

FULL AUTHORITY MEETING
Wednesday June 19, 2013; 7:00 PM
250 Thorold Road, 3rd Floor; Welland, ON

A G E N D A

- **ROLL CALL**
 - **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
 - **BUSINESS:**
 - (1) Minutes – Full Authority Meeting – May 15, 2013
 - (2) Business Arising From Minutes
 - (3) Chairman’s Remarks
 - (4) CAO’s Remarks
 - (5) Strategic Plan Update Presentation
 - (6) Budget Status Report for period ending May 31, 2013 - **Report No. 55 – 13**
 - *Budget Summary May 31, 2013 (attached)*
 - (7) PFOS - **Report No. 56 – 13**
 - (8) Canopy for Kids Update Report - **Report No. 57 – 13**
 - (9) Project Status Report – **Report No. 58 - 13**
 - *Water Management*
 - *Watershed Stewardship*
 - *Land Management Development*
 - *Community Relations*
 - (10) Other Business
 - (11) **In-Camera**
 - (a) Regulations Status - **Report No. CR-59 -13**
 - *Violations Summary (attached)*
 - (b) Tree By-law - **Report No. CR-60 – 13**
 - *Communication Summary (attached)*
 - (c) Land Acquisition - **Report No. CR-61 – 13**
 - *4 maps (attached)*
 - **ADJOURNMENT**
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TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority
DATE: June 12, 2013
SUBJECT: Budget Status Report - Report No. 55 -13

Attached is the budget status report for the period ending May 31, 2013.

Most programs not subject to seasonal variations are within the expected 5 month revenue and expenditure levels. The exceptions include our park operations and capital projects which have recently commenced or are planned to start in the near future.

The Human Resources expenditures is at 85% of the budget due to training requirements and personnel issues that were discussed in previous reports. I will continue to monitor this budget and recommend adjustments as necessary.

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Budget Status Report No. 55-13 for the period ending May 31, 2013 be received.

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



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



To: Chairman and Members of the Authority

Date: June 10, 2013

Subject: PFOS Compounds at the Binbrook Reservoir (update) – Report No. 56-13

The results from the Binbrook Conservation Area swimming beach and well samples have been received. For the third year in a row, the level of PFOS in the drinking water well is non-detectable. The samples were analyzed by a laboratory that uses equipment with the ability to detect PFOS levels as low as 0.02 micrograms per litre. The swimming beach was 0.08 micrograms per litre. By comparison, the 2011 result was 0.13 micrograms per litre and 2012 was 0.12 micrograms per litre. Staff reminds members that these swimming area tests are only a snapshot of conditions at the time of sampling and do not reflect a trend. Additional testing this summer will add to the information being collected by the NPCA. The results will also be shared with the Ministry of the Environment and the City of Hamilton.

As requested at the April Full Authority Meeting, NPCA staff and Board Members from Hamilton met with the Ministry of the Environment, City of Hamilton Public Health and TradePort International to receive an update on the progress of remediation works at the Hamilton International Airport. The airport described measures that have been put in place to isolate the contaminated site and control run-off from the area. The Ministry of the Environment advised the meeting that their priority is to address the source of the problem at the airport site and prevent any further contamination of lands downstream. Once the source is taken care of, the focus will shift to the lands downstream of the airport, including the Binbrook Reservoir.

TradePort International hired the consulting firm EXP Services Incorporated to conduct an initial sub-surface investigation of the contaminated area associated with the firefighting practice pad and develop a draft remediation plan. This draft plan was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and is currently being reviewed. The MOE was not able to provide specific details on the proposed remedial works, or an expected date for comments on the plan, however the initial sub-surface investigation is available on the airport's website at:

<http://flyhamilton.ca/passenger/about/environmental-management/>

As mentioned at previous meetings, the NPCA does not have the regulatory mandate to deal with PFOS contamination; however we are a major landowner impacted by the problem. NPCA representatives confirmed our commitment to providing a healthy and safe park for our visitors. This includes distributing information at the park gate and placing it on our website so that visitors are made aware of this issue. Staff from the City of Hamilton Public Health Services confirmed that the test results from sampling show there is no threat to the public who use the beach at Binbrook Conservation Area. Swimming is not considered a health risk associated with exposure to PFOS.

