

**FULL AUTHORITY MEETING  
Wednesday September 16, 2015 6:30 pm  
Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation – Glen Elgin  
3292 Sixth Avenue; Jordan, ON**

**A G E N D A (Revised)**

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**6:30 pm                      CLOSED SESSION**

◆ **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

- (1)     Violations Status Verbal Update

**7:00 pm                      PUBLIC MEETING**

◆ **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

◆ **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

◆ **DELEGATIONS / PRESENTATIONS:**

- A.**     Treetop Trekking – Stephane Vachon, General Manager  
**B.**     Dillon Consultants-Consultation Program – NPCA Policy Review  
**C.**     Blue Flag Program – Christie Ulicny, Coordinator

◆ **BUSINESS**

- (1)     A. Draft Meeting Minutes – Full Authority – July 15, 2015  
          B. Committee Minutes    (i)     Budget Steering Committee – Aug 6  
   (ii)     Cave Springs Steering Committee-May 26  
   (iii)    CLAC – May 14
- (2)     Business Arising From Minutes
- (3)     Correspondence
- (4)     Chairman's Remarks
- (5)     Chief Administrative Officer Comments

**REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

- (6) Project Status Reports:
  - 1. *Watershed Management*----- **Report No. 87-15**
  - 2. *Operations*----- **Report No. 88-15**
  - 3. *Corporate Services*----- **Report No. 89-15**
- (7) Financial & Reserve Report – Month ending August 31 ----- **Report No. 90-15**
  - *Summary attached*
- (8) 2014 Audited Financial Statements ----- **Report No. 91-15**
  - *Audited Financial Statements attached*
  - *Grant Thornton representative will be present to answer questions*
- (9) Forestry Bylaw ----- **Report No. 92-15**

**REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- (10) St. Johns Centre - Expression of Interest Responses----- **Report No. 93-15**
  - *Appendix 1, 2 & 3 attached*
- (11) Niagara Children's Water Festival 2015 ----- **Report No. 94-15**
  - *Appendix 1, 2 & 3 attached*
- (12) Ducks Unlimited Partnership 2015 ----- **Report No. 95-15**
  - *Agreement attached*
- (13) Treetop Trekking at Ball's Falls CA ----- **Report No. 96-15**
  - *Appendix 1 attached*
- (14) Conservation Authorities Act Review Discussion Paper ----- **Report No. 97-15**
  - *Appendix A attached*
- (15) Wetland Conservation in Ontario Discussion Paper ----- **Report No. 98-15**
  - *Appendix 1 attached*
- (16) City of Hamilton Motion related to C.A. ACT Review ----- **Report No. 99-15**
- (17) Other Business

◆ **ADJOURNMENT**

# CORRESPONDENCE

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- Jeff Yurek, MPP (dated July 27, 2015)
- Niagara Parks (dated Aug. 6, 2015)

September 16, 2015 Full Authority Meeting

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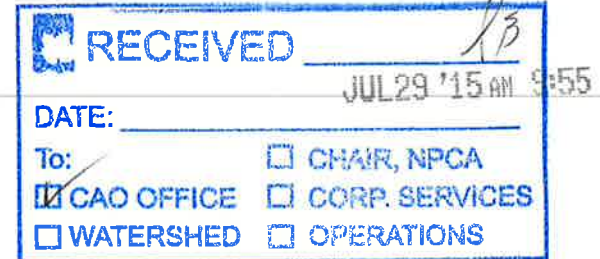
**Jeff Yurek, MPP**  
Elgin-Middlesex-London

**Queen's Park Office:**  
Room 445, Legislative Building  
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Toronto, Ontario M7A1A8  
Tel. (416) 325-3965  
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E-mail: jeff.yurek@pc.ola.org

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Toll Free 1-800-265-7638  
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E-mail: jeff.yurekco@pc.ola.org

July 27, 2015

Mr. Carmen D'Angelo  
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority  
250 Thorold Road West, 3rd Floor  
Welland, ON  
L3C 3W2



Dear Carmen,

During the past year I have held many consultations throughout Ontario with various Conservation Authorities. I consistently heard that funding levels for operating grants have remained the same since 2000 while funding for provincially mandated programs erodes. This has created an unequitable funding burden on Conservation Authorities and many municipalities.

With increasing infrastructure demands such as dam reconstruction, increased provincial mandates and the upcoming implementation of the Invasive Species Act, the current funding model cannot stay the same.

The government has initiated a review of the Conservation Authority Act with the release of a discussion paper. I am offering my assistance as the critic of Natural Resources and Forestry for the PC Party to help make your voice heard. I believe that our party as the official opposition can work with Conservation Authorities to maintain and preserve our natural resources. This in turn will make a healthier Ontario and stronger economy. Under the new direction of our leader, Patrick Brown, the official opposition will continue to reach out to stakeholders and be a voice for Ontarians.

Please include me in your correspondence with the government or arrange a meeting with my office to discuss your ideas. I look forward to working with you during the review of the Conservation Authority Act.

Sincerely,

Jeff Yurek, MPP  
Elgin-Middlesex-London  
PC Critic of Natural Resources and Forestry



Cc: Patrick Brown, Leader of the PC Party of Ontario  
Ms. Kim Gavine, General Manager, Conservation Ontario



August 6, 2014

Mr. Carmen D'Angelo  
Chief Administrative Officer & Secretary Treasurer  
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority  
250 Thorold Road West - 3rd Floor  
Welland, ON L3C 3W2

Dear Mr. D'Angelo:

 <b>RECEIVED</b>		
DATE: AUG 10 '15 PM 3:04		
To:	<input type="checkbox"/> CHAIR, NPCA	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAO OFFICE	<input type="checkbox"/> CO-OP SERVICES	
<input type="checkbox"/> WATERSHED	<input type="checkbox"/> OPERATIONS	

**RE: Niagara River Ramsar Designation**

On behalf of The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC), I would like to thank you and your team for your presentation to the NPC's Properties and Infrastructure Committee on July 22, 2015, regarding the Ramsar designation for the Niagara River. Your presentation was very inspiring and was met with enthusiasm by our Commissioners.

As per the Committee's direction, the Commission, at their meeting of July 24, 2015, approved the following recommendations as received in the NPC staff report:

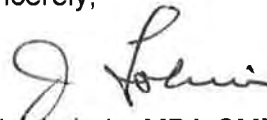
- 1) Authorize that, in principle, the NPC be the lead nominator for the Ramsar designation for the Niagara River subject to an acceptable legal review; and
- 2) Direct staff to report back to the Commission in the fall of 2015 as to a Final Recommendation specific to the NPC being the lead nominator of a Ramsar designation for the Niagara River.

These recommendations will also be made public at the August 21<sup>st</sup> Commission meeting.

Over the following weeks, NPC will carry out a full legal review of the Ramsar designation within its jurisdiction, identifying any potential questions or concerns. Pending an acceptable review, the Commission will be presented with a recommendation to take on the role as nominator for the Niagara River Ramsar designation.

If you have any further questions about NPC's next steps, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Dykstra, Senior Director Parks, Planning & Properties or Corey Burant, Parks Stewardship Coordinator.

Sincerely,



John Lohuis, MBA CMM III  
General Manager

cc: Mark Dykstra  
Corey Burant

# ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

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- Niagara Region letter w/PDS 35-2015 (dated Sep. 11, 2015)

September 16, 2015 Full Authority Meeting

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September 11, 2015

CL 14-2014, July 23, 2015  
PDC 11-2015, September 2, 2015  
Report PDS 35-2015

**LOCAL AREA MUNICIPALITIES**

**SENT ELECTRONICALLY**

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway Initiative 2015:  
Annual Meeting Summary  
**PDS 35-2015**

Regional Council, at its meeting of September 10, 2015, approved the following recommendation of its Planning and Development Committee:

That Report PDS 35-2015, dated September 2, 2015, respecting Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway Initiative 2015: Annual Meeting Summary, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to the local area municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA).

A copy of Report PDS 35-2015 is enclosed for your information.

Yours truly,



Ralph Walton  
Regional Clerk  
:amn

cc: C. D'Angelo, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority  
A. Morrison, Student Planner  
K. Vaughan, Senior Planner, Community and Long Range Planning  
D. DeFields, Manager, Customer Service and Long Range Planning  
M. L. Tanner, Director, Community and Long Range Planning/Chief Planner  
N. Smagata, Administrative Assistant  
N. Oakes, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Planning & Development Services

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**REPORT TO:** Planning and Development Committee

**MEETING DATE:** Wednesday, September 02, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative 2015: Annual Meeting Summary

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,
2. That a copy of this report **BE CIRCULATED** to the local area municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA).

## KEY FACTS

- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) is a bi-national coalition composed of mayors and other local officials that works actively with federal, state, and provincial governments to improve infrastructure, programs and services and increase investments that protect and restore the Great Lakes.
- The Niagara Region is a member of the GLSLCI and works collaboratively with members to ensure that Niagara's regional interests are being put forward to other levels of government.
- At the 2015 Annual Meeting, the members were asked to vote on resolutions (see Appendix II) that outline positions on issues of importance to the protection of the integrity of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Cities.

## CONSIDERATIONS

### Financial

There are no direct financial implications related with this report.

### Corporate

An interdepartmental approach consists of efforts from Community and Long Range Planning, and Water and Waste Water Services to ensure that Niagara Region is up to date on the current issues that will impact the region.

## **Governmental Partners**

The GLSLCI is a bi-national coalition composed of mayors and other local officials that work actively with federal, state, and provincial governments to improve infrastructure, programs and services and increase investments that protect and restore the Great Lakes, which is recognized as a globally significant freshwater resource.

## **Public and/or Service Users**

The resolutions endorsed by the GLSLCI are intended to guide future advocacy to ensure that the Great Lakes continue to act as a valuable, safe, and reliable resource to all who depend on it.

## **ANALYSIS**

The Niagara Region is a member of the GLSLCI, which is a bi-national coalition of over 120 U.S. and Canadian mayors and other local officials. The coalition utilizes its efforts to work dynamically with state, federal and provincial governments to improve the economic prosperity, restoration, and protection of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River.

The annual GLSLCI meeting and conference was held June 17-19, 2015, in Sarnia-Lambton, Ontario. Members were asked to vote on resolutions (see Appendix II) that outline positions on issues of importance to the protection of the integrity of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

At the 2015 annual meeting, the GLSLCI endorsed a total of seven resolutions. Resolution No. 5 titled, "*Harmonizing Regulatory System for Ballast Water for Vessel Operating Exclusively in the Context of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway*", was submitted by the City of St. Catharines and was successfully endorsed as an issue of importance by the members of the GLSLCI. The seven resolutions endorsed by the GLSLCI are listed below:

1. Asian Carp  
Endorses actions to reduce the risk of Asian Carp from migrating into the Great Lakes.
2. Action on Nutrient Pollution in the Great Lakes  
Recommends Federal levels of government respond to the 16 recommendations made by the International Joint Commission to address the deteriorating conditions in Lake Erie.

3. Oil Transport by Rail and Derailments  
Encourages the federal government to review the standards of the schedule for the replacement of old tank cars, travel speed of locomotives, frequency of safety inspections, and fines pertaining to the rail transportation of crude oil.
4. Oil Transportation in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Region  
The GLSLCI recommends enhancing the regulations, legislature, and coordination between transportation operators and regulation agencies for the transportation of oil in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Region.
5. **City of St. Catharines - Harmonizing Regulatory System for Ballast Water for Vessel Operating Exclusively in the Context of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway**  
The GLSLCI encourages federal governments to coordinate a regulatory system with marine industries, Provinces and States to ensure a uniform regulatory regime for the inspections of the ballast water in vessels operating within the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway.
6. Action on Phragmites in the Great Lakes  
The *Phragmites australis* is an invasive perennial grass located around the Great Lakes and is identified as Canada's worst invasive plant species. The GLSLCI recommends that action and funding be directed towards implementing best management practices.
7. Resolution Endorsing City of Mississauga Council Resolution on Protection and Restoration of Wetland Habitats within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin  
The GLSLCI supports restoration efforts of wetland habitats, especially those habitats of species with conservation concern.

Appendix I depicts a brief summary table of the GLSLCI resolutions the alignment with current Regional initiatives and projects. The table also outlines how the WaterSmart Niagara Program's goals and objectives align with each GLSLCI resolution.

Appendix II is the report that was published by the GLSLCI after their annual meeting on June 17-19, 2015. The report outlines each resolution in full; including facts about each topic and the direction that should be taken achieve each resolution.

## **ALTERNATIVES REVIEWED**

### **Recommended:**

Staff request Council to receive this report and forward the report and attached submission to the local area municipalities and NPCA.

**Not Recommended:**

Alternatively, Council could opt not to receive this report or not to forward the report to the local area municipalities and NPCA. Neither of these alternatives is recommended, as the report contains important information for local area municipalities and the NPCA.

**ORIGIN OF REPORT**

This report was brought forward by staff as a follow-up to the previous report PDS 40-2014.

**OTHER PERTINENT REPORTS**

- PDS 40-2014, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities, Initiative 2014 Annual Meeting, October 2, 2014
- PDS 24-2014, Niagara Water Strategy 2014 Review and Update Report, July 3, 2014
- ICP 79-2013, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative 2013 Annual Meeting Summary, July 24, 2013

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**SUBMITTED & SIGNED BY:**

Rino Mostacci, MCIP, RPP  
Commissioner  
Planning and Development Services

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**APPROVED & SIGNED BY:**

Harry Schlange  
Chief Administrative Officer

*This report was prepared by Alex Morrison, Student Planner, and Katelyn Vaughan, Senior Planner, Community and Long Range Planning and reviewed by Danielle De Fields, Manager of Customer Service and Long Range Planning, and Mary Lou Tanner, MCIP, RPP, Chief Planner and Director, Community and Long Range Planning.*

**APPENDICES**

Appendix I	Summary Table of GLSLCI 2015 Resolutions and their Relationship to Niagara Region's Projects, and WaterSmart Niagara Program Goals	Page 5
Appendix II	GLSLCI 2015 Resolutions	Page 9

**Appendix I: Summary Table of GLSLCI 2015 Resolutions and their Relationships to Niagara Regions Projects, and WaterSmart Niagara Program Goals**

<b>Resolutions</b>	<b>Brief Summary</b>	<b>Niagara Region Projects and/or Initiatives/Support</b>	<b>Niagara Water Strategy Goal Alignment</b>
Asian Carp	The GLSLCI endorses the concept of physical separation as the most effective way to stop the passage of the aquatic invasive species. The Initiative also endorses implementation of interim action to reduce risk of Asian Carp migrating to Lake Michigan.	A resolution has been passed by Council, supporting the prevention of Asian Carp from entering the Great Lakes (ICP 16-2013).	Shoreline and Watershed Management  Water Resiliency
Action on Nutrient Pollution in the Great Lakes	The GLSLCI recognizes the adverse impacts on water quality within the Great Lakes inflicted by nutrient pollution and supports action among stakeholders to implement nutrient reducing concepts. All levels of government are encouraged to work towards achieving the 16 recommendations outlined within the February 2014 International Joint Commission (IJC) report, designed to address the challenges of deteriorating conditions in Lake Erie.	Council has directed staff to continue to engage with provincial and federal levels of government on near shore water quality issues (PDS 24-2014).	Water Pollution Prevention

Resolutions	Brief Summary	Niagara Region Projects and/or Initiatives/Support	Niagara Water Strategy Goal Alignment
Oil Transport by Rail and Derailments	The GLSLCI finds that risks imposed by the transportation of crude oil by rail under current safety standards are unacceptable. The GLSLCI encourages the federal government to review the standards of the schedule for the replacement of old tank cars, travel speed of locomotives, frequency of safety inspections, and fines.	In the event of an emergency related to the transportation of oil within the Niagara region, local and regional emergency plans may be activated based on the incident location and impact on the surrounding community. Services that could be involved in such an incident include: municipal fire, regional and provincial police, emergency medical services, transportation services and the ministry of transportation, public health, community services and emergency planning. In addition, under the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Plan, measures would be taken if necessary to ensure that any risks associated with the contamination of local drinking water are mitigated.	Water Pollution Prevention  Water Resiliency

Resolutions	Brief Summary	Niagara Region Projects and/or Initiatives/Support	Niagara Water Strategy Goal Alignment
Oil Transportation in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Region	The GLSLCI recommends enhancing the regulations, legislature, and coordination between transportation operators and regulation agencies for the transportation of oil in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Region. The GLSLCI requests that the municipal victim of an oil and gas transportation-related accident be offered full compensation and remediation by the responsible company. The GLSLCI further requests that an environmental assessment be conducted for new or expanded transportation projects.		Water Pollution Prevention  Water Resiliency
<u>Submitted by the City of St. Catharines</u>  Harmonizing Regulatory System for Ballast Water for Vessel Operating Exclusively in the Context of the Great Lakes and	The GLSLCI encourages federal governments to coordinate a regulatory system with marine industries, Provinces and States to ensure a uniform regulatory regime for the inspections of the ballast water in vessels operating within the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway. This coordination will help strengthen regulations related to the prevention of the release of invasive species from entering the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway through a vessel's ballast water. The system should adopt risk-appropriate requirements that can be technologically		Shoreline and Watershed Management  Education and Awareness Building

Resolutions	Brief Summary	Niagara Region Projects and/or Initiatives/Support	Niagara Water Strategy Goal Alignment
St. Lawrence Seaway	implemented.		
Action on Phragmites in the Great Lakes	The <i>Phragmites australis</i> is an invasive perennial grass located around the Great Lakes and is identified as Canada's worst invasive plant species. The GLSLCI recommends that action and funding be directed towards implementing best management practices (BMPs). The GLSLCI calls on all governments to implement their own BMPs, as Phragmites pose various threats to different government structures.		Shoreline and Watershed Management  Education and Awareness Building
Resolution Endorsing City of Mississauga Council Resolution on Protection and Restoration of Wetland Habitats within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin	The GLSLCI supports restoration efforts of wetland habitats, especially those habitats of species with conservation concern. The GLSLCI requests additional funding from Provincial and State governments for the acquisition and protection of high priority wetlands.	Within Niagara Region's Official Plan, Provincially Significant wetlands are identified as part of the Environmental Protection Area (EPA) and protection measures related to EPAs are followed.	Shoreline and Watershed Management



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 01 – 2015M**

**ASIAN CARP**

**WHEREAS**, aquatic invasive species have caused serious damage and continue to pose a major threat to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence; and

**WHEREAS**, over 180 aquatic invasive species have been introduced into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence over the years and have caused damage and imposed costs well over \$100 million annually; and

**WHEREAS**, many of those aquatic invasive species have migrated through the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) to the Mississippi River Watershed and some have reached all the way to the west coast of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the greatest threats ever from aquatic invasive species to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence in the form of Asian carp, including silver (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), bighead (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), black (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), and grass (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), have been migrating up the Mississippi, Illinois, Ohio, Wabash, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and other rivers over the past 40 years; and

**WHEREAS**, silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) have been found as close as 65 miles from Lake Michigan in the Illinois River, one bighead carp in Lake Calumet in Chicago, grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) in the Grand River in Ontario, and evidence of the presence of silver and bighead carp in the form of environmental DNA has been found in parts of the Great Lakes themselves, including near Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin and Sandusky, Ohio, as well as various parts of the Chicago Area Waterway System; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been operating an electric barrier for almost ten years, and have upgraded the barrier, which appears to have kept the Asian carp from getting closer to Lake Michigan, but which has certain weaknesses and operating problems that create a vulnerability for carp to pass through the area; and

**WHEREAS**, a variety of federal, state, local, private, non-profit, Canadian, and other groups have been operating as part of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee to implement many additional actions to stop the advance of Asian carp in the Illinois River; and

**WHEREAS**, the barrier provides little or no protection for the movement of virtually all invasive species in a downstream direction; and



**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative completed a report in January 2012 demonstrating the feasibility of physical separation and restoring the natural divide between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) in January 2014 outlining eight alternative approaches to reducing the risk of invasive species moving between the two watersheds, and confirming that physical separation is the most effective alternative for reducing risk; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative have managed an advisory committee process for considering physical separation alternatives and related actions to deal with transportation, flood control, and water quality issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative secured \$200,000 in funding and two facilitators/mediators are managing the Advisory Committee process with the desire to reach a regional consensus by December 2015 on the best alternative to prevent the passage of aquatic invasive species between the two watersheds; and

**WHEREAS**, even when a regional consensus is reached, the time to implement a long term solution is such that additional interim actions will be necessary to reduce the risk of Asian carp reaching the Great Lakes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative fully endorses the Advisory Committee process with facilitation and mediation to reach a regional consensus on a long term solution for preventing the passage of aquatic invasive species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins through the CAWS; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative fully endorses the concept of physical separation as the most effective way to stop the passage of aquatic invasive species in both directions through the CAWS; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative supports solutions that maintain or improve water quality, flood control, and transportation in the CAWS and the area; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative fully endorses the implementation of short and mid-term interim actions to reduce the risk of Asian carp reaching Lake Michigan through the CAWS, while a long term solution is being sought and implemented, with special emphasis on steps at the Brandon Road lock and dam; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative asserts that time is of the essence to reach a regional consensus on a long term solution and that



December 15, 2015 should be the outside date for accomplishing that goal; furthermore, it is essential that the necessary short and mid-term actions to reduce the risk of Asian carp reaching Lake Michigan through the CAWS proceed on an expedited basis.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015

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John Dickert, Chair  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Mayor of Racine





**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 02 – 2015M**

**ACTION ON NUTRIENT POLLUTION IN THE GREAT LAKES**

**WHEREAS**, harmful algal blooms (HABs) have a direct adverse impact on the Great Lakes aquatic ecosystem, drinking water, water quality, quality of life and economy including recreation, tourism, and property values; and

**WHEREAS**, if broad and swift action is not taken, HABs, exacerbated by nutrient pollution from human activity, climate change and invasive species, HABs will continue to occur and threaten the health and vitality of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River system; and

**WHEREAS**, a HAB in the western basin of Lake Erie caused the Toledo drinking water utility to advise over 400,000 citizens not to drink the water for two days in August 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the Toledo drinking water crisis brought to light the numerous challenges faced by cities with respect to HABs and water quality, not only the crisis with drinking water, but lack of protocol on microcystin testing procedures, advisories and health standards, and communication with the public on the crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Cities Initiative convened the Mayors Drinking Water Summit in September 2014 to bring together mayors from around the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River to develop actions on the issue of nutrients including:

1. Urging US EPA to establish a common advisory limit and an emergency response protocol for microcystin in drinking water for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region and for Health Canada to update its guidelines for microcystin, and for the two to be harmonized;
2. Urging Great Lakes states to establish a phosphorus open lake water quality standard;
3. Urging agriculture to further reduce the runoff from farms into Lake Erie, including better nutrient management and application of the '4R Nutrient Stewardship' program;
4. Urging municipalities to further reduce phosphorus loadings through more green infrastructure, better treatment plant operations, and pollution prevention measures; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cities Initiative is working to advance near term nutrient reductions from cities, industries, and agriculture through its "Nutrient Action Collaborative" collaboration on the ground with these stakeholders particularly in several river basins in southeastern Wisconsin, the Maumee River basin in the Toledo area, the Saginaw Bay watershed in Michigan



and the Thames River basin in southern Ontario through outreach and discussion with partners in those locales; and

**WHEREAS**, many cities and other stakeholders around the basin are using techniques to capture stormwater runoff before it can get in sewers that go to the wastewater treatment plants, allowing the sediment to settle in ponds and removing it in dry weather, capturing nutrients in constructed or natural wetlands, utilizing rain gardens, and adopting other practices to reduce the amount of direct runoff to streams and lakes or through wastewater treatment plants, all resulting in reduced nutrient loads to the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence, and their tributaries; and

**WHEREAS**, under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (WQA), the US and Canadian governments have committed to setting nutrient targets by 2016 and action plans by 2018 to reduce nutrient levels in Lake Erie, and under Annex 4 of the WQA, a binational subcommittee has been tasked with developing recommendations on nutrient targets to meet the 2016 deadline and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is represented on the subcommittee; and

**WHEREAS**, in February 2014, the International Joint Commission released a report of the Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority – *A Balanced Diet for Lake Erie: Reducing Phosphorus Loadings and Harmful Algal Blooms*, which includes 16 recommendations for all levels of government in Canada and the U.S. to help address the challenge of deteriorating conditions in Lake Erie, including specific targets for total phosphorus loadings and dissolved reactive phosphorus, a nine year implementation timeline for actions to meet these targets, and specific actions to reduce both agricultural and urban phosphorus sources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governors of Michigan and Ohio, and the Premier of Ontario have set an ambitious target of a 40% reduction in phosphorus loadings to Western Lake Erie by 2025, and a plan to implement these resolutions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative strongly urges the US EPA and Health Canada to publish their microcystin health advisories and guidelines for use in the 2015 recreational water season and harmonize the advisories and guidelines as much as possible; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative encourages participation and action among municipalities, agriculture, industry and others throughout the region to identify and implement nutrient reducing practices as soon as possible; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in advance of February 2016, the Federal Governments of Canada and the United States launch a comprehensive awareness raising campaign to inform and prepare the public and specific stakeholders, particularly the agricultural community, residents on septic systems, and municipalities, for the anticipated nutrient targets and the subsequent action plan to reduce nutrient loadings in Lake Erie and beyond; and



**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Federal Governments of Canada and the United States devote the necessary financial and other resources to develop and implement short term actions for nutrient reductions in advance of their 2018 Action Plan commitment under the WQA.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015

John Dickert, Chair  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Mayor of Racine



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 03 – 2015M**

**OIL TRANSPORT BY RAIL AND DERAILEMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, transportation of oil by rail has increased 40 fold in the past five years, now standing at over 500,000 cars annually; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, crude oil originating from the Bakken oilfield is more volatile and dangerous than other types of crude, making explosions more likely if a tank car derails and punctures; and

**WHEREAS**, a train carrying crude oil from the Bakken oilfield derailed in Lac Mégantic QC on July 7, 2013, causing the tragic death of 47 people, destruction of half of the downtown area and the release of 1.3 million gallons of oil; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the introduction of new safety measures following the Lac Mégantic tragedy, there have been at least five serious derailments in the first ten weeks of 2015, carrying either oil from Alberta oil sands or the Bakken oil fields, averaging one every two weeks, in Gogama, Ontario- February 14, Mount Carbon, West Virginia – February 18, Hornepayne, Ontario – March 5, 2015, Galena Illinois- March 5, and again in Gogama, ON – March 7, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, these derailments have caused explosions, fires, one death, environmental damage to the air, waterways, and soil, evacuations, destruction of property and the closing of water intakes; and

**WHEREAS**, following the first Gogama derailment that spilled over 6,200 barrels of crude oil and petroleum distillates, the Canadian Transport Safety Board issued a statement that said, “Preliminary assessment of the CPC-1232-compliant tank cars involved (in the first Gogama derailment) demonstrates the inadequacy of this standard given the tank cars' similar performance to the legacy Class 111 tank cars involved in the Lac-Mégantic accident.”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Canadian Transport Safety Board found that the explosive derailment of thirteen cars carrying crude oil and liquid petroleum gas in a Canadian National Railway train near Gainford, Alta., in 2013 was due to numerous rail fractures, even though tests on the line two months before the crash revealed no defects; and

**WHEREAS**, given the proximity of rail lines to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence and its tributaries, the safety of rail transportation of oil must be treated as a priority to protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence and must be addressed binationally; and



**WHEREAS**, on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, both the US and Canadian governments have announced a series of new and harmonized safety rules for rail transportation of oil and other highly flammable liquids.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the member mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative find the damage incurred to date and the future risk posed by the transportation of crude oil by rail following current safety standards unacceptable; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the Cities Initiative commends the improvements in safety rules and the common effort to harmonize the new measures on both sides of the border and recognize this as an important - yet insufficient - step in the right direction; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the Cities Initiative calls on the federal governments of Canada and the US to immediately invest additional efforts to insure adequate risk management and provide the highest level of security for our communities and for the water resources of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin. Additional measures should include but not be limited to:

- a) Expedite mandatory scheduling for introducing enhanced standards for new and existing tank cars Complete harmonization of the safety rules between the two countries, especially regarding the phasing out of old, unsafe tank cars and the mandatory use of electronically controlled pneumatic brakes on all cars transporting crude oil;
- b) Adjust speed control regulations to all situations requiring risk management, not only in highly populated areas, where speed limitations are already part of operations;
- c) More frequent inspections of rail lines and tankers;
- d) Heavy fines for violations of the above rules

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT**, the Cities Initiative calls on its members to adopt this resolution and send it to their political representatives including the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015

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John Dickert, Chair  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Mayor of Racine



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 04 – 2015M**

**OIL TRANSPORTATION IN THE GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE REGION**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are the largest freshwater ecosystem in the world, providing drinking water to over 40 million people and serving as the economic base for much of Canada and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin is a complex and fragile ecosystem, encompassing a wide range of human and natural habitat and activities; and

**WHEREAS**, crude oil and its derivatives are a key component of the energy sources used in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Region and all over North America; and

