



NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
FULL AUTHORITY

WELLAND

AGENDA

OCTOBER 17, 2012 – 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

BUSINESS:

(1) **MINUTES FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – September 19, 2012**

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting held September 19, 2012.

(2) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

(3) **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

(4) **CAO'S REMARKS**

(5) **NIAGARA REGION WIND CORPORATION PROPOSAL – WIND FARM – REPORT NO. 50-12**

Attached is Report No. 50-12 regarding this matter.

(6) **SAINE APPLICATION APPEAL RULING- REPORT NO. 51-12**

Attached is Report No. 51-12 with respect to this ruling, together with documentation with respect to this decision.

(7) **GAINSBOROUGH CONSERVATION AREA – REPORT NO. 52-12**

Attached is Report No. 52-12 regarding the Gainsborough Conservation Area.

(8) **POS – BINBROOK RESERVOIR – REPORT NO. 53-12**

Attached is Report No. 53-12 updating the PFOS matter.

(9) **BUDGET STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 54-12**

Attached is Report No. 54-12 updating the budget.

(10) **PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 55-12**

Attached is Report No. 55-12 regarding the status of current programs and projects.

(11) **OTHER BUSINESS**

(12) **IN-CAMERA**

- (a) Tree By-law – Report No. CR-14-12
- (b) Violation Status – Report No. CR-15-12 –to be provided at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT



To: Chairman and Members of the Authority

Date: October 17, 2012

Re: Niagara Region Wind Corporation Proposal - Wind Farm – Report No. 50-12

The purpose of this report is to respond to a request from the Board at the September 2012 meeting for a report on the NPCA's jurisdiction respecting the subject project/proposal.

Niagara Region Wind Corporation (NRWC) is proposing to develop, construct, and operate the 230 megawatt (MW) Niagara Region Wind Farm within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Towns of Grimsby and Lincoln within the Niagara Region and within Haldimand County.

The primary components of the project include 77 wind turbine generators (80 potential locations identified) each with a rated capacity of approximately 3.0 MW. The collection system uses 34.5 kilovolt (kV) overhead and underground lines to bring power to the centrally located transformer substation. Turbines are grouped into eight circuits which each bring power (and data via fibre optic lines) to the transformer substation where the voltage is stepped up from 34.5kV to 115kV by means of two transformers. A 115kV transmission line then transports power to the tap-in location where the Project is connected to the Hydro One Networks Inc. (HONI) owned transmission line, south of the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) in Lincoln. Power from this Project will be conveyed along the existing HONI transmission line to the Beach Transformer Station in Hamilton. Other Project components include an operations and maintenance building and access roads with culverts installed, as required, at associated water crossings. Temporary components during construction may include storage and staging areas at the turbine locations, crane pads or mats, staging areas along access roads, delivery truck turnaround areas, construction laydown areas and crane paths.

A map showing the proposed turbine locations and primary transmission line is included as Attachment #1.

Staff has completed a preliminary review of the proposed locations and identified which sites/works will require NPCA approval pursuant to the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation, O.Reg 155/06. In all staff has identified that 62 locations will require permits from this agency. Staff's preliminary review comments are included as Attachment #2.

A number of questions were raised at the September meeting in relation to the construction of a north south transmission line along the Mountainview Road allowance in the Town of Lincoln. A map showing this line is included as Attachment #3. With respect to this component, questions were raised as to whether NPCA could compel studies with respect to potential impact to wildlife if the transmission line is installed above ground. Staff would advise that we have no regulatory jurisdiction over the installation of an above ground conduits/wire. To the contrary, should the proponent decide to install an in ground conduit, NPCA clearance would be required for some of the watercourse crossings which intersect

the route. Nonetheless, NPCA does own property adjacent to the route and can offer comment on this albeit, the authority for approval rests with the Ministry of Environment via the Renewable Energy Approval process.

Finally, the proponent also contemplates using NPCA lands for access to two turbine sites. These are shown on Attachment #4. To date, no negotiations have occurred and further details will be brought to the Board when available.

With respect to the transmission lines and towers, the NPCA as a landowner can foresee negative visual impacts on the Mountainview Conservation Area and those visiting the site. Further details would be required to quantify the potential impacts.

Attachments :

- 1) Project Overview Map
- 2) NPCA correspondence dated September 28,2012
- 3) Mountainview Road – NPCA land location map
- 4) Wainfleet – Proposed Access from NPCA lands

RECOMMENDATION

That Report No. 50-12 be received for information.

Prepared by:

John Kukalis, Director, Water Management

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Tony D'Amario, P.Eng.; CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

To: Chairman and Members of the Authority

Date: October 17, 2012

Re: 3437400 Canada Inc.; “Saine” - Application under O.Reg.155/06, Part of Lot 2, Concession 2, Town of Grimsby; Lake Ontario Watershed No.29 - Appeal to Ontario Superior Court – Report No. 51-12

The purpose of this report is to present the Board with a copy of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice recent ruling on this matter.

On February 5, 2009, NPCA received a formal application to develop/construct a private laneway in a natural valley, at the location noted above. The proposal would affect the entire length of the natural valley at this location, which extends for approximately 240 linear metres. The existing valley dimensions vary across the length, with a median width of approximately 45 metres and median depth of approximately 7 metres. The proposal included altering and/or piping of the watercourse low flow channel, placing fill, a retaining wall, conducting grading and removing trees and other vegetation within the existing valley. The valley is experiencing natural erosion, has obvious signs of instability and is considered “hazardous lands” in accordance with Regulation 155/06 and Provincial Policy.

On March 2, 2009, NPCA staff issued formal correspondence to the Applicant’s Agent, advising that staff could not support issuing a permit for the development/construction within the natural valley for the reasons noted above.

Pursuant to section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act, before a permit pursuant to Ontario Regulation 155/06 can be refused, the Applicant is entitled to a formal hearing before the Full Authority Board. Accordingly, as per the Applicant’s request, a hearing was commenced on April 15, 2009 and subsequently continued and was concluded on May 20, 2009. After listening to presentations and asking questions of both NPCA staff and the Applicant’s Consultants, on May 20, 2009, the NPCA Board voted to refuse the application. Briefly summarized, the decision was based on the fact that the laneway would be situated within identified hazard lands and would also have negative impacts on the conservation of land, all of which was contrary to Board adopted policies.

On May 22, 2009, the NPCA issued a formal “Notice of Decision” which among other things, advised the Applicant of their right to appeal the NPCA Board’s decision to the Minister of Natural Resources, pursuant to section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act.

On June 5, 2009, the Applicant appealed the NPCA Board’s decision to the Minister of Natural Resources and a hearing before the Deputy Mining and Lands Commissioner was granted by the Minister. The appeal hearing took place in Toronto from February 9 to 12, 2010. During the course of the hearing, the Deputy Mining and Lands Commissioner heard evidence from the Applicant, the Applicant’s Municipal Engineer, Geotechnical Engineer and Planner. Staff from NPCA attended and gave evidence on behalf of the Authority.

From the onset of this application, NPCA has been clear and consistent in its position that there are no conditions that can be imposed to bring this proposal into conformance with our Policies, Procedures and Guidelines for the Administration of Ontario Regulation 155/06

and Land Use Planning Document. Nevertheless, pursuant to the Conservation Authorities Act, the Minister has the power to refuse permission or to grant approval with or without conditions.

On May 11, 2010, the Deputy Mining and Land Commissioner delivered a 26 page ruling which supported NPCA's refusal of a permit.

Subsequently, on June 7, 2010, the Applicant filed an appeal of the Mining and Lands Commissioner decision with the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. The basis for the Applicant's appeal is a claim that the Deputy Mining and Lands Commissioner made errors in law. NPCA staff has no reason to believe that the Deputy Mining and Lands Commissioner's reasoning is less than sound.

Nonetheless, staff has been advised by legal Counsel that the Ontario Superior Court of Justice supported the Appellants arguments. A full report will be prepared when the written details of the Ruling are available. Very briefly put, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice found that the Mining and Lands Commission did make errors in law. As a result, the Court chose to send the matter back to the office of the Mining and Lands Commissioner for another hearing.

A copy of the ruling is attached for the Boards information. Authority staff will be meeting with our legal representatives subsequent to this report and will provide updates (in camera or in open session) to the Board at the meeting.

Attachments :

- 1) Mining and Lands Commissioner Ruling
- 2) Ontario Supreme Court of Justice Decision – 3437400 Canada Inc. & NPCA

RECOMMENDATION

That Report No. 51-12 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: October 9, 2012

SUBJECT: Gainsborough Conservation Area Report No. 52-12

The Gainsborough Conservation Area is a 16 hectare (40 acre) forested property on the north side of Highway #20, just west of Regional Road 24. This is a rugged property with no formal trails or activities. It conserves a forest block with sloughs ('wet pockets') and a diversity of plants, making it an ideal refuge for wildlife. The site is outlined in black on the attached air photo.

The land was acquired by the NPCA in the early 1970's because it was in the geographic centre of Niagara, making it an ideal location for the construction of a main office and workshop to service the watershed. A workshop building and secure yard were constructed in 1975. The building has two mechanical bays, a wood shop, office, lunch room and storage area. A two-bedroom apartment is located above the workshop. Originally constructed as a residence for the superintendent of the site, it is now leased out to non-employees, providing a revenue source and security for the building.

In 1978 a separate drive shed was constructed to provide additional storage for materials and equipment. Additional sheltered storage is proposed for this site to meet increasing demands from a variety of NPCA programs.

Plans for an office were abandoned in 1984, when the NPCA purchased the former Township Hall in Allanburg. Over the past 28-years the Conservation Authority planted a number of trees on the site to extend the forested area, providing additional habitat.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 52-12 regarding the Gainsborough Conservation Area be received for information purposes.

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: DATE: October 10, 2012

SUBJECT: PFOS Compounds at the Binbrook Reservoir (update) – Report No. 53-12

Conservation Authority staff are in contact with representatives from Tradeport to stay current on plans for remediation of the Hamilton International Airport Site. Tradeport will be submitting a draft report to the MOE for review sometime in Mid-October. There is no word on a schedule for the MOE response or commencement of remedial works. Staff will continue to monitor this situation and provide updates as the project moves along.

There is no additional fish sampling planned for the Binbrook Reservoir in 2012. The next major fishing season begins January 2013, when the Binbrook Ice Fishing Program opens. As in previous years, Conservation Authority Staff will work closely with the Ministry of the Environment to ensure that the most current information and consumption guidelines are available to the public.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 53-12 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



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: October 11, 2012

SUBJECT: Budget Status Report - Report No. 54-12

Attached is the budget status report for the period ending September 30, 2012.

Expenditures and revenues in the operating budget are generally in line with the approved budget with the following notes.

- Unanticipated additional costs for:
 - continuation of the Strategic Plan
 - dealing with the Wainfleet Bog fire
 - additional legal/HR fees for Regulations and Personnel Matters

I will be making adjustments to other expenditures/revenues within the budget in attempt to accommodate the additional expenditures.

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

Authority staff will be preparing a full year end projection report for consideration by the Board at the November Meeting. By that time, most revenues, including the Thanksgiving Festival, will be known.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Budget Status Report for the period ending September 30, 2012 be received.

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



TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: October 17, 2012

RE: PROJECT/PROGRAM STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. -12

WATER MANAGEMENT

I. Watershed Development Services Division

1) Municipal and Development Plan Input and Review

i) To the end of August, staff have reviewed and processed 190 planning applications (of various types/complexity) and 264 building permits.

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

i) Permits

The NPCA has reviewed submissions for and issued 124 work permits to date in 2012.

ii) Violations

A separate Confidential Violation Status Report has been prepared for October.

iii) NPCA-DFO Partnership Agreement

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. To date, NPCA's Biologist has been consulted on approximately 54 matters.

II. Watershed Technical Services Division

1) Source Water Protection Plan

The Niagara SPP has been submitted and MOE anticipates that it will take about 6 to 12 months to review all the SPPs from across the province.

In the interim, work activities are focussed on budget planning and the transition from plan preparation to implementation reporting and integration of information developed during the course of the plan preparation into decision making tools. Other source protection work includes the uploading of information onto the provincial databases.

2) Water Quality Monitoring Program

Surface water quality monitoring continues at 72 stations in the NPCA watershed. Water samples are collected monthly from April to October. These samples are analysed for bacteria, metals, nutrients and general chemistry.

- Staff is continuing to monitor water levels at all Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network wells. As part of the regular maintenance of this data, a water level correction review is currently under way by NPCA staff.
- Staff is continuing to complete the benthic identification for the Hamilton Airport and Glanbrook Landfills biomonitoring projects.
- To-date 9 water well decommissioning projects have been approved or completed for 2012.
- Staff continue to assist the MOE with two projects: 1) the nutrient track down in Beaver Creek and Big Forks Creek watersheds; 2) and the Balls Falls Climate Change station.

3) Geographic Information Systems

a) Source Water Protection Support Activities

- Staff has been helping Conservation Ontario with some ARDB database structure issues.
- Archiving and organizing of project data not captured in the MOE databases continues.

b) Watershed Development Services Support Activities

- Staff continues with tasks for implementing the Property Information application.
- Integrating the toe of slope information delivered by consultant earlier this year into hazards data model as part of the riverine erosion and valley land features is near completion.
- Staff continues with the pilot project to migrate available fisheries information, drainage area, and stream ordering classifications onto our large scale 1:2000 surface water base to help develop a decision support framework and identify with more certainty where fisheries issues apply to watercourses.

c) Corporate GIS and Information Management Support Activities

- Samples of the Niagara Watershed's 1 meter contour supporting Digital Terrain Model update have been received and are being internally reviewed. This project is funded from the Niagara Water Strategy and is a critical information asset that addresses many Authority and municipal business needs. It will specifically enable the continued compilation and maintenance of the NPCA's large scale hydrology base data.

4) Flood Control

a) Monitoring & Major Maintenance

Staff continues to routinely monitor the water levels at our 14 stream gauge stations, climatic data at our 15 climate stations, and undertake routine maintenance, calibration, and inspections at all 25 installations, as part of the NPCA's routine flood forecasting and warning duties. The public may access this real-time water level and rainfall information through the NPCA's website.

5) Other

a) Technical Services staff continues to provide on-going technical engineering support to the Development Services, Restoration, and Lands Divisions as requested.

V. Watershed Stewardship Division

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority is committed to providing exceptional stewardship to achieve and maintain a healthy and sustainable environment. The need for clean, reliable, and uncontaminated water within the NPCA Watershed cannot be overstated.

The Watershed Stewardship Program is responsible for improving water quality, water quantity and biodiversity within the NPCA Watershed. The Stewardship 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. In addition to providing financial assistance to landowners, NPCA staff will conduct one-on-one site visits providing technical advice about environmental concerns and assisting landowners with hands-on water quality and habitat improvement projects. The goal of the program is to reward the private landowner who protects the public's interest, i.e., clean water. For every NPCA stewardship dollar spent, an additional 9 dollars (approximately) of matching contribution is provided through partnerships, including costs incurred by private landowners, for the implementation of water quality and habitat biodiversity projects.

Typical projects include habitat naturalization, stream-bank stabilization/bioengineering, habitat diversification and rehabilitation such as wetland and riparian buffer restoration, Best Management Practices (BMP's) for agriculture including nutrient management and various other improvement projects. To date, the stewardship division has implemented over fifteen hundred water quality, water quantity, and biodiversity improvement projects within the NPCA watershed.

The Stewardship Division is also involved in education and awareness promotion. Programs such as Yellow Fish Road, Envirothon, and Canopies for Kids have reached thousands of children. These programs help place an intrinsic value within children on the importance of a positive and active role in their natural environment. Educating children about the important role the environment has in ensuring a healthy community will ensure a successful and sustainable environment for future generations. Each year, the program looks for new opportunities to expand and build on the services that it currently offers to watershed residents.

In total, over 50 stewardship projects are approaching completion across all watershed planning areas.

1) Project Implementation – Watershed Plans

- In total 20 woodland restoration / riparian projects were implemented across the watershed this year.
- Over 20 construction projects such as wetland restoration, aquatic in-stream works, erosion and bank stabilization projects will be implemented across the watershed.

- Over 10 Best Management Practice (BMP) projects such as nutrient management projects, livestock fencing, cover crops and erosion control projects (rock chutes and check point dams) are nearing completion.

2) Project Implementation - Ontario Power Generation Welland River Partnership

- The Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway Bridge in Attercliff (crossing the Welland River) was subject to a debris clean-up in August. This work was done by CP under the direction of Transport Canada. An erosion / stabilization project may be undertaken with the adjacent landowner to assist in minimizing the impact on his property from the flow reversal and fluctuation in the area.

3) Project Implementation - Haldimand County Water Quality Program

- Haldimand is pleased to announce a new financial incentive program for agricultural landowners in Haldimand County. The new **Haldimand Rural Water Quality Program** is an initiative of Haldimand County and its partners – the Grand River Conservation Authority, Long Point Region Conservation Authority, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and the Haldimand County Agricultural Advisory Committee. The program is funded through Haldimand County and administered through each of the partnering CA's, with the GRCA in charge of disbursing the funds.
- The overall purpose of the Rural Water Quality Program is to improve the surface water and groundwater quality in Haldimand County. This voluntary program provides financial incentives to farmers who take action to improve and protect surface water and groundwater on land that is used in agricultural production. The benefits of improved water quality include a safe secure water supply, a healthy aquatic ecosystem, increased recreational opportunities, sustainable agricultural operations and a vibrant economy. Everyone benefits when water quality is improved and protected.

4) Outreach & Education

Canopies for Kids

2011 Schools

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

2012 Schools

Municipality	School	Board
Niagara Falls	Cardinal Newman	Catholic
Fort Erie	St. Joseph	Catholic
	Crystal Beach	Public
St. Catharines	Applewood	Public
	Burleigh Hill	Public
	St. Anthony	Catholic
Port Colborne	St. John Bosco	Catholic
Welland	St. Mary	Catholic
Wainfleet	St. Elizabeth	Catholic
Grimsby	Lakeview	Public

Post monitoring of the 2011 & 2012 schools is completed. Over the past 2 years, 100 large landscape quality trees and 300 smaller trees have been planted at 20 Elementary schools across our watershed, as part of this program. The large trees are doing remarkably well considering the dry conditions of both last summer and this past summer. Our summer watering program was the key to this success. In total, it appears three trees will need to be replaced (sugar maples) by the contractor, as they are under warranty. The smaller trees are vulnerable to vandalism. Case by case arrangements will be made with engaged schools to deal with replacement. Highly vandalized schools will not receive additional trees through this program. Overall, the schools have done a great job in caring for and maintaining the trees.

The application period for 2013 will begin in late November, 2012.

Landowner Stewardship Guide

- Building on the success of the One Mile Creek Landowner Stewardship Guide, staff are working to modify this guide to a watershed wide “How to” guide for landowners. Main topic sections will focus on improving water quality and biodiversity. The guide is currently undergoing final edits. Staff have met with the Walkers Creek Association, a passionate advocacy group located in St. Catharines committed to the restoration of the creek and its environment. The ultimate goal is to launch the document in the Walkers Creek Watershed in conjunction with a large media type event to promote the Authority and the Guide. The Guide will be completed in the fall.

Ontario launched the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund to support its on-going commitment to the protection and restoration of the ecological health of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River Basin. The purpose of the Fund is to provide grants to community groups and organizations to help restore ‘their own corner’ of the Great Lakes. An application for funding has been made to this fund to support the production of the guide.

Yellow Fish Road Program

- This year is the 12th year that the NPCA has been coordinating the Yellow Fish Road (YFR) program locally on behalf of Trout Unlimited. Program information has been sent out to schools and clubs within our area of jurisdiction. Requests to participate from teachers and parents have already started coming in for the fall season.

Community Fisheries Involvement Programs

- The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) has been collecting fisheries data in the Welland River Watershed for almost a decade. There are two active programs that allow the NPCA to collect this information, the Angler Catch & Release Program, and the Angler Diary Program. Both programs rely on local anglers to support the data collection. Staff worked with MNR to identify common areas of interest for fall fisheries assessments. In August and September, staff assisted with fish seining in the Welland River. In October, staff will install two large trap nets called Fyke nets in the Welland River near Merrit Island. The goal is to catch more fish that are the appropriate size for tag and release in an area of the Welland River where people are known to fish. The 2012 annual report for this program will be available in January.

Niagara River Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

a) Lyons Creek East – Contaminated Sediment

- The Administrative Controls Protocol for Monitored Natural Recovery of contaminated sediment in Lyons Creek East is in place, and the NPCA is the lead coordinating agency. Details and reports are available at: www.npca.ca/planning-permits/lyons-creek-east/

b) Monitoring & Assessment

- Assessments of Degradation of Fish Populations, Eutrophication and Beach Closings

c) Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

- The Governments of Canada and the United States (the Parties) signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Protocol 2012 on September 8, 2012.

d) Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA).

- The new COA agreement is under negotiation and is expected to be in place next spring. It is anticipated that the Niagara River RAP will be completed within the term of the new agreement.

Ball's Falls Conservation Area

Staff have been busy preparing and setting-up for the 38th Annual Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival. Thanksgiving is traditionally the second Monday in October, so this year it comes as early as possible. There were some concerns that our tent supplier would encounter difficulties with the Festival following so close to the Niagara Wine Festival. Fortunately the weather held out, allowing a smooth set-up.

The Thanksgiving Weekend was a mixed-bag for weather. Friday and Monday were sunny, but unseasonably cool. Saturday started out well, but rain hampered visitation during the last hours of the day. Sunday was overcast and threatening; however we missed the rain that hit the surrounding area. Overall attendance was 16,816 (paid adult admissions), compared to 20,457 in 2011. By all accounts the vendors were pleased with the amount of business. Staff expect to have the financial figures available by the November meeting.

One of the properties previously leased for event parking was recently sold. The new owner has other plans for the property that prevented it from being used for parking this year. Staff are in discussions with the remaining landowner to enter into a long-term agreement for the use of his property.

Recycling was provided again this year at the festival through a service partnership with Regional Niagara. To further the diversion of waste, organic separation was provided for the first time. Findings were: cardboard material and recycling by the vendors continue to be the highest volume of recycled material; and additional educational efforts and/or incentives are required for visitors on organic materials, importance and separation.

Staff are working to develop an endowment for summer camps as result of a \$500.00 donation. The program will be designed to dovetail with an existing program offered by Family & Children Services.

The Iroquois Beadwork, a travelling exhibit from the ROM, has been installed and will run through to November 4th.

Sewage bed upgrades at the Centre for Conservation will begin in mid-October. This will replace the existing infiltration trench with a sand filter bed. Work is estimated to take one week.

The grist mill stabilization project began October 1st. This is the final phase of work to re-point the foundation, add structural ties and improve drainage around the mill foundation. Balls Falls hosted two movie shoots, War of 1812 and a music video.

Binbrook Conservation Area

Binbrook Conservation Area continues to be busy. From September 1st to Oct 8th, we had an unprecedented 23 Picnic Pavilion / Lot Rentals.

Reservations for the 2012 Waterfowl Hunting Program began on September 4th with the lottery and first day of the Hunt starting on Saturday September 22nd. The Waterfowl Hunting program operates every Monday and Saturday from 5am to 1pm. The park is closed to the public during that time. Staff manage to accommodate the needs of our non-

hunting public patrons, around those hunting dates and times. The Waterfowl Hunting Program continues until Saturday December 8th. We have 11 hunting blinds placed around the reservoir. Saturday reservations were full through September. Monday reservations were at about 75% occupancy. We have a handful of reservations already in place for the remainder of the season, even one for December 8th. The fate of the Monday Hunt is yet to be determined, however we have had calls and visits from a number of new hunters.

Contractors will be on site to begin beach expansion work before the winter sets in. The existing playground structure can no longer be maintained and will come down within the next few weeks. We hope to have another structure in place before May of 2013.

As the park visitation gears down, staff are preparing work plans to winterize the infrastructure for the season. This includes final grass cutting, winterizing the splashpad and water system, winterizing the pavilions and store / rental facility, hazard tree cutting, bringing in the floating docks, equipment maintenance, final collection of garbage and garbage cans throughout the park, closing up buildings, preparing ice huts and equipment for the ice fishing program in the new year, landscaping, trail work, and tying up loose ends with contractors and special projects.

On October 12th, a Toronto based filming company will be shooting a television commercial for Cannon cameras.

Long Beach and Chippawa Creek Campgrounds

The fall camping season has been fair, with both warm/sunny and chilly/wet days.

Park staffing levels have dropped with the return of summer staff to school. A few have been retained for weekend work to help keep facilities clean and running over the autumn weeks.

After a long hiatus, mowers had to be started again and, combined with campsite restoration after a busy season, both parks grounds are being prepared for the coming winter and eventual spring startup. Quiet weekdays have afforded staff the time to build / repair picnic tables, fix tired building / mechanical components, and add fresh coats of stain / paint to campground posts and fixtures.

As expected, fall visitation at Chippawa Creek has improved on serviced sites; while Long Beach has experienced the usual autumn drop-off as the public does not associate beach-going with late September / October camping. However, 2/3 of the seasonal campers remained present going into the Thanksgiving weekend at both parks. We suspect more would stay at Long Beach, except 20-25% are from western NY, and have no holiday on Canadian Thanksgiving.

For the Thanksgiving weekend, Chippawa Creek was almost 100% full (on serviced sites); while Long Beach saw about a dozen weekend arrivals.

It should be recognized that seasonal campers pushed to have the season extended from mid-September to Thanksgiving (2006); and it was approved after recognizing that their fees would cover the additional operating cost of doing so. As a result, any extra visitation during the fall period offers previously untapped revenue to the campground program. At that time, staff research could not find another public or private campground that closed

before Thanksgiving; and this contributed to recognizing an existing market demand.

Chippawa Creek Comfort Station

A new washroom building for the campground is in the works for the east side of the property by the existing water plant. This capital project has been on the horizon for a number of years and NPCA staff will be managing the construction with own forces and sub-trades to bring in the capital construction costs as low as possible. Staff recently met with an engineer who is preparing the drawing package for building permit. Snow fencing has been installed to secure the work site, and staff are beginning site preparations for the building construction. It is intended that construction is to proceed as soon as permits are in place to have the building completed next camping season. Highlights include:

It will be tied in to the existing winterized water plant facility, enabling it to be brought online far earlier / faster and stay online later than the rest of the park facilities. This simple choice of location will give the park the ability to be considered for other uses should they arise. One such use, a Regional Armed Forces Cadet Exercise targeted for March 2011 at Chippawa Creek, was canceled due to weather impacts that would've been mitigated by an operating restroom / shower facility.

Working towards greater "Conservation," the engineer is looking to use rooftop panels to heat water, and to collect rainwater to flush toilets. Both of these initiatives offer long-term operating cost savings and contribute to savings in the costs of distributing potable water and using gas or electric to heat water.

The facility will add 8 toilets (18 total), 5 showers (9 total) and 6 hand wash basins (13 total). This will bring the number of users down to 55 per toilet and 111 per shower; which would enable the NPCA to expand the number of campsites in the park to meet increasing demand.

A barrier-free "family" room will be offered. This is a new trend in public facilities, and will offer a toilet, shower and washbasin in one personal space. It is ideal for families with small children, and offers convenience and dignity to those who require assistance.

Jordan Harbour Conservation Area

The NPCA partnered with Niagara Fishing Ambassadors for a volunteer Jordan Harbour Clean up and 'Garbage Derby' Event. Approximately 40 people attended, collecting over 1300 pounds of garbage from the adjacent land shorelines of Jordan Harbour. NPCA assisted in providing a host area, signage and disposal of waste. This event assisted in the Great Lake Shorelines Clean up and helped increase public awareness for better water quality and habitat.

Wainfleet Bog

A new donor sign, map board, and interpretive sign are now installed at the entrance to the Wainfleet Bog. The new signs replaced badly weathered signs that were no longer legible. On September 19, staff provided a tour of the bog to the International Association of Hydrogeologist Conference. The facets of hydrology, history and site significance were outlined and well received by the group.

EC Brown

The Welland / Niagara Central Airport own property on the Welland River between our EC Brown Conservation Area and EC Brown Wetland area. Staff are in discussions with airport management to negotiate an access agreement to build a trail across their land to connect our two properties. Initial discussions are positive and staff are working on follow-up discussions to move towards a formal access agreement.

20 Valley - Jordan Stairs

As directed at the last board meeting, staff have initiated discussion with the local business community and Ontario Heritage Trust to explore funding options for the proposed stair and trail work. In the meantime, staff have prepared a revised construction drawing and are looking at the site in more detail to fine tune a work schedule and work to be completed in house by own forces.

Conservation Ontario Innovation Awards

For the third year in a row NPCA staff are assisting on the committee for this award program held at the Conservation Areas Workshop in Orillia. This year ten entries came in from nine conservation authorities across the province that exemplifies the theme "Healthy by Nature".

NPCA Hunting Program

Staff issued an additional 75 hunting permits for a total of 285 hunting permits issued for the NPCA Conservation Areas in 2012. Of this total, hunting permits are issued to 55 individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

The majority of NPCA Hunting permits are for deer hunting in our Conservation Areas. As a result the majority of hunting would be during the fall, during the archery and shotgun season for deer.

Controlled Waterfowl Hunting Program

Staff prepared hunting blinds and trails for the controlled migratory waterfowl hunting season at Mud Lake and Binbrook Conservation Areas. These are two sites where the NPCA provides blinds for hunters. The season, which began on September 22nd, will continue at Mud Lake until November 30th. Hunting is allowed on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays only.

At Binbrook the waterfowl program continues until the second Saturday in December or frozen water conditions on the reservoir, whichever comes first.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival

The 38th Annual Festival took place October 5-8, 2012. Staff was on hand to provide general information and promote the Authority's various programs and membership opportunities.

Special thanks are extended to everyone who came out to help with the sale of Raffle tickets. A variety of prizes with a retail value of \$2,798 were donated by a number of artisans who participated in the festival. First prize was a handmade quilt which was donated by Marion Holman, one of the Authority's long serving volunteers. Ticket sales were approximately \$2,760. Expenses (license and ticket printing) will be approximately \$330.00 leaving a net revenue of approximately \$2,430.00

Conservation Achievement Awards

The Awards reception is scheduled to take place at the Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation on Wednesday, November 28th. The format will be similar to last year which allowed ample opportunity for recipients to have social time together.

Members are encouraged to nominate constituents within their communities who make a contribution to a healthy environment through their actions.

Niagara Children's Water Festival

A detailed report will be provided on this program at the next meeting. Staff has been invited to attend a number of schools who attended the program to follow up with the students. This program is highly successful and provides a valuable learning experience to all participants.

Strategic Planning Sub-Committees

Three stakeholder sub-committee meetings have taken place and regular meeting will continue until the process is completed. Committee members represent a good cross section of the community and will be able to provide valuable input to the process.

A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium

Members are encouraged to consider attending the Latornell Symposium which will take place November 14-16 at the Nottawasaga Inn and Conference Centre in Alliston. Registration is open until October 31st. Visit <http://www.latornell.ca/register.html>

The conference would give members an opportunity to engage with stakeholders, members and staff from various conservation authorities, consulting firms, NGO's and others to share experiences and viewpoints.

This year's theme is *Prescription for a Healthy Environment*. The theme will draw attention to the important connections between healthy people and clean, sustainable water, and a rich mix of plants, animals and ecosystems. Ontario's Conservation community strives to implement programs that encourage healthy and resilient watersheds, and in turn, a healthy population. Delegates are challenged to bring solutions and innovations to this year's event.

Recommendation:

Report No. 55-12 outlining the status of Authority projects/programs be received for information.

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