The larger potential for human exposure is consumption of fish from the reservoir. The MOE representatives explained that fish are regularly sampled from waters across the Province and tested for potential contaminants. This information is used to develop consumption guidelines, published in the *Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish*. In the case of the Binbrook Reservoir, fish were tested for:

- Mercury
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Organochlorine pesticides
- Perfluorinated compounds (PFCs: used in consumer products as grease and water repellents), including Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS: used in fire fighting foam)

Mercury is commonly found at elevated levels in reservoirs for several decades after construction. Organochlorine pesticides are potential introductions from surrounding agricultural land use and PFOS is attributed to the airport site. The NPCA will continue promoting the consumption guidelines and working with the MOE to provide access to fish samples for testing.

Staff will maintain clear lines of communication with all agencies working on the airport site and update the Board when information is available. We will also continue, on behalf of the NPCA, to encourage a detailed examination of the lands downstream of the airport and offer assistance where possible.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 56-13 regarding PFOS Compounds at the Binbrook Reservoir be received.

Prepared by: Darcy Baker – Director, Land Management

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



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: June 4, 2013

SUBJECT: Canopies for Kids Program – Update Report No. 57-13

The goal of the Canopies for Kids program initiated in 2011 was designed to increase schoolyard shade while providing children with a hands-on learning opportunity about the benefits trees provide. Adapted for grades K-8, the program provides a deeper look at how trees improve biodiversity, water quality, air quality, and our economic and social environment.

This science-based program is available to all elementary schools in our jurisdiction. Schools are selected through an application process which opens each September and closes in January of the following year. Schools selected to participate in Canopies for Kids are engaged through interactive school assemblies provided by NPCA program staff. Program information is sent home to extend the message beyond the classroom. Staff works with the selected schools to design a tree planting plan, including both large and small trees that will work with the existing features of the school playground. The annual cost to administer the program is \$106,038.00, with 20% of the cost being administration and the remaining costs for materials and supplies (trees, etc.).

The following implementation activities are required to effectively deliver the program.

Implementation Activity	Implementation Timing
Call for Application – fax, email, website	September - January
Application review – ranking against established criteria (GIS)	February
Application site visit confirmation	February
Application approval confirmation – MOU's	February
School site visit with principal and facility managers	March
Planting design and mapping	March
School assemblies & locate confirmation	April - early
Support material – take home information	April - mid
School planting schedules & implementation	April -late
Post monitoring (previous years schools)	May - June
Post monitoring & watering	June- September
Database maintenance, reporting, funding applications	July - September

There is no financial cost to the participating schools and a maximum of 10 schools per year are selected for participation. Local contractors are selected through the NPCA's quotation process. In addition to offering the most competitive price, experience working with schools and children is a definite asset. Contractors must be able to provide trees that are native to the Niagara Peninsula (naturally occurring here) and grown from locally collected seed.

Applications are assessed against a set of criteria including a lack of shade around the playground

areas. Schools must commit to watering and caring for the trees, they must provide locates and ensure the placement of the trees will not impact future schoolyard plans. Schools only need to apply once, and if not selected for immediate participation, are placed on a prioritization list. Schools that are able to meet all of the required criteria (i.e. watering, tree security / low vandalism) will be placed at the top of the list as “ready for planting”. Schools will typically not wait more than one year to be planted. Currently, four schools on the prioritization list are considered to be “ready for planting” and will be planted in 2014. Schools that have not met all required criteria are placed on the prioritization list as “not ready for planting”. Staff is working cooperatively with these schools to implement strategies to help them meet the required criteria. For example, provide an outside source of water. The ultimate goal is to remediate all schools lacking shade (an estimated 5-7 year timeframe).