**WHEREAS**, crude oil needs to be transported from the production regions in the Western part of North America to industrial sites in the Midwest, Northeast and Southeast in order to be refined, transformed and distributed on the market; and

**WHEREAS**, the rapid increase in volume of oil and gas and other materials hazardous to public and aquatic health being transported in recent years has raised many questions and concerns, notably in the light of recent accidents, among others, in the Kalamazoo River, Michigan, in Casselton, North Dakota, in Plaster Rock, New Brunswick, in Lynchburg, Virginia, in Lac-Mégantic, Québec; in Timmins, Ontario, in Mount Carbon, West Virginia, in Galena, Illinois and, in Gogama, Ontario; and

**WHEREAS**, as the volume and nature of the conveyed oil change, there is greater need for increased oversight and protectiveness of safety measures for pipelines, rail and maritime transport; and

**WHEREAS**, lack of oversight and insufficient regulation of oil and gas transportation have likely contributed to the accidents that have occurred; and

**WHEREAS**, the transportation of oil and gas by pipeline, rail and maritime transportation are complementary, binational and largely integrated at the North American scale; and

**WHEREAS**, given the current uncertainties about the public safety and environmental risks to water, air and soil as well as potential negative financial impacts on municipalities with each of these modes of transportation, there is a greater need for increased safeguards; and



**WHEREAS**, municipalities are often first responders to spills, derailment or other accidents within their boundaries, and as such are partners with authorities and companies in accident prevention and response, and have both the duty and obligation to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on state, provincial and federal governments to significantly reduce the environmental and human risk associated with the increased transportation of oil and gas by ship, rail or pipeline through more stringent legislation, regulations, and strict inspections and enforcement with the transportation of oil, through effective legislation and regulations that will ensure the safety of residents and the protection of the environment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that role and authority of municipalities, including their capacity to review proposed regulations, be respected by other orders of government and companies involved in the transportation of oil and gas; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on regulatory agencies and transportation operators to improve coordination of preparedness and emergency response for oil and gas transportation accidents by:

- increasing monitoring and prevention actions;
- disclosing routing and product information;
- setting speed restrictions where appropriate;
- increasing inspection and enforcement;
- clarifying roles and responsibilities with a view to creating a seamless emergency response regime involving federal, state, provincial authorities, private sector response capacity and local authorities and first responders;
- improving intervention timeframes;
- provide improved emergency responder capabilities and training;
- make open and transparent communication between local governments and transportation and oil and gas product companies, including full disclosure of oil products crossing their territory by all means of transportation ahead of such crossings, with no exclusions to federal regulations regarding disclosure; live, on-demand, detailed information about oil shipments; and an obligation of full and immediate quick disclosure of any spill or incident through a bi-national web portal; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls for the creation of mitigation and compensation funds, financed by fees paid by oil transportation industries and/or oil producers that would offer complete remediation and financial compensation to municipalities and those affected on the ground in the event of a spill, fire or other significant event; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls for environmental assessments of new or expanded transportation projects for potential impacts on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence and their tributaries, notably in the case of the transportation of dilbit and other unconventional types of oil; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that considering the North American integration of the energy market and modes of transportation, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recommends that increased harmonization of such legislation and regulations between Canada and the U.S. be pursued; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recommends to both federal governments strengthened environmental standards in trade agreements such as NAFTA's Chapter 6 (Energy and Petrochemicals), by adding a safety annex which would bind the export right of fossil energy producers and conveyors with the respect of regulations and the meeting of safety standards on both sides of the border; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT**, the Cities Initiative calls on its members to adopt this resolution and send it to their political representatives including the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015

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John Dickert, Chair  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Mayor of Racine



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 05 – 2015M**

**HARMONIZING REGULATORY SYSTEM FOR BALLAST WATER FOR VESSELS**  
**OPERATING EXCLUSIVELY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GREAT LAKES AND ST.**  
**LAWRENCE SEAWAY**

**Submitted by: City of St. Catharines**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are the largest freshwater ecosystem in the world, providing drinking water to over 40 million people and serving as the economic base for much of Canada and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence from invasive species that enter the system through ballast water has been of particular interest to many Cities Initiative members for some time; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has publicly supported comprehensive, uniform, achievable, and protective ballast water standards in the United States and Canada and the harmonization of such standards between the countries where appropriate; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2006, the ballast water management requirements in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway system have been the most stringent in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2009 100% of vessels inbound for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway from outside of the Region received ballast management exams on each seaway transit; and

**WHEREAS**, recent efforts by the United States and Canada to deal with one of the major pathways for invasive species, ballast water, through a requirement for and strict enforcement of mid-ocean ballast water exchange for oceangoing vessels arriving from overseas, appears to have reduced significantly the risk of new introductions from vessels given that no new aquatic invasive species have been detected in the Great Lakes since 2006; and



**WHEREAS**, a number of states have proceeded with ballast water control regulations that vary from one state to another, and two different federal agencies regulate ballast water in the United States, creating a difficult regulatory setting for complying with requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, The International Maritime Organization (IMO) developed the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments in 2004; and

**WHEREAS**, The requirements of the IMO's Ballast Water Convention are not achievable for domestic Canadian and U.S. flagged vessels that operate in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway; and

**WHEREAS**, current approaches in Canada and the United States may lead to the implementation of regulatory regimes that will not be uniform for the two countries.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the federal governments of Canada and the United States to develop a bi-national, harmonized and achievable solution to the management of ballast water on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the federal governments of Canada and the United States work with the marine industry, the Canadian Provinces and U.S. States to develop a harmonized regulatory system for the ballast water for vessels that operate exclusively in the context of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that all ballast water regulations in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence waterways adopt achievable and risk-appropriate requirements that can be technologically implemented.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015

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John Dickert, Chair  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Mayor of Racine



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 06 – 2015M**

**ACTION ON PHRAGMITES IN THE GREAT LAKES**

**Submitted by the Town of Collingwood, Ontario**

**WHEREAS**, *Phragmites australis* is an invasive perennial grass that continues to cause severe damage to coastal wetlands and beaches in areas around the Great Lakes, particularly in the Georgian Bay area; and

**WHEREAS**, *Phragmites australis* grows and spreads rapidly, allowing the plant to invade new areas and grow into large monoculture stands in a short amount of time, and is an allelopathic plant that secretes toxins from its roots into the soil which impede the growth of neighboring plant species; and

**WHEREAS**, *Phragmites australis* results in loss of biodiversity and species richness; loss of habitat, changes in hydrology due to its high metabolic rate, changes in nutrient cycling as it is slow to decompose, an increased fire hazard due to the combustibility of its dead stalks, and can have an adverse impact on agriculture; and

**WHEREAS**, invasive *Phragmites australis* should be distinguished from the native species, *Phragmites americanus*, which does not require control as it rarely develops into monoculture stands, does not alter habitat, has limited impact on biodiversity and does not deter wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, invasive *Phragmites* have been identified as Canada's worst invasive plant species by Agriculture and AgriFood Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, *Phragmites* occupy over 4,800 hectares of land around Lake St. Clair alone, while 212 hectares of *Phragmites* occupy land along the St. Lawrence River. The Georgian Bay Area is particularly affected by *Phragmites australis*, with hundreds of stands along the shorelines that threaten valuable wetland areas; and

**WHEREAS**, controlling invasive *Phragmites* before it becomes well established reduces environmental impacts, time, and costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has fulfilled their obligation and action items from the Cities Initiative's 2010 Resolution on Invasive *Phragmites* by:



- Developing Best Management Practices that assist land management agencies and landowners in controlling invasive Phragmites;
- Establishing the Ontario Phragmites Working Group and developing the Ontario Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDsMapS) to share information about invasive Phragmites and its distribution while providing direction and guidance on its control;
- Leading Phragmites control measures in provincial parks; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States lacks coordinated Phragmites control standards among states and municipalities similar to those provided by Ontario's Best Management Practices and Phragmites Working Group; and

**WHEREAS**, primary action on Phragmites in Quebec includes:

- Research on climate change and Phragmites conducted by the Phragmites Working Group at the University of Laval and the University of Montreal;
- Ordinances issued by the Ministry of Transportation that dictate Phragmites management practices in order to prevent seed dispersal via roadways; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities in Ontario can control invasive Phragmites on their own land, and on private property with the landowner's permission, provided they meet the requirements under the *Ontario Pesticides Act*; and

**WHEREAS**, conservation inspectors in Ontario currently lack authority to enter private land to take control measures against invasive Phragmites; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, best management practices include early detection, herbicide application, mowing, compressing or rolling, prescribed burning, and controlled flooding; and

**WHEREAS**, these best management practices are most effective when used in tandem as opposed to when used as stand-alone control measures; and

**WHEREAS**, best management practices can incur high costs because they require extensive time, labor, and specialized equipment to ensure safety and efficacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Act has provided funding for fifty-four invasive Phragmites management projects on over 900,000 acres of land in the United States and is a vital resource for Phragmites management in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities, particularly in Canada, may not have access to specially allocated funds similar to those distributed in the United States under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; and



**WHEREAS**, municipalities need access to funds in order to enact Best Management Practices.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on its members to recognize the need to implement best management practices; to continue public education to promote early detection of invasive Phragmites; and to continue to research best management practices for Phragmites, with the greatest emphasis on implementing best management practices; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that because of differences in governance structures and in the impact of Phragmites in each region, the governments of the United States, Ontario, and Quebec will utilize differing country or province-specific recommendations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative and its members call on the United States Congress to continue to support full funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act and its associated invasive Phragmites projects; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative and its members call on the Ontario Provincial Parliament to pass the Ontario Invasive Species Act (Bill 37), which would be the first stand-alone invasive species legislation in any Canadian province; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and its members call on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and other relevant authorities to increase the amount of funding available through the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Land Stewardship and Restoration Program and through other avenues in order to support invasive Phragmites programs, including but not limited to: implementation of best management practices, further research, and public education, with the greatest emphasis on funding for implementation of best management practices; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative and its members call on the Government of Quebec to act in the following ways:

- Utilize a preventative approach to Phragmites management considering that Phragmites have not yet dispersed as dramatically in Quebec as they have in the United States and Ontario;
- Continue to pursue academic research in University settings on Phragmites dispersal and to make these findings available to Ontario and the United States;
- Facilitate the implementation of Best Management Practices through funding or other avenues, and use existing resources from Ontario and the United States when implementing Best Practices; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative and its members call on the Ontario Ministry of Environment and the relevant agencies of Quebec, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York to clarify and further outline



their best management practices into protocols that establish 'due process' in controlling invasive Phragmites, which would include but not be limited to:

- Increasing the promotion of existing public education materials, such as EDDsMapS, the Ontario Phragmites Best Management Practices Guide, the work of the Phragmites working groups in Ontario and at the University of Laval, and the Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative to promote early detection and identification of invasive Phragmites;
- Establishing clear criteria that would guide decisions on whether action is required to control Phragmites, for example, based on the ecological or health implications of not taking action;
- If a situation meets this criteria, requesting that the private landowner take action to control Phragmites on his or her land;
- If a private landowner is unwilling to take action, allowing the authority to take action as appropriate under a bylaw or ordinance that respects the above 'due process';
- Assisting municipal and other local authorities with the implementation of best practices to control Phragmites.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015

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John Dickert, Chair  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Mayor of Racine



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 7 – 2015M**

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING CITY OF MISSISSAUGA COUNCIL RESOLUTION**  
**ON PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF WETLAND HABITATS WITHIN THE**  
**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE BASIN**

**Submitted by the City of Mississauga**

**WHEREAS**, the attached City of Mississauga Council resolution on the protection and restoration of wetland habitats was proposed and passed on April 29, 2015 by the City's Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Mississauga submitted the resolution to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative for consideration as part of the 2015 call for resolutions.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative endorses the City of Mississauga's resolution, specifically:

1. Supporting the protection and restoration of wetland habitats within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin, particularly for species of conservation concern; and
2. Calling on state, provincial and federal governments to support increased funding for wetland restoration and acquisition to secure high priority lands in perpetuity within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin and particularly imperiled coastal wetland habitats.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015

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John Dickert, Chair  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Mayor of Racine



RESOLUTION 0106-2015  
adopted by the Council of  
The Corporation of the City of Mississauga  
at its meeting on April 29, 2015

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0106-2015 Moved by: Jim Tovey Seconded by: Nando Iannicca

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River make up the largest fresh surface water on earth or about 18% of the world's total;

AND WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Basin supports 33 million people, and contributes \$180 billion to Canada-US trade;

AND WHEREAS, the Great Lakes support the \$100 million commercial fishing industry and \$350 million recreational fishing industry;

AND WHEREAS, more than 50% of Great Lakes coastal wetlands have been lost as a result of urban and agricultural land uses;

AND WHEREAS, wetlands are among the most productive and valuable ecosystems in the world;

AND WHEREAS, wetlands provide a number of vital ecosystem services to society, including the maintenance of water quality, flood, drought, and erosion control, commercial and recreational fishing and hunting and climate regulation;

AND WHEREAS, the effects of climate change and other stressors including nutrient and sediment loading, fragmentation, invasive species, shoreline alteration, and water level controls continue to affect the resilience of Great Lakes aquatic and terrestrial habitats;

AND WHEREAS, the number of invasive species in the Great Lakes is increasing and that invasive species reduce coastal wetland diversity and resilience, and result in economic impacts;

AND WHEREAS, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative mayors have contributed directly to the development of (bi)national and state/provincial policy making including Canada – Ontario Agreement, Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, Lakewide Management Plans, Biodiversity Conservation Strategies, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative;

AND WHEREAS, the mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative concur that significant progress has been made in advancing wetland protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, stressors remain and the need for focused and strong municipal leadership persists;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative support the protection and restoration of wetland habitats within the Great Lakes basin, particularly for species of conservation concern; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence cities Initiative calls on the provincial, state and federal governments to support increased funding for wetland restoration and acquisition to secure high priority lands in perpetuity within the Great Lakes basin and particularly imperiled coastal wetland habitats.

Carried



# REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

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- ❖ **REPORT NO. 87-15** – *Project Status – Watershed Management*
- ❖ **REPORT NO. 88-15** – *Project Status - Operations*
- ❖ **REPORT NO. 89-15** – *Project Status – Corporate Services*
- ❖ **REPORT NO. 90-15** – *Financial & Reserve Report – August 31, 2015*
- ❖ **REPORT NO. 91-15** – *2014 Audited Financial Statements*
- ❖ **REPORT NO. 92-15** – *Forestry by-law*

September 16, 2015 Full Authority Meeting

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**Report To:** Board of Directors

**Subject:** Watershed Management Status Report

**Report No:** 87-15

**Date:** September 16, 2015

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Watershed Management Status Report No. 87-15 be received for information.

### **A. Plan Review & Regulations**

#### **1) Municipal and Development Plan Input and Review**

The Watershed Management Department is responsible for reviewing *Planning Act* applications and Building Permit applications where there is a feature regulated by the NPCA. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Niagara Region, the NPCA reviews *Planning Act* applications with respect to the Region's Natural Environment Policies (Chapter 7 of the Regional Official Plan).

During July and August, 2015, the Watershed Management Department reviewed 46 *Planning Act* applications (various type and complexity), 12 Niagara Escarpment Commission Development Permit applications, 62 Building Permit applications, and 12 property information requests. Staff also responded to various inquiries from the public and local municipalities, as well as attended weekly consultation meetings with the local municipalities and conducted various site inspections. A breakdown of the application review is provided below.

It should be noted that the statistics for Plans of Subdivisions/Condominiums does not include on-going administration work (reviewing detailed engineering design reports, reviewing tree saving plans, reviewing agreements, reviewing revised submissions, and other such tasks).

#### **July 2015**

<b>Plan of Subdivision/Condominium</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Site Plan Control</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Official Plan Amendments</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Secondary Plans</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Zoning By-law Amendments</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Consents to Sever (including lot line adjustments)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Minor Variances</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Niagara Escarpment Commission Development Permits</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Renewable Energy Projects</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Building Permits</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Property Information Requests</b>	<b>12</b>

## August 2015

Plan of Subdivision/Condominium	3
Site Plan Control	2
Official Plan Amendments	0
Secondary Plans	1
Zoning By-law Amendments	1
Consents to Sever (including lot line adjustments)	4
Minor Variances	8
Niagara Escarpment Commission Development Permits	11
Renewable Energy Projects	0
Building Permits	30
Property Information Requests	0

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

### Applications Processed in July 2015

PERMIT #	Municipality	Address	Works Purposed/Purpose	Regulated Feature	Total Days	COMMENTS
3592	Niagara Falls	Pt Lot 6 Miller Road	New Home Construction	PSW	19	
3598	Wainfleet	62838 Putman Road	Covered Patio	Lands adjacent to wetland	25	
3599	Wainfleet	11561 Beach Road East	Home reconstruction due to fire	Lake Erie Shoreline	50	Complete application not until July 21 therefore only 2 days to complete the permit
Minor Works	Fort Erie	1110 Garrison Road	Re-location of portable	Wetland/Lands Adjacent	14	
NRWC-017 to NRWC-051	Haldimand, Wainfleet, West Lincoln, Lincoln	Various	Wind Energy Project	Various	71	Complete application not until June 23 therefore only 17 days <b>(35 Permits)</b>
3601	Hamilton	Woodburn Road south of Hall Road	Culvert Replacement	Culvert within Buckhorn Creek	39	Complete application not until July 12 therefore only 12 days to complete permit
3603	West Lincoln	w/s Patterson Road	New Home and access	Lands adjacent to wetland, valleyland, watercourse and floodplain	24	
3606	Hamilton	Young St. Hamilton	Miscellaneous Roadside Ditching	PSW Buffer, lands adjacent to watercourse	22	
No Objection	Wainfleet	21205 Rattler Road	Septic Install	Lands Adjacent to PSW	26	
No Objection	Welland	505 River Road	Welland Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades	Lands Adjacent to Watercourse (Welland River)	28	
3292A	Welland	9577 Netherby Rd.	Placing Fill in Wetland Buffer	Wetland Buffer	1	Permit Renewal
3607	Port Colborne	5788 Forkes Road	New Broiler Barn	Lands Adjacent to PSW Buffer	10	

PERMIT #	Municipality	Address	Works Purposed/Purpose	Regulated Feature	Total Days	COMMENTS
3608	St. Catharines	68 Hillcrest Avenue	Enclosed Deck	Slope Stability	64	Complete application not until July 16 therefore only 13 days to complete permit
3609	Fort Erie	3285 Thunderbay Road	Vegetation Removal	Lake Erie Shoreline	11	
3610	Niagara Falls	6040 Chippawa Parkway	Accessory Building and Floating Dock	Lands adjacent to a watercourse	5	
No Objection	St. Catharines	4 Lantana Circle	Home addition	Lake Ontario Shoreline	1	
Minor Works	Pelham	1144 Rice Road	In-ground Pool Install	PSW Buffer	1	
3611	Welland	396 St. George St.	New Detached Garage and Pool Removal	PSW Buffer	8	
3612	West Lincoln	4093 East Chippawa Road	Hoop Barn for Livestock	Lands adjacent to wetland (Sucker Creek)	7	

#### Applications Processed in August 2015

PERMIT #	Municipality	Address	Works Purposed/Purpose	Regulated Feature	Total Days	COMMENTS
3480	West Lincoln	Regional Road 14 at Mill Creek	Bridge Rehab and Replacement over Mill Creek and Road Re-alignment	Watercourse and Wetland	71	Complete application not until July 8, 2015 therefore only 40 days to complete permit
3389A	Wainfleet	Lot 29 Concession 6 Perry Road	Constructing a New Home and Deck	PSW (Marshville Station Clay Plain)	10	Revision of March 6, 2014 Permit to include deck
3523A	St. Catharines	1268 Lakeshore Road	Constructing a Deck and Boat Launch	Lake Ontario Shoreline	15	Revision of December 30, 2014 Permit to include boat launch
3593	Port Colborne	3326 Forkes Road	New Garage Installation	Lands adjacent to wetland	21	
3600	Wainfleet	10719 Lakeshore Road	Home addition	Lake Erie Shoreline	20	
3604	Lincoln	4800 Young Street (South Side)	New Home and Garage	PSW (Lower Twenty Mile Creek)	51	Complete application not until August 4 therefore only 8 days to complete permit
No Objection	Wainfleet	12330 Lakeshore Road	Septic Installation	No Regulated features on Property	20	
3613	Wainfleet	11033 Lakeshore Road	Demolish old home and Construct New One	Lake Erie Shoreline	25	
3614	St. Catharines	2104 Ellis Avenue	Pool Installation	Slope Stability	51	Complete application not until August 10 therefore only 7 days to complete permit
No Objection	NOTL	1341 York Road	Pool Installation (outside of buffer)	Lands adjacent to watercourse	10	
No Objection	Thorold	2700 Decew Road	Decew Falls Spillway Repair	12 Mile Creek	29	

PERMIT #	Municipality	Address	Works Purposed/Purpose	Regulated Feature	Total Days	COMMENTS
3615	West Lincoln	3640 Highway 20	New Pole Barn/Shed	PSW Buffer	13	
3616	West Lincoln	8677 North Chippawa Road	Barn Addition			
3617	Hamilton	2187 Binbrook Road	Double Culvert Replacement	Watercourse	15	
3618	Hamilton	Highway 20 & Harbinger Drive	Cross Culvert Replacement	Watercourse	15	
3620	Haldimand	Part Lot 8, Concession 1 From Lake Erie, North Shore Drive	Septic Installation and Driveway Access	Lake Erie Shoreline	6	
3621	West Lincoln	6285 Thirty Road	Directional Bore under Spring Creek	Lands adjacent to watercourse	7	
3622	Hamilton	21 and 47 Madonna Drive	Removal of Topsoil and Fill Placement	PSW Buffer	29	Complete application not until August 5, 2015 therefore only 16 days to complete permit
No Objection	Hamilton	Airport Road Between Upper James and Miles Road	Road Side Ditching	Watercourse (actually road side ditch now)	4	
No Objection	Hamilton	Con 5 PT Lot 7 GL GB (west of 8290 White Church Road)	Bringing in topsoil for farming the land	Watercourse (no regulated feature remains onsite)	2	
3623	Hamilton	Regional Road 56 between Southbrook Road and Cemetery Road	Road Reconstruction and Linear Infrastructure Installation (watermain, storm sewer, sanitary sewer)	Watercourse	109	Complete application not until Aug 20, 2015 therefore only 4 days to complete permit
3624	Lincoln	4693/4695 Bartlett Road	Vegetation Removal for the Purpose of Farming the Land	Non PSW (LSW)	27	Complete application not until Aug 10, 2015 therefore only 14 days to complete permit
3625	Fort Erie	3000 Dominion Road	New Garage Installation	PSW Buffer (Six Mile Creek PSW)	12	
3627	Wainfleet	West Side of Sixth Concession Road	HDD Utility Watercourse Crossing	Lands adjacent to watercourse	95	Complete application not until Aug 24, 2015 therefore only 1 day to complete permit
No Objection	Grimsby	76 Main Street West	Fence for Daycare	Lands adjacent to watercourse	8	

### 3) Tree and Forest Conservation By-law – See Forest By-Law Summary Report

#### **4) Watershed Biology**

In the months of July and August the Watershed Ecological Technicians (Amy and Adam) have provided biology review for a variety of planning and regulations files, completing nearly 30 site visits with comments for planning pre-consultation or permit application review, and completing approximately 25 permit applications, with formal natural heritage comments being submitted to the Supervisor of Construction Approvals. A large focus of the Permit review was related to culvert replacement and drain maintenance activities.

The Watershed Ecological Technicians also assisted the Ecologist with small mammal trapping at Cave Springs as part of the Master Plan process. As a Joint Health and Safety Committee member, Amy attended Part Two of the certification process for Joint Occupation Health and Safety, the Municipal Workplace Specific Health and Safety Hazard Training course. This training covered topics such as ergonomics, indoor air quality, workplace violence, confined space, fire, electrical and traffic hazards.

The Supervisor of Watershed Biology also conducted several site visits and meetings, including for several complex files such as Kunda Park (Pelham), Grand Niagara (Niagara Falls) and Paradise Niagara Falls. Scoping has also been provided for several Environmental Impact Studies to be received at a later date.

The Supervisor of Watershed Biology participated in updating internal biology review processes for input into the CityView system, attended the NPCA Comprehensive Policy Review kickoff meeting, the steering committee meeting for the Watershed Plans Framework Study, and a Conservation Authorities Aquatics Group meeting. She also participated in a technical discussion of the TRCA draft Terrestrial Compensation Protocol at the TRCA.

### **B. Projects / Programs**

#### **1) Source Water Protection Plan**

- Mr. Robert Bator and Mr. David Renshaw were re-appointed to the Source Protection Committee (SPC) at the Source Protection Authority meeting in July. The appointments were on an interim basis until proposed amendments to Ontario Regulation 288/07 take effect.
- Staff continue to provide support to the municipalities and MOECC in source protection as needed.
- Staff are planning an orientation workshop for new SPC members. SPC liaisons and long standing SPC members are also invited, along with key source protection staff from Niagara Region and the local municipalities. Source Protection Authority board members are also invited to attend if space is available.

#### **2) Water Quality Monitoring Program**

- Staff continue with routine monitoring at 75 surface water stations and 15 groundwater stations in the NPCA watershed.
- Staff completed 2014 NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Report.
- To-date, the NPCA has received nine (9) applications for Well Water Decommissioning Program and completed 6 projects.
- Staff initiated an investigation of stormwater outfalls in Two Mile Creek Conservation Area in order to determine the source of E.coli contamination within that watershed. Outfall E.coli data from samples collected in July were provided to the

- Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake staff and they are investigating a potential residential source.
- The NPCA Water Quality Monitoring team is continuing with several collaborative projects in 2015. These include: 1) the Microbial DNA Trackdown with Environment Canada and McMaster University, 2) Climate Change Station with MOECC at Balls Falls; 3) North Creek Nutrient Evaluation with MOECC; 4) Reference Creek Study with MOECC and 5) Neonicotinoids monitoring at Four Mile Creek and North Creek.
  - Staff collected samples from Lake Niapenco in July as part of the PFC monitoring program.

### 3) Flood Control

#### a) Monitoring & Major Maintenance

- Binbrook Reservoir – Due to the dry summer, the reservoir's water level is presently sitting approximately 1 foot (300mm) below normal operational holding level. Discharge from the reservoir over the summer has been minimal. Staff continue to monitor reservoir water levels on a daily basis and make adjustments as warranted.
- Staff continue to monitor daily 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.
- As requested by representatives of the Town, a staff gauge was installed on the Main Street Bridge across 40 Mile Creek in Grimsby in order to replace one that had historically helped the public to determine the depth of flows within the watercourse during major storm events.

#### b) Water Resource Engineering

- In response to the draining of the Lower Virgil Reservoir, NPCA staff met with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Irrigation Committee in order to outline the sequence of events, describe the implemented solution, answer questions, and discuss future operations. It was agreed that the NPCA Water Resources Supervisor would join the Irrigation Committee in order to provide better coordination between the NPCA and the Town.

### 4) Restoration

#### Project Implementation – Watershed Plans

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 our watershed plans.

#### Project Implementation – Voluntary Stewardship

Staff are currently completing the 65+ stewardship projects approved for implementation in 2015.

**Canopies for Kids**

The goal of the Canopies for Kids program is to increase schoolyard shade while providing children in grades K-8 with a hands-on learning opportunity about the benefits of trees. Now in its fifth and final year of the program, the goal of working with 50 schools has been achieved. To date, over 12,000 students have been involved in planting over 1,000 large shade trees in playgrounds across our watershed.

An assessment of all 50 schools has been completed. This included updating the database with GPS locations of each tree in order to assess tree health. Staff are currently analyzing the data in order to assess vandalism and survival rates.

**Port Dalhousie Naturalization (Pollinator) Project**

Staff have been working with the Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee, a group diligently working to make aesthetic and ecological improvements to the Port Dalhousie area of St. Catharines. On Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup>, approximately 40 people from the Port Dalhousie community came out to help plant 3 pollinator gardens at Rennie Park. The project was done in partnership with the Niagara Restoration Council, the St. Catharines Green Advisory Committee and the NPCA. Approximately 3000 wildflower and grass plugs and 100 native shrubs were installed in an effort to provide host and nectar plants for pollinators on their migratory path across Lake Ontario.

The City will be doing the maintenance on the gardens and the second phase of this project will be the naturalization of Rennie Island in 2016.

**NPCA and Niagara Region Naturalization (Pollinator) Project**

Staff from the NPCA and Niagara Region have been working collaboratively on a health and wellness garden at the 250 Thorold Road office location. Funding for this program has been secured through the Niagara Region's Wellness Program with in-kind support provided through the NPCA's Restoration Program. The project includes a perennial herb and vegetable garden, a pollinator garden (think butterflies), and an education garden to showcase the different species of native wildflowers that can be easily adapted into landscaping projects.

**Walkers Creek Naturalization (Pollinator) Project**

NPCA staff, City of St. Catharines, and Friends of Walkers Creek have been working collaboratively on a riparian naturalization project along Walkers Creek in Cherie Park in St. Catharine's.

Several other pollinator gardens are being planned for fall implementation across the watershed including West Lincoln, Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catharine's.

## Niagara River RAP: Ramsar / RAP Designation Engagement Schedule and Results

Date	Agency	Meeting Type	Purpose	Result to Date
<b>December 13, 2013</b>	Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA)	Full Board	Ramsar staff report for information	Motion for information received
<b>February 14, 2014</b>	Niagara Parks Commission	NPC - Open Commission Meeting	Staff report for NPC to be represented on Steering Committee and act as nominator	Motion passed, staff representation on steering committee, role of nominator deferred
<b>September 24, 2014</b>	Niagara Region	Planning & Development Committee	Ramsar staff report for information	Motion for information received
<b>October 2, 2014 (Thursday)</b>	Niagara Region	Full Council Open Session Meeting	Ramsar staff report for information	Motion for information received
<b>May 28, 2015 (Thursday)</b>	Niagara RAP coordinating committee Public meeting (NOTL)	Public meeting	Canadian / USA RAP update for Niagara River including a presentation on the proposed Ramsar designation	Generated renewed interest in RAP's and keen enthusiasm for Ramsar designation
<b>July 15, 2015 (Wednesday)</b>	Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA)	Full Board	RAP / Ramsar presentation for information and endorsement	Motion for endorsement passed
<b>July 22, 2015 (Wednesday)</b>	Niagara Parks Commission (NPC)	Property & Infrastructure Committee	RAP / Ramsar presentation for information	Staff recommendation report for NPC to act as nominator passed by committee
<b>July 24, 2015 (Friday)</b>	Niagara Parks Commission (NPC)	NPC - Closed Commission Meeting	RAP / Ramsar presentation for information	Staff recommendation report for NPC to act as nominator passed pending favourable legal review completion
<b>July 27, 2015 (Monday)</b>	Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake	Full Council Meeting	RAP / Ramsar presentation for information and endorsement	Motion for endorsement passed in principal pending staff follow-up report for September 21 <sup>st</sup> meeting
<b>July 28, 2015 (Tuesday)</b>	City of Niagara Falls	Full Council Meeting	RAP / Ramsar presentation for information and endorsement	Motion for endorsement passed by council
<b>August 13, 2015 (Thursday)</b>	Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA)	Community Liaison Advisory Committee	RAP / Ramsar presentation for information	Presentation received by Committee
<b>August 17, 2015 (Monday)</b>	Town of Fort Erie	Full Council Meeting	RAP / Ramsar presentation for information and endorsement	Motion for endorsement deferred for staff follow-up report
<b>August 21, 2015 (Friday)</b>	Niagara Parks Commission (NPC)	NPC - Open Commission Meeting	Staff report for NPC to act as nominator for approval made public	Legal review pending
<b>September 2, 2015 (Wednesday)</b>	Niagara Region	Planning & Development Committee	RAP / Ramsar presentation for information and endorsement	Motion for endorsement deferred for staff follow-up report

## 5) Special Projects

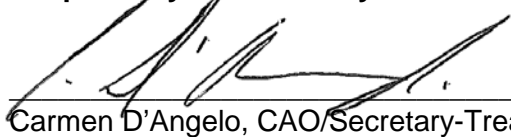
- Staff provided comments and technical assistance for planning applications, conservation authority permits, Niagara Escarpment Commission permits and Part 8 Building Permits for Niagara Region and local municipalities under the Planning Memorandum of Understanding.
- Staff continued their water resources investigation of Cave Springs to support the Master Plan.
- Staff continued work on the Bedrock Aquifer Study. Tasks included water level monitoring, monitoring well construction, hydraulic testing, water quality testing, project management and liaising with the Ontario Geological Survey and McMaster University. Inserted photo shows equipment for injection testing at the Glynn A Green School well in Fonthill.
- Staff worked on preparing for the Groundwater Symposium on Naturally Occurring Groundwater Concerns planned for November.
- Staff worked with Operations staff to improve performance of the Ball's Falls Sewage System.



**Prepared by:**

  
Peter Graham, P.Eng.; Director, Watershed Management

**Respectfully submitted by:**

  
Carmen D'Angelo, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

*This report was prepared with consultative input from Suzanne McInnes, MCIP, RPP – Manager, Plan Review and Regulations, Brian Wright, P.Eng. – Manager, Watershed Projects and NPCA staff.*

**Report To:** Board of Directors

**Subject:** Operations Status Report

**Report No:** 88-15

**Date:** September 16, 2015

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the NPCA Board **RECEIVE** Report No. 88-15 for information.

**PURPOSE:**

Operations Status Report

**DISCUSSION:**

**Ball's Falls CA**

July was the start of the summer camp program that ran through until the last week in August. 58 children attended in July and 43 children attended in August. Furthermore, Ball's Falls sold;

	July	August
Adults admissions	915	648
Seniors/students admissions	345	285
Children admissions	77	81
Maximum - vehicles admissions	255	160
Self-pay admissions	100	73
Regular membership pass	1	0
Senior membership pass	1	1
Membership renewals	2	5
Pavilion Rentals	3	5
Historical Tours given	6	0
Barn Wedding Receptions	15	14
Church Ceremonies	10	11
Centre for Conservation - wedding receptions	3	8
Centre for Conservation – non wedding rentals	6	7

*Respectfully Submitted by Nathaniel Devos, Park Superintendent at Ball's Falls Conservation Area*

## **Binbrook CA**

To date, Binbrook CA has sold 328 Membership Passes, had 92 Pavilion rentals, and 71 Group Picnic Area rentals. Cash remains the payment of choice, 56% of the time.

### **Beach Postings**

There were a couple of stretches (one for a week, the other for several days) throughout late July/early August where the beach was posted by the Hamilton Public Health Department for above threshold E.Coli levels. Not only did we increase the level of signage in the park to warn patrons of the Beach being posted for unsafe swimming, but we also attached, to the sign, a web-link to the City of Hamilton/Public Health Department website to provide the most current update for visitors. The extra signage and communication was appreciated by many patrons.

### **Capital Project Activity**

Kayak Condos - Shipment details being processed (currency, exchange etc). Delivery is expected by the end of September.

Wind Curtains for Pavilion 2 - Installation date was August 20th.

### **Nova Albino, "Antonio's Remission Party"**

On Saturday August 1, Binbrook CA hosted a fundraising event known as "Antonio's 1st Annual Remission Party". Food Trucks, Touch a Fire Truck, Pony Rides, Characters, Bouncy Castles, Belly Dancers, DJ, Face Painting and Balloon Twisting were all a part of the event. Proceeds went to the Sick Kids Foundation. Over 100 families attended.

### **Movie Night Event In The Park- Aug. 29**

The park was visited by members of the Hamilton Tiger Cats Community Outreach Team. They had a Bouncy Castle for the kids and handed out promotional literature. Binbrook also hosted a Classic Car Show, food truck "Miami Grill", Touch a Tractor' sponsored by O'Neils Farm Equipment, and 'Touch a Race Car' sponsored by Ohsweken Speedway. At dusk, the movie "How to Train Your Dragon 2" was presented.

Proceeds went to the McMaster Children's Hospital Foundation and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation. Overnight camping was also available to families who wished to stay the night. A contributor for the movie showing was the Hamilton International Airport.

### **Volunteerism**

With the help of our NPCA Volunteer Coordinator, Ms. Kerry Royer, a relationship was formed with the "Springboard Community Worker Program." Binbrook hosted one client that was able to successfully fulfill 100 hours of community service and has been a valuable asset to the team.

### **Breeder Trial Testing Performed at Binbrook C.A.**

The German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Canada (GSPCC) is the National breed club, recognized by the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC). This event was run as a trial/test basis, for the event to hopefully become fully endorsed by the CKC in the future. This was the first event of its

kind, ever run in Canada, though the format and rules are identical to those tests that have been conducted for many years, in the United States by the American Kennel Club.

While the GSPCC was the host club, these tests are open to any breed, recognized by the CKC, and included were; German Short-Haired Pointers, Vizslas, Weimareners and an English Setter. There were a total of 15 dogs that participated between the two different days. Should the event become recognized by the CKC, as expected, the number of participants, and variety of dogs would increase to about double or triple of these numbers regularly.

The club was very happy with the event, the location and the Binbrook Conservation Area. This could become a regularly scheduled annual event over an increasing number of days as it would involve additional breed associations.

*This report was respectfully submitted by Mr. Mike Boyko, Park Superintendent*

### **Chippawa Creek CA & Long Beach CA**

Both campgrounds have been busy in July and August with regular camping business and capital project improvements.

Chippawa Creek CA added an additional Seasonal Camper in July to make 81 Seasonal Campers. Long Beach Conservation Area has 106 Seasonal Campers to date. This is the most Seasonal Campers that either park has ever seen. Retail and Paid Daily admissions have been steady and in line with previous years.

Chippawa Creek CA was able to hire and bring in the Hamilton Reptile Show that was attended by 75 campers, a mix of Seasonal and Transient Campers. It is always a big hit, especially with the kids.

Along with ongoing general park maintenance, a new roof was put on the gatehouse at Chippawa Creek CA as well as a new heating system for the workshop and new speed bumps and trail upgrades throughout the park. Picnic table repairs were a huge priority this year, both new and refurbished.

A new roof for Pavilion 1 and new siding on Comfort Station #2, both at Long Beach CA, are set as fall projects to round out the majority of capital projects slated for 2015. Area Staff are currently in discussion with Senior Staff about 2016 Capital Projects.

*Respectfully Submitted by Rob Kuret, Park Superintendent, Chippawa Creek CA, and Mike MacIntyre, Park Superintendent, Long Beach CA.*

### **Central Workshop – Gainsborough CA**

The team at the Central Workshop has been busy with grass cutting and helping with Capital Projects. Staff have been making the rounds at each of the passive Conservation Areas, cutting grass, pruning trees, and maintaining trails. As summer ends, staff are starting to look at fall projects and start preparing Ball's Falls CA for the upcoming Thanksgiving Festival.

The Breaking News project for August was the incident at the Lower Reservoir of the Virgil Dam. Staff was called in to help with a temporary fix and then was part of the NPCA team to find and fulfill the final solution. The final fix was the installation of a top and bottom piece of angle-iron that held a steel plate with a gasket piece over the outlet hole of the dam structure. This fix is removable in the future, if deemed necessary. The work was performed by a company called "All-Sea" from St. Catharines. They were unique in that they were able to perform the work underwater. The fix only took about 1.5 hours. We had the company perform the same work on the control structure at the Upper Dam as well.

*Respectfully Submitted by Mich Germain, Superintendent, Central Workshop*

## **ECOLOGICAL STATUS REPORT**

### **Cave Springs Conservation Area**

The Ecological Studies continue at the site, as part of the 2015 Resource Inventory for the site Master Plan.

*Surveys completed this month include:* the breeding bird study; the fourth through seventh of 7 snake surveys; the second and final bat building exit survey on July 23 with the assistance of 5 volunteers, and the third and fourth of four small mammal surveys; flying squirrel small mammal survey; and third and fourth of 5 turtle surveys were completed.

*To date the completed Master Plan surveys include:* the Ecological Land Study Classification Study; snag habitat survey; spring salamander survey; amphibian survey; winter large mammal tracking survey; spring ephemeral plant survey; bat building exit survey; the snake survey; small mammal survey; flying squirrel small mammal survey; the site bird study

*Surveys continuing include:* the bat monitoring; reptile (turtles); and Species at Risk plants surveys continue at site; as well as the large mammal, salamander, bird and insect incidental sightings.

### **Gord Harry Trail Conservation Area**

Photos of the proposed Niagara Region Wind Corporation (NRWC) proposed section were completed in August. This information will be used to assist in recording existing/previous conditions should this trail section option be chosen for access to the Wind Turbines.

### **Long Beach Conservation Area**

- a) Staff and OMNRF conducted site monitoring of toads at the site for existing populations and locations. This information is used in site maintenance and activities.
- b) Staff and the OMNRF met and additional permit conditions were amended for the CA's
- c) beach maintenance regarding vegetation removal. This permit ensure both the NPCA and OMNRF are aware and agree on the procedures to ensure the protection of the population and habitat of the area rarer species.

### **Morgans Point Conservation Area**

Site milkweed was assessed for the phytoplasma. Phytoplasma is a bacteria which can cause disease and death of the milkweed plant, and negatively affect monarch caterpillars. This bacteria spread by insects. All plants appear to be healthy with no phytoplasma apparent, with

the previous year's pulling of affected plants appearing to have addressed the condition. In light of the 2015 assessment, additional milkweed plantings will be completed this later this year to augment the milkweed population at this site.

#### Smith-Ness Conservation Area

Restoration plans were started at the site. Pit and mounds were completed in the southern part of the property and wetland areas have been staked. Plantings of tree/shrubs will be completed this fall in the southern pit and mound area. The remainder of the restoration for wetland and meadows will be completed in fall 2016.

#### External Research on NPCA Lands

An external research permit was approved for works at Rockway Conservation Area for modeling the presence of species at a site. The research will be completed by fall 2015. The results will assist the NPCA with potential modeling of species locations for prioritizing surveys, monitoring, future restoration or other purposes.

### **OTHER CONSERVATION AREA ECOLOGICAL ACTIVITY**

#### NPCA Hunting Program

a) General: Hunting Permits

Staff has issued an additional 72 hunting permits for a total of 273 permits issued for the NPCA Conservation Areas for 2015. Of this total, hunting permits are issued to 48 individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

b) The federal duck season was confirmed in late June and the 2015 NPCA Waterfowl Hunting Blind applications and information (for Binbrook and Mud Lake Conservation Areas) were mailed/ emailed out to prospective hunters. The application deadline for the NPCA Waterfowl Hunting is August 31. The lottery for the hunting blinds were conducted on the following day, September 1, 2015.

#### Species at Risk

The 2015 Jefferson Salamander Survey and Report completed and tail samples sent for confirmation of the species vs. the complex species. This information is then used in the recovery effort of the species to help improve habitat and enhance the population.

Seasonal water level logger data at the confirmed species was lost due to a malfunctioning data logger. Staff will continue to monitor the site in 2016 to obtain this data, using alternate techniques.

*Respectfully Submitted by Kim Frohlich, NPCA Ecologist*

### **COMMUNITY & VOLUNTEER REPORT**

#### Community Liaison Advisory Committee:

The Committee met on August 13th at 5:30PM at the Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation. Topics presented to the Committee included the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan/RAMSAR designation presented by Jocelyn Baker and Deanna Lindblad. Carmen D'Angelo presented the Conservation Authorities Act Discussion Paper and the Response document from the

NPCA. The Committee provided valuable feedback on both topics. The Committee composition has had a few changes with three new faces starting at the next meeting in November. Jeff Jordan and Sarah Fraser will fill recent vacancies in the "public-at-large" representation and Grant Munday of the City of Welland will fill the vacancy left in the "lower-tier municipal" representation.

#### Community Outreach

The NPCA hosted a guided hike at Ball's Falls Conservation Area in partnership with the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Fund. The Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Fund has been partnering with various organization to promote the 25th anniversary of the Niagara Escarpment's UNESCO World Biosphere designation. The hike was well attended with over 30 people present.

#### Volunteers

Volunteer recruitment for the Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival has begun and we have filled a number of positions with a small number still remaining to be filled. There has been a small dedicated group of volunteers helping with the Summer Camp at Ball's Falls and another group helping with gardening around the Centre and the historical buildings. Staff continues to liaise with the Friends of Morningstar Mill group. Staff also recently met with the Glanbrook Conservation Committee and went a hike along the Tyneside Trail to discuss their concerns with the use of the trail and damage caused.

#### Yellow Fish Road™

NPCA staff are working with the Region to integrate the Yellow Fish Road Program™ into the Outreach and Education component of the Source water Protection Plan. This program will target school groups, girl guides, scouts and summer camps in the Intake Protection Zones of Port Colborne and Niagara Falls, as well as the larger surrounding areas.

*Respectfully Submitted by Kerry Royer, Community & Volunteer Coordinator*

### **EVENTS STATUS REPORT**

#### Thanksgiving Festival Update

Plans for the Thanksgiving Festival are well underway and logistically planning has begun to require increased staff time. The event will run from October 9 to 12th from 10am to 5pm daily. 153 artisans and concessionaires have committed to the event and estimated revenue of \$82,000 has been collected from the group. NPCA has secured a new concessionaire called "50 Pesos" who has recently won their food truck from the popular "Food Network" TV show contest!

The entertainment line for the event has been secured. Three entertainers will play each day of the festival in addition to having a magic show on the Sunday. Bass Pro Shops have committed to participating on Saturday October 10th and will be bringing their staff to run a fishing pond for our guests.

Festival Marketing began at the beginning of September via Facebook and Twitter and via billboard messaging mid-September. The Farmer's Market component of the event has been delegated back to the NPCA after recent staffing changes at the Twenty Valley Tourism Association.

Casual staff for the event have also been secured while volunteer recruitment is still ongoing.

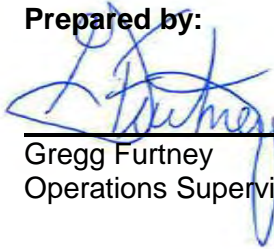
A vendor appreciation dinner is planned again at the Centre for Conservation on Friday October 9th at 6:00 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by Brianne Wilson, Events Coordinator*

**RELATED REPORTS AND APPENDICES:**

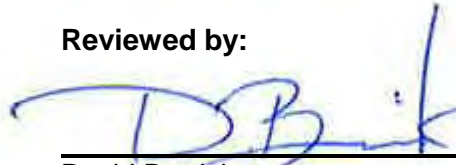
1 – None

**Prepared by:**



Gregg Furtney  
Operations Supervisor

**Reviewed by:**



David Barrick  
Director of Operations

**Submitted by:**



Carmen D'Angelo  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Secretary Treasurer

**Report To:** Board of Directors

**Subject:** Corporate Services Project Status Report

**Report No:** 89-15

**Date:** September 16, 2015

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 89-15 be received for information

**PURPOSE:**

To provide the NPCA Board of Directors information updates on the projects, programs and services of the Corporate Services Department.

**DISCUSSION:**

To provide the Board a summary of projects important to the Conservation Authority's business objectives. The project status report is to provide information pertaining to process improvements, initiatives in support of the strategic plan and supporting the organization to achieve its mission, vision and values.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Projects are within budget allocations for staff time and activity, including the job design and job evaluation project which is a new project initiative that was not identified during the budget preparation and approval cycle.

**1.0 Accounting & Financial Management**

- The 2016 Budget preparation has commenced, departmental salary budgets have been completed by department. We must conclude collective bargaining to complete salary rates and totals for both 2015 and 2016. The departmental expense and capital budgets are being finished over the next few weeks. The first draft of the budget is to be presented to the Budget Steering Committee on September 17<sup>th</sup> and the final draft budget to be presented on October 7<sup>th</sup> for subsequent Board approval on October 21.
- Contract negotiations continuing with meetings scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The 2014 Audit report was completed. Draft copies are to be approved by the board during the September 16<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.
- The HR Generalist role has been filled, the successful candidate was Misti Ferrusi. Her start date in the office is September 21<sup>st</sup> 2.

- Commenced implementation of Sage financial statement reporting package. This will enable enhanced financial analysis.

## **2.0 GIS & Information Management**

GIS/Information Management staff has been working on several technical capital projects throughout the summer:

- Infrastructure for the migration of IT services to a private managed services provider has been established. Final cabling to network the basement offices to the datacenter will be completed this week enabling the establishment of a cut-off date from the Region's services. The private managed services provider is currently backing up and copying personal storage drives from network to network in advance.
- The NPCA GIS data management and hosting environment has been established on the new infrastructure and staff have been busily configuring new internal (formerly 'Niagara Atlas', now to be branded 'NPCA Watershed Manager') and external (NPCA Watershed Explorer) web mapping applications to replace the solutions from the Region once we migrate from their IT services and network. The GIS software stack in the new NPCA environment will enable GIS staff to be more innovative in the future and better meet NPCA staff's specific business needs.
- CityView Implementation has been ongoing throughout the summer. Bulk of the effort has been initial data collection so that the vendor can configure the system to the NPCA's specific workflows. Data collection includes property information, the types of applications/reviews we complete and gather preconfigured comments, conditions, inspection types etc. The data collection phase took longer than anticipated and the vendor will be updating the project schedule shortly and anticipates a compressed turnaround time will still delivering a go live by January 1st.
- A technical component required for both the CityView and new NPCA GIS data management environment includes re-modeling the data and process we use to manage our property information that both systems consume. This has included additional programming in Property Information database to create and maintain unique parcel IDs (required for Cityview implementation and parcel history management on the GIS side).
- Various maps and statistics created through geospatial analyses to support staff, including Binbrook bathymetry map, CA natural area stats (wetlands and ANSIs), jurisdiction wide wetland stats etc. Generic Regulation/Screening layer and property information database updates and publication to integrate minor MNR wetland changes and new parcel data deliveries.

## **3.0 Foundation and Communications:**

- The countdown is on to the first annual Rt. Hon. John Turner Water and Environmental Leadership Award gala on Sept. 24. The event will take place at the Queen's Landing in Niagara-on-the-Lake. If members would like to attend, please email Renee at [rbisson@npca.ca](mailto:rbisson@npca.ca).

- The Foundation is grateful to the Toronto Classic Car Club for their \$5,000 gift. The club held their annual MGB car show at Ball's Falls Conservation Area this past spring and was very impressed with the conservation area, the staff and the work the NPCA does.
- Southbrook Winery has indicated they would like to donate the proceeds from one of their recent events (aprox. \$700) to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation. Staff has worked with the winery on a number of projects and has formed a great partnership.
- The Foundation partnered was very proud to partner with McMaster Children's Hospital Foundation for the annual Binbrook Conservation Area Movie Night. All proceeds were shared between the two foundations. McMaster Children's Hospital Foundation brought a partner sponsor on board to help cover all costs of the event as well as helping promote the movie night. The NPCA Foundation would like to thank Alicia and Mike at Binbrook CA for their all their hard work organizing a wonderful event.
- A new NPCA video is being produced and will premiere at the Sept. 24 gala dinner. The video will visually highlight some of the great work done by the NPCA and can be used as a promotional/educational tool moving forward.

#### **4.0 Website Redevelopment**

- We are pleased to advise that the new NPCA web site went live on Tuesday, Sept. 1. The new site offers streamlined navigation, a mobile friendly design, updated information, more photos of conservation areas, easier to access on-line booking, a more customer focused design and a fresh, clean look and feel.

#### **RELATED REPORTS AND APPENDICES:**

None

**Prepared by:**



**Jeff Long; Senior Manager, Corporate Services**

**Submitted by:**



**Carmen D'Angelo  
Chief Administrative Officer / Secretary Treasurer**

***This report was prepared in consultation with: Cathy Kaufmann, Accounting Administrator; Geoff Verkade, Supervisor, GIS; Michael Reles, Communications Specialist; and Kevin Valliers, Manager, Development & Communications.***

**Report To: Board of Directors**

**Subject: Financial and Reserve Report – Month Ending August 31, 2015**

**Report No: 90-15**

**Date: September 16, 2015**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. 90-15 be received for information.

**DISCUSSION:**

To provide the Board a summary of operations & capital expenditures versus revenues and to provide a comparison of actual results to the budget as approved by the Board.

The report confirms the general financial oversight and compliance with Public Sector Accounting Board standards. Trends and variance reporting will be provided in accordance with accounting best practices.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The lines of business are within budget allocations identified during the budget preparation and approval cycle.

**RELATED REPORTS AND APPENDICES:**

**Appendix “A” – Budget Status report month ending August 31, 2015**

**Appendix “B” – Statement of Reserves for month ending August 31, 2015**

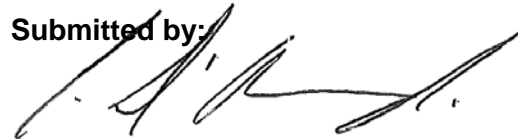
**Prepared by:**



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**Jeff Long, Sr. Mgr., Corporate Services**

**Submitted by:**



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**Carmen D'Angelo; CAO / Secretary Treasurer**

***This report was prepared in consultation with Cathy Kaufmann, Accounting Administrator***

**Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority**  
**Consolidated Income Statement**  
**For the Period Ending - August 31, 2015**

	Current Mth Actual	Current Mth Budget	Act vs.Bdgt B / (W)	Y.T.D. Actual	Y.T.D. Budget	Act vs.Bdgt B / (W)	12 Month Budget
<b>Revenue</b>							
Municipal Funding	2,200,736	2,200,736	-	6,602,208	6,602,212	(4)	8,802,943
Provincial Funding	519	41,200	(40,681)	374,061	354,600	19,461	519,500
Federal Grants	-	29,800	(29,800)	30,000	116,200	(86,200)	235,000
Permits and Regulatory Fees	25,515	29,600	(4,085)	320,686	235,500	85,186	350,000
Park Operations	177,636	205,400	(27,764)	991,761	983,650	8,111	1,374,000
Other Revenue	24,090	4,250	19,840	228,880	108,100	120,780	213,100
Interest Income	2,556	7,500	(4,944)	17,470	35,000	(17,530)	98,000
Reserves and Foundation	-	65,000	(65,000)	-	230,000	(230,000)	480,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,431,052</b>	<b>2,583,486</b>	<b>(152,434)</b>	<b>8,565,065</b>	<b>8,665,262</b>	<b>(100,197)</b>	<b>12,072,543</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
Salaries & Benefits	684,923	518,259	(166,664)	3,838,579	3,930,868	92,289	5,793,556
HR & Employee Expenses	7,535	14,815	7,280	76,332	124,660	48,328	193,220
Board & Volunteer Expenses	739	1,670	931	35,292	33,520	(1,772)	60,100
Professional Fees	39,236	24,195	(15,041)	136,527	167,920	31,393	290,200
Occupancy Costs	29,625	33,955	4,330	330,762	340,390	9,628	457,300
Office Expenses	12,603	15,510	2,907	82,809	98,530	15,721	176,745
IT, GIS & Communications	48	-	(48)	11,906	-	(11,906)	1,400
Marketing & Promotions	7,193	10,725	3,532	62,961	79,600	16,639	187,800
Vehicle & Equipment	25,886	26,825	939	182,421	205,265	22,844	316,677
Watershed Maintenance	25,741	33,080	7,339	193,728	279,560	85,832	412,000
Park Maintenance	44,602	35,182	(9,420)	198,543	189,312	(9,230)	352,000
Corporate Services	82,208	24,495	(57,713)	1,671,605	1,591,800	(79,805)	1,841,445
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>960,339</b>	<b>738,711</b>	<b>(221,628)</b>	<b>6,821,466</b>	<b>7,041,425</b>	<b>219,960</b>	<b>10,082,443</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>1,470,713</b>	<b>1,844,775</b>	<b>(374,063)</b>	<b>1,743,600</b>	<b>1,623,837</b>	<b>119,763</b>	<b>1,990,100</b>
Capital Purchases	18,947	45,000	26,053	312,266	155,000	(157,266)	1,990,100
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>1,451,765</b>	<b>1,799,775</b>	<b>(348,010)</b>	<b>1,431,334</b>	<b>1,468,837</b>	<b>(37,503)</b>	<b>(0)</b>

**Report To:** Board of Directors

**Subject:** 2014 Audited Financial Statements

**Report No:** 91-15

**Date:** September 16, 2015

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the board approve the 2014 Audited Financial Statements as prepared by the accounting firm Grant Thornton and the distribution of these statements to the Watershed Municipalities and Provincial Government.

**DISCUSSION:**

The report confirms that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the NPCA as at December 31, 2014, and the results of its operations, changes in net debt and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

**RELATED REPORTS AND APPENDICES:**

**Appendix "A" – Audited Financial Statements as of December 31, 2014**  
**Appendix "B" – Management Letter**

**Prepared by:**



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**Jeff Long, Sr. Mgr., Corporate Services**

**Submitted by:**



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**Carmen D'Angelo; CAO / Secretary Treasurer**

*This report was prepared in consultation with Cathy Kaufmann, Accounting Administrator*



Financial Statements

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

December 31, 2014

DRAFT

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

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## Independent Auditor's Report

Grant Thornton LLP  
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To the Members of  
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2014, and the statements of operations, changes in net debt, continuity of reserves and reserve fund, and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### **Management's responsibility for the financial statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Auditor's responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the organization's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



## Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority as at December 31, 2014, and the results of its operations, changes in net debt and its cash flows and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

St. Catharines, Canada  
September 17, 2015

*Grant Thornton LLP*

Chartered Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants

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# Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

## Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31

2014

2013

**Financial assets**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,054,645	\$ 5,604,466
Portfolio investments (Note 3)	3,059,016	3,003,193
Accounts receivable		
Government transfers	37,500	111,329
Municipal levies	4,289	5,257
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation	1,386	30,010
Other	221,729	242,448
	<u>264,904</u>	<u>389,044</u>
	<u>7,378,565</u>	<u>8,996,703</u>

**Liabilities**

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	425,746	667,052
Employee future benefits (Note 4)	122,000	150,000
Deferred revenue - Other	421,005	378,633
Deferred revenue -		
Welland River restoration (Ontario Power Generation)	1,939,702	2,076,143
Long-term debt (Note 5)	4,825,443	6,214,431
	<u>7,733,896</u>	<u>9,486,259</u>

**Net debt**

(355,331) (489,556)

**Non-financial assets**

Prepaid expenses	24,000	24,000
Tangible capital assets (Note 6)	17,747,541	16,521,320

**Accumulated surplus**\$17,416,210 \$16,055,764

Accumulated surplus consists of the following:

**Reserves (Page 6)**

Unexpended capital reserves	\$ 3,836,373	\$ 4,696,958
Operating reserves	641,636	1,026,981
	<u>4,478,009</u>	<u>5,723,939</u>

**Reserve fund (Page 6)**

Accumulated sick leave (Note 8)	16,103	24,936
---------------------------------	--------	--------

**Net assets invested in tangible capital assets (Note 10)**12,922,098 10,306,889\$17,416,210 \$16,055,764

Approved on behalf of the Authority

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

## Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2013 Actual
<b>Revenues</b>			
Government transfers			
Province of Ontario - Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	\$ 174,500	\$ 174,496	\$ 174,496
Province of Ontario - Other	404,067	346,482	688,834
Government of Canada	222,000	199,857	234,980
Municipal levies			
General	3,871,353	3,871,353	3,153,850
Special	3,959,692	3,954,257	4,491,863
Authority generated			
User fees, sales and admissions	1,441,076	1,394,341	1,256,785
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation	81,000	-	39,802
Administration fees	260,000	375,326	321,433
Interest	50,000	100,423	114,766
Land contribution (Note 6)	-	-	67,000
Other	371,762	543,182	626,952
	<u>10,835,450</u>	<u>10,959,717</u>	<u>11,170,761</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Corporate services (Page )	2,382,603	2,629,467	1,350,689
Watershed management and health monitoring (Page 17)	2,410,411	2,317,969	2,942,227
Environmental advisory services (Page 20)	691,171	710,572	503,303
Conservation land management (Page 21)	820,943	820,580	1,390,330
Conservation land programming and development (Page 22)	2,375,160	2,497,743	2,366,033
Vehicle and equipment, net of usage charged (Page 25)	74,940	47,472	23,550
	<u>8,755,228</u>	<u>9,023,803</u>	<u>8,576,132</u>
Annual surplus before amortization	2,080,222	1,935,914	2,594,629
Amortization	<u>575,468</u>	<u>575,468</u>	<u>542,005</u>
<b>Annual surplus</b>	<u>1,504,754</u>	<u>1,360,446</u>	<u>2,052,624</u>
<b>Accumulated surplus</b>			
Beginning of year	<u>16,055,764</u>	<u>16,055,764</u>	<u>14,003,140</u>
End of year	<u>\$17,560,518</u>	<u>\$17,416,210</u>	<u>\$16,055,764</u>

## Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Statement of Changes in Net Debt

Year ended December 31	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2013 Actual
<b>Annual surplus</b>	<b>\$ 1,504,754</b>	<b>\$ 1,360,446</b>	<b>\$ 2,052,624</b>
Changes in non-financial assets			
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(1,337,000)	(1,908,934)	(653,378)
Contributed tangible capital assets	-	-	(67,000)
Disposal of tangible capital assets	-	107,245	-
Amortization	<u>575,468</u>	<u>575,468</u>	<u>542,005</u>
	<b>743,222</b>	<b>134,225</b>	<b>1,874,251</b>
<b>Net debt</b>			
Beginning of year	<u>(489,556)</u>	<u>(489,556)</u>	<u>(2,363,807)</u>
End of year	<b>\$ <u>253,666</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>(355,331)</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>(489,556)</u></b>

# Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Statement of Continuity of Reserves and Reserve Fund

Year ended December 31	Appropriations			2014
	2013	From Operations	To Operations	
<b>Unexpended capital reserves</b>				
Capital assets				
Vehicle	\$ 214,789	\$ 15,508	\$ 19,566	\$ 210,731
Equipment	85,078	26,127	31,623	79,582
Computers and office equipment	<u>79,522</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>79,522</u>
	<u>379,389</u>	<u>41,635</u>	<u>51,189</u>	<u>369,835</u>
Conservation area capital reserve				
Regional Municipality of Niagara	544,053	164,156	-	708,209
City of Hamilton	41,034	61,615	-	102,649
Haldimand County	11,274	320	-	11,594
Jordan Harbour	86,286	-	86,286	-
Land acquisition - Hamilton	600,000	100,000	-	700,000
Land acquisition - Niagara	<u>1,857,330</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>1,627,615</u>	<u>729,715</u>
	<u>3,139,977</u>	<u>826,091</u>	<u>1,713,901</u>	<u>2,252,167</u>
Water management capital projects				
Welland River restoration - capital	5,153	-	5,153	-
Welland River restoration - Niagara	217,054	25,156	-	242,210
Welland River restoration - Hamilton	3,160	7,516	-	10,676
Water Management	94,472	-	48,305	46,167
Watershed Studies - Niagara	3,162	-	-	3,162
Watershed Studies - Hamilton	20,260	-	-	20,260
Watershed Studies - Haldimand	22,032	-	-	22,032
Flood protection services	414,642	69,336	-	483,978
Resource inventory & monitoring	<u>397,657</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,771</u>	<u>385,886</u>
	<u>1,177,592</u>	<u>102,008</u>	<u>65,229</u>	<u>1,214,371</u>
	<u>\$ 4,696,958</u>	<u>\$ 969,734</u>	<u>\$ 1,830,319</u>	<u>\$ 3,836,373</u>
<b>Operating reserves</b>				
Conservation areas				
Regional Municipality of Niagara	\$ 90,274	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,274
City of Hamilton	205,989	-	14,617	191,372
Haldimand County	<u>18,575</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,644</u>	<u>14,931</u>
	<u>314,838</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,261</u>	<u>296,577</u>
Conservation land management				
Tree bylaw	57,998	3,767	-	61,765
Agreement forest	20,606	-	-	20,606
Regulations and planning services	309,100	-	100,000	209,100
General operating contingency	303,210	53,588	303,210	53,588
Debt charge reserve	<u>21,229</u>	<u>4,873</u>	<u>26,102</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>712,143</u>	<u>62,228</u>	<u>429,312</u>	<u>345,059</u>
	<u>\$ 1,026,981</u>	<u>\$ 62,228</u>	<u>\$ 447,573</u>	<u>\$ 641,636</u>
<b>Reserve fund</b>				
Accumulated sick leave	\$ 24,936	\$ 1,167	\$ 10,000	\$ 16,103

## Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended December 31

2014

2013

Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents

**Operating activities**

Annual surplus	\$ 1,360,446	\$ 2,052,624
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	575,468	542,005
Contributed tangible capital assets	-	(67,000)
Loss (gain) on disposal of tangible capital assets	88,322	(12,474)
Employee future benefits	(28,000)	(43,000)
	<u>1,996,236</u>	<u>2,472,155</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital		
Accounts receivable	124,140	61,702
Accrued interest on investments	(323)	830
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(241,306)	185,138
Deferred revenue - Other	42,372	(179,696)
Deferred revenue - Welland River restoration (Ontario Power Generation)	(136,441)	(141,543)
	<u>1,784,678</u>	<u>2,398,586</u>

**Investing activities**

Proceeds from sale of investments	3,000,000	3,350,000
Purchases of investments	(3,055,500)	(3,000,000)
	<u>(55,500)</u>	<u>350,000</u>

**Capital activities**

Purchases of tangible capital assets	(1,908,935)	(653,378)
Proceeds from disposal of tangible capital assets	18,924	12,474
Payments on long-term debt	(1,388,988)	(1,298,352)
	<u>(3,278,999)</u>	<u>(1,939,256)</u>

**(Decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents****(1,549,821) 809,330****Cash and cash equivalents**

Beginning of year	<u>5,604,466</u>	<u>4,795,136</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 4,054,645</u>	<u>\$ 5,604,466</u>

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## Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

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#### 1. Nature of operations

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority ("the Authority") is established under The Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources. It is exempt from income taxes under section 149(1)(c) of the Income Tax Act.

---

#### 2. Significant accounting policies

##### Management responsibility

The financial statements are the responsibility of and prepared by management in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. The preparation of financial statements necessarily involves the use of estimates based on management's judgment, particularly when transactions affecting the current accounting period cannot be finalized with certainty until future periods.

The significant accounting policies used are as follows:

##### Basis of accounting

Revenues and expenditures are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. The accrual basis of accounting recognizes revenues as they become available and measurable; expenditures are recognized as they are incurred and measurable as a result of receipt of goods or services and the creation of a legal obligation to pay.

##### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and temporary investments include cash on hand, balances with banks and guaranteed investment certificates that mature within one year.

##### Portfolio investments

Portfolio investments are valued at the lower of cost and market value. Interest income is reported as revenue in the period earned.

##### Deferred revenue

Deferred revenues represent government transfers and user fees which have been collected but for which related expenditures or related services have yet to be performed. These amounts will be recognized as revenues in the year the expenditures are made or services provided.

##### Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. Cost includes all directly attributable expenses in the acquisition, construction, development and/or betterment of the asset required to install the asset at the location and in the condition necessary for its intended use. Contributed tangible capital assets are capitalized at their estimated fair value upon acquisition.

## Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

### 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

Leases are classified as capital or operating leases. Leases that transfer substantially all benefits incidental to ownership are accounted for as capital leases. All other leases are accounted for as operating leases and the related lease payments are charged to expenses as incurred.

Amortization is calculated on a straight-line basis to write-off the net cost of each asset over its estimated useful life for all classes except land. Land is considered to have an infinite life without amortization. Residual values of assets are assumed to be zero with any net gain or loss arising from the disposal of assets recognized in the Statement of Operations as "Other" revenue. Full-year amortization is charged in the year of acquisition and disposal. Assets under construction are not amortized until the asset is available for productive use.

Amortization is based on the following classifications and useful lives:

Land improvements	20 years
Buildings	30 years
Dams	15 to 100 years
Gauge stations	15 to 30 years
Equipment	10 years
Vehicles	5 years
Office equipment	5 years

#### Vehicles and equipment

The Authority maintains reserves for replacement of vehicles and equipment. Internal charges for the use of the vehicles and equipment are made to the various projects and programs of the Authority. The internal charges are designed to recover the costs of operating equipment including replacement.

#### Reserves

Reserves for future expenditures and contingencies are established as required at the discretion of the board of directors of the Authority. Increases or decreases in these reserves are made by appropriations from or to operations.

#### Revenue recognition

##### a) Government transfers

Government transfers are recognized as revenue in the period in which the events giving rise to the transfer occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met and reasonable estimates of the amounts can be made.

##### b) Municipal levies

Municipal levies are recognized as revenue in the period in which the levy is issued.

##### c) Authority generated

User fees, sales and admissions are recognized when the services are performed or goods are delivered and there is reasonable assurance of collection. Other revenues are recorded when they are earned and collection is reasonably assured.

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## Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

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#### 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

##### Use of estimates and measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future. One area in which management makes an estimate is with regards to obligations for employee benefits.

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#### 3. Portfolio investments

Portfolio investments consist of a bank guaranteed investment certificate bearing interest of 2% maturing in December 2015. Interest is receivable on maturity. Carrying value approximates market value.

---

#### 4. Employee future benefits

The Authority provides extended life, health and dental benefits for early retirees to age 65 which will require funding in future periods. The Authority recognizes these post-retirement costs in the period in which the employees rendered the services. The accrued benefit liability at December 31, 2014 was estimated by management to be \$150,000 (2013 - \$150,000).

---

#### 5. Long-term debt

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
The Authority has assumed responsibility for the payment of principal and interest charges on long-term debt issued by the Region of Niagara. The debt bears interest at 5%. At the end of the year, the outstanding principal amount of this debt is:	<b><u>\$ 4,825,443</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 6,214,431</u></b>

Principal repayments in each of the next five years are due as follows:

2015	\$ 1,204,393
2016	1,177,920
2017	982,670
2018	760,429
2019	483,705

The Authority paid \$258,685 (2013 - \$331,392) in interest on long-term debt during the year.

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## Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

### 6. Tangible capital assets

	Cost Beginning of Year	Additions	Disposals	Cost End of Year	Accumulated Amortization Beginning of Year	Amortization	Disposals	Accumulated Amortization End of Year	Net Book Value 2014
Land	\$5,881,089	\$1,590,707	\$ -	\$7,471,796	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,471,796
Land improvements	4,341,645	100,460	92,551	4,349,554	1,973,809	175,029	9,687	2,139,151	2,210,403
Buildings	5,104,384	297,030	-	5,401,414	1,416,287	171,315	-	1,587,602	3,813,812
Dams	4,977,128	9,514	-	4,986,642	1,417,616	59,085	-	1,476,701	3,509,941
Gauge stations	294,931	49,671	-	344,602	103,163	18,237	-	121,400	223,202
Equipment	974,756	67,296	44,330	997,722	538,534	85,927	19,949	604,512	393,210
Vehicles	211,610	19,566	-	231,176	143,275	34,545	-	177,820	53,356
Office equipment	261,898	41,232	-	303,130	203,118	31,330	-	234,448	68,682
Work-in-progress	269,681	3,139	269,681	3,139	-	-	-	-	3,139
	<u>\$22,317,122</u>	<u>\$2,178,615</u>	<u>\$ 406,562</u>	<u>\$24,089,175</u>	<u>\$5,795,802</u>	<u>\$ 575,468</u>	<u>\$ 29,636</u>	<u>\$6,341,634</u>	<u>\$17,747,541</u>

	Cost Beginning of Year	Additions	Disposals	Cost End of Year	Accumulated Amortization Beginning of Year	Amortization	Disposals	Accumulated Amortization End of Year	Net Book Value 2013
Land	\$5,814,089	\$ 67,000	\$ -	\$5,881,089	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$5,881,089
Land improvements	4,079,653	261,992	-	4,341,645	1,803,803	170,006	-	1,973,809	2,367,836
Buildings	5,100,841	3,543	-	5,104,384	1,254,873	161,414	-	1,416,287	3,688,097
Dams	4,977,128	-	-	4,977,128	1,359,165	58,451	-	1,417,616	3,559,512
Gauge stations	294,931	-	-	294,931	88,238	14,925	-	103,163	191,768
Equipment	916,928	57,828	-	974,756	451,167	87,367	-	538,534	436,222
Vehicles	189,709	40,401	18,500	211,610	137,013	24,762	18,500	143,275	68,335
Office equipment	229,258	32,640	-	261,898	178,038	25,080	-	203,118	58,780
Work-in-progress	13,448	256,974	741	269,681	-	-	-	-	269,681
	<u>\$21,615,985</u>	<u>\$ 720,378</u>	<u>\$ 19,241</u>	<u>\$22,317,122</u>	<u>\$5,272,297</u>	<u>\$ 542,005</u>	<u>\$ 18,500</u>	<u>\$5,795,802</u>	<u>\$16,521,320</u>

On November 13, 2013 the Authority received a donation of property. The property was appraised and recorded at a fair value of \$67,000. This amount has been added to the cost of the land and reported in revenue as a land contribution in 2013.

### 7. Credit facility

The Authority's credit facility includes an overdraft lending account of \$800,000 bearing interest at prime. No amount was outstanding as at the year end. The facility is secured by a general security agreement.

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## Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

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### 8. Liability for sick leave benefits

Under the sick leave benefit plan, unused sick leave was accumulated to March 1, 1990 and employees may become entitled to a cash payment at their current rate of pay when they leave the Authority's employment.

The liability for these accumulated days to the extent that they have vested and could be taken in cash by an employee on termination, amounted to \$20,459 (2013 - \$19,637) at the end of the year. A reserve fund of \$16,103 (2013 - \$24,936) has been provided for this past service liability at December 31, 2014.

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### 9. Pension plan

The Authority makes contributions to the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System ("OMERS"), which is a multi-employer plan, on behalf of the 58 (2013 - 60) members of its staff. The plan is a defined benefit plan that specifies the amount of the retirement benefit to be received by the employees based on the length of service and rates of pay. Employees and employers contribute jointly to the plan.

Since OMERS is a multi-employer pension plan, the Authority does not recognize any share of the pension plan deficit of \$5.3 billion (2013 - \$8.3 billion) based on the fair market value of the Plan's assets, as this is a joint responsibility of all Ontario municipal entities and their employees. Contributions were made in the 2014 calendar year at rates ranging from 9.0% to 15.9% depending on the member's designated retirement age and level of earnings. Employer contributions for current and past service are included as an expense in the Statement of Operations. Employer contributions to OMERS for 2014 current and past service was \$412,501 (2013 - \$392,282) and were matched by employee contributions in a similar amount.

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### 10. Net assets invested in tangible capital assets

The net assets invested in tangible capital assets is represented by:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Tangible capital assets net book value	\$17,747,541	\$16,521,320
Less: Past capital levy due to the Region (Note 5)	<u>(4,825,443)</u>	<u>(6,214,431)</u>
	<u>\$12,922,098</u>	<u>\$10,306,889</u>

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### 11. Comparative figures

Certain of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted for the current year.

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## Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

### 12. Economic interest in Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation

The Authority has an economic interest in the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation ("Foundation"). The Foundation is incorporated under the laws of Ontario to assist in the cultivation and advancement of conservation by actively seeking support for conservation projects and programs through fund raising efforts and by serving as custodian for the donations and gifts. The Foundation is a charity that is exempt from income tax under the Income Tax Act. The Authority is the main beneficiary of the Foundation's externally restricted and unrestricted funds.

The Foundation follows Canadian accounting standards for non-profit organizations, the financial highlights of the Foundation for the year ending December 31, 2014 are as follows:

#### Statement of Financial Position

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Assets	\$ <u>249,262</u>	\$ <u>249,841</u>
Liabilities	\$ <u>4,446</u>	\$ <u>33,010</u>
Net assets		
Endowment fund	73,673	69,986
Externally restricted fund	65,527	65,527
Unrestricted fund	<u>105,616</u>	<u>81,318</u>
	<u>244,816</u>	<u>216,831</u>
	\$ <u>249,262</u>	\$ <u>249,841</u>

#### Statement of Operations

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Revenues	\$ 53,976	\$ 80,069
Expenses	<u>25,991</u>	<u>33,654</u>
Excess of revenues before transfers	27,985	46,415
Transfers to the Authority	<u>-</u>	<u>39,802</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	\$ <u>27,985</u>	\$ <u>6,613</u>

#### Statement of Cash Flows

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	\$ 27,985	\$ 6,613
Changes in non-cash working capital	<u>(26,362)</u>	<u>22,377</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash and equivalents	1,623	28,990
Cash and equivalents, beginning of year	<u>248,049</u>	<u>219,059</u>
Cash and equivalents, end of year	\$ <u>249,672</u>	\$ <u>248,049</u>

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## Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

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#### 13. Budget

The budget adopted by the Authority on March 19, 2014 was not prepared on a basis consistent with that used to report actual results in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. The budget was prepared on a modified accrual basis while Canadian public sector accounting standards require a full accrual basis. As a result, the budget figures presented in the statement of operations and statement of changes in net debt represent the budget adopted by the Authority with the following adjustments:

Budgeted annual surplus	\$	-
Add:		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets		1,337,000
Repayment of long term debt		1,304,448
Less:		
Transfers to (from) reserves, net		(561,226)
Amortization of tangible capital assets		<u>(575,468)</u>
Budgeted surplus per statement of operations	\$	<u>1,504,754</u>

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#### 14. Segmented information

The Authority provides a wide range of services which are categorized by department. Certain departments that have been separately disclosed in the segmented information, along with the services they provide, are as follows:

##### Corporate services

Corporate services is comprised of the administration of the offices.

##### Watershed management and health monitoring

The watershed management department is the umbrella for three divisions dedicated to monitoring, regulating, protecting and improving the health and safety of our watershed.

##### Environmental advisory services

The environmental advisory services department provides municipal and development plan input and review services.

##### Conservation land management

Conservation land management is the administration department for the conservation areas.

##### Conservation land programming and development

Conservation land programming and development is responsible for maintenance and improvements to the conservation areas.

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**Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**December 31, 2014

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**14. Segmented information (continued)****Vehicles and equipment**

The vehicles and equipment department accounts for the cost of maintaining the vehicles and equipment. The use of the vehicles and equipment are charged to other departments as they are used based on fixed rates.

For each reported segment, revenues and expenses represent both amounts that are directly attributable to the segment and amounts that are allocated on a reasonable basis.

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## Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

**Revenues**

Government transfers			
Province of Ontario - Other	\$ 35,700	\$ -	\$ 125,000
Municipal levies			
General	1,949,903	1,949,903	1,188,324
Special	35,000	35,000	24,101
Authority generated			
Interest	50,000	100,423	114,766
Other	-	5,635	13,644
	<u>2,070,603</u>	<u>2,090,961</u>	<u>1,465,835</u>

**Expenses**

Corporate management	739,368	872,283	367,738
Office services	470,900	487,312	320,209
Financial services	204,739	242,642	205,891
Human resources	129,180	103,004	65,026
Information technology	371,933	413,363	111,733
Corporate communications	466,483	510,863	280,092
	<u>2,382,603</u>	<u>2,629,467</u>	<u>1,350,689</u>

**Annual (deficit) surplus** (312,000) (538,506) 115,146

*Acquisition of tangible capital assets* 33,000 15,528 16,625

*Annual (deficit) surplus after acquisition of tangible capital assets* \$ (345,000) \$ (554,034) \$ 98,521

# Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Watershed Management and Health Monitoring Schedule of Segment Disclosure

Year ended December 31	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2013 Actual
<b>Revenues</b>			
Government transfers			
Province of Ontario - Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	\$ 115,700	\$ 115,696	\$ 115,700
Province of Ontario - Other	348,367	346,482	555,284
Government of Canada	222,000	199,857	234,980
Municipal levies			
General	977,917	977,917	1,221,922
Special	406,937	401,502	491,462
Authority generated			
Administration fees	120,000	151,580	152,283
Other	172,890	382,244	394,046
	<u>2,363,811</u>	<u>2,575,278</u>	<u>3,165,677</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Watershed studies	260,067	263,171	443,585
Resource inventory and environmental monitoring (Page 18)	1,307,236	1,370,981	2,004,339
Flood protection services (Page 19)	843,108	683,817	756,429
	<u>2,410,411</u>	<u>2,317,969</u>	<u>3,204,353</u>
Annual surplus (deficit) before allocation	(46,600)	257,309	(38,676)
Allocation from Land Management	-	-	262,126
<b>Annual surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>(46,600)</b>	<b>257,309</b>	<b>223,450</b>
<i>Acquisition of tangible capital assets</i>	<u>3,400</u>	<u>66,595</u>	<u>54,603</u>
<i>Annual surplus (deficit) after acquisition     of tangible capital assets</i>	<u>\$ (50,000)</u>	<u>\$ 190,714</u>	<u>\$ 168,847</u>

**Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority  
Watershed Management and Health Monitoring  
Schedule of Resource Inventory and Environmental  
Monitoring Expenses**

Year ended December 31	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2013 Actual
<b>Resource Inventory and Environmental Monitoring</b>			
Niagara River remedial action plan co-ordination	\$ 99,300	\$ 103,353	\$ 104,838
Welland River watershed restoration	250,011	214,572	542,789
Watershed general restoration	195,371	254,867	252,668
12 Mile Creek watershed restoration	144,959	140,132	162,345
Watershed well de-commissioning program	25,000	18,862	19,993
20 Mile Creek restoration	100,039	85,590	139,006
Watershed water quality monitoring program	255,634	271,488	212,577
Lyon's creek sediment remediation	-	-	10,250
Niagara Children's Water Festival	130,393	181,822	195,868
15, 16, 18 Mile creeks restoration	-	-	128,295
Fort Erie creeks restoration	-	-	52,415
Niagara-on-the-Lake creeks restoration	93,639	94,291	170,092
Other	12,890	6,004	13,203
<b>Expenses for the year</b>	<b>1,307,236</b>	<b>1,370,981</b>	<b>2,004,339</b>
<i>Acquisition of tangible capital assets</i>	<u>3,200</u>	<u>23,812</u>	<u>4,586</u>
<i>Expenses for the year</i>	<u><b>\$ 1,310,436</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 1,394,793</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 2,008,925</b></u>

**Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority  
Watershed Management and Health Monitoring  
Schedule of Flood Protection Services Expenses**

Year ended December 31	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2013 Actual
<b>Flood Protection Services</b>			
Flood forecasting and warning	\$ 176,215	\$ 190,013	\$ 207,562
Flood control structures	143,786	122,701	117,858
Floodplain regulations	325,704	293,036	232,985
Watershed floodplain mapping update	<u>197,403</u>	<u>78,067</u>	<u>198,024</u>
<b>Expenses for the year</b>	<b>843,108</b>	<b>683,817</b>	<b>756,429</b>
<i>Acquisition of tangible capital assets</i>	<u>200</u>	<u>9,514</u>	<u>46,795</u>
<i>Expenses for the year</i>	<u>\$ 843,308</u>	<u>\$ 693,331</u>	<u>\$ 803,224</u>

**Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority  
Environmental Advisory Services  
Schedule of Segment Disclosure**

Year ended December 31	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2013 Actual
<b>Revenues</b>			
Government transfers			
Province of Ontario - Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	\$ 58,800	\$ 58,800	\$ 58,796
Municipal levies			
General	492,371	492,371	320,389
Authority generated			
Administration fees	140,000	223,746	169,150
Other	-	7,500	-
	<u>691,171</u>	<u>782,417</u>	<u>548,335</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Municipal plan input and review	422,173	426,130	363,813
Development plan input and review	268,998	284,442	139,490
	<u>691,171</u>	<u>710,572</u>	<u>503,303</u>
<b>Annual surplus</b>	-	71,845	45,032
<i>Acquisition of tangible capital assets</i>	-	-	682
<i>Annual surplus after acquisition of tangible capital assets</i>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 71,845</u>	<u>\$ 44,350</u>

**Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority  
Conservation Land Management  
Schedule of Segment Disclosure**

Year ended December 31	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2013 Actual
<b>Revenues</b>			
Municipal levies			
General	\$ 349,722	\$ 349,722	\$ 322,275
Special	1,747,569	1,747,569	2,429,743
Authority generated			
User fees, sales and admissions	9,100	9,651	9,375
Other	19,000	23,011	25,014
	<u>2,125,391</u>	<u>2,129,953</u>	<u>2,786,407</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Operations	636,507	639,911	682,798
Tree conservation by-law - Niagara	184,436	180,669	107,532
	<u>820,943</u>	<u>820,580</u>	<u>790,330</u>
Annual surplus before allocations	1,304,448	1,309,373	1,996,077
Allocations to:			
Land Programming and Development	-	-	(337,874)
Watershed Management and Health Monitoring	-	-	(262,126)
<b>Annual surplus</b>	<b>1,304,448</b>	<b>1,309,373</b>	<b>1,396,077</b>
<i>Acquisition of tangible capital assets</i>	-	-	682
<i>Principal payments on long-term debt</i>	<u>1,304,448</u>	<u>1,388,988</u>	<u>1,298,652</u>
<i>Annual (deficit) surplus after acquisition of tangible capital assets and principal payments on long-term debt</i>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (79,615)</u>	<u>\$ 96,743</u>

# Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Conservation Land Programming and Development Schedule of Segment Disclosure

Year ended December 31	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2013 Actual
<b>Revenues</b>			
Government transfers			
Province of Ontario - Other	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 8,550
Municipal levies			
Special	1,770,186	1,770,186	1,546,557
Authority generated			
User fees, sales and admissions	1,431,976	1,384,690	1,247,410
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation	81,000	-	39,802
Land contribution (Note 6)	-	-	67,000
Other	178,872	129,575	169,301
	<u>3,482,034</u>	<u>3,284,451</u>	<u>3,078,620</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Programming (Page 23)	2,375,160	2,271,182	2,331,384
Development (Page 24)	-	226,561	372,523
	<u>2,375,160</u>	<u>2,497,743</u>	<u>2,703,907</u>
Annual surplus (deficit) before allocation	1,106,874	786,708	374,713
Allocation from Land Management	-	-	337,874
<b>Annual surplus</b>	<b>1,106,874</b>	<b>786,708</b>	<b>712,587</b>
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	<u>1,210,600</u>	<u>1,761,235</u>	<u>575,369</u>
Annual (deficit) surplus after acquisition of tangible capital assets	<u>\$ (103,726)</u>	<u>\$ (974,527)</u>	<u>\$ 137,218</u>

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**Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority**  
**Conservation Land Programming**  
**Schedule of Expenses**

Year ended December 31	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2013 Actual
<b>Conservation Land Programming</b>			
Ball's Falls	\$ 666,644	\$ 720,850	\$ 974,844
Binbrook	342,533	343,527	329,660
Chippawa Creek	398,629	380,862	332,070
Long Beach	<u>376,946</u>	<u>363,432</u>	<u>319,116</u>
	1,784,752	1,808,671	1,955,690
 Central Workshop maintained areas	 <u>590,408</u>	 <u>462,511</u>	 <u>375,694</u>
<b>Expenses for the year</b>	<b>2,375,160</b>	<b>2,271,182</b>	<b>2,331,384</b>
 <i>Acquisition of tangible capital assets</i>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>4,910</u>	 <u>-</u>
<b>Expenses for the year</b>	<b>\$ <u>2,375,160</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>2,276,092</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>2,331,384</u></b>

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# Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Conservation Land Development Schedule of Expenses

Year ended December 31	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2013 Actual
<b>Conservation Land Development</b>			
Ball's Falls	\$ -	\$ 20,119	\$ 2,922
Binbrook	-	37,066	57,466
Chippawa Creek	-	-	46,770
Long Beach	-	1,705	48,454
	-	58,890	155,612
 Central Workshop maintained areas			
Land acquisition	-	584	1,476
Gainsborough	-	8,740	807
Gord Harry Conservation Trail	-	-	683
Jordan Harbour	-	-	1,210
St. John's	-	1,064	3,626
St. John's Centre	-	157,283	186,082
Virgil	-	-	19,364
Woodend	-	-	3,663
	-	167,671	216,911
<b>Expenses for the year</b>	-	226,561	372,523
<i>Acquisition of tangible capital assets</i>	<u>1,210,600</u>	<u>1,756,325</u>	<u>575,369</u>
<i>Expenses for the year</i>	<u>\$ 1,210,600</u>	<u>\$ 1,982,886</u>	<u>\$ 947,892</u>

**Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority  
Vehicles and Equipment  
Schedule of Segment Disclosure**

Year ended December 31	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2013 Actual
<b>Revenues</b>			
Municipal levies			
General	\$ 101,440	\$ 101,440	\$ 100,940
Authority generated			
Other	<u>1,000</u>	<u>(4,783)</u>	<u>24,947</u>
	<u>102,440</u>	<u>96,657</u>	<u>125,887</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Operations			
Fuel	41,200	43,628	43,580
Maintenance and repairs	19,800	37,118	56,260
Supplies and small tools	2,600	2,258	1,910
Insurance	<u>11,340</u>	<u>6,102</u>	<u>5,944</u>
	74,940	89,106	107,694
Allocations to departments based on usage	<u>-</u>	<u>(41,634)</u>	<u>(84,144)</u>
	<u>74,940</u>	<u>47,472</u>	<u>23,550</u>
<b>Annual surplus</b>	27,500	49,185	102,337
<i>Acquisition of tangible capital assets</i>	<u>90,000</u>	<u>65,576</u>	<u>72,417</u>
<i>Annual (deficit) surplus after acquisition of tangible capital assets</i>	<u>\$ (62,500)</u>	<u>\$ (16,391)</u>	<u>\$ 29,920</u>

# Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Schedule of Segment Disclosure by Object

Year ended December 31

	Corporate Services	Watershed Management & Health Monitoring	Environmental Advisory Services	Conservation Land Management	Conservation Land Programming & Development	Vehicles and Equipment	2014 Total
<b>Revenues</b>							
MNRF transfers	\$ -	\$ 115,696	\$ 58,800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 174,496
Other transfers	-	546,339	-	-	-	-	546,339
Municipal levies	1,984,903	1,379,419	492,371	2,097,291	1,770,186	101,440	7,825,610
User fees, sales and admissions	-	-	-	9,651	1,384,690	-	1,394,341
NPCF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Administration fees	-	151,580	223,746	-	-	-	375,326
Interest	100,423	-	-	-	-	-	100,423
Land contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	5,635	382,244	7,500	23,011	129,575	(4,783)	543,182
	<u>\$ 2,090,961</u>	<u>\$ 2,575,278</u>	<u>\$ 782,417</u>	<u>\$ 2,129,953</u>	<u>\$ 3,284,451</u>	<u>\$ 96,657</u>	<u>\$ 10,959,717</u>
<b>Expenses</b>							
Salaries and benefits	\$ 1,400,225	\$ 1,496,047	\$ 654,242	\$ 506,701	\$ 1,578,251	\$ -	\$ 5,635,466
Materials and supplies	877,680	644,248	56,330	55,194	847,051	47,472	2,527,975
Contracted services	198,106	167,682	-	-	18,982	-	384,770
Rent and financial expenses	153,456	9,992	-	-	53,459	-	216,907
Debt service	-	-	-	258,685	-	-	258,685
Intersegment transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>2,629,467</u>	<u>2,317,969</u>	<u>710,572</u>	<u>820,580</u>	<u>2,497,743</u>	<u>47,472</u>	<u>9,023,803</u>
<b>Annual surplus</b>	<u>\$ (538,506)</u>	<u>\$ 257,309</u>	<u>\$ 71,845</u>	<u>\$ 1,309,373</u>	<u>\$ 786,708</u>	<u>\$ 49,185</u>	<u>\$ 1,935,914</u>

	Corporate Services	Watershed Management & Health Monitoring	Environmental Advisory Services	Conservation Land Management	Conservation Land Programming & Development	Vehicles and Equipment	2013 Total
<b>Revenues</b>							
MNRF transfers	\$ -	\$ 115,700	\$ 58,796	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 174,496
Other transfers	125,000	790,264	-	-	8,550	-	923,814
Municipal levies	1,212,425	1,713,384	320,389	2,752,018	1,546,557	100,940	7,645,713
User fees, sales and admissions	-	-	-	9,375	1,247,410	-	1,256,785
NPCF	-	-	-	-	39,802	-	39,802
Administration fees	-	152,283	169,150	-	-	-	321,433
Interest	114,766	-	-	-	-	-	114,766
Land contribution	-	-	-	-	67,000	-	67,000
Other	13,644	394,046	-	25,014	169,301	24,947	626,952
	<u>\$ 1,465,835</u>	<u>\$ 3,165,677</u>	<u>\$ 548,335</u>	<u>\$ 2,786,407</u>	<u>\$ 3,078,620</u>	<u>\$ 125,887</u>	<u>\$ 11,170,761</u>
<b>Expenses</b>							
Salaries and benefits	\$ 642,968	\$ 2,063,654	\$ 479,853	\$ 545,782	\$ 1,777,127	\$ 9,199	\$ 5,518,583
Materials and supplies	413,000	929,556	22,750	41,944	793,468	14,351	2,215,069
Contracted services	155,536	199,600	700	-	76,192	-	432,028
Rent and financial expenses	139,185	11,543	-	-	57,120	-	207,848
Debt service	-	-	-	202,604	-	-	202,604
Intersegment transfers	-	(262,126)	-	600,000	(337,874)	-	-
	<u>1,350,689</u>	<u>2,942,227</u>	<u>503,303</u>	<u>1,390,330</u>	<u>2,366,033</u>	<u>23,550</u>	<u>8,576,132</u>
<b>Annual surplus</b>	<u>\$ 115,146</u>	<u>\$ 223,450</u>	<u>\$ 45,032</u>	<u>\$ 1,396,077</u>	<u>\$ 712,587</u>	<u>\$ 102,337</u>	<u>\$ 2,594,629</u>

September 2, 2015

**Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority**

250 Thorold Road West, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Welland, Ontario L3C 3W2

Dear Members of the Board of Directors:

In connection with our audit of Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (the “Authority”) financial statements as of December 31, 2014 and for the year then ended, the Canadian Auditing Standards require that we advise management and the board of directors (hereinafter referred to as “those charged with governance”) of the following internal control matters identified during our audit.

**Our responsibilities**

Our responsibility, as prescribed by the Canadian Auditing Standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether caused by error or fraud. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting (hereinafter referred to as “internal control”) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the consolidated financial statements, but not for the purpose of identifying deficiencies in internal control or expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority’s internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion on internal control effectiveness.

**Identified deficiencies in internal control**

We identified the following internal control matters as of the date of this letter that are of sufficient importance to merit your attention.

**Significant deficiencies**

Our consideration of internal control would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that, individually or in combination, may be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies.

A deficiency in internal control (“control deficiency”) exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Authority’s annual or interim consolidated financial statements will not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those responsible for oversight of the Authority’s financial reporting (also referred to as those charged with governance).

We consider the following identified control deficiencies to be significant deficiencies.

### Information Technology

#### Segregation of Duties and Assignment of Administrator Rights

The following weaknesses have been identified in the information technology system, specifically relating to the assignment of responsibilities and network administrator rights:

- The Accounting Administrator has been assigned administrator rights in the financial reporting application. This allows them unrestricted access to all modules of the system, and results in a lack of segregation of duties as they are responsible for the Authority’s financial reporting. Although our audit procedures did not identify any unauthorized or unusual transactions recorded in the financial application by these individuals, the potential exists for unauthorized transactions to be recorded by the administrators and go undetected.
- Along with the assignment of administrator rights in the financial reporting application, the Accounting Administrator is responsible for maintenance of the application. This includes setup of security parameters, addition and removal of users, and day-to-day support. Given her involvement in the financial reporting process, this maintenance role also results in a lack of segregation of duties.
- The Accounting Administrator maintains the employee master files as well as processing and recording payroll entries. This allows unrestricted access to the payroll system. The potential exists for unauthorized transactions to occur and go undetected.

As noted in the prior year management letter, segregation of duties is a key control designed to prevent employees from both being able to commit and conceal errors or irregularities in the normal course of their duties. The ideal segregation of duties occurs when different employees:

- a) initiate transactions
- b) authorize transactions
- c) record transaction
- d) verify transactions
- e) report assets and transactions, and
- f) have custody of assets

Supervision acts as a compensating control in some cases where, because of the size of the organization, complete segregation of duties is not possible. The Authority is a small entity with limited bookkeeping and assistance provided by the external auditor at year end.

The following roles and responsibilities with respect to the information system should be segregated from staff members who are involved in the financial reporting process:

- Assignment of administrator rights over the network and financial applications; and
- Maintenance of the employee master files.

#### Management Response

*Management's goal is to have full segregation of duties, however the current organizational structure and fiscal constraints do not allow for this. This is common in small organizations. We believe there are adequate compensating controls in place to mitigate risk. In addition, changes to the organizational structure initiated in 2014 improved this. In 2014 the NPCA hired a Senior Manager of Corporate Services (October 2014) and a HR Generalist (January 2014). Both these roles were new to the organization and improved the segregation of duties in the finance, payroll, and IT areas. In 2016, pending board approval, there are plans to hire a Financial Analyst which will further improve the segregation of duties.*

*The NPCA is in the process of setting up online approval of all changes to the payroll master file. This will include the adding or deleting of employees, change in pay rates or job classification and any changes to benefits. The approval process will not allow changes to go into effect until approval is made.*

#### Conservation Area Deposit Triggers

A control established for proper safeguarding and maintenance of cash on hand at the various conservation areas is to trigger a deposit when the cash on reaches the threshold of \$5,000. This policy is established to manage the large amounts of cash that can be on hand at any given time, introducing the increased potential for fraud and/or theft.

We noted multiple occurrences where this deposit trigger was not adhered to and the deposits made exceeded \$5,000. Therefore, this is a lack of a monitoring control, which can result in potential theft or fraud, given the large amounts of cash held on hand. We recommend that staff at all revenue producing conservation areas be instructed to encourage user payments to be made using Debit or Visa as frequently as possible.

#### Management Response

*Management reviewed the three deposits identified and they were the result of revenue from the previous night making the deposit greater than \$5,000. In all cases the deposit was made on the following day after end of day procedures were completed.*

*Management believes the \$5,000 threshold is the proper control amount. There is an effort to move away from cash at all the parks to reduce deposits and increase control.*

## Employee Compensation

### Approval of Employee Grade/Step Advancements

Employees are required to have contracts signed and approved by the CAO, approving the terms of employment as well as the rate that the employee is paid. During our testing we noted one instance where an employee's contract was included in the personnel files, but was not signed and approved by the appropriate senior staff.

One instance was noted during the performance of audit fieldwork, where an employee's increase from Grade 7, Step 3, to Grade 7, Step 4 was not properly documented or approved in the employee's personnel file. This did not result in a material error to the Authority, however it is inconsistent with the approval documentation included in the other files examined during the performance of the testing.

#### Management Response

*The contract was subsequently signed by the CAO, after notice was given during the performance of the audit procedure. Changes to the payroll approval process identified in the segregation of duties will help ensure proper paper work is signed before approval given.*

#### Management's response

The management's written response to the internal control matters identified herein has not been subjected to our audit procedures and accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, those charged with governance, and others within the City and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Yours sincerely,

**Grant Thornton LLP**

Randy Momot, CPA, CA  
RJ Momot Professional Corporation  
Partner

**Report To: Board of Directors**

**Subject: NPCA Forestry and Tree and Forest Conservation By-Law**

**Report No: 92-15**

**Date: September 16, 2015**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Report No. 92-15 regarding the status of NPCA Forestry activities and the Tree and Forest Conservation By-law be received for information.**

**PURPOSE:**

To provide an update on the Tree & Forest Conservation By-law and forestry activities being conducted by the NPCA Forester.

**DISCUSSION:**

By-law issues/main activities since July 1, 2015 include:

- Harvest operations are in progress under Good Forestry Practices (GFP) permits in woodlots located in Grimsby, Pelham and Wainfleet. Operations are being routinely monitored by the NPCA Forester to ensure conformance with permit conditions and operating conditions are suitable (dry weather). Other woodlots with permits are being assessed on a routine basis to see if and when operations can start-up in those areas.
- Conducted site visits to three woodlands at the request of the land owners. The site visits were to determine if the woodlands would benefit from a selection harvest because of ash decline from Emerald Ash Borer. Assessments were conducted with the land owners to determine if a harvest operation under a Good Forestry Practices permit would be feasible. The owners were informed about the permit process and provided a list of reputable logging contractors.
- Commenced work on Managed Forest Plans (MFP) for five Conservation Authority properties (Chippawa Creek, Balls Falls, Stevensville, Willoughby Marsh and Long Beach). The plans must be submitted to the MNRF by June 30, 2016. The purpose of a MFP is to guide the land owner in the management of their forest and values found within it. The intent of the Managed Forest Program is to foster ecologically sound forest management on private lands while providing a reduction in property taxes to landowners of forested land who prepare a plan and agree to be good stewards of their property.

- Conducted a tree inventory survey of the 'Canopies for Kids' program. Individual tree data and location were collected using GPS. Schools involved in the program from 2011 to 2015 were assessed. Data will be used to assess survival rates of each school and to determine which species and stock type are doing well. Results will assist in determining future decisions for the program.
- Responded to a tree clearing complaint in Lincoln in an area also covered by the Niagara Escarpment Commission. The complainant described significant cutting in a wilderness area. A site visit discovered a narrow trail being used for hiking and ATV use. The trail has no impact on the woodland where it is located. There are no concerns from a Forest Bylaw perspective. It appears the trail has been there for a while. The NEC also investigated and came to the same conclusion.
- Received and provided advice to persons calling about declining ash trees located in urban areas not covered by the By-law. Some inquired if the NPCA would remove their ash trees. They were informed that if the tree is on their property then they are responsible for its removal, or contact the adjacent owner if they are located on their land.
- Provided comments on several planning issues related to woodlands and/or treed areas in Beamsville, Grimsby and Niagara Falls. Issues ranged from woodland status on certain properties to exemption conditions for others.

#### **RELATED REPORTS AND APPENDICES:**

None

#### **Prepared by:**

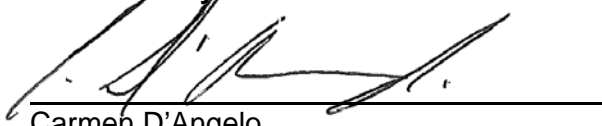
Dan Drennan

Dan Drennan,  
R.P.F; Forester

#### **Reviewed by:**

  
Peter Graham  
Director, Watershed Management

#### **Submitted by:**

  
Carmen D'Angelo  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Secretary Treasurer

# REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

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- ❖ **REPORT NO. 93-15** – *St. Johns Centre-Expression of Interest*
- ❖ **REPORT NO. 94-15** – *Niagara Children's Water Festival 2015*
- ❖ **REPORT NO. 95-15** – *Ducks Unlimited Partnership 2015*
- ❖ **REPORT NO. 96-15** – *Treetop Trekking at Ball's Falls*
- ❖ **REPORT NO. 97-15** – *Conservation Authorities Act Review*
- ❖ **REPORT NO. 98-15** – *Wetland Conservation in Ontario, Discussion Paper*

September 16, 2015 Full Authority Meeting

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**Report To:** Board of Directors

**Subject:** St. Johns Centre Expression of Interest Responses

**Report No:** 93-15

**Date:** September 16, 2015

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That the NPCA Board **RECEIVE** Report No. 93-15 for information;
2. That the NPCA Board **AUTHORIZE** staff to enter into negotiations with all four respondents to the Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI); for the purpose of building a sustainable partnership(s) at the St. Johns Centre;
3. Further, that staff **REPORT** back to the NPCA Board with its findings.

**PURPOSE:**

To seek Board approval to meet and negotiate with respondents to the Request for Expressions of Interest, related to the use of the St. Johns Centre property.

This report aligns with the 2014-2017 NPCA Strategic Plan under 'Effective Communication with Stakeholders & Public,' specifically, 'Identify potential new partners, funders and allies.'

**BACKGROUND:**

At the May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Board meeting, staff was directed to issue a Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) related to the use of the St. Johns Centre, in Thorold. The Request for EOI's (Appendix 1) was issued in early July, with a submission deadline of August 14<sup>th</sup>. The Request for EOI's was published in local newspapers, on the NPCA website and further distributed by staff and Board members. Six parties requested the submission documents. As of August 14<sup>th</sup>, four submissions had been received.

**DISCUSSION:**

As stated in the May Board report (Appendix 2), the benefits of undertaking an EOI process include:

- The identification of potential partners
- The ability to work with potential partners to create maximum benefits
- Creating the opportunity to bring multiple partners and resources to the table
- The opportunity to work through any planning issues jointly

The four submissions received are all unique and interesting (Appendix 3):

- Brock University proposes to use the facility for research, accredited educational programs, and to operate the site 'as a guest house for visiting faculty, for small meetings, retreats and events.'
- Eventful Niagara is a third party booking agent for social events and proposes to use the site for special events, fundraisers and weddings. The owners of Eventful Niagara propose to live on site to further preserve and greatly improve the existing structures and gardens.
- JEM Corp. for the World Council of Alternative Medicine are a progressive untapped holistic health group of researchers, practitioners, and educators that provide retreat-learning opportunities with various revenue streams. They propose to use the site for therapy, teaching, gardens, theatre, yoga, meditation, physical exercise training, ecology learning for schools, filming, and fund raising events.
- Robert Higenell is a neighbouring property owner who proposes to purchase the 'old post office building' for \$275,000.

Each of the respondents have been open to the possibility of working with other partners so the submissions are not mutually exclusive. Staff is therefore seeking Board approval to meet with all respondents to the Request for EOI, for the purpose of building a sustainable partnership or partnerships that make best use of the property and buildings at the St. Johns Centre.

This is a non-binding process. The intent is to be successful in developing a comprehensive and sustainable plan for the use of the St. Johns property with a recommendation to be brought back to the Board for approval in the Fall.

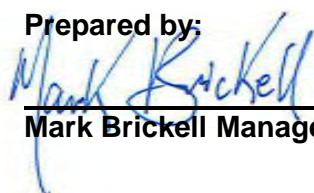
#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

As stated in the May Board report, a primary purpose of this process is to achieve cost savings and contribute to the overall sustainability of the St. Johns Centre. There are no direct costs associated with this report.

#### **RELATED REPORTS AND APPENDICES:**

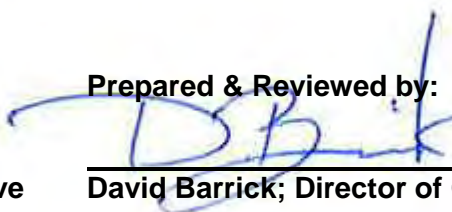
1. Appendix 1: Request for Expressions of Interest package
2. Appendix 2: Report No. 53-15
3. Appendix 3: EOI Submissions Received

**Prepared by:**



**Mark Brickell Manager of Strategic Initiative**

**Prepared & Reviewed by:**



**David Barrick; Director of Operations**

**Submitted by:**



**Carmen D'Angelo; Chief Administrative Officer  
Secretary Treasurer**



**Notice to Potential Proponents**  
**Truly unique property available for long-term use**

Please review the attached document and submit your **Expression of Interest (EOI)** to the address noted below, prior to the closing deadline of **4:00 p.m., on August 14, 2015.**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**For use of the St. Johns Centre Property**  
**Located at 3024-3054 Orchard Hill Road**  
**Thorold, Ontario**

Mark Brickell, Project Manager  
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority  
250 Thorold Road West, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Welland, Ontario  
L3C 3W2

## **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

### **The Opportunity**

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) is inviting individuals and organizations to submit an Expression of Interest for the long-term use of the St. Johns Centre, located at 3024-3054 Orchard Hill Road, Thorold, Ontario.

NPCA acquired this spectacular property in 2011. The subject property consists of approximately 18.4 acres of land, and is designated as an Escarpment Protection Area, within the Niagara Escarpment Plan. As such, all proposals are subject to the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

Located on the property are various structures including a large 2 storey, 7-bedroom, 3,667 sq.ft. clapboard dwelling (originally the Miller's house), a 1 storey, 1,477 sq.ft. clapboard sided building (the former post office), the St. Johns Mill, the historical St. Johns common school house, a stable, and other outbuildings.

### **Potential Uses**

Until recently, these lands have been used to support outdoor education programs. This continues to be an area of interest, however, NPCA is also interested in exploring new ideas for the long-term use of this property. Potential uses include but are not limited to the following:

- Therapeutic and healing
- Spiritual and Religious
- Training/workshops
- Hospice
- Environmental
- Arts and photography

- Residence for artists or visiting professionals
- Horticultural
- A Tea Room
- Bed and Breakfast
- Research
- Not-for-profit
- Inter-generational programs
- Day trips for Seniors
- Themed events
- Weddings

### **Primary Objective**

To identify and work with a partner or combination of partners to develop a sustainable, long term plan that will maximize the use of this property, while providing stewardship and protection of the significant ecological features on the property.

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**  
**Operation and use of the St. Johns Centre on Orchard Hill Road, in Thorold**

Name of Proponent/Organization:

Contact Person:

Position:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

E-mail:

Website (if applicable):

Registered Charitable Organization:   Yes   No

Not-for-Profit Organization:   Yes   No

For Profit Business:   Yes   No

**The Proposal** (Briefly describe in 500-1,500 words)

1) Proponent Organization Description

2) Proponent Proposal – Be sure to include each of the following:

- Proposed Use(s) of property lands and buildings
- Name of any partners, their roles and contributions

- Willingness to partner with other proponents
- Resources being brought to the table
- Benefits to the Community
- Challenges
- Timelines

3) Proponent Expectations of Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (What would you need from us?)

4) Validity of Proposal

- Please confirm that this proposal shall remain valid and open for acceptance by Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority for a period of ninety (90) calendar days from the submission deadline of August 14, 2015. Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority reserves the right to refuse any or all submissions and terminate the Request for Expressions of Interest process, at any time.

### **Submission of Proposal**

- Please mail a paper copy or e-mail an electronic copy of your Expression of Interest, clearly identified as **EOI – St. Johns Centre** to:

Mark Brickell, Project Manager  
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority  
250 Thorold Road West, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
Welland, Ontario  
L3C 3W2

Telephone: (905) 788-3135 ext. 275

E-mail: [mbrickell@npca.ca](mailto:mbrickell@npca.ca)

Fax: (905) 788-1121

Individuals and organizations interested in visiting the St. Johns property may do so by contacting Mark Brickell.

Submissions in response to this Request for Expressions of Interest **MUST BE RECEIVED at 250 Thorold Road West, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Welland, Ontario, L3C 3W2, NOT LATER THAN 4:00 p.m. local time, AUGUST 14, 2015.** Submissions received after the above due date and time will not be considered.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Nothing herein shall be construed so as to oblige Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) to select any proposal and NPCA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals that NPCA, in its absolute discretion, considers it advisable to reject.

The information contained herein is offered for assistance; however, NPCA assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of same and nothing herein shall be construed as a representation, warranty or guarantee by NPCA.

All information contained in this document and submitted to the NPCA as part of this Expression of Interest is collected by authority of the Conservation Authorities Act and will be considered public information for the purposes of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



**Report To:** Board of Directors

**Subject:** St. Johns Centre – Expressions of Interest

**Report No:** 53-15

**Date:** May 20, 2015

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Report No. 53-15 be **RECEIVED**.
2. That the Board **AUTHORIZE** staff to issue a request for the Expressions of Interest related to the use of the St. Johns Centre.

### **PURPOSE:**

Staff is seeking approval to issue a request for the Expressions of Interest (EOI) related to the future use of the St. Johns Centre.

This report aligns with the NPCA 2014-2017 Strategic Plan under an 'Improved Capacity for Managing Assets and Land,' as well as 'Effective Communication with Stakeholders & Public.'

### **BACKGROUND:**

The St. Johns Centre is an 18 acre property located at 3054 Orchard Hill Road, in Thorold, near the Pelham border. It is the original community of St. Johns, settled in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

Located on the property are various structures including a large 2 storey clapboard dwelling (3,667 sq.ft.), a one storey clapboard sided dwelling (formerly the post office, 1,477 sq.ft.), the clapboard sided St. Johns Mill (1,795 sq.ft.), the historical St. John's common school house (331 sq.ft.), an outbuilding beside the mill, a stone stable building and outside boys and girls washrooms.

In 2009, the Jackman Foundation and NPCA entered into an agreement to transfer the property to NPCA and to maintain the existing program throughout the transition period, which expired fully on December 31, 2014.

In 2014, as per the Memorandum of Understanding, NPCA became fully *"responsible for all of the operating budget required to maintain the Property and deliver the Program."*

With that stated, no capital or operating costs were included in the 2014 Budget for this site. Instead, all expenses related to this property were withdrawn from the Niagara Land Acquisition Reserve.

The NPCA Strategic Plan requires staff to review and assess current land holdings with respect to costs and sustainability and the need to achieve sustainable infrastructure management. Upon a review of this property and its operations, staff and the NPCA Board concurred that the Land Acquisition Reserve could no longer be utilized for this purpose and that the existing arrangement was not sustainable.

At its June 18, 2014 meeting, the Board directed staff to engage in discussions with the Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) and the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN), primary users of the property, to determine the respective levels of interest and willingness to assume greater responsibility for the operations of this property.

Representatives from both school boards were apprised of the situation and both expressed interest in working out a new relationship with NPCA. NPCA staff concluded discussions first with the NCDSB, in the Fall of 2014, and then with the DSBN, in April 2015. While both Boards continue to appreciate what St. Johns Centre has to offer, neither is in a position to assume greater responsibility for the operations of the property.

In the meantime, the NPCA has committed to working with both school boards until the end of June, so they can complete their outdoor programming requirements. No commitment has been made beyond June 2015 for the St. Johns Centre.

As such, staff now seeks approval to broaden the search for a suitable partner or partners that can put the site to good use and better ensure financial sustainability.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Expression of Interest (EOI) process has many benefits. First and foremost, it allows the NPCA to find out specifically who is interested in a partnership. There may be parties that have not yet been considered. Second, once such parties have been identified, it allows staff to work with them to create maximum benefits. Third, it creates the opportunity to bring multiple partners and resources to the table. And fourth, it allows us to work through any planning issues jointly. The EOI process will be non-binding.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

No capital or operating costs for the St. Johns Centre have been included in the 2015 budget. The maintenance for this site is currently being handled through the NPCA's Central Workshop. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. The intent is that this process achieves cost savings and contributes to the sustainability of the St. Johns Centre. A follow-up report will be brought to the Board for its consideration after Interest has been received by staff.

### **RELATED REPORTS AND APPENDICES:**

1. Map of St. Johns Centre
2. Photos of St. Johns Centre

Prepared by:



Name: Mark Brickell  
Title: Project Manager

Reviewed by:



Name: David Barrick  
Title: Senior Manager of Operations

Submitted by:



Carmen D'Angelo  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Secretary Treasurer

ST. JOHNS CENTRE



# St. Johns Centre



- Roads
- ~ Watercourses
- ~ Waterbodies
- Municipal Boundaries
- Property Boundaries
- St. Johns Valley Centre
- St. Johns Outdoor Studies Centre (OSAN)

All Features: North American Datum 1983, Universal Transverse Mercator, 6°  
 Projection, Zone 18N, Contour Interval: 10m. Produced by the Niagara  
 Peninsula Conservation Authority with data supplied under license by members  
 of the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange, 2014.

2014-04-15

## REI NPCA St. John's Centre

Name: Brock University

Contact: Tom Arkell, AVP University Services

Brock University

500 Glenridge Ave

St. Catharines, L2S 3A1

905-688-5550 x3749

[tarkell@brocku.ca](mailto:tarkell@brocku.ca)

[www.brocku.ca](http://www.brocku.ca)

Charitable: Yes

Proposal: Brock offers and operates a number of outdoor, environmentally important credit and non-credit programs to our students and the Niagara community that may benefit from use of the facilities. Additionally, much research might be conducted in historical, environmental, tourism, recreational and water science aspects of this and other properties that may be in your control.

We are interested in continuing talks to partner with the NPCA and other potential users of the facility, though admit that many of our faculty have been unavailable over the past weeks to sufficiently move our proposal forward.

We are also interested in the house and have been wondering about operating as a guest house for visiting faculty, for small meetings and retreats and events.

Please accept this document as our expression of interest. We are certainly interested in coming to your table in the future.

Tom Arkell

*Eventful Niagara* is a third party booking agent for social events. Our primary focus is to find awe-inspiring locations and unique spaces for weddings, social events, and corporate clients. Our goal is to find a venue for potential clients that not only meets their budgetary requirements, but also fulfills their vision – all within the Niagara Region!

As a Venue Broker, I am continuously looking for a venue that stands out among others, and I have undoubtedly found that in the St. Johns Centre. From the moment I arrived at your property, I knew that I was somewhere unique, beautiful, and serene – the ideal spot for a wedding! I immediately felt an overwhelming sense of responsibility to care of the estate and to preserve this exceptional piece of history – without even thinking about hosting an event!

I propose to move my family of 4 to live at St. John's Centre as our permanent place of residence. I would love to raise my boys in an environment where we can work together to make something profitable. I want them to run free along the many paths and to understand the gift that our ancestors have left us to care for. I want to provide my boys with the opportunity to make a great living right here in Niagara, while improving our Region's dedicated historical sites and conservation areas. I believe this can be done if I am given the opportunity to live and work at St. John's Centre.

Our intention is to use the out buildings and grounds to host events. We currently partner with many different suppliers in the special events industry and will continue to do so, helping us achieve our goal of making St. John's Centre the number one choice for an outdoor event.

In order to maintain and preserve St. John's manicured gardens and lawns, while ensuring that there will be an interest for potential clients, I will look to partner with Niagara College and local gardening clubs. They will provide volunteers to assist with the upkeep and preservation of the existing gardens. The costs of doing so will be minimal and I am prepared to help them have their work photographed and submitted to various magazines and blogging sites, giving their organization credit for the work.

I have been in the business of events for over 15 years and have been selling special events for 5 years. I know the trends, what is selling, and comparable venues. My level of expertise in the field of events is continually growing, as well as my partnerships with other venues and vendors. They will be instrumental in helping me source items I will need to make St. John's Mill a successful wedding venue.

My husband will also bring a huge benefit to the property. He is a Master Plasterer and General Contractor. His knowledge of new and old construction, as well as his contact within the skilled trade sector will help to preserve and greatly improve the existing structures. He is also a committed Conservationist and frequently works with Historical Societies in preserving homes and buildings. He is looking forward to teaching our children the critical value of good stewardship of our natural resources.

I thoroughly believe that the St. John's Centre should be enjoyed by more than just those taking care of it. I would love to host community and charity events for residents of the Niagara Region to enjoy. By opening our doors for special events and non-profit fundraising events, it is our hope that we draw more attention to the area's beautiful landscapes. We also hope to help residents become more aware of all that Niagara has to offer in terms of green space and the efforts that the Niagara Conservation Authority goes to, in order to preserve the property.

It is *Eventful Niagara's* intention to assist in job creation within the Region of Niagara through hosting special events and fundraisers. The wedding season at St. John's will be seasonal (April-October), taking place when college & university students, as well as high school students are out of school, looking for summer employment.

There are a few issues that must be addressed before embarking on special events at St. John Centre. The lack of designated parking areas, the overall size and current state of the property, and the overall safety and general repairs of the houses and out buildings must all be considered.

The 2015 wedding season will be coming to a close within the next couple of months. In order to start selling event space for the 2016 wedding season, including marketing material and site inspections, it is key to have the old mill

ready to show no later than January 2016. It would be ideal if it could be completed earlier; however, realistically, prime selling is in the winter months for the summer season. The grounds and gardens can be cleaned up, but new planting and upgrades aren't necessary for site visits in the winter. My husband and I are willing to move in next week if necessary!

Guidance and knowledge of the property, updates to the out buildings, home(s), and a long-term lease at a fair rate are the only expectations we have of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

This proposal shall remain valid and open for acceptance by NPCA for a period of ninety (90) calendar days for the submission deadline of August 14, 2015. NPCA reserves the right to refuse any or all submissions and terminate the Request for Expressions of Interest process, at any time.

**Operation and use of the St. Johns Centre on Orchard Hill Road, in Thorold**

Name of Proponent/Organization: **Eventful Niagara**

Contact Person: **Laura Beck**

Position: **Owner**

Address: **6288 Russell Street, NFO, L2J 1P1**

Telephone Number: **289-213-8968**

Fax Number: **905 374-4009**

E-mail: **eventfulniagara@gmail.com**

Website (if applicable): **www.eventfulniagara.com**

Registered Charitable Organization: **No**

Not-for-Profit Organization: **No**

For Profit Business: **Yes**

**The Proposal** (Briefly describe in 500-1,500 words)**1) Proponent Organization Description –**

Eventful Niagara is a third party booking agent for social events. Our main focus is to find awe-inspiring locations and unique spaces for weddings & social events and corporate clients as well. Our goal is to find potential clients with a venue that not only meets their budgetary requirements, but that also meets their vision as well, all within the Niagara Region!

We currently represent over 30 different venues across the region including; banquet halls, 5 Star Resorts, hotels, restaurants, private farms, wineries and we're always sourcing new and different locals for our clients on an ongoing basis.

**2) Proponent Proposal – Be sure to include each of the following:**

- x Proposed Use(s) of property lands and buildings
- x Name of any partners, their roles and contributions
- x Willingness to partner with other proponents
- x Resources being brought to the table
- x Benefits to the Community
- x Challenges
- x Timelines

St. John's Centre is the ideal location to host a social event! The minute you walk on site you know you're somewhere unique, which is in line with Eventful Niagara's business and clientele! It would be an honor to host a wedding or celebration of life in such a beautiful and serene location, and to enable the community of Pelham and Niagara to enjoy this marvelous piece of our region.

**3) Proponent Expectations of Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (What would you need from us?)****4) Validity of Proposal**

- x Please confirm that this proposal shall remain valid and open for acceptance by Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority for a period of

ninety (90) calendar days from the submission deadline of August 14, 2015. Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority reserves the right to refuse any or all submissions and terminate the Request for Expressions of Interest process, at any time.

### **Submission of Proposal**

- x Please mail a paper copy or e-mail an electronic copy of your Expression of Interest, clearly identified as **EOI – St. Johns Centre** to:

Mark Brickell, Project Manager  
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority  
250 Thorold Road West, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Welland, Ontario  
L3C 3W2

Telephone: (905) 788-3135 ext. 275

E-mail: [mbrickell@npca.ca](mailto:mbrickell@npca.ca)

Fax: (905) 788-1121

Individuals and organizations interested in visiting the St. Johns property may do so by contacting Mark Brickell.

Submissions in response to this Request for Expressions of Interest **MUST BE RECEIVED** at 250 Thorold Road West, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Welland, Ontario, L3C 3W2, **NOT LATER THAN 4:00 p.m. local time, AUGUST 14, 2015**. Submissions received after the above due date and time will not be considered.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

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All information contained in this document and submitted to the NPCA as part of this Expression of Interest is collected by authority of the Conservation Authorities Act and will be considered public information for the purposes of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**Operation and use of the St. Johns Centre on Orchard Hill Road, in Thorold**

Name of Proponent/Organization: JEM Corp. for the World Council Of Alternative Medicine

Contact Person: Nadine Mercey

Position: President of JEM Corp., Director World Council of Alternative Medicine

Address: 2190 Lakeshore Rd. Unit 701, Burlington, Ontario L7R 4K1

Telephone Number: 1.647.926.3046

Fax Number:

E-mail: [Nadine@nadinemercey.com](mailto:Nadine@nadinemercey.com)

Website (if applicable): We are building an on line school for certification now, and outsourcing the infrastructure with council at Communitech in Waterloo.

Colin's Website: <http://colinpaddon.com>

Nadine's Website: [www.nadinemercey.com](http://www.nadinemercey.com)

<http://about.me/nadinemercey.com> for all social media

Registered Charitable Organization: Yes No - No

Not-for-Profit Organization: Yes No - No

For Profit Business: Yes No - Yes

**The Proposal** (Briefly describe in 500-1,500 words)

## 1) Proponent Organization Description

We are a progressive untapped holistic health group of researchers, practitioners, and educators that provide retreat-learning opportunities with various revenue streams. Our destination hub on this land is for the highest and best interest to benefit Niagara and the immediate community providing core health care education products, and services. This new untapped approach to wellness is a progressive industry. The St. John's Centre will lend itself to this education discipline, in an evolving learning medical community that listens well to its patrons to find solutions, for the betterment of humanity. We attract different modality principles for certification degrees in healing that will change the way we think of health care not only in this artistic community, we will change the way we think about health care in the Western nations. Our reach will put Niagara on the map as the first in Gold Standards to certify practitioners. We teach the teachers. We teach the doctors. This is a live/work model as the CEO has a stewardship of the property, connecting the oneness with nature and this organization.

## 2) Proponent Proposal – Be sure to include each of the following:

- Proposed Use(s) of property lands and buildings

The Mill and Outbuildings: Teaching Healing Arts

The Home: Office, Teaching Rooms, Therapy Rooms, Housing

The Cottage: Housing

Writer's Cottage: For writing!

Small barn could be for animals for therapy for people.

The land would be ideal for organic vegetable gardens, flower gardens, theatre, yoga, meditation, physical exercise training, concerts, ecology learning for schools, filming, and fund raising events to bring a community together!

- Name of any partners, their roles and contributions
  - Dr. Colin Paddon – President of the World Council for Alternative Medicine  
Educator/partner/health care practitioner/ Colin's spouse, Tammy Gray is also certified practitioner with creative skills to teach arts  
Dr. Jan Hill, University Professor, Licensing and building core creative curriculum  
Fred Fuchs – for creating and licensing Feature Film, TV, Film  
Documentary Producer/for a nurturing Distribution teaching platform  
Licensing Partners in Products of Supplements, Supplies,  
Creative Arts Partners for licensing ie. Writers, Artists, Chefs,  
Gardeners, Musicians  
Financial partners
- Willingness to partner with other proponents
  - It is important to co-create community events and opportunities to grow together. We are very willing to co-operate with not-for profits, and or for growth of products and services for profit in a wellness business model on multiple levels. It is really about building a colony, family and community for provisions to expand in wellness.
- Resources being brought to the table
  - Licensing of the World Council of Alternative Medicine  
Affiliated with The Indian Society for Development of Integrated Alternative Medicines (ISDIAM) which is licensed by World Health Organization (WHO)
  - Heart, knowledge, wisdom, connections, end users are local and international... with financial stability
  - We have a lab of equipment, office equipment, supplies, curriculum, technology resources (ie. Sales, legals, accountants, Directors at Google and Blackberry to launch a successful business) from Waterloo, business

and legal resources from interested investors, Government resources from different countries in the West and the Eastern nations.

- Benefits to the Community
  - A federal MP has requested that we share this model with the Minister of Health. We have requested the federal government to recognize The World Council of Alternative Medicine as an educational school. The proposed site would be a retreat site to attract the best doctors to provide great care for the Niagara community and put Niagara on the map as a wellness research, teaching and clinical centre for holistic health.
  - When this happens, seniors can take courses from us, and the courses we are asking to be funded by the federal government. This opportunity provides jobs, healthy and balanced people, as people can pay taxes, our healing economy grows. We understand your community would greatly benefit from our business model as 60% of the Niagara community are senior citizens.
  - The land is ideally close to the US boarder. We need rooms for housing during a two week training course. This may open up opportunities for tourism!
  - Emergency Support for health
  - Support for prevention
  - Charity Support
  - Hospice Support
  - To assist social services support outside the hospital
  - Assist with seniors programs
  - Assist with shelter or looking into empowering the homeless on or outside the property
  - Mental health advocacy
  - We can assist caring for special needs family member ie. Autism ...there are many social services and health care that we can provide
  - Provide products that are healthy and organic
  - Tammy and I love to garden!... we may have a community garden!

Leading the way with heart, we are building a community of:

Love

Life

Order

Growth

Wisdom

Beauty

Family

Delight

Mystery

Sweetness

Provision

Nurturing

Community

Productivity

And... Communication for a healthy, holistic approach to life

To teach to schools, business and the health care systems.

- Challenges

We can't think of any at this time.

- Timelines

We can commit. The stars are aligned! Timing is perfect! We would share our agreement with investors if need be and work quickly. We would like a reasonable due diligence time ...60 days after a signed agreement to study costs of work to be done and work with investors.

3) Proponent Expectations of Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (What would you need from us?)

- We would look forward to a further meeting/interview process to openly share our passion and commitment to co-create opportunities for partnership within

your community. We wish a sense of connectivity with your community in fundraising or partnerships with not-for profits.

- We wish to learn more about the operations and town services to this property and recommended work to be done on the property. We wish 60 days after to do due diligence on the services of the property, for any environmental issues and time to communicate our co-operative agreements with investors.

- The property looks good as it is. We would like for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to list of chattels and fixtures, facilities reports, to discuss concerns of overhead maintenance and work to be done on the property if any.

- To share any potential partners who have expressed interest in preserving this beautiful property and are also passionate about the use and the care of this property as a wellness centre.

#### 4) Validity of Proposal

- I am confirming that this proposal shall remain valid and open for acceptance by Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority for a period of ninety (90) calendar days from the submission deadline of August 14, 2015. Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority reserves the right to refuse any or all submissions and terminate the Request for Expressions of Interest process, at any time.
- 

Thank YOU for the consideration to participate!

Nadine on behave of the World Council for Alternative Health

- Please confirm that this proposal shall remain valid and open for acceptance by Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority for a period of ninety (90) calendar days from the submission deadline of August 14, 2015. Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority reserves the right to refuse any or all submissions and terminate the Request for Expressions of Interest process, at any time.

## Submission of Proposal

- Please mail a paper copy or e-mail an electronic copy of your Expression of Interest, clearly identified as **EOI – St. Johns Centre** to:

Mark Brickell, Project Manager  
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority  
250 Thorold Road West, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
Welland, Ontario  
L3C 3W2

Telephone: (905) 788-3135 ext. 275

E-m

Fax: (905) 788-1121

Individuals and organizations interested in visiting the St. Johns property may do so by contacting Mark Brickell.

Submissions in response to this Request for Expressions of Interest **MUST BE RECEIVED at** 250 Thorold Road West, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Welland, Ontario, L3C 3W2, **NOT LATER THAN 4:00 p.m. local time, AUGUST 14, 2015.** Submissions received after the above due date and time will not be considered.

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15/8/17

DEAR MR. BRICKELL ET AL,

WHILE I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS IS NOT A COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL REGARDING THE ENTIRE ST. JOHN'S CENTRE PROPERTY, I OFFER IT IN THE HOPES THAT IT WILL DOVETAIL WITH ANOTHER.

I OWN THE PROPERTY ACROSS FROM THE OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING. I AM INTERESTED IN PURCHASING THE BUILDING. I WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL COSTS THAT MAY BE INCURRED IE SURVEY ETC, AND OFFER \$275,000 FOR THE BUILDING.

I BELIEVE THAT THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE IS PART OF THE PROPERTY. IT COULD BE ADDED TO THE MILLER HOUSE PROPERTY OR IF DESIRED I WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO GROUPS IN PERPETUITY.

AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS NOT THE SORT OF PROPOSAL YOU HAVE SOUGHT. I OFFER IT IN GOOD FAITH AND WITH THE SUPPOSITION THAT IT MIGHT ALLEVIATE COMPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ST. JOHN'S CENTRE PROPERTY AS A WHOLE.

YOURS TRULY



ROBERT HIGGENELL  
2350 NOLLON RD  
RR #1 FORTNALL, ON  
L0S 1E6  
905-892-8317

**Report To: Board of Directors**

**Subject: Niagara Children's Water Festival 2015 Budget Reallocation**

**Report No: 94-15**

**Date: September 16, 2015**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That the NPCA Board **RECEIVE** Report No. 94-15 for information.
2. That the NPCA Board **REALLOCATE** the 2015 Niagara Children's Water Festival budget as per the Organizing Committee Draft recommendation (including the tent purchase) as outlined in this report.

**PURPOSE:**

For the Board to determine the reallocation of funds budgeted for the 2015 Niagara Children's Water Festival (NCWF).

This report aligns with the 2014-2017 NPCA Strategic Plan under 'Effective Communication with Stakeholders & Public.'

**BACKGROUND:**

The Niagara Children's Water Festival has been held annually for the last 12 years. It engages children in Grades 3-5, in interactive activity centres developed to complement the Ontario curriculum and challenge participants to consider the importance of wise-water use and the need to protect and conserve the environment.

Each year, more than 5,000 students from across Niagara participate in the Water Festival activities.

The Water Festival is organized through a partnership between the Niagara Region, City of St. Catharines, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and the NPCA. The annual festival budget is \$132,000, of which \$42,000 is allocated to event staffing, with the remaining \$90,000 allocated to direct event costs (Appendix 1).

Under Provincial legislation, the Niagara Region is required to fund, through its Water/Wastewater rates, some water educational programming. Therefore, the Niagara Region contributes \$123,000 annually; the City of St. Catharines generously donates \$5,000 each year; and OPG generously donates \$4,000 annually. The NPCA contributes the venue/facilities at Balls Falls Conservation Area as well as staffing the 4-day event.

In July, due to uncertainty surrounding potential job action within Niagara's school boards, the Niagara Children's Water Festival Organizing Committee made the decision to cancel this year's Water Festival and transition it to a spring program, commencing in May, 2016 (Appendix 2).

### **DISCUSSION:**

The NCWF Terms of Reference (Appendix 3) state that, *"The NPCA manages the budget resources for the program."*

With the cancellation of this year's Water Festival, NPCA staff are seeking direction from the Board with respect to the monies allocated for this event, specifically, the \$90,000 allocated for direct event costs.

The NCWF Organizing Committee has prepared a draft recommendation for the re-allocation of 2015 NCWF funds. Their recommendation was supported unanimously, however, consensus was not reached at the Committee level surrounding the recommendation to purchase a 40'x120' event tent.

As indicated above, the NPCA is responsible for managing the budget resources for this event. Therefore, NPCA staff is recommending that the Board proceed with the Organizing Committee Draft recommendation, including the tent purchase; that is, to reallocate the \$90,000 2015 NCWF funds as follows:

\$8,500	Activity centre upgrades-such as models and tactile improvements
\$2,500	Direction signage upgrades
\$1,000	Sign holder purchases
\$2,000	Lunch tent flags and signage
\$7,500	Visual improvements in activity centres in the form of banners and displays
\$50,000	40'x120' tent purchase (optional)
<b>\$71,500</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$18,500	Carry over to 2016

Other options include:

- 1) Accepting only parts of the recommendations put forward by the NCWF Organizing Committee.
- 2) Re-allocating the funds on some other basis; such as core infrastructure improvements at Ball's Falls that would provide general benefits to the Water Festival (Electrical upgrade, WiFi, etc.).
- 3) Return the \$90,000 to the event partners, without prejudice to NPCA's base levy for 2016 onward.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The financial implications are clarified above. Should the Board decide to return monies to the funding partners, it is important that this be done without prejudice to NPCA's base levy as this event will be continuing in 2016 onward.

### **RELATED REPORTS AND APPENDICES:**

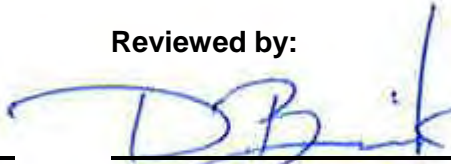
1. Appendix 1: NCWF 2015 Approved Budget
2. Appendix 2: NCWF Memo dated July 7, 2015 RE: Postponement of NCWF
3. Appendix 3: NCWF Terms of Reference

**Prepared by:**



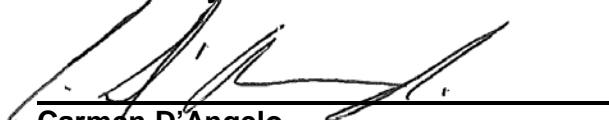
**Mark Brickell**  
Manager of Strategic Initiatives

**Reviewed by:**



**David Barrick**  
Director of Operations

**Submitted by:**



**Carmen D'Angelo**  
Chief Administrative Officer /Secretary Treasurer

**Niagara Children's Water Festival 2015 Approved Budget**

<b>Expenses</b>	
002122 Staff Mileage	1,000
002123 Staff Expenses	1,000
002125 Equipment Purchase	9,000
002126 Equipment Rental	6,000
002133 Materials & Supplies	8,000
002165 Consulting Services	5,000
002258 Bus Rental	30,000
002244 Tent Rental	25,000
002256 Catering	4,000
002145 Miscellaneous	1,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>90,000</b>



# Memo

**To:** All Partners, Stakeholders, Teachers, Volunteers, Regional Council  
**From:** Niagara Children's Water Festival Organizing Committee  
**Date:** July 7, 2015  
**Re:** Postponement of Niagara Children's Water Festival

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The September 2015 Niagara Children's Water Festival (NCWF) will be postponed until May 2016 due to uncertainty surrounding potential job action within Niagara's school boards. This decision comes after much discussion and evaluation by the Water Festival Steering Committee, comprised of partners from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Niagara Region, the City of St. Catharines and Ontario Power Generation.

The funds and resources originally allocated for September's festival will be used to improve activity centres and logistical pieces for future festivals. The decision to postpone the festival ensures that cancellation fees are not incurred for items such as tents and transportation, in the event job action does occur.

The NCWF has taken place the third week of September for the past 12 years. Local grade three and four students are invited to participate in engaging activities related to water technology, conservation, attitude, protection and science.

Plans to transition the festival to a spring program in 2016 were already underway when this decision was made. May's festival will occur over four days to accommodate a larger number of students in the absence of a 2015 festival.

We appreciate your understanding in this matter and look forward to providing an improved festival experience in May 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Wilson".

Brianne Wilson  
Festival Co-Chair  
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Barrow".

Deanna Barrow, P.Eng  
Festival Co-Chair  
Niagara Region








# **Niagara Children's Water Festival**

## **Terms of Reference**

## Preamble

The Niagara Children's Water Festival is collaborative event held in partnership between the Niagara Region, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, City of St. Catharine's, and Ontario Power Generation. The festival is focused on 5 themed pillars and the Ontario Science Curriculum. Our festival provides a unique opportunity for students to learn about the importance of water—our precious natural resource, by participating in exciting hands-on activities.

Activity centres have been organized into five themes. Each activity is directly linked to the current Ontario Curriculum requirements. The five themes are:

-  Water Attitude
-  Water Conservation
-  Water Protection
-  Water Science
-  Water Technology

The activity centres are presented by Staff and Volunteers representing an array of environmental professions. Their enthusiasm and energy create a positive learning environment for the students.

## Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Niagara Children's Water Festival is to engage all children in Grades 3-5 in interactive activity centres developed to complement the Ontario curriculum. The NCWF aims to challenge participants to consider the importance of wise water-use and the protection and conservation of our environment. The NCWF intent is to offer this program and bus transportation at no charge to the student or school. The long-term benefits of this program meet our objective to change the behavior of students and families by teaching them to be more conscience of their water use. These benefits are evident in the classroom and beyond through new attitudes and lifestyle choices.

## Committee Structure

St. Catharine's	Co-Chair	1
	Activity Centre Coordinators	1
	Volunteer Coordinator	½
NPCA	Co-Chair	1
	Volunteer Coordinator	½
	Water Festival Coordinator	1
	Hospitality Coordinator	½
	Communications Coordinator	½
	Activity Centre Coordinator	1
Niagara Region	Co-Chair	1
	Activity Centre Coordinator	1
	Communications	½
	Volunteer Coordinator	½
	Maintenance Coordinator	1
Total		12 members

The Water Festival Coordinator will act as the committee chair.

### Meetings

- Participate in at least 6 meetings between April & September at locations as agreed to by the Committee.
- Ad-hoc meetings for specific components of the festival may be called; these meetings may not require full committee attendance. Eg. Signage, Hospitality, Activity Centres.
- Meeting Minutes will be taken by the NPCA's Communications Representative. Minutes will be circulated to the committee in a timely manner.
- Meeting Agendas will be provided by the Water Festival Coordinator in advance of the meeting.

### Committee Goals

- Execute a successful and engaging event.
- Brainstorm and help connect with potential sponsors and funders.
- Provide ideas around engaging speakers, volunteers, sponsors and activity centre leaders.
- Assist with promotion of event through member networks.
- Review and provide input on important documentation – including learning objectives, presentation scripts, and activity centres.
- Promote opportunities for volunteers.
- Assist with the production of marketing materials.
- Attend NCWF and act as a leader during the event.
- Lead or participate in subcommittees
  - Volunteers
  - Logistics
  - Communications
  - Fundraising/Sponsorship
  - Hospitality
  - Activity Centres

### Cost & Budgeting

The NCWF costs approximately \$ 132,000 to execute each year. The Niagara Region provides their funding from Water and Wastewater Rates, while the City of St. Catharine's and Ontario Power Generation fund this program through generous donations to the NPCA. The NPCA manages the budget resources for the program and provides the staffing for the Water Festival Coordinator position.

Program sponsorship is sought each year to supplement the budget and allow for exceptional investments such as new activity centres, special presenters, increased signage and visual displays.

**Report To:** Board of Directors

**Subject:** Ducks Unlimited Partnership 2015

**Report No:** 95-15

**Date:** September 16, 2015

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the NPCA continue to partner with Ducks Unlimited (DU) for the construction of wetlands of mutual interest through the approval of the 2015 Partnership Agreement (see Attachment #1)

**PURPOSE:**

1. Present the DU-NPCA Partnership Agreement for the implementation of wetland projects of mutual interest.
2. Request NPCA Board approval to enter into the agreement with DU. DU will pay \$15,000 upon execution of the agreement towards five (5) wetland partnership projects.

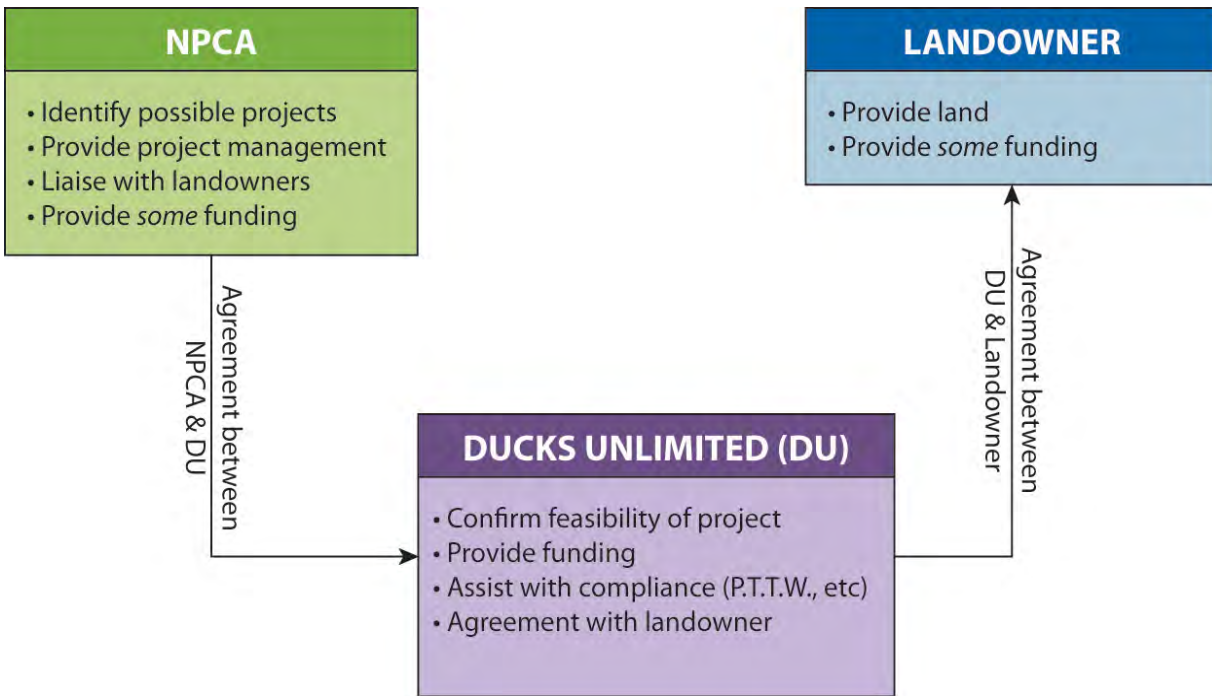
**BACKGROUND:**

Ducks Unlimited (DU) is the recognized leading agency in wetland design and creation; NPCA initially consulted with DU on a number of projects for their expertise in the creation of wetlands, and then started a partnership with them in 2002.

Since 2002, DU and the NPCA have been working together with Niagara landowners to create wetland projects in Niagara. This collaboration has allowed for the sharing of both expertise and resources. The DU-NPCA partnership has successfully implemented over 60 wetland projects, creating 83 ha of wetlands with a total project value of \$1.2 million dollars. The respective organizations' goals and conservation programs are well aligned, and their strengths and expertise complement one another. Both DU and NPCA have made a consistent and ongoing commitment to the partnership since 2002.

Under the current partnership structure, DU will contribute \$15,000 towards five (5) wetland projects identified in the NPCA Restoration Division's work plan. The NPCA and the landowner will fund the remaining costs not covered by DU, with NPCA funding up to a maximum of \$10,000 (as per NPCA program guidelines) for each wetland project. The following flow chart illustrates the roles and responsibilities, and related agreements of each partner.

## Ducks Unlimited Partnership - Roles and Responsibilities



The current agreement includes five (5) wetland projects located in Pelham (1), Lincoln (1), and West Lincoln (3).

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The following table provides funding details for 2015 DU-NPCA projects.

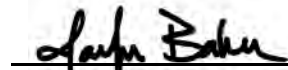
Project Description	Total Number of Projects	Cost to NPCA	Cost to DU	Cost to Landowner
Wetland Creation / Rehabilitation	5	Approx. \$ 47,000	\$ 15,000	Approx. \$22,000

The agreed upon funding contribution from the NPCA has been accounted for in the 2015 budget.

**RELATED REPORTS AND APPENDICES:**

1. 2015 DU-NPCA Partnership Agreement

**Prepared by:**



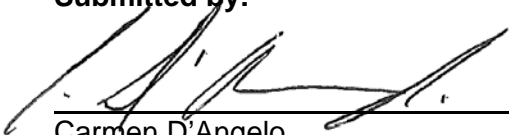
Jocelyn Baker  
Supervisor, Watershed Restoration

**Reviewed by:**



Peter Graham P.Eng.  
Director, Watershed Management

**Submitted by:**



Carmen D'Angelo  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Secretary Treasurer

*This report was prepared with the consultative input from:  
Brian Wright, Manager, Watershed Projects*

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA (DUC)  
AND**

Agreement made in duplicate this 16th day of September, 2015.

**BETWEEN:** **Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)**  
740 Huronia Road  
Unit 1  
Barrie, Ontario, L4N 6C6  
hereinafter called the "Corporation"

- and -

**Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA)**  
250 Thorold Road, West  
Welland, Ontario, L3C 3W2  
hereinafter referred to as the “Partner”

WHEREAS the Corporation and the Partner share a mutual interest in wetland conservation to the benefit of waterfowl, other wildlife and the overall health of the watershed.

AND WHEREAS the Partner intends to implement wetland restoration projects on privately owned lands listed on Schedule 'A'. The Corporation will provide funding and technical assistance to assist the Partner for the implementation of each wetland restoration project conditional that each cooperating landowner signs a Ducks Unlimited Canada Conservation Agreement for the project.

NOW THEREFORE the Corporation and the Partner agree as follows:

## 1. INTERPRETATION

It is understood that the use of the term "Partner" is not intended and does not create a partnership at law between the parties.

## 2. TERM

This Agreement shall commence on 16th day of September, 2015 and terminate on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2016.

### 3. DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES

- i) The Partner agrees that the Corporation, for the purposes of this Agreement, may act through any individual designated by the Corporation.
- ii) For the purposes of this Agreement the designated representative for the Corporation is:

Jeff Krete  
Ducks Unlimited Canada  
(519) 621-2763 X 2297  
(705) 721-4444 (Barrie office)

for the Partner is: Jocelyn Baker  
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority  
(905)-788-3135

Both the Corporation and the Partner agree that they may designate a different representative by providing notice in writing.

#### 4. CORPORATION OBLIGATIONS

- i) The Corporation agrees to provide payment of **\$15,000** upon execution of this agreement and receipt of appropriate invoice(s) from the Partner detailing the expenses incurred, up to the maximum amount available according to the Schedule 'A', to the Partner in support of the implementation of the wetland restoration projects listed.
- ii) The Corporation agrees to provide to the Partner upon request, technical assistance for the purposes of wetland project design and regulatory compliance and approvals.

## 5. PARTNER OBLIGATIONS

- i) The Partner agrees to participate as the project proponent and lead agency for the project implementation including obtaining any and all required permits and approvals. This may include municipal bylaws, Conservation Authority approvals, permits to take water, fisheries or other federal approvals, consultation with First Nations, and Ministry of Natural Resources regulations and the Endangered Species Act assessments with registered mitigation plans whenever applicable.
- ii) The Partner agrees to recognize the support of the Corporation in any publicly available document, signage or presentation that specifically refers to this project.
- iii) The Corporation must obtain a signed DUC Conservation Agreement with the legal project landowners and the Partner will provide necessary information that is required, for each project.

- iv) The partner will secure quotations, hire contractors and equipment, provide construction supervision and all materials that may be required for the works.

6. JOINT OBLIGATIONS

- i) The parties agree to indemnify each other, keep indemnified and save each other harmless from and against all claims, demands, costs, actions, causes of action, expenses and legal fees, which may be taken or made against them arising from their existing and ongoing activities.
- ii) The Partner may request DUC to review the Project for compliance with the Ontario Endangered Species Act (ESA). If required, DUC will assist the Partner in developing an ESA mitigation plan. The Partner agrees to inform the landowner and register the project location with MNR.

7. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

The parties hereto agree that this Agreement embodies the entire Agreement between the parties and the Partner represents that in entering into this Agreement the Partner does not rely upon any previous oral or implied representation, inducement or understanding of any kind or nature.

8. TERMINATION of AGREEMENT

DUC shall have the right at any time, with or without cause, to cancel this agreement by giving the Partner thirty (30) days prior written notice to that effect. In the event of termination of this agreement by DUC, either with or without cause, DUC shall reimburse the Partner for all reimbursable costs incurred by the Partner to the date of cancellation, provided however, that the Partner shall not have the right to include as a cost of cancellation any profit or earnings that may have been realized by the Partner had the work not been terminated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed this Agreement

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED	)	
in the presence of	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	
_____	)	_____
Witness as to execution by	)	Owen Steele
Owen Steele	)	Head Conservation Programs - Ontario
Head Conservation Programs - Ontario	)	Ducks Unlimited Canada
Ducks Unlimited Canada	)	
	)	
	)	
_____	)	_____
Witness as to execution by	)	Authorized Signature
	)	
	)	
	)	_____
	)	Position

**Schedule 'A' to MOA with Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority**

This schedule lists the properties and DUC funding commitments for wetland projects to be implemented under this MOA. The owner's name, the legal address, the estimated area of wetland and uplands secured and the funding amounts available from DUC is listed for each project.

**DUC project #: 862-1628**

Address: 2939 Campden Road, Vineland, ON, L0R 2C0, 905-563-8322

Property Description: Pt Lt 2 Con 6, Caister, Niagara

Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 0.74 ha (1.83 ac)

Estimated area of secured wetland: 1.21 ha (3.0 ac)

Estimated area of secured upland: 6.9 ha (17.0 ac)

**The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$ 6,000**

**DUC project #: 862-1630**

Address: 2370 Kimberly Crt., RR3 Fenwick, ON, L0S 1C0, 905-892-8504

Property Description: Pt Lt 18 Con 3 Pelham, Niagara

Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 0.32 ha (0.9 ac)

Estimated area of restored upland: 16.98 ha (41.96 ac)

**The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$2,500**

**DUC project #: 862-1633**

Address: 3342 Dutch Lane, Beamsville, ON, L0R 1B2, 905-933-8449

Property Description: Pt Lt 13 Con 8 Clinton, Lincoln, Niagara

Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 0.40 ha (1.0 ac)

Estimated area of secured wetland: 2.3 ha (5.68 ac)

**The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$3,000**

**DUC project #: 862-1632**

Address: 2251 Silverdale Rd., West Lincoln, ON, L0R 1Y0, 905-957-3268

Property Description: Pt Lt 12-13 Con 5 Gainsborough, Niagara

Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 0.20 ha (0.50 ac)

Estimated area of secured habitat: 3.44 ha (8.50 ac)

**The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$1,000**

**DUC project #: 862-1635**

Address: 2783 South Grimsby Road 7, Smithville, ON, L0R 2A0, 905-321-8481

Property Description: Pt Lt 13 Con 9 South Grimsby, West Lincoln, Niagara

Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 0.2 ha (0.5 ac)

Estimated area of secured wetland: 19.5 ha (48.2 ac)

**The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$2,500**

**The total DUC funding contribution to these projects is \$15,000 and is conditional on receipt of copies of all required permits including but not limited to: Ministry of Natural Resources Environmental Screening assessment, Conservation Authority permit, signed Conservation Agreement with the landowners, and copies of construction invoices. Additional projects may be added as an addendum to this MOA subject to the agreement of the Corporation and the Partner.**

**Report To:** Board of Directors

**Subject:** Treetop Trekking at Ball's Falls CA

**Report No:** 96-15

**Date:** September 16, 2015

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That the NPCA Board **RECEIVE** Report No. 96-15 for information;
2. That the NPCA Board **AUTHORIZE** staff to enter into lease agreement negotiations with Treetop Trekking so Balls Falls Conservation Area may offer Zip line and Aerial Game Courses as well as a Treewalk Village for children.

**PURPOSE:**

For the Board to consider entering into lease agreement negotiations with Treetop Trekking at Ball's Falls Conservation Area.

This report aligns with the 2014-2017 NPCA Strategic Plan under 'Effective Communication with Stakeholders & Public,' specifically, 'Identify potential new partners, funders and allies.'

**BACKGROUND:**

In an effort to make the operating parks self-sustaining, NPCA Operations staff continually explore options to bring in additional revenue/visitors and expand service offerings. One way, is for the NPCA to operate additional services (e.g. WiFi service at Long Beach, Honey-wagon service at Chippawa Creek, kayak storage service at Binbrook) and another way is to seek out partnerships (e.g. St. Johns Expression of Interest process).

NPCA staff recognizes that Ball's Falls already has great facilities and access but is currently under-utilized. Therefore, NPCA staff contacted Treetop Trekking July 22, 2015 via email to seek out information on the possibility of creating a partnership that would offer additional eco-friendly, educational services at Ball's Falls while increasing the number of visitors and revenue.

**DISCUSSION:**

Why Treetop Trekking? As mentioned in their Company Overview (Appendix 1), *"Aerial game and zip lining parks have become one of the most popular outdoor adventure activities in the country and can be enjoyed by the whole family. Visitors can experience an exciting adventure*

*at the tops of the trees, while enjoying the forest like never before. Aerial and zip lining parks are one of the top emerging trends in adventure travel.”*

Treetop Trekking has built its reputation as the leader in aerial zip line parks in Ontario. They currently have 5 parks in Ontario and another 5 in Quebec. Of the 5 parks in Ontario, 3 of them are within Conservation Areas; Ganaraska Forest Center (Ganaraska Conservation Authority), Bruce Mills Conservation Area and Heart Lake Conservation Area (both within Toronto and Region Conservation Authority). To be clear, Treetop Trekking builds and operates the parks within the Conservation Areas. NPCA staff has contacted both Conservation Authorities and they were very pleased with their respective partnerships with Treetop Trekking.

To staffs knowledge, Treetop Trekking is the only company operating Zip Line parks within Conservation Areas. As such, they are familiar with Conservation Authority values, rules and recognize that working with Technical Standards & Safety Authority (TSSA), requires strict compliance with regulations, policies and procedures and extensive paperwork.

NPCA staff met with General Manager, Stephane Vachon, and two associates on August 5th, 2015 on site at Ball's Falls Conservation Area. They noted Treetop Trekking has been interested in finding a park in the Niagara Region for some time and were quite excited about Ball's Falls and its natural features; including the 2 water falls. They were also pleased with the proximity of the park to the QEW, Niagara Falls and Hamilton. Activities could include Zip Line Aerial Game Treks, Stand Alone Zip Line Rides, Adrenaline Jump, Night Treks, and Team Building. There is also a new attraction for kids called 'Treewalk Village.' Existing parks also cater to those with disabilities, individuals, small and large groups, Corporate Groups, School Groups, Camps and Scouts, Teams and Clubs, and Birthday Parties.

Treetop Trekking has made subsequent visits to start creating a custom site plan for Ball's Falls, knowing that the next step is seeking NPCA Board direction at its Sept. Board meeting. NPCA staff will be visiting Treetop Trekking's Heart Lake Conservation Area facility on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> for additional due diligence.

Discussions with the NPCA have proven timely as Treetop Trekking had just finalized plans and financing for another project. When this opportunity presented itself in Niagara, the founders and owners of Treetop Trekking decided to put that project on hold to investigate a partnership with the NPCA. If Ball's Falls is viable, Treetop Trekking has stated they would move forward with it immediately instead of the other project; with the intent to start operating a new park for the 2016 season.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Although no negotiations have taken place (pending Board direction), Treetop Trekking has been very open with providing information; including providing details of their other agreements. Based on other agreements and prior to any negotiations, NPCA staff can approximate that an additional \$75,000-\$125,000 in revenue annually for Balls Falls could be realized in this partnership. Further, they have suggested co-marketing opportunities to assist in getting better utilization at Ball's Falls facilities.

If the Board approves the staff recommendation, next steps would include finalizing the custom site plan with input from NPCA staff (including staff Ecologist to create awareness of flora and

fauna in the design) and coming back to the Board with a DRAFT lease agreement for consideration.

**RELATED REPORTS AND APPENDICES:**

1. Appendix 1: Treetop Trekking Company Overview July 2015

**Prepared by:**



**David Barrick;  
Director of Operations**

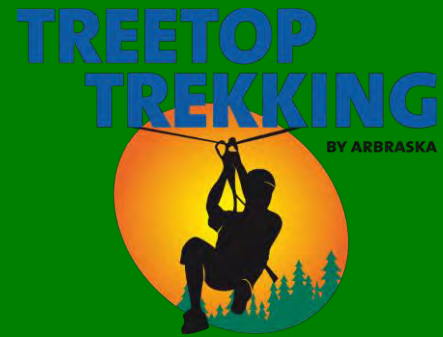
**Submitted by:**



**Carmen D'Angelo  
Chief Administrative Officer /Secretary Treasurer**

# TREETOP TREKKING COMPANY OVERVIEW

## JULY 2015



PRINCIPAL CONTACT:  
STEPHANE VACHON | TREETOP TREKKING | GENERAL MANAGER  
(514) 984-3898 | [STEPHANE.VACHON@ARBRASKA.COM](mailto:STEPHANE.VACHON@ARBRASKA.COM)

## INTRODUCTION TO TREETOP TREKKING

Aerial game and zip lining parks have become one of the most popular outdoor adventure activities in the country and can be enjoyed by the whole family. Visitors can experience an exciting adventure at the tops of the trees, while enjoying the forest like never before. Aerial and zip lining parks are one of the top emerging trends in adventure travel.



For over ten years Treetop Trekking and its sister company Arbraska have built its reputation as the leader in aerial zip line parks in Ontario and Quebec. The name Treetop Trekking is not only our brand; it has become the term associated with this type of activity in general. The Treetop Trekking name is associated with the premier visitor experience, with fun and challenging courses, friendly and energetic staff, and an outstanding safety record. Treetop Trekking's reputation grows continuously year after year and this is in large part due to the relationship we have with our customers. New parks benefit from this established brand name.

A Treetop Trekking aerial zip line park is made up of a series of elevated courses winding through the trees. Each course consists of platforms: wooden standing platforms around each tree, games: a variety of wooden challenges spanning the distance between each platform, and zip lines: cables which climbers connect to with a pulley to glide to another platform. A typical park will have anywhere from four to eight courses ranging in difficulty from Kids Courses to Expert Courses. Treetop Trekking aerial parks are an exciting adventure

to climb through, a marvel to see from the ground and a unique recreation option that compliments natural areas.



Treetop Trekking's sister company, Arbraska was founded in 2001 and with much success decided to move into the Ontario market in 2005 opening its first Ontario park at Horseshoe Resort under the name Treetop Trekking. Today Treetop Trekking/ Arbraska has ten parks between Ontario and Quebec. Our goal is to continue to expand and continue to be the leaders in aerial adventure parks, while maintaining our quality authentic experience and staying true to these core values.

### TREETOP TREKKING PARK OPTIONS

Treetop Trekking takes pride in the fact that no two sites are the same. We do not provide a "cookie cutter" product or service. We strive to create parks that are unique attractions that people are willing to travel extended distances to visit. As each park is developed, new improved systems are implemented and unique features are created. Below are a few examples of what we currently offer however there are many other potential options.

**BARRIE – BRAMPTON – GANARASKA - HUNTSVILLE – STOUFFVILLE**  
**LAFLÈCHE – MONT ST-GRÉGOIRE – RAWDON – RIGAUD - DUSCHESNAY**

### Zip line and Aerial Game Courses

Climb from tree to tree with the use of bridges, monkey cables, nets and of course zip lines. Travel across these “games” to reach each platform. Courses range in level from beginner to expert and start at age 5 and older. Climbers have the freedom to clip themselves through the course one game at a time.



### Stand Alone Feature

There are various “stand alone” features that Treetop Trekking can provide. A stand alone is simply a single or short course that is able to be offered on its own. These are ideal for participants that do not have the time for a full climb. Examples of this could be Treehuggin’ or a Giant Zip line.



### Giant Zip Lines



## Treewalk Village

Treewalk Village is the newest addition to the Treetop Trekking family. It can be explained through the eyes of a child as the Treehouse village of their Dreams.

Children travel at the tops of the trees across bridges, through nets and down slides. Treewalk village does not require any climbing gear such as harnesses and helmets because climbers are free to climb safely within the netted course.

Without the need for gear it allows for more climbers at a time. This type of park also decreases the amount of staff and start up cost not having to purchase gear. Climbers are able to choose their adventure through the maze of options at the tops of the trees. Parents are free to climb with their children or enjoy from the ground below. This type of course is very popular in Europe and an average size park has the potential to put through over 800 people a day. Treetop Trekking opened its first Treewalk Village in Stouffville.



## Via Ferrata

Travel across the rockface with the assistance of climbing gear fastened to the rocks. Via Ferrata can be offered in a variety of levels and heights.



## THE TREETOP TREKKING DIFFERENCE

### We Build AND Operate Successful Parks

Treetop Trekking offers the whole package. We are not a franchise company that builds parks and leaves them for someone else to operate. We are directly involved in every step of a park's life: from concept to design, build to opening, and for year after year of successful operation. We take pride in all aspects of our business because our customers have come to expect nothing but the best from Treetop Trekking.

### Unique Construction Style

Our two construction crews bring leading edge construction techniques, an efficient build sequence and years of experience to create works of art in the trees. Our parks are built with the absolute minimum impact on the surrounding environment, are a pleasure to climb and a marvel to see.

### Treetop Trekking Parks Stay Open

We have successfully operated in Ontario for nine years. While most of our competitors have closed or sold some of their parks, Treetop Trekking has never closed a park and will never abandon a park for quick cash. We stand by what we build and know what it takes to make each of our parks a success. Once our parks are built our management team ensures the venture is run efficiently, professionally and successfully. Treetop Trekking has the right model for success.

### Passionate Staff

Our staff love working for us and they come back year after year. They are just as motivated as our management to provide the greatest experience possible for our customers.



BARRIE – BRAMPTON – GANARASKA - HUNTSVILLE – STOUFFVILLE  
LAFLÈCHE – MONT ST-GRÉGOIRE – RAWDON – RIGAUD - DUSCHESNAY



### **Customer Driven**

Our customers and the experience they have with us is number one.

### **We Are An Ontario Company**

Treetop Trekking is proud to call Ontario home. We are based in Ontario, run by Ontarians, with all of our construction and management done in house.

### **Our Courses are in a League of their Own**

Our unique, unforgettable games leave our visitors' hearts pumping and send them home with stories to tell. We design each new course with a combination of our favourite games from our other parks, and wild new creations.

### **Ontario Knows the Treetop Trekking Brand**

With five existing parks in Ontario, the public knows the Treetop Trekking name, and they have come to trust us for the ultimate aerial park experience. They know our courses are exciting and dynamic, they know they are safe with us, and they know they will be treated like royalty by our staff.

### **Treetop Trekking Knows the Ontario Market**

With nine successful years in Ontario we have come to know the ever-changing Ontario market. We are actively pursuing growth in our school group market and the new Canadian Market. We know what the Ontario market wants, how to reach them and we deliver!



**We Have an Excellent Relationship with TSSA and WSIB**

Having been on the Ontario scene for so long we know the ins and outs of all related standards, regulations and operational requirements. This allows us to open our parks on time and keep them running smoothly.

Working with Technical Standards & Safety Authority (T.S.S.A), requires strict compliance with regulations, policies and procedures and extensive paperwork. Treetop Trekking has been working with T.S.S.A. for over nine years in Ontario and have since developed a very strong working relationship. T.S.S.A. has completed various training sessions for their own staff at Treetop Trekking sites and have also used our Horseshoe Resort location to develop their regulations within Ontario. Treetop Trekking staff are trained on daily course and equipment inspections, and our licensed zip line mechanics complete the monthly T.S.S.A inspections. Opening and operating five parks in Ontario has given Treetop Trekking a clear edge on understanding, meeting or surpassing all T.S.S.A regulations.

**We Are a Family**

Our staff will tell you that there is an undeniable family feel to Treetop Trekking. We have brothers and sisters across the province and an extended family all over Quebec. Like a strong family we work together, count on each other and have all the roles covered. We bring an in-house zip line mechanics, construction crews, and an arborist so that when a course concern arises there's no waiting or down time. Our family steps up and fixes any concerns, usually in the same day. Our guides, some of whom have been with us from the start travel to our new parks and take new staff under their wings, creating the next generation of amazing guides. Our management team is made up of vibrant people who have grown up in the company, gone off to school and have come back home with new skills to make our company better.

**We Can Do the Numbers**

We've perfected our park designs and operating procedures to be able to deliver the same amazing experience to huge numbers of clients, we can accommodate in excess of 500 people a day in one park alone.



**We get real enjoyment from being involved in our communities. We try to give back with:**

- Fundraising Events - Make-A-Wish Canada, Right To Play, local food banks,
- Sponsorship
- Donations
- Volunteer Work
- Discounted rates for special needs support staff, schools, camps, etc.

### TREETOP TREKKING'S SOCIAL PERFORMANCE

Treetop Trekking has been the recipient of many awards in the past years. Not only is the Treetop adventure becoming more popular every year, but also the passion of our employees and the fun atmosphere of our parks have made us one of the top outdoor attractions in Ontario and Quebec.

Here is a list the awards Treetop Trekking and Arbraska have earned throughout the years.

2004 : Regional award for Quebec's Tourism Grand Prize

2005 : Regional award for Quebec's Tourism Grand Prize

2006 : Regional award for Quebec's Tourism Grand Prize

Acting for the future award

2007 : 2 Regional award for Quebec's Tourism Grand Prize

Barrie's best new company award



2008 : Regional award for Quebec's Tourism Grand Prize

Cultural diversity award

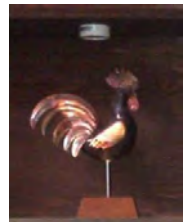
Recognition prize for leisure and entertainment

2009 : Regional award for Quebec's Tourism Grand Prize

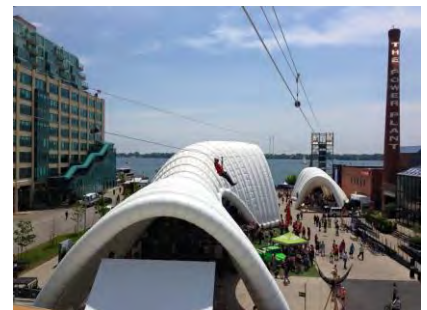
2010 : National award for Quebec's Tourism Grand Prize

2012: Nominated for Tourism Barrie's Greening and Sustainability Award

2013: Attractions Ontario Tourism Champion of the Year Award – Jamie Hesser Regional Manager



We have also been awarded the opportunity to run a temporary project at the Harbourfront Center for the duration of the Pan Am and the Para Pan Am games in Toronto, a world stage event.



**BARRIE – BRAMPTON – GANARASKA - HUNTSVILLE – STOUFFVILLE  
LAFLÈCHE – MONT ST-GRÉGOIRE – RAWDON – RIGAUD - DUSCHESNAY**



For more information on Treetop Trekking please visit our website at  
[www.treetoptrekking.com](http://www.treetoptrekking.com)

**Principal Contact:**

Stephane Vachon – General Manager  
[Stephane.vachon@arbraska.com](mailto:Stephane.vachon@arbraska.com)  
513-984-3898

**Alternative Contact:**

Jamie Hesser- Ontario Regional Manager  
[Jamie@treetoptrekking.com](mailto:Jamie@treetoptrekking.com)  
905-376-4840

**Report To:** Board of Directors

**Subject:** Response to the *Conservation Authorities Act* Review Discussion Paper

**Report No:** 97- 15

**Date:** September 16, 2015

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the NPCA Board of Directors adopt the attached Response to the *Conservation Authorities Act* Review Discussion Paper, and, that the Response be submitted to the province; distributed to participating municipalities within the watershed (Region of Niagara, City of Hamilton, Haldimand County), local municipalities, stakeholders; and posted on the NPCA web site.

**DISCUSSION:**

On July 20, 2015 the Government of Ontario posted the *Conservation Authorities Act* Review Discussion Paper on the Environmental Registry (EBR # 012-4509). According to the province, the purpose of the Discussion Paper "...is to identify opportunities to improve the existing legislative, regulatory and policy framework that currently governs conservation authorities and the programs and services they deliver on behalf of the province, municipalities, and others."

The Discussion Paper is focused on three primary themes:

1. Governance;
2. Funding Mechanisms; and
3. Roles and Responsibilities

The deadline to respond to the Discussion Paper is October 19, 2015.

The NPCA is well positioned to respond to the Discussion Paper via a variety of forums, including working with:

- Conservation Ontario
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Watershed Municipalities (Niagara, Hamilton and Haldimand)
- Local Municipalities (such as Niagara-on-the-Lake)
- NPCA's Community Liaison Advisory Committee

Further, the province has coordinated a number of "listening sessions" for stakeholders and the public. NPCA staff are attending a number of these sessions and Board members are encouraged to also attend. A one-to-one session has been scheduled between NPCA and MNRF representatives on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm (Balls Falls) and later in the evening NPCA has been invited to attend on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm (Niagara-on-the-Lake, Community Centre).

The attached “draft” Response is specific to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. Overall, as referenced in the Executive Summary, it is recommended that the NPCA Board adopt the Response and authorize its submission to the province and various stakeholders (including posting the response on the NPCA website).

In brief, the Response recommends:

1. Governance: The NPCA concurs with the statement from the Discussion Paper that changes providing greater municipal autonomy has “...provided conservation authorities with greater autonomy to direct their own operations and have given municipal representatives who comprise the authority board a greater role in deciding and overseeing authority activities.” Thus, the province should continue to provide the autonomy to municipalities in appointing members to the Boards of conservation authorities.
2. Funding: Given that the NPCA delivers a number of provincially mandated programs and services, increased provincial grant funding for these mandated programs and services is paramount to the future success of conservation authorities.
3. Roles and Responsibilities: It is recommended that the provincial government continue utilizing conservation authorities for local programs, that when combined, enhances and protects Ontario’s environment and natural resources. In addition, the province should reduce duplicate of effort, where the province provides the regulatory framework and conservation authorities implement regulations within this framework.

Further, the NPCA recommends that the province consider the following issues:

4. Provincial Offences: Ensure consistency within provincial offences court to ensure decisions are within the legislative framework and intent of the legislation; and
5. Infrastructure: Given that conservation authorities offer a variety of recreational and educational programs and services, the province support infrastructure funding towards capital projects.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial implications to the 2015 budget.

### **RELATED REPORTS AND APPENDICES:**

**Appendix “A” – NPCA Response to the *Conservation Authorities Act* Review Discussion Paper**

Submitted by:



**Carmen D'Angelo; CAO / Secretary Treasurer**

***This report was prepared in consultation with Peter Graham, Director of Watershed Management and Suzanne McInnes, Manager of Plan Review and Regulation.***



**Response** to the  
***Conservation Authorities Act***  
**Discussion Paper**

Adopted by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

September 16, 2015

## Executive Summary

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Board of Director's would like to thank the Government of Ontario in engaging stakeholders in a review of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Since 1959, the NPCA has been delivering local resource management in the watershed for both municipal and provincial interests. The new 2014-2017 NPCA Strategic Plan embraces this responsibility with the implementation of the Mission: *To manage our watershed's natural resources by balancing environmental, community, and economic needs.*

In alignment with this Mission, the NPCA offers the following responses and recommendations regarding the *Conservation Authorities Act* Discussion Paper:

### 1. Governance

The NPCA is in agreement with the evolution of less provincial oversight and greater municipal autonomy of decisions impacting designated watersheds. The NPCA concurs with the statement from the Discussion Paper that changes providing greater municipal autonomy has "...provided conservation authorities with greater autonomy to direct their own operations and have given municipal representatives who comprise the authority board a greater role in deciding and overseeing authority activities. It has also afforded conservation authority staff greater freedom to make proposals for programming and research for the board's collective review."

It is therefore recommended that the provincial government adhere to the current governance model that maintains local municipal autonomy on decisions. The concept of local municipalities appointing representatives to local conservation authority boards should continue.

### 2. Funding

The NPCA attempts to reduce pressure on municipal levies by maximizing self-generated revenues such as service and user fees, resource development and fundraising. However, these revenues are difficult to apply to specific programs and services mandated by the province. As a result, conservation authorities are reliant on municipal levies to balance budgets.

It is therefore recommended that the province recognize that provincial transfer payments to conservation authorities were significantly reduced in 2000 and has generally remained status quo with no increases in the past decade. Thus, greater provincial grant funding for the provision of provincially mandated programs is paramount to the future success of conservation authorities.

### 3. Roles and Responsibilities

Overall, the provincial government implements legislative instruments in order to mandate conservation authorities to undertake programs that “...further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals.” The NPCA agrees with this provincial mandate and the flexibility provided to local boards in determining local resource management programs which are tailored to meet local geography, needs and priorities.

It is therefore recommended that the provincial government continue utilizing conservation authorities for local programs, that when combined, enhances and protects Ontario’s environment and natural resources.

### 4. Other Areas of Interest

#### a. Provincial Offences

The NPCA strives to work with all stakeholders in the implementation of regulations pertaining to the watershed. Although rare, at times, the NPCA is required to prosecute those who are in violation of the Regulations. In this regards, the NPCA recommends changes in the administration of provincial offences. In specific:

- i. The Justice of the Peace presiding over matters involving conservation authorities should be supported by provincially appointed legal counsel to ensure decisions adhere to the intent of the legislation; and
- ii. Conservation Authorities should have the authority to issue “Stop Work Orders” on matters involving Section 28 of *the Conservation Authorities Act*.

#### b. Infrastructure Funding

As with many other conservation authorities, the NPCA owns a variety of lands for conservation and preservation. In addition, the NPCA hosts many education and recreational programs for Ontario families to celebrate and enjoy the outdoors. These programs also provide the opportunity for the NPCA to promote conservation, education and generate revenues.

The NPCA recommends that Ontario government, in partnership with the federal government, provide funding for infrastructure projects specific to conservation authorities.

**Responses to questions contained in the Discussion Paper:****1. Governance:****a. What aspects of the current governance model are working well?**

The NPCA is in agreement and advocates the provincial government's previous decision to allow local municipal councils the autonomy to appoint members to the conservation authorities Board, and thereby, allow local and accountable decision making on local issues pertaining to the watershed.

**b. What aspects of the current governance model are in need of improvement?**

Section 14. (4) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* should be changed where municipal appointments to the conservation authorities Board be changed from the current three (3) year term to a (4) year term in alignment with municipal elections.

Further, Section 17. (1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* should be changed to allow the election of a Board Chair and Vice-Chair to serve greater than one year increments. Currently, there is a legislative requirement to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair at the first meeting of each year.

**c. In terms of governance, what should be expected of:****a. The board and its members?**

Upon municipal appointment to the Board, members should focus on a holistic basis, matters that pertain to the local watershed boundaries and not necessarily along municipal boundaries. In addition, Board members should be providing their respective municipalities periodic updates.

**b. The general manager or chief administrative officer?**

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) should have the responsibility to provide information and options to the Board in order that Board Members can make informed decision. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the CAO to direct staff to implement Board's decisions.

**c. Municipalities?**

Municipalities need to continue appointing members to conservation authority Boards, with diverse backgrounds and expertise, who are committed to the mandate of conservation authorities.

d. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry?

The MNRF should continue their role in providing legislation (the Act and its Regulations and Standards) in order that individual conservation authorities follow a general mandate that recognizes local decisions, but collectively decisions are working towards an integrated and systemic watershed management impacting Ontario's natural heritage features.

e. Other provincial ministries?

Other provincial ministries have utilized conservation authorities in implementing provincial programs. This practice should continue with appropriate collaboration and funding.

To ensure effective inter-ministry cooperation, the province should establish a multi-stakeholder consultative group consisting of representatives from ministries, conservation authorities, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and other stakeholders impacted by watershed decisions.

f. Others?

There are a variety of local stakeholders and the general public, with diverse views, who are impacted by the decisions of a local conservation authority. To engage these groups and individuals, conservation authorities conduct public meeting where groups and individual may attend and participate via deputations.

For increased community engagement, the NPCA has established a Community Liaison Advisory Committee (CLAC). The primary purpose of the CLAC is to deliberate on issues and provide recommendations to the NPCA Board to consider when making decisions.

The province should consider assigning provincial representatives (local MNRF staff) participate on local advisory committees as non-voting members. MNRF can provide advisory committee members with information as they deliberate issues and make recommendations to the Board of the conversation authority.

d. How should the responsibility for oversight of conservation authorities be shared between the province and municipalities?

The province should continue providing conservation authorities with a legislative mandate as directed by the *Conservation Authorities Act* and its associated Regulations and Standards.

Conservation authorities should continue applying the legislative mandate.

Give the involvement and interactions between several provincial ministries and the conservation authorities, the NPCA recommends the province establish a provincial committee of stakeholders in order to promote an integrated watershed management plan in Ontario.

- e. Are there other governance practices or tools that could be used to enhance the existing governance model?

The provincial government should commit to conducting a subsequent review of the governance model in 10 years to ensure current successes continue.

## 2. Funding

- a. How well are the existing funding mechanisms outlined within the Act working?

The existing funding mechanisms are challenging and needs to be addressed. There are different interpretations in the application of Section 27. (2) and (3) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the associated Regulations 670/00 and 139/96.

- b. What changes to existing funding mechanisms would you like to see if any?

The NPCA proposes the following recommendations to the existing funding mechanisms:

### i. Provincial Funding

Currently, there is no consistency on how the province funds each of the 36 conservation authorities in Ontario. The current funding model was derived from individual based budgets over 25 years ago and does not reflect today's programming and services delivered by conservation authorities on behalf of the provincial government.

It is therefore recommended that the provincial government increase their funding to conservation authorities specific to provincially mandated programs (Section 21 and 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*). One model is to fund conservation authorities similar to other sectors, such as:

Public Health	75% provincial funding
Land Ambulance Services	50% provincial funding
Ontario Works Benefits	57% provincial funding (current 2015 phased in amount)

ii. Infrastructure Funding

As identified in the Discussion Paper, conservation authorities consists of 73,645 hectares conservation areas; 2,491 kilometers of trails and 8,422 campsites in the delivery of programs and services to over 6.8 million visitors.

In order to maintain and grow this level of programming, conservation authorities need provincial funding support for water and wastewater systems, buildings, trail development, and other infrastructure needs.

With adequate infrastructure funding, conservation authorities can increase self-generated revenues and thereby reduce funding pressures on the provincial and municipal governments.

iii. Municipal Levies

Once a conservation authority determines provincial funding, self-generated revenues, and foundation revenues; the balance of the budget is funded by municipal levies.

The formula to calculate the apportionment of municipal levies is currently identified in Ontario Regulation 670/00. It is recommended that the province establish a task force of stakeholders to review and propose any changes to the regulation.

c. Which funding mechanisms, or combination of funding mechanisms, are best able to support the long term sustainability of conservation authorities?

Every conservation authority should strive to achieve self-generated revenues to a level that sustains recreational programming at a net revenue basis and thereby needing no subsidy from provincial and municipal sources. (Note: This needs to be initially supported by investment in infrastructure as identified above).

In regards to provincially mandated programs, the province is recommended to increase their share of funding. Municipal levies should also continue as local decisions should continue to be made by local Boards whose members are appointed by municipalities.

d. Are there other revenue generation tools that should be considered?

The province should explore the use of carbon tax revenues to fund provincially mandated programs delivered by conservation authorities.

There is some discussion that conservation authorities receive a portion of development charges. The use of development charges for a conservation authority within a defined watershed should be permitted pending approval of the watershed's municipalities.

### 3. Roles and Responsibilities

#### a. What resource management programs and activities may be best delivered at the watershed scale?

It is recommended that the response to this question be forwarded to a multi-stakeholder consultative group consisting of representatives from ministries, conservation authorities, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and other stakeholders impacted by watershed decisions.

#### b. Are current roles and responsibilities authorized by the Conservation Authorities Act appropriate? Why or why not? What changes, if any, would you like to see?

##### i. Designation of Provincially Significant Wetlands

Currently, the district office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) designates Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs), and in turn, conservation authorities regulate the PSWs based on the designation. This often creates difficulties when the conservation authority is discussing issues with landowners and municipalities on a designation conducted by MNRF (who are not part of these discussions). Often, critics of this process claim that the PSW designation are based on aerial maps and/or by MNRF who are distant from discussing options based on evidence and science.

It is recommended that a designation protocol be established between conservation authorities, whereby the MNRF enables conservation authorities to conduct the field work in identifying PSWs and submitting to the MNRF for approval. Thereafter, when engaged in meeting with landowners/municipalities/stakeholders, conservation authorities are well positioned to make regulatory decisions.

##### ii. Biodiversity Offsetting (Compensation of Lands)

At times, given the layers of regulatory instruments (such as Places to Grow, Greenbelt Plan, Niagara Escarpment Plan and the Conservation Authorities Act), municipalities are challenged in managing their growth. There is an opportunity when growth impacts a regulated area that the concept of biodiversity offsetting can be implemented to ensure no net loss of wetlands. In fact, biodiversity offsetting can be implemented to increase wetlands in addition to connecting natural features for integrated ecosystems.

In this regard, conservation authorities should be given the opportunity to introduce biodiversity offsetting.

iii. Preventing Environmental Damage

Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* allows a conservation authority to make regulations within its jurisdiction. Further, Section 28 (20) permits a conservation authority officer the power of entry to investigate and enforce its regulations.

It is recommended that the conservation authority's officer be empowered to issue "stop work orders" on activity that is in direct violation of the regulations, and in the opinion of the conservation authority, the continued activity would cause further environmental damage.

iv. Provincial Offences Court

Currently, any violations of a conservation authority regulation are heard in provincial offences court. The court proceedings is presided by a Justice of the Peace who may or may not be familiar with the *Conservation Authority Act* and its associated Regulations.

The Justice of the Peace presiding over matters involving conservation authorities should be supported by provincially appointed legal counsel to ensure decisions adhere to the intent of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

b. How may the impacts of climate change affect the programs and activities delivered by conservation authorities? Are conservation authorities equipped to deal with these effects?

Climate change is significantly impacting the current regulatory role of conservation authorities. One example is floodplain mapping, where the changing climate is causing the need for conservation authorities to re-assess current benchmarks and maps.

However, some conservation authorities face financial challenges in conducting appropriate floodplain mapping to address climate change. It is recommended that the province provide multi-year funding to conservation authorities to implement an integrated floodplain mapping system.

Further, although the impacts of climate change are based on scientific evidence, there is a continued need for conservation authorities to educate stakeholders and the general public on climate change. This education should be coordinated with educational programs initiated by the provincial government.

Changes to the climate also creates invasive species causing serious, and at times, irreversible harm to the environment. Conservation authorities are not currently positioned to address the management of invasive species, however, there is a general expectation from the general community that conservation authorities should be involved.

- c. Is the variability in conservation authorities' capacity and resourcing to offer a range of programs and services a concern? Should there be a standard program for all authorities to deliver? Why or why not?

A standardized approach to watershed management is appropriate; with the condition that local autonomy on decision making is recognized. For example, the Provincial Policy Statement under the *Planning Act* provides direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. As a regulatory body, conservation authorities reference these statements when making local decisions.

Another example is Source Water Protection. Conservation authorities are leading standardized source water protection programs. However, local source water protection authorities (and their associated committees) are designing deliverables that meets the needs of local communities.

Overall, each watershed is unique. For example, Niagara Peninsula is bordered by three bodies of water (Niagara River, Lake Ontario and Lake Erie) whereas another conservation authority may not have any bordering waters. These unique qualities are recognized with the current autonomy of local Boards making local decisions on programs and services.

- d. What are some of the challenges facing conservation authorities in balancing their various roles and responsibilities? Are there tools or other changes that would help with this?

When reviewing the NPCA's Mission Statement, one would read "*To manage our watershed's natural resources by balancing environmental, community, and economic needs*".

The challenge for conservation authorities is finding the right "balance" amid an atmosphere of diverse stakeholder and public opinions, an environment of climate change, municipal official plans, and provincially mandated programs. It is understandable that decisions made by a conservation authority may not be achieved by consensus amongst the interests of dissenting views of either environment, community or economic interests.

This is why “informed” decisions of a conservation authority is paramount. To make informed decisions, conservation authorities need to be appropriately resourced (funding) and have the flexibility to implement solutions for the benefit of the watershed’s environment.

- e. Are there opportunities to improve consistency in service standards, timelines and fee structures? What are the means by which consistency can be improved? What are some of the challenges in achieving greater consistency in these areas?

It is recommended that the response to this question be forwarded to a multi-stakeholder consultative group consisting of representatives from ministries, conservation authorities, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and other stakeholders impacted by watershed decisions.

DRAFT

**Report To:** Board of Directors

**Subject:** Wetland Conservation in Ontario Discussion Paper

**Report No:** 98-15

**Date:** September 16, 2015

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Report No. 98-15 be received for information;
2. That the NPCA adopt the Response to the *Wetland Conservation in Ontario Discussion Paper*; and
3. That the Response be submitted to the province, distributed to watershed municipalities, and posted on the NPCA website.

**PURPOSE:**

To provide NPCA comments on the Province's Wetland Conservation in Ontario Discussion Paper (see Attachment #1)

**BACKGROUND:**

The discussion paper provides an overview of wetlands in Ontario and a summary of policies, programs and partnerships that form Ontario's current wetland conservation framework. The purpose of the paper is to provide information and generate discussion about future actions the government could consider in a strategic plan for wetlands in Ontario. The discussion paper was posted on the Ontario Environmental Registry on July 27, 2015. The deadline for comments is October 30, 2015.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None.

**REPORT:**

This report is intended to follow a similar approach and major themes to that expressed in the NPCA's response to the Conservation Authorities Act Discussion Paper. Namely, it will highlight pertinent comments related to governance, funding, roles and responsibilities and other areas of interest.

**Governance**

- The NPCA is in agreement and advocates the provincial government's previous decision to allow local municipal councils the autonomy to appoint members to the conservation authorities Board, and thereby, allow local and accountable decision making on local issues pertaining to the watershed.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) should continue their role in providing legislation (the Act and its Regulations and Standards) in order that individual conservation authorities follow a general mandate that recognizes local decisions, but

collectively decisions are working towards an integrated and systemic watershed management of Ontario's natural heritage features.

- To ensure effective inter-ministry cooperation, the province should establish a multi-stakeholder consultative group consisting of representatives from ministries, conservation authorities, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and other stakeholders who are impacted by watershed decisions.
- The province should consider assigning provincial representatives (local MNRF staff) to participate on advisory committees as non-voting members. MNRF can provide advisory committee members with information as they deliberate issues and make recommendations to the Board of the conversation authority.

### Funding

- Currently, the NPCA does not receive funding from MNRF to regulate wetlands. NPCA must rely on revenue generated from both permit fees and levy dollars to manage and implement its Regulation Program.
- The NPCA relies on both plan review fees and levy dollars to implement its Planning Program. The Authority comments on planning applications under service agreements with its municipal partners (via. MOU's).
- The NPCA provides partial funding for wetland creation through its Restoration Program. The NPCA has forged various partnerships [e.g. Ducks Unlimited, Environment Canada (RAP), and Trout Unlimited] to help supplement funding to complete these works.
- As a land owner, the NPCA receives property tax exemptions under the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP), for land that has "important natural heritage features".

### Roles & Responsibilities

- Province of Ontario's Discussion Paper (Table 1A) indicates that the Conservation Authorities Act "regulates development in and around wetlands for effects on the control of natural hazards (e.g., flooding)..."
- The Province needs to provide some clarity when it comes to the tests under Section 28 of the CA Act for "conservation of land" and "interference in any way". The tests should go beyond just the 'control of natural hazards'. An integrated watershed management approach would take a more holistic approach to protecting wetlands (i.e. addressing not only the hazard but also the ecology of the wetland).
- The table below elaborates on NPCA's various roles and responsibilities related to wetlands, noting the total estimated area of wetlands within each area of responsibility.

#### NPCA's Roles and Responsibilities – Wetlands

Role	Responsibility	Area of Wetland (hectares)
Landowner	Manage Property	1,530
Regulator	Implementation of Section 28 of CA Act	26,732
Restoration	Restoration / Construction of Wetlands on Private Land	101
Environmental Planning	Provide Comments on Planning Act applications on behalf of municipal partners (MOU with Haldimand County, City of Hamilton and Region of Niagara)	26,732

## Other Areas of Interest

### Designation of Provincially Significant Wetlands

- It is recommended that a designation protocol be established between conservation authorities, whereby the MNRF enables conservation authorities to conduct the field work in identifying PSWs and submitting to the MNRF for approval. Thereafter, when engaged in meeting with landowners/municipalities/stakeholders, conservation authorities, in collaboration with the MNRF, are well positioned to make informed and timely regulatory decisions.

### Biodiversity Offsetting

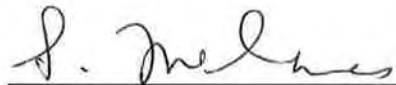
- Given the multiple layers of regulatory instruments, at times there may be an opportunity, when growth impacts a regulated area, that the concept of biodiversity offsetting can be implemented. In this regard, conservation authorities should be given the opportunity to introduce the potential for biodiversity offsetting.
- The introduction to the discussion paper indicates that it has been suggested that the government could consider policy to achieve no net loss of wetlands. The NPCA Board's comments on the recent Provincial Plan Review (Attachment #2: Report 51-15) supports the idea of the Province considering policies to address "biodiversity off-setting".

In addition to the above, Appendix 1 (attached) indicates the NPCA's response to questions posed in the Wetland Conservation in Ontario Discussion Paper.

## RELATED REPORTS AND APPENDICES:

1. Wetland Conservation in Ontario Discussion Paper - [http://apps.mnr.gov.on.ca/public/files/er/wetlandsdiscussionpaper\\_en.pdf](http://apps.mnr.gov.on.ca/public/files/er/wetlandsdiscussionpaper_en.pdf)
2. Report 51-15, NPCA comments on the Provincial Plan Review
3. Report 97-15, NPCA comments on the Conservation Authorities Act Discussion Paper (on current agenda)
4. Appendix 1 - Responses to Questions posed in Discussion Paper

### Prepared by:



**Suzanne McInnes; MCIP, RPP**  
**Manager, Plan Review & Regulation**

### Reviewed by:



**Peter Graham; P.Eng.**  
**Director, Watershed Management**

### Submitted by:



**Carmen D'Angelo;**  
**Chief Administrative Officer / Secretary Treasurer**

## **Appendix 1 Responses to Questions in Discussion Paper**

### **Question 1- Do you think there are current challenges related to wetland conservation in Ontario? If so, what are the challenges?**

- Clear definitions of the term “wetland”, “conservation of land” and “interference in any way” in the Conservation Authorities Act. Also, a consistent definition of wetland in the Conservation Authorities Act, Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) issued under the Planning Act and Provincial Land Use Plans (e.g. Greenbelt, Places to Grow, Niagara Escarpment Plan), Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (OWES) and Ecological Land Classification (ELC) System.
- In order to protect wetlands, Conservation Authorities need up to date wetland mapping. The NPCA worked with the MNRF from 2006-2009 to update wetland mapping within the watershed as part of the Niagara Natural Areas Inventory (NAI) project. Updating wetland mapping is an ongoing process. It is recommended that a designation protocol be established between conservation authorities, whereby the MNRF enables conservation authorities to conduct the field work in identifying PSWs and submitting to the MNRF for approval. Thereafter, when engaged in meeting with landowners/municipalities/stakeholders, conservation authorities, in collaboration with the MNRF, are well positioned to make informed and timely regulatory decisions.
- The Province needs to let landowners know, in writing, that there is a wetland on their property or when there have been changes made to the boundaries.
- Challenges include lack of understanding by property owners (what constitutes a wetland, site alteration/development not permitted in wetlands, etc.) and competing interests (e.g. economic versus environmental conservation).
- Lack of public information regarding tax incentive programs for landowners with PSW's on their property who assume that they must pay taxes for land they cannot develop
- Lack of understanding and support amongst the general public about the value of wetlands on the landscape, differentiation between agencies which evaluate and delineate wetlands and those that regulate/plan development within them, the fact that those wishing to develop adjacent to or within wetlands are contracting and paying the professionals who produce Environmental Impact Studies, resulting in questionable review and conclusions regarding negative impacts,

### **Question 2 – Three priority areas of focus for wetland conservation in Ontario are proposed: strengthen policy, encourage partnerships and improve knowledge. What do you think of these three focus areas? Do you have other ideas for additional focus areas?**

- Generally support the three focus areas as long as strengthen policy includes consolidation of wetland policy. There are too many policies, pieces of legislation that address wetland conservation and they should be consolidated wherever possible.
- Encourage partnerships with municipalities, agencies and landowners through Integrated Water Management (IWM).
- Improve Knowledge. E.g. when Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) did research on the ecological services of wetlands they could show landowners quantifiable reasons why wetlands are important to them.

**Question 3 – Considering the three priority area of focus, what are some actions and activities that government, organizations and individuals could take to improve wetland conservation in Ontario? What partnerships should the Ontario government explore to stop wetland loss?**

- See answer to question 6 below.

**Question 4 – What do you think about Ontario’s current wetland policy framework? Can it be improved? Can it be made more effective? If so, how?**

- More robust guidelines regarding appropriate ways to ensure no negative impact, such as guidelines for buffer sizing, appropriate adjacent land uses, trails planning guidelines, etc.

**Question 5 – Should targets be considered to help achieve wetland conservation in Ontario? If so, what form should these targets take?**

- Targets would be helpful, especially if compensation is proposed. Monitoring to ensure effectiveness and targets for habitat and other functions would be ideal.
- Targets should definitely be used. They need to be meaningful, measurable and realistic. Use caution with a system that assigns a dollar value to wetlands (e.g. ecosystem services) as this is still not well understood and could cause more problems than benefits.

**Question 6 – The Ontario government is considering approaches to achieve no net loss of wetlands. A) what do you think of the establishment of a mitigation/compensation hierarchy to achieve no net loss? Are there other approaches? B) What tools (e.g. policy) could be used to implement approaches to achieve no net loss? C) what might the role of government, partners, private landowners and others be if no net loss approaches are implemented? D) Should no net loss approaches be applied uniformly across Ontario? Or, only where the risk of wetland loss is greatest?**

- The Provincial government should explore the concept of ‘no net loss’/‘net gain’. Staff suggest that the Province consider ‘net gain’ because there are always losses of biodiversity, ecosystem complexity, maturity and function when a man-made wetland replaces a naturally formed wetland. Any policy change should focus on protecting existing wetlands and reserving the option of compensation for unique situations that are in the public interest.
- Integrated Watershed Management Plans, Watershed Plans or Subwatershed Plans should be completed in advance of the consideration of wetland compensation in order to target areas suitable for wetland loss and compensation. Any wetland compensation policy should ensure a robust set of guidelines or regulations which will ensure that wetland creation provides meaningful results.
- Partnerships with the scientific community (colleges, universities, etc.) to ensure science-based targets/criteria/goals of wetland compensation.

**Question 7- Do you have any additional suggestions for improving wetland conservation?**

- The term peatland is used throughout the document as a wetland type but they don’t specifically use that term when identifying the four wetland types. Either use the term peatland or bog but not both - it can be confusing.

# ADDENDUM TO REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

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- ❖ **REPORT NO. 99-15** – *City of Hamilton Motion related to C.A. Act Review – Agreement in Principle*

September 16, 2015 Full Authority Meeting

**Report To:** Board of Directors

**Subject:** City of Hamilton Motion related to *Conservation Authorities Act* Review – Agreement in Principle

**Report No:** 99-15

**Date:** September 16, 2015

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the NPCA Board of Directors agrees in principle to the attached motion received from the City of Hamilton and direct staff to participate in the proposed technical group to further evaluate the implications of the City's motion.

**PURPOSE:**

To collaborate with the City of Hamilton in support of their Motion related to the *Conservation Authorities Act* Review.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) received a copy of the Motion from the City of Hamilton (see Appendix #1). Thereafter, on Friday, September 11, 2015 the NPCA's CAO participated in a meeting to discuss the motion. The following representatives attended the meeting:

- City of Hamilton
- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
- Hamilton Conservation Authority
- Grand River Conservation Authority
- Halton Conservation Authority
- Royal Botanical Gardens
- McMaster University

The City of Hamilton's motion is multi-faceted, focused on increasing the biodiversity of regionally rare native Ontario plants, in addition to, promoting regionally rare native Ontario species in appropriate habitats. The motion also requests the "...*Sharing of information related to best practices with regard to the above goals, among all relevant stakeholders.*"

NPCA staff recommends supporting the motion in principle. However further discussion will be required to discuss the technical and practical implications of the motion. The City of Hamilton's letter (see Appendix #2) recommends the formation of a technical working group amongst the stakeholders "...*to further evaluate the implications of the motion and to determine common ground which will form the basis for another joint letter/submission from this group.*" With Board approval, NPCA staff would participate in the technical working group.

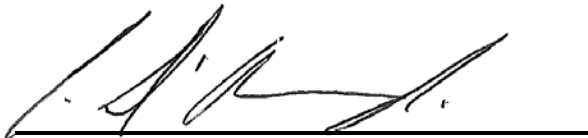
**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None at this time

**RELATED REPORTS AND APPENDICES:**

1. City of Hamilton's Motion
2. City of Hamilton's Letter to Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Bill Mauro

**Prepared and Submitted by:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. D'Angelo', is written over a solid horizontal line.

**Carmen D'Angelo  
Chief Administrative Officer**

**At its meeting of August 14, 2015, Council approved Item 24 of General Issues Committee Report 15-015, which reads as follows:**

**24. Formal Provincial Consultation Process on Possible Amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (Item 9.4)**

- (a) That the Mayor of Hamilton, on behalf of Council, make a formal submission to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, as part of the consultation process, before October 19, 2015;
- (b) That City staff be directed to communicate with the Hamilton Conservation Authority, the Grand River Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) regarding the possibility of making the above-mentioned letter a joint submission with the conservation authorities and the RBG;
- (c) That the letter, from the Mayor, request that the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) ensure that the consultation process include conversation among all relevant stakeholders in relation to the following goals/concerns, with the aim of finding environmentally and economically responsible policy solutions:
  - (i) Maximization of efforts by conservation authorities to protect and increase the biodiversity of regionally rare native Ontario plants.
  - (ii) Creation of science-based policy to address the problem of artificial in-breeding within plant populations on conservation authority lands, due to such barriers as de facto bans on the planting of regionally rare native stock not derived from plants found on the authority's watershed, though within that authority's seed zone (Ontario Seed Zone Directive, 2010; based on Ontario Climate Model of climatic gradients within the province).
  - (iii) Clarification and implementation, province-wide, of best ecological practices related to the assisted migration of regionally rare native plants on conservation land and within the appropriate seed zone (or adjacent seed zone), but across conservation authority watershed boundaries;
  - (iv) Promote the planting of regionally rare native Ontario species in any appropriate habitat, including novel urban habitats, within a species' seed zone, particularly including conservation authority land where that species has a good chance of thriving, by specifically removing regulatory barriers that discourage opportunities for restoration.
  - (v) Regular conversation among conservation authority officials, Royal Botanical Gardens officials, MNRF officials, First Nations, scientists, citizens, and private sector stakeholders on biodiversity and sustainable development concerns related to the conservation authorities and to biodiversity generally.
  - (vi) Sharing of information related to best practices with regard to the above goals, among all relevant stakeholders.
  - (vii) Formalization of rules and/or expectations with regard to best practices with regard to the above goals, among all relevant stakeholders.

Rose Caterini, B. Comm., A.M.C.T.  
City Clerk  
City Manager's Office; Office of the City Clerk  
71 Main St. West, Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5  
e-mail: [Rose.Caterini@hamilton.ca](mailto:Rose.Caterini@hamilton.ca); phone: 905.546.2424 x5409



September XX, 2015

Hon. Bill Mauro, MPP  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
99 Wellesley St. W.  
Whitney Block, 6th Floor, Room 6630  
Toronto ON M7A 1W3

Dear Minister Mauro:

At its August 14, 2015 meeting, Council approved a motion by Councillor Aidan Johnson requesting a submission be made to you as part of the formal consultation process into the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

The motion asked that we make our submission a joint one with our local conservation partners; these partners include the Hamilton Conservation Authority, the Grand River Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, the Royal Botanical Gardens and McMaster University.

We will each speak to the areas identified within your discussion paper, which include governance, funding mechanisms and roles and responsibilities as we believe these are crucial areas for discussion. The purpose of this letter however, is the motion adopted by Hamilton City Council.

Highlights of the motion are:

- Maximization of efforts by conservation authorities to protect and increase the biodiversity of regionally rare native Ontario plants.
- Creation of science-based policy to address the problem of artificial in-breeding within plant populations on conservation authority lands, due to such barriers as de facto bans on the planting of regionally rare native stock not derived from plants found on the authority's watershed, though within that authority's seed

zone (Ontario Seed Zone Directive, 2010; based on Ontario Climate Model of climatic gