notes: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | All fees shown do NOT include tax | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | Some cells have been left blank where fee was unclear or not provided. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | <u>Organization</u> | <u>NPCA</u> | <u>NPCA</u> | <u>GRCA</u> | <u>HCA</u> | <u>HCA</u> | <u>Rock Pt.</u> | <u>Bissell's</u> | <u>N.E.T</u> | <u>Windmill</u> | <u>Highland</u> | <u>Knight's</u> | <u>NF KOA</u> | <u>Campark</u> |
| 6 | Year | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2010 | 2010 |
| 7 | Facility | | <u>Proposed</u> | Byng | Valens | 50 Point | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | RESERVATION FEE: | \$12.00 | \$12.00 | \$13.00 | \$11.00 | \$11.00 | \$11.25 | | | | | | | |
| 10 | RESERVATION "Change" FEE (shorten): | \$8.00 | \$8.00 | | \$6.00 | \$6.00 | \$9.00 | | | | | | | |
| 11 | RESERVATION "Cancellation" FEE: | \$8.00 | \$8.00 | | \$6.00 | \$6.00 | \$9.00 | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Debit Fee (for purchases under \$10) | \$0.50 | \$0.50 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | ADDITIONAL VEHICLE FEE / night: | \$12.00 | \$12.00 | \$12.00 | | | \$12.25 | 20pp | | | | \$10.00 | | |
| 16 | WEEKEND PREMIUM FEE / night: | | | | | | | extra | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | <u>CAMPING</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | <u>NON-SERVICED:</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | 1 night | \$30.00 | \$32.00 | \$34.00 | \$35.00 | \$36.00 | \$32.52 | \$75.00 | \$40.00 | \$40.00 | | \$42.00 | | \$41.00 |
| 21 | Week | \$155.00 | | | | | | | | \$240.00 | | \$269.95 | | |
| 22 | Season | \$1,550.00 | \$1,600.00 | \$1,450.00 | n/a | n/a | n/a | | | | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | <u>15AMP & WATER</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | 1 night | \$34.00 | \$36.00 | | | | | | | | | | | 38.50 - 49 |
| 26 | Week | \$180.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 | Season | \$1,750.00 | \$1,800.00 | | | | | | | | | \$2,341.80 | | |
| 28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | <u>15AMP PREMIUM & WATER</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | 1night | \$36.00 | \$38.00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 | Week | \$200.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 32 | Season | \$1,900.00 | \$1,950.00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 33 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 34 | <u>30AMP & WATER</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | 1 night | \$38.00 | \$40.00 | \$42.00 | \$39.00 | \$40.00 | \$42.75 | \$90.00 | \$45.00 | \$45.00 | | \$52.00 | | 42.25 - 53 |
| 36 | Week | \$210.00 | | | | sewer | | | sewer | \$300.00 | | \$332.10 | | sewer |

To: Chairman and Members of the Authority

Date: December 7, 2011

Subject: Binbrook Conservation Area – PFOS Update - Report No. 71-11

Authority staff continued dialogue with the Hamilton Regional Office of the Ministry of the Environment, the City of Hamilton Public Health and Environment Hamilton.

During the week of November 28th, NPCA staff were contacted several times by Environment Hamilton with concerns about fill material being transported from the firefighting practice pad to other locations throughout the airport. After checking with the Ministry of the Environment and the Hamilton International Airport, Authority staff were advised that the material was recycled asphalt product (RAP), and considered non-contaminated. The Hamilton International Airport issued the attached letter to clarify the management activities taking place on site.

Environment Hamilton continues to urge the MOE, the City of Hamilton and the NPCA to take immediate action to clean-up the contamination. The MOE maintains that more information is required to clearly understand the scope of the problem before a solution can be developed. While Authority staff agree with this position, we continue to receive calls from the public who are frustrated at the pace of the investigation. Members will recall that the CAO wrote the Minister of the Environment, expressing our concern over the matter and urging the allocation of additional resources to help advance the study. A response was not received by the date of this report.

The contamination issue will be discussed at the December 12th meeting of the City of Hamilton General Issues Committee. The NPCA will be attending as a delegation, along with several other interested parties. Authority staff will be able to provide an update at the December 14th Board Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 71-11 regarding the PFOS Contamination at the Binbrook Conservation Area be received.

Prepared by: Darcy Baker – Director, Land Management

Respectfully Submitted By: _____

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

December 1, 2011

Dear Minister Bradley, Mayor and Members of Hamilton City Council, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority,

On Thursday, November 24th Joe Minor distributed an E-mail that contained information regarding activities at Hamilton International Airport (HIA). In the body of his email, Mr. Minor has indicated by his own admission to have made a number of factual errors in past correspondence.

Mr. Minor has accused HIA of "spreading fill from a toxic contaminated site (around the perimeter of the Airport)". In reality, HIA is distributing reclaimed asphalt from taxiways and runways to improve the quality of perimeter roadways. The recycling of this material is not a toxic activity. Allegations to the contrary are misleading, and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has reviewed and supported the use of these materials.

HIA is discharging its responsibilities as a tenant pursuant to the terms of the lease between HIA and the City of Hamilton. Our activities are consistent with the Environmental Protection Act. We are not leaving toxic waste residuals for the City of Hamilton to deal with upon termination of the lease agreement in 2036. Nor are we engaged in any activities that would diminish the property values of our neighbours.

HIA assumed the management of the John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport in 1996. More recently, it has been determined that perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) has migrated from the Airport site. In the period of time that has transpired, HIA, the City of Hamilton, and the MOE have collaborated on this issue. HIA has retained EXP Consultants, an international firm with experience in environmental testing, to facilitate a complete assessment of the site with a view to developing options for remediation.

The City, HIA, and the MOE are committed to identifying and implementing a science-driven remediation plan. This is a complex process.

This process will not be assisted by conjecture or the distribution of inaccurate information.

To assist us in this regard we have been forthcoming in meetings with the City of Hamilton as well as communications with Environment Hamilton and their representative Joe Minor, in particular. It is our intention to meet with Mr. Minor and representatives of Environment Hamilton when their schedule permits in the near future.

Hopefully, these meetings will ensure that we are all able to move forward with a factual foundation. I am pleased to elaborate as required.

Sincerely,



Frank Scremin
Director, Operations

To: Chairman and Members of the Authority

Date: December 7, 2011

Subject: St. Johns Centre Advisory Committee - Report No. 72-11

In December of 2009, the NPCA entered into a five-year agreement with the Jackman Foundation for the phased acquisition of the St. Johns Centre in Thorold, Ontario. The St. John's Centre is a 17.4 hectare (18.4 acre) property in the St. Johns Valley, situated in the headwaters of the Twelve Mile Creek. It includes a substantial portion of the last cold-water creek in Niagara, an old grist mill, two residences and several historic building sites. The property is owned by a non-profit foundation, which operates a program of outdoor education in cooperation with the District School Board of Niagara and the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Under the terms of the acquisition agreement, the NPCA contributes a portion of the operating expenses for the Centre. Each year the amount increases by 20% until the end of 2014 when the NPCA is funding the entire cost. At that point, the Authority's obligations to the Jackman Foundation are complete.

Since the Authority becomes the majority funder in 2012, the Jackman Foundation will be transferring the property at the end of 2011. The NPCA will continue to provide educational programming, however it will now be operated as a Conservation Area. The property will retain the name "St. Johns Centre" so it will not be confused with the existing St. Johns Conservation Area, located one kilometre to the south.

Over the next three years the Conservation Authority will be developing a Master Plan for the property. This is a Niagara Escarpment site with a number of significant cultural and natural heritage features. We will require a long-range plan to manage the property beyond the end of 2014.

The St. Johns Centre Foundation currently oversees operations and programming at the facility. Authority staff have been working with this board from 2009 and believe that their continued involvement in this project will help provide a smooth transition over the next three years. The Board Members experience and history would be a valuable resource as we develop a long range plan for the site. As such, we recommend that the three remaining members of the Board (Mr. George Thompson, Mr. George Scott and Fr. Edward Jackman) be invited to participate as members of an advisory committee. The advisory committee would be setup to provide advice to the Conservation Authority Board on matters related to the St. Johns Centre.

A draft terms of reference for the Advisory Committee has been attached to this report. The proposed membership would include the three individuals mentioned above, along with the NPCA Chair and Vice-Chair as ex-officio members. Staff recommend that one additional NPCA Board Member be appointed to the committee, bringing the membership up to six individuals.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 72-11 regarding the St. Johns Centre Advisory Committee be received;

That the Terms of Reference for the St. Johns Centre Advisory Committee be approved;

That Mr. George Thompson, Mr. George Scott and Father Edward Jackman be invited to participate as members of the Advisory Committee; and,

That _____ be appointed from the NPCA Board to sit as a member of the advisory committee.

Prepared by: Darcy Baker – Director, Land Management

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

ST. JOHNS CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The St. Johns Centre Advisory Committee acts as an advisory body to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. The Committee is responsible for considering and recommending to the Authority action on policy and programming matters pertaining to the operation of the St. Johns Centre. Committee members will also assist with the development of a long-range master plan for the site.

The Committee membership will be comprised as follows: The Authority Chairman and Vice-Chairman are ex-officio members of the Committee. The Authority may also appoint one additional Board member to the Committee. The Authority will appoint up to 4 citizen members to the Committee and will endeavour to seek out and recommend citizen members who reflect the diversity of the heritage community and who display skills, knowledge and or experience in areas pertinent to the site operations.

The term of office will be as follows: Conservation Authority members will sit according to their term of office with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. Citizen appointees will sit for a three year term, unless an extension is granted by the Authority.

The Committee will meet four times a year on the first Thursday of the month, or as specified in an annual meeting schedule approved by the Committee. Additional meetings may be called as necessary by the Chair. Meetings will normally be held at 10:00 a.m. at the St. Johns Centre, unless otherwise noted. A quorum is defined as being one-third (1/3) of the committee members.

The Committee will make recommendations in the following areas of operation:

- a) maintenance, preservation, restoration and capital projects.
- b) policy guidelines for the planning, development and management.
- c) the employment of volunteers and community services.
- d) the interpretive and educational programs, special events and other innovative revenue generating activities.
- e) the long range Master Planning exercise for the site.
- f) the annual and long-range operating and capital budgets.

November 18, 2011

TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: December 13, 2011

RE: PROJECT/PROGRAM STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 73-11

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. Staff also continue to monitor the water levels and undertake routine maintenance 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 approximately 90 permit applications to date, 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 47 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 12 municipal drain projects during the current calendar year.

3) Floodplain Mapping

- i) **Lower Welland & Thompson Creek – City of Niagara Falls**
The NPCA is continuing to work with our consultant AMEC Engineering to undertake the work necessary to generate the 100 year regulatory floodplain mapping for the Lower Welland River and Thompson Creek.
- ii) **Shriner's & Beaverdams Creeks – Cities of Niagara Falls & Thorold**
The NPCA is currently undertaking the necessary field work, computer modeling, and calculations in order to generate the regulatory floodplain mapping for the Shriner's Creek and Beaverdams Creek systems.

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 (Wainfleet) 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 climate stations 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 and Utility Installation at both the Haldimand (Ruigrok) and Hamilton (Glancaster Road South) sites have been completed. Some additional software modifications will be completed in December in order to enable remote data downloading.
- 2) **Water Quality Stations:** (Caistors in West Lincoln and Balls Falls in Lincoln): The Caistors water quality sensor station has been installed and is operational. Construction of the Balls Falls station has been deferred until spring of 2012, to address EC requirements into the insatall.
- 3) **Big Forks Creek (Wainfleet):** The Big Forks climate and stream gauge station has been installed and is operational.
- 4) **E.C. Brown Cons. Area (Pelham):** The Region has granted permission to install instrumentation on O'Reilly's Bridge. The conduit mount has been installed on the bridge and the sensor mount is behind schedule but is expected to be in by the end of Decemeber.

II. Watershed Planning Division

1) Municipal and Development Plan Input and Review

- i) Staff continue to respond to a steady stream of planning and building permit applications.

To the end of October 211 Planning Act related Applications ranging from complex Zoning Bylaw Amendments to simple Variances have been processed. Review work on local Official Plans for the RMON also continues. In addition, 363 formal Building Permits Reviews and Property Inquiry letters have been issued to date this year.

2) Natural Areas Inventory/Heritage System

Work on the final report is underway for completion by year end.

III. Source Water Protection Division

1) Source Water Protection Plan

Source protection staff continue to work on developing the Source Protection Plan (SPP), and Explanatory Document.

Work on the IPZ-3 (event-based modelling) is progressing as anticipated. Event-based modelling was undertaken for the Decew, Welland and Port Colborne water treatment plant intakes.

2) Water Quality Monitoring Program:

a) Routine Water Quality Work

- Field work has ended for 2011. Analysis of this year's test results and trends will begin.

b) Groundwater Quantity and Quality

- Field work has ended for 2011. Analysis of this year's test results and trends will begin.

3) Special Projects

- The Final Draft Report of the Welland River Eutrophication Study was completed by NPCA staff in August 2011. This final report summarizes water quality data collected from 2008 to 2010 for the Welland River watershed as part of the Niagara River Area of Concern Remedial Action Plan. The Technical Working Group will be meeting in December to finalize the report.
- WQ staff have been assisting the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and Conservation Ontario with the Niagara Twenty Mile Creek Integrated Climate Change Study. This project will require an upgrade to the Water Survey Canada stream gauge enclosure, installation and deployment of level loggers into groundwater monitoring wells, and installation of a rain gauge.

IV. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division

1) Source Water Protection Support Activities

- Staff has been responding to the MOE request to submit the water budget data into the prescribed water quantity data model for submission to the province as part of the Assessment Report deliverables.

2) Watershed Planning Support Activities

- GIS staff are starting a new project to develop an application that will automate the generation of property information relating to the Authority's planning and regulation review services. The idea comes from the Lake Simcoe and Region Conservation Authority who has already developed a similar product that we will be able to leverage some of the logic and design concepts from. The idea is efficiently identify and summarize potential issues (presence absence kind of approach) with our mapping data ahead of time (ie. parcel contains floodplain) on the parcel base so that planners do not have to view and subjectively interpret that on the fly in our mapping environment. The summary information will hopefully be set up as a tabular 'web service' as well so the information can not only inform and make internal operations more efficient but be consumed by our partners via the web via requests based on civic address, property identification number (PIN), and assessment roll number (ARN).

3) Corporate GIS and Information Management Support Activities

- Work has resumed on the Large Scale Integrated Hydrology Pilot Project for the Water Resources Information Program .

V. Watershed Restoration Division

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.

1) Project Implementation – Watershed Plans

- Staff has completed woodland reforestation and riparian planting projects. In total 35 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 native wildflowers and grass plugs were planted and over 10 kilograms of native seed was sown onto restoration sites.
- Construction projects such as wetland restoration, aquatic in-stream works, erosion and bank stabilization projects are currently being implemented. 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 (i.e. rock chutes and check point dams) are currently being implemented. In total over 40 BMP projects are being implemented across the watershed.

2) Ducks Unlimited Partnership

- Staff have been working with Ducks Unlimited (DU) under a formal stewardship agreement since 2000. Each year we complete 3-7 joint wetland projects, the majority

of the funding provided by DU. Five large wetland projects were completed this year through this partnership. Two projects are currently in the planning phase for next year. In total we have received approximately \$300,000 dollars for wetland restoration projects in Niagara from DU.

3) Environment Canada's Great Lakes Sustainability Fund

- Staff have been successful in accessing funding from Environment Canada's Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (formerly Great Lakes Clean-up Fund) for water quality and habitat improvement work in the Niagara River Area of Concern (AOC), mainly the Welland River, since 1994. This year we have been approved to receive \$193,000 for the implementation of stewardship projects. To date we have received \$3.5 million dollars from Environment Canada for restoration work in the AOC.

4) Outreach & Education

Canopies for Kids

- There has been high response and interest in this program. The application process for 2012 will begin the last week of November and run until the end of January, 2012. Schools selected to participate in *Canopies for Kids* will be engaged through interactive school assemblies / workshops provided by NPCA program staff. Staff will work with the school teams on planning and site design incorporating both large and small native to Niagara tree species. There is no cost to the participating schools and a maximum of 10 schools per year will be selected for participation.

Niagara Envirothon

- The Steering Committee is gearing up for the 5th annual Niagara Envirothon. To celebrate our 5th year of the program, the steering committee is holding an official logo contest. This logo will appear on promotional materials, banners, t-shirts, etc. This year's event will be held at the new Jericho House retreat in Wainfleet. NPCA staff have also been working with the Jericho House on a naturalization project, making it an ideal location to hold our event. Invitations to participate in the Niagara Envirothon have been sent out to all schools in the Niagara Peninsula and we hope to have a great turnout again this year. The Envirothon will be held on April 4th (workshop/review day) and April 18th (competition day).

VI. Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

1) Lyons Creek East

Implementation of the Administrative Controls Protocol for Monitored Natural Recovery of contaminated sediment in Lyons Creek East and the roles and responsibilities of the signatory agencies were confirmed at a meeting hosted by the Conservation Authority on October 20, 2011. The Group and protocol is now active.

2) RAP Monitoring & Assessment

Recommendations from the report following the 3-year Welland River Eutrophication Study will be discussed by the RAP's Technical Working Group (TWG) in December. It

is anticipated that a phosphorus reduction strategy will be developed with local partners and stakeholders to address *Eutrophication and Undesirable Algae* in the Welland River watershed.

Implementation of the long-term monitoring plan as part of the Monitored Natural Recovery for Lyon's Creek East is pending.

3) 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.

4) Update: Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

The Governments of Canada and the United States (the Parties) are nearing the end of negotiations to amend the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). The IJC reported that the new agreement will include annexes on Aquatic Invasive Species, Climate Change and Habitat and Species. A more thorough update will be completed in early in 2012.

LAND MANAGEMENT

Ball's Falls Conservation Area

Staff from the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Area visited the Centre for Conservation in hopes of gathering information for a planned facility of their own.

Plans for signs in and around the CFC are being improved. First conceptual drawings for overhead signs of the galleries, rental rooms, gift shop and admissions have been looked at. These signs are going to be designed in house.

Ball's falls received a book rack at no charge through the generosity of Linda Stanley for the gift shop. It was quickly modified to fit the entrance of the CFC and is being used as a brochure rack. Its use has removed all the printed materials for distribution that were scattered face down through the CFC and placed them at an optimal and visible point of distribution. The planned brochure rack was estimated at cost of \$2,500.00.

The Community Museums Operating Grant reports prepared by the site administrator have been accepted without change and the grant has been renewed for 2012.

Gardening and Blacksmithing courses held recently have been successful.

The Winter Sports Exhibit is up and running.

Christmas in the Country school program is underway with nine hundred children registered at this time.

The Ball's Falls web site, Facebook page, and Twitter are being updated regularly.

The Royal Botanical Gardens held their annual Christmas Event on November 26th. Many groups and organizations were present, including Ball's Falls, Ruthvin, the RBG, City of

Hamilton Museums, and the historical re-enactment community. The event was well attended and provided an opportunity to promote Ball's Falls to more than 1,000 people. Special thanks goes to Linda Holmes, Matthew and Elora Winninger, who wore historical costume and served as ambassadors handing out NPCA and Ball's Falls information.

The capital project work on the Big Barn is near completion with only the east side left to install new pine siding.

The Grist mill siding project will commence in the new year with the west side of building to complete. The remainder of the new windows will be installed in the gristmill over the winter months.

Centre for Conservation sewage system upgrade has been approved. Project to be completed in May

First annual Christmas with Santa public program was a success. Thanks to all the volunteers for assisting staff. Ninety people registered for the program filling all twenty time slots with Santa. Visitors enjoyed games in the Centre for Conservation, crafts in the Field centre, treats in the Fairchild cabin and a demonstration in the Blacksmith shop with a free hand forged item to take home.

Sixteen heritage apple trees were planted on historical grounds. Cuttings were taken from existing heritage apple trees and grafted on to apple seedlings two years ago by Aubin Nurseries in Jordan.

Binbrook Conservation Area

The hunting program is winding down. The last day for waterfowl hunting will be Saturday, December 10th.

Staff are preparing the site for the upcoming ice fishing season, beginning in January. This program has been very successful and continues to grow in popularity. Staff will be monitoring the potential impact of PFOS contamination and public perceptions around fishing in the reservoir.

Long Beach and Chippawa Creek Conservation Areas

Staff are working with MediaMix International, on improvements to the online reservation system. The upgrades will be implemented in January and February, ensuring that the service is ready to go for the 2012 camping season.

Staff met with the Ministry of the Environment to discuss the operations of the septic lagoon at Long Beach Conservation Area. This facility operates on an old certificate, and the Ministry wanted to ensure that the treatment process is still effective. Additional effluent samples will be taken in early March, prior to the scheduled discharge.

Two Mile Creek Conservation Area

The asphalt trail project is being delayed until 2012. The contractor will guarantee the price and schedule the work early in the spring.

Beamer Conservation Area

The area disturbed by the Buckthorn removal has been re-planted with native species. This should help discourage the re-growth of Buckthorn and other non-native invasive species.

Comfort Maple Conservation Area

Davey Tree will be undertaking some restoration work at the Comfort Maple including new cabling and the installation of lightning protection. The proposed fencing will be reviewed by staff, then the proposal will be brought to the Board for consideration.

Virgil Conservation Area

Staff will be attending the Provincial Offences Court on December 16 for the first court appearance related to charges against an individual who cut a number of trees at the Virgil Conservation Area. The charges were laid under Section 29 – Conservation Area Regulations.

NPCA Hunting Program

Provincial Controlled Shotgun Season for deer takes place November 7-13. Staff will be enforcing park rules/regulations to ensure that the parks are safe for all users.

Controlled waterfowl hunt programs at Binbrook and Mud Lake will be finished on December 10th.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Conservation Achievement Awards

The 2011 Conservation Achievement Awards reception was held on Wednesday, November 23, at the Centre for Conservation, Ball's Falls with 230 people in attendance. Thanks to members and staff who assisted to make the evening special for our volunteers. Feedback has been very positive.

A.D. Latornell Symposium

Staff attended the symposium which took place November 16-18. The Symposium is a popular environmental conference which attracted over 1100 delegates from Conservation Authorities, municipalities, environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGO), federal and provincial governments, as well as businesses, consultants, teachers and students of all levels. The 2011 Pioneer Awards recipients were:

Paul Aird, a Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto in the Faculty of forestry; 35 years of activity in forest conservation research, forest policy and law, forest geography and history; conservation education as well as parks, wilderness and nature preservation; has been a champion and guardian of the globally rare bird - the Kirtland's Warbler and its' habitat for 35 years, with extensive field work in Renfrew County, with much of this work done in a volunteer capacity; he is also an accomplished writer of children's nature books, ecological fables and nature tales as well as other books on Canada's natural heritage.

Jim Anderson, enjoyed an extensive career in the federal and provincial governments, as well as conservation authorities and Ducks Unlimited Canada; he was part of project teams for the original watershed reports prepared in the 1960's in Ontario, upon which many conservation authority programs originated; his strengths centre around building and maintaining relationships, which made him ideal as a former GM of Conservation Ontario; an active member and volunteer of the Soil Conservation Society of America; developing policy and administrative procedures still in effect today at the Ministry of Natural Resources guiding conservation authority programs; giving voice and forging partnerships for Ducks Unlimited Canada to move wetland protection to the forefront of government agendas and to bring economics to the environmental policy debate; his mentorship of young conservationists and others in the field is substantial.

Tom Taylor, a humanitarian, an environmentalist and a generous, community minded gentleman who is dedicated to leaving this planet a better place; through his 45 year career as a politician and a community volunteer throughout his life, he has demonstrated environmental leadership (founding director of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust; chair and founding member of the Holland River Improvement Committee; member of the Board of Directors of the LSRCA), community environmental initiatives (river clean up days, tree planting projects, public purchase of significant woodlots and wetlands), and inspiring young people in conservation activities (volunteer in a non-profit student tree planting initiative to connect students to nature and restore our ecosystems).

Dr. Liette Vasseur, a professor in the Dept. of Biological Sciences at Brock University and former Associate Vice President of Research at Laurentian University; her research is focused on interdisciplinary approaches at the ecosystem level focusing on community-based ecosystem management, decision-making and sustainable development; her research is global; she is a past board member of the Nickel District Conservation Authority and continues to volunteer on climate change initiatives in Sudbury and in Niagara Region; her work with youth goes beyond university students, with her work on the Sudbury Mayor's Children First Round Table, established to identify ways that youth can become productive members of the community with partial focus on the natural environment.

Upcoming Events

Preparations are underway for a number of events including the annual Ice Fishing Derby at Binbrook Conservation Area scheduled for February 12; the Pathways to Peace Exhibit at Ball's Falls commencing January 7 and running to April 30; Hawkwatch at Beamer begins March 1. A complete list of events will be available in early 2012.

Nature for Niagara's Future Project

The final Scenario Development Team and Steering Committee meetings were held in November. Staff is working on compiling the final reports. Staff has refined the newsletter and communications plan in anticipation of presenting the project to watershed upper and lower tier councils and groups.

Watershed Report Card

Staff attended a meeting to discuss the final technical information data which will be used going forward to populate upcoming reports. The main reporting categories will focus on surface water quality, forest conditions, and groundwater quality while recognizing that other factors that

impact environmental health (e.g., economic, social, agency performance) are important and will be reported on through other means.

NPCA staff has been involved in developing the new reporting format. The new standardized format will be of special benefit to municipalities that cross two or more watershed boundaries as it will allow for a true comparison of local environmental conditions. In addition, Conservation Authorities will encourage other agencies and groups to utilize the outcomes of these Watershed Report Cards to assist with their programs.

The NPCA published watershed report cards in 2005, 2006 and 2007. It is planned that we will publish one in 2012 simultaneously with the new template and reporting system.

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation

A meeting of the board took place on Tuesday, November 14. A number of items were discussed regarding future activities. It was agreed that a meeting would be scheduled in January to discuss 2012 schedule of events and other matters.

Recommendation:

Report No. 73-11 outlining the status of Authority projects/programs be received for information.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

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