Tree planting programs have an average mortality rate of 10% due to various factors including tree damage and disease. Since initiation of the Canopies program (2011 and 2012, not including 2012), preliminary results indicate 2.5% (5) of the 200 large trees have died, with another 3% (6) of the large trees showing signs of stress. The smaller trees are vulnerable to vandalism and currently about 10% of the 450 have been damaged and or died. Trees that have died due to natural causes will be replaced.

In order for the Canopies program to be a success, the trees must thrive and survive into the future. A minimum five-year, post-monitoring program (including watering) and continuous school liaison is key. Each year, ten new schools are added to the monitoring schedule. Currently, we are working with 30 schools to ensure the survival of the trees. The previous years’ summer weather has been extremely hot and dry, resulting in additional resources for watering and care. Typically, compromised trees will show signs of stress in the first 3 years after planting, which is most often related to lack of water or damage to the trunk.

Ten schools is the maximum recommended number for program participation each fiscal year. The current schedule permits staff to complete in-school requirements (assembles & planting) without conflicting with curriculum responsibilities including Education Quality Association of Ontario (EAQO) testing and other activities including track & field, fun fairs and end of the year trips.

With respect to the future of the program, there are currently 18 schools on the waiting list. Of the 18, 4 of the schools are “plant ready” and will be part of the 2014 program. The other 14 schools are interested and are currently looking to update their facilities to meet the planting criteria (example, outdoor water source and/or vandalism control). Some are involved in infrastructure changes as well. With the anticipation that a minimal number of additional schools will show interest in the future, there is a likelihood that the current 10 schools per year program will have a life expectancy of an additional 2-3 years. Accordingly, it would not be practical at this time to increase the annual capacity of the program. It is expected that the program will have a need continue in the future with the likelihood that the number of schools participating would be reduced.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 57-13 regarding the 2013 Canopies for Kids Program be received.

Prepared by: Jocelyn Baker, Manager, Watershed Stewardship

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

TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: June 12, 2013

RE: PROJECT/PROGRAM STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 58- 13

WATER MANAGEMENT

A. Watershed Development Services Division

1) Municipal and Development Plan Input and Review

- To the end of May, staff reviewed and processed 145 planning applications (of various types/complexity) and 110 building permits. Staff continues to participate in weekly scheduled pre-consultation meetings with municipal partners. In addition, staff responds to many general inquiries both from local municipalities and the public.

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

- **Permits**
The NPCA has issued 52 work permits to date in 2013.
- **Violations**
A separate Confidential Violation Report has been circulated.
- **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 however, we are still awaiting clarification on implications from recent changes to the federal fisheries legislation.

In accordance with NPCA's level II agreement with DFO, 33 Letters of Advice have been provided to date this year.

B. Watershed Technical Services Division

1) Source Water Protection Plan

On May 7th the Source Protection Committee (SPC) met for the first time since September 2012 to discuss potential amendments to the Source Protection Plan (SPP) after receiving MOE's comments. Staff is making changes to the SPP that were requested by the SPC.

Staff has also been working on the updates to the Assessment Report (AR) and Source Protection Plan. A major part of the updates is the addition of IPZ-3 modelling into the AR and policy development for IPZ-3 based threats. There have been some delays in the update work because of cascading effects of the amendments and additional requests for IPZ-3 modelling documentation from MOE. Some additional updates to the Assessment Report provincial database (ARDB) were also completed.

The next SPC meeting is expected in July to review the amendments and updates to the Assessment Report and SPP. Staff plans to discuss these amendments and updates with the affected municipalities in July or August.

A Source Protection Authority meeting is now planned for July instead of June.

2) Water Quality Monitoring Program

- Staff continues to sample 80 stations in the NPCA watershed for the 2013 sampling season. Water quality sampling will be conducted from April to November and samples will be analysed for general chemistry, metals, nutrients, and bacteria.
- Staff completed spring sampling for the Hamilton Airport biomonitoring project.
- Staff has completed the NPCA Watershed Report Card. This is part of a province-wide initiative that was coordinated by Conservation Ontario. This Report Card was submitted to the Director of Communications for future release to the public.
- Staff continues to monitor water levels at all Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) wells. The spring PGMN water quality sampling has been completed.
- Staff continues to assist the MOE with two projects: 1) the nutrient track down in Beaver Creek and Big Forks Creek watersheds and; 2) the Ball's Falls Climate Change station.
- Five water well decommissioning applications have been received in 2013 and one project has been completed.

3) Geographic Information Systems

a) Source Water Protection

- GIS staff helped validate and review some of the statistical facts provided in the MOE's *Great Ontario Guide to Source Protection* Niagara insert.

b) Watershed Development Services Support Activities

- Some minor housekeeping updates to the regulation hazard inventories and derivative screening products (Approximated Regulation Lands, Niagara Natural Environment Information Screening Layer) were completed and communicated to the select affected municipalities.
- GIS staff provided DS staff with cartographic visual aids for assistance with the St. Catharines Zoning By-Law review activities.

c) Corporate GIS and Information Management Support Activities

- Staff continues to work on the surface water mapping updates for the NOTL pilot study for the Niagara Water Strategy's 'Contemporary Mapping of Watercourses' project. After the pilot is complete a GIS/Planning Analyst funded by the Niagara Water Strategy will carry on with the project for a year in an attempt to complete as much of the rest of the mapping for the Niagara Region as possible.
- Significant cartographic, graphic design and technical content editing to complete the NPCA Watershed Report Cards was supported by GIS services as a whole this month in anticipation of pending approval and release to catch up with the other Conservation Authorities who have published their report cards already.
- GIS staff has been assisting groundwater staff with spatially identifying areas that are not municipally serviced for water to help target the water use survey being funded and partnered on through the Niagara Water Strategy.

4) Flood Control

a) Monitoring & Major Maintenance

- Staff continues to monitor the water levels of the Binbrook reservoir on a daily basis. The reservoir's water level is currently sitting just above the normal holding stage. Staff will continue to monitor and make adjustments as the situation warrants.
- 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 29 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.
- A specialist contractor has begun retrofit works to bring the gas wells adjacent to the Binbrook dams control room in compliance with current codes.

5) Other

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

- b) Staff continues to assist with preparations for the Ontario Geological Survey (OGS) study that will be undertaken over the next four years in Niagara. Niagara Region and Brock University are also assisting OGS with the study preparations.
- c) NPCA is working with Water Smart Niagara on a Private Water Supply Study of Niagara Region. Project partners include Niagara Region Public Health, the Ministry of the Environment and Brock University. The project is expected to extend through to the middle of 2014.
- d) Staff has installed seasonal water level monitoring sensors in the Virgil Reservoirs and at the Port Davidson Weir in order to comply with the conditions of the NPCA's Permits to Take Water for these facilities.

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

The Watershed Stewardship Division is responsible for improving water quality, and biodiversity through the implementation of projects, with the goal of protecting public interest (i.e. clean air and water). All implemented projects whether undertaken on public or private lands, offer off-site benefits to the broader watershed community.

1) Project Implementation – Watershed Plans

The Stewardship Program advances water quality and biodiversity improvement through the implementation of comprehensive watershed plans. Approximately, 75 projects including construction projects, BMP's, water quality and biodiversity projects are being planned and implemented this year across all watershed planning areas.

2) Outreach & Engagement

The Stewardship Division is also involved in outreach 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. Engaging 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.

Landowner Stewardship Guide

- Building on the success of the One Mile Creek Landowner Stewardship Guide, staff is 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 has met with the Walkers Creek Association, a passionate advocacy group located in St. Catharine's 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.

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. The Fish Tagging Program captures fish through netting and angling, marks the fish with an identification tag, and then relies on anglers to call in to report having caught a tagged fish. The Angler Diary program encourages anglers to record information about their recreational fishing activities. These programs were originally created to monitor the success of the Walleye Stocking Program in the Welland River (partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Conservation Authority, Fort Erie Conservation Club and the Port Colborne and District Conservation Club) and to assist with the prioritization of restoration work within the Welland River.

3) Ontario Power Generation Welland River Partnership

- Staff continues to work on multiple shoreline erosion/riparian habitat projects within the flow reversal and fluctuation zone involving the installation of BioD-Blocks - a unique bio-engineering product designed to mitigate shoreline erosion issues while improving habitat and water quality through the establishment of vegetation.
- One large-scale floodplain wetland restoration project in the Pelham area will be completed this spring. This project will be similar in scope to the E.C. Brown Wetland project, minus the trail infrastructure as it is on private land.
- A flood-plain project completed last year has been naturalized with native species of grasses, trees and shrubs. Habitat features including turtle basking logs and bird nesting boxes will be installed this summer.
- Staff is working with MNR on a fish migration study in order to assess the ability of migratory fish species (white sucker) to navigate past both Welland Canal Siphon Structures.
- The Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway Bridge in Attercliffe (crossing the Welland River) was subject to a debris clean-up last August. This work was completed by CP under the direction of Transport Canada. A Water Well Decommissioning Project may be undertaken with the adjacent landowner to assist in minimizing ground water contamination.

4) Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

1) RAP Stage 3

The Niagara River RAP is in the final stage of the process and assessments of the remaining environmental problems (referred to as Beneficial Use Impairments or BUIs, and

described in the Stage 2 Update report (2009) are underway. The assessments will help to identify any remaining actions required to delist the Area of Concern.

A visit by the International Joint Commission's representative for Great Lakes AOCs is scheduled for June 27 at the NPCA to discuss RAP issues and challenges. A tour of features unique to the AOC is being planned.

The RAP Steering Committee will discuss activities and budget plans for the 2013/2014 fiscal year in mid-June. The RAP Coordinating Committee will meet in mid-July to further discuss & plan RAP business.

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

The new COA is expected in Spring 2013. All work plan actions to lead to delisting the Area of Concern are to be completed within the timeframe of the new COA.

3) Great Lakes Water Quality Protocol 2012.

The new Protocol came into effect in February, 2013 and is being implemented accordingly through the Niagara River RAP.

LAND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Ball's Falls Conservation Area

The Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee meeting was held on May 15th to discuss the Strategic plan required for the Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG). This process is mandated by the Ministry of Culture as a continuation of their program to bring local museums up to Provincial Standards. The plan is separate from the NPCA Strategic Plan, and required to be developed by the Heritage Advisory Committee. CMOG Strategic Plan requirements were submitted to the Ministry and surveys for community information are being applied over the course of the summer. Information received will be used to develop the plan.

Thanksgiving Festival planning and preparations continue. All letters and applications have been sent out.

Staff attended Outreach at Stoney Creek Battlefield House reaching 2,200 students and teachers during two days of School programming and exposing Ball's Falls to 1,000's of visitors on the Saturday of public programming.

Wedding and meeting bookings continue to come in fast and furious. The Barn is fully booked for Saturdays in 2014.

Two volunteers received Ontario Volunteer Service Awards on May 31st. Trixie Wood received a 5-year pin and Ellen Mitchinsen received her 20-year pin.

A music video was shot for an up and coming award winning country and western artist in the church. Many NPCA staff and family members were extras.

Ball's Falls Community Day was held on Monday, May 20th. This free community event included a Citizenship ceremony, barbeque, a fire truck, the Lincoln Humane Society, heritage building tours,

crafts and a book launch. 51 people became citizens during the ceremony, which was filled to capacity! At 1 pm children's author, Kari-Lynn Winters launched her latest book "Buzz about Bees." Staff developed bee themed activities for the event and organized for beekeeper George Scott to be on site. Approximately 65 people attended the book launch and Foodland in Vineland generously sponsored the hotdog barbeque.

Planning continues for Niagara Escarpment Festival: World Biosphere Bash! This event is held in conjunction with Hamilton Conservation Authority, Giant's Rib Discovery Centre and Halton Conservation Authority. Bird Kingdom will be attending with live animal displays. RONA's Little Hammer's Club will also be on site, building bird houses with the public. The Niagara Bruce Trail Club will be on hand to lead guided hikes and David Gillis will provide entertainment. A letter inviting many clubs to participate in the event was distributed and they are maintaining the database of participants. Jude Johnson and the Bouncy Turtle and water play inflatables have been booked. The Greenbelt Foundation provided a grant for the event. The local Astral Radio Stations will be a sponsor of the Festival and is donating \$19,000.00 for radio ads. Chris Hamilton from the HCA has been a tireless supporter of this event.

Staff continues to work with the NPCA marketing department to get rate cards, posters, and PSA's prepared for special events, etc. An ad is going into the Everything Niagara booklet that is aimed at the local bed & breakfast industry.

Ball's Falls will have a regular monthly column with a picture in The Welland Tribune and other local papers as well. It will be written by Lisa Staton and have contributors from the site and the NPCA. The first column will be out in late June.

COGECO and the Welland Tribune have agreed to participate in sneak preview media days in covering special events in order to maximize publicity. PSA's will be issued in advance with an invitation to cover a microcosm of the event two weeks in advance to encourage interviews, photography, etc.

Education program bookings are filling up quickly! In May, schools participated in: Journey to Glen Elgin, Spring Awakening and A Bee's Life. The Bee's Life program has been popular among schools and will become an outreach program in the fall.

"It's a Bee's Life" program, created in-house by Program Staff, is in conjunction with the "It's Better with Bees" exhibit. This curriculum based program reinforces concepts of biodiversity, habitats, species at risk and human interaction with the environment. Classes leave with bee samples, their own solitary bee home, a DVD, and informational poster.

Binbrook

The Binbrook Triathlon was held on Saturday June 8th. It was another successful event, thanks in large part to the pre-planning with the event organizer. Working on feedback from the 2012 event, NPCA staff spoke with neighbouring landowners to ensure they were aware of potential traffic impacts on the weekend. This helped greatly with community relations.

Boarder Pass was on site this past month for the installation of their cable wakeboard system in the reservoir. A large crane was brought on to the beach to hoist one of the cable towers out into

the water, while a second tower was installed on shore near the fishing dock. Steel cable is strung between the two towers and a motorized winch on the cable tows wakeboard riders in the water. The electrical work and final inspections for the installation are near completion to prepare for the official opening of "Boarder Pass Hamilton".

Improvements to the Tyneside Trail near the Camp Marydale property were recently completed by staff and the GCC volunteers. The trail was closed to the public for a few weeks so hazard trees could be cleared by staff. The GCC volunteers installed a wood boardwalk over a wet area of the trail, and hauled in and spread trail screenings over a significant length of trail. The entire Tyneside Trail is now back in operation and open to the public.

The playground area in the park will be rejuvenated, now that the old play equipment has been removed. With the anticipated need for a new playground, staff has been doing their homework over the past year researching recreation trends, play equipment design, play equipment and products, and our park visitor needs and demographics. A design/bid tender package has been prepared by staff and is now being circulated to qualified play companies to bid on the installation of new play equipment in the park this summer. Staff is also consulting with a nature play company on the creation of a natural playground area for children near the playground and splash pad.

Staff is working with the Glanbrook Conservation Committee to complete a second pike spawning bed and nursery habitat project. This will include plantings for pike to lay their eggs and cover for the young fish to hide and grow. Work is expected to start in 2013 and finish in 2014.

Another community movie night is scheduled for Saturday July 20th, 2013 @ 8:15pm. The event is held in cooperation with the Glanbrook Home Support Program and benefits their work in the local community.

Weekend pavilion and open air group picnic areas are renting quickly. Most of July and August are full, for weekend rentals.

General Campground Report: Victoria Day Long Weekend

Staff is pleased to report that the weather was good and the Victoria Day long weekend went off without a hitch. New park staff were well-supported by some returning veterans to ensure that work process and customer service standards were excellent in our reservation/ registration, maintenance and regulatory compliance operations. Good information and education resulted in a complete absence of warnings / evictions / charges or customer complaints.

Chippawa Creek Conservation Area

Construction is now underway on the new comfort station, and proceeding within the expected timeline. The concrete foundation was installed during the warm spring weather and the site is now backfilled and rough graded for the future parking area. Currently, a subcontractor is on site placing the complex series of drainage plumbing to support seven showers, 7 washbasins, 10 toilets/urinals, laundry and various floor drains for mechanical spaces, change spaces and cleaning. Once drainage is in place, this will complete the sub-grade work. Immediately, the floor will be poured and block work can begin for the walls.

Long Beach Conservation Area

Comfort Station #1 (located between the picnic pavilions at LB) is the oldest building in the park. Over the years, it has been modified a number of times, the last time being in the 1990's (exact year unknown). Currently, it is undergoing a minor renovation which includes fiberglass wall panels to cover old peeling paint on block walls, new toilet partitions and new restroom fixtures. This project will be completed in time for the Canada Day long weekend.

Beach Water Quality Monitoring

People who visit the beach are highly aware of e-coli conditions that result in beach postings and can pose health concerns. In recent years, social media and fast online information has increased awareness and information access which has, in turn, had impacts on visitation.

Due to geography, one of the beaches at Long Beach CA is prone to beach postings. But one of the limiting factors of the water quality testing processes is the lab time required to get an accurate result: 24hours. Because of the nature of the lake, conditions can change far faster than that so, often, the resulting postings may not always accurately reflect the water quality in "real time."

However, a number of factors are known to affect water quality that may result in postings, including rainfall, wind, temperature, current and so on. So, as a partner of the Region of Niagara, we have been working closely with the Public Health Department and others, such as McMaster University, to implement a "predictive modeling" formula that might be used to enable "real time" beach postings that include the aforementioned contributing factors.

To do this, weather stations including a rooftop mount and an offshore buoy have been located at Long Beach. These measures will help ensure that the water quality information that visitors receive is both accurate and timely.

Wainfleet Lake Erie Access Beach

The Wainfleet Lake Erie Access Beach was prepped and opened for the season beginning on the Victoria Day Long Weekend.

NPCA staff is working with Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) around "Beach Day" (and its alternate "rain date"): The park was posted as "closed" on that day and, as usual, we provided access to allow the NRPS to take it over as a base of operations. Weather for the event was poor, so the day was a "bust" (from a teen perspective); and the word is out that there will be an attempt to hold it again on Friday, June 14.

As an FYI: "Beach Day" has never visited our Conservation Area at Long Beach. Staff believes the reason for this is two-fold: 1) Our gated single entrance and fee is a deterrent, and 2) the existence of our CA regulations and presence of NPCA Officers who work on site is also a deterrent.

Jordan Harbour

Staff installed the floating docks at the boat ramp, and cleared hazard trees and limbs from the picnic area this past month.

Our application for the minor variance to install the picnic pavilion on the property was presented at the Committee of Adjustment meeting at Town Hall on May 28th. A small group of local residents spoke against the application complaining about the operation of the property. The Town committee moved to defer our application to next month so that town planning staff could review operational items with NPCA staff. Our application is scheduled for reconsideration at the next town meeting end of June.

Beamer Memorial Conservation Area

Removal of the invasive Buckthorn at Beamer continues. This is the third year, with cutting and herbicide application in 2011, followed up with herbicide application on seedlings in 2012. This will continue in 2013, 2014 and 2015 until new growth from the seed bank is depleted.

St. Johns Conservation Area

Another memorial bench was installed along the trail, surrounding the trout pond. Staff continues to monitor an erosion problem on private lands, upstream of the Conservation Area. In 2012 the Conservation Authority implemented measures to capture sediment before it could enter the pond. This year additional work will be required to maintain the sediment control and protect trail infrastructure.

St. Johns Centre Conservation Area

The Spring Lambs Program finished in late-May. The site continues to be a popular destination for end-of-year school trips.

The consulting firm of MHBC is engaged to develop a Master Plan for the St. Johns Centre Conservation Area. The Master Plan Advisory Committee will meet with the consultants in late-June to begin developing the public consultation program.

Two Mile Creek Conservation Area

A bat/ bird monitoring station has been installed for one season at the Two Mile Creek Conservation Area. This station contributes to the network of stations around Lake Ontario and Lake Erie and is in partnership with the U.S. Federal Fish and Wildlife Department, and indirectly the Canadian Wildlife Service. The instruments assist in determining/ understanding location and species of migrating birds, timing and heights, environmental conditions; as well as important stop-over areas (rest and feeding fuel). NPCA staff assisted with the equipment installation and will be looking after the data downloading. Data will be collected until mid-November and results reported in mid-2014.

NPCA Hunting Program

Staff issued an additional 8 hunting permits for a total of 169 hunting permits issued for the NPCA Conservation Areas for 2013. Of this total, hunting permits are issued to 27 individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

The Spring Wild Turkey Season closed May 31, 2013.

Turtle Watch Program

The NPCA 'Turtle Watch Niagara' Program is "hands-on" volunteer activity for helping area wildlife-turtles across our administrative area, and is in partnership with the local Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Road Ecology Group and the Toronto Zoo.

In this program, volunteers assist in identifying area turtle population distribution/ range, and potential areas to increase vehicle/animal safety, as well as, turtle crossing. Volunteers monitor the same road crossing each day (a.m. and p.m.) from mid-May to the end of June, and record: type/species of turtles, locations and behavior. They also assist turtles across the road if deemed safe to do so. Information is provided to the volunteer on turtle identification, turtle moving and rehabilitation along with materials, contacts and monitoring locations on public lands.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Niagara Children's Water Festival

Planning and registration is in full swing for the 2013 program. The school program will run at Ball's Falls from September 17 through 20th and will host over 5,000 grades 3 and 4 students.

Community Outreach

Staff continues to participate in a number of community partnership initiatives to promote the work of the Conservation Authority. Promotional initiatives are focused to the revenue producing areas in an effort to increase visitation and encourage the purchase of Membership Passes. Displays are set up at 2 RBC branched, Fonthill and Smithville to promote the work of the NPCA in conjunction with RBC's Blue Water program. Staff was in attendance at the Citizenship Ceremony at Ball's Falls on Victoria Day, May 20th. Following the event, a barbecue and other activities were held in the conservation area.

Source Water Protection

The committee met on May 7th to review the changes requested to the submitted Source Protection Plan by the MOE. A commenting period will be announced and the final amendments will be presented to the NPCA Board for approval and the forwarded on to the Minister of Environment.

Watershed Report Card

NPCA Technical staff through our Water Quality Specialist has been working on coordinating data to populate a Watershed Report Card for the NPCA watershed. A number of Conservation Authorities have already completed and released their reports through a province-wide launch coinciding with World Water Week in March which was coordinated through Conservation Ontario.

The NPCA Report Card outlines the environmental state of the watershed and is intended as an information document mainly targeting Provincial/Federal and Municipal governments, MPPs, Associations and nonprofits (environmental, agricultural & municipal sectors), media, and watershed residents.

Staff has produced a detailed document (158 pages) for the NPCA sub-watersheds which will be posted on the NPCA website for those constituents who wish to learn more about the data collection methods and analysis.

Bob Welch Memorial Golf Tournament

A total of 72 Golfers are registered for the event and there are 18 hole sponsors and 2 corporate sponsors. It is anticipated that the revenue from the event will be approximately \$9,000. Proceeds will be directed to the Jordan Harbour Conservation Area capital redevelopment.

Schools in Bloom Program

The Conservation Authority made a commitment to support this program since its inception in 2003. The program is coordinated through the City of Niagara Falls. The program includes a number of elementary schools mentored by high school students which allowed students to learn about the environment through hands on participation in this valuable program. This year there will be 4 high schools and 6 elementary schools participating in the projects.

Strategic Plan Sub-Committees

The working groups have wrapped up this phase of their work. It has been a productive process to date. Committee members have put a great deal of effort into the process and their contributions are invaluable. The next phase will include developing the draft plan, followed by a public meeting to take place in September.

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 58-13 outlining the status of Authority projects / programs be received for information.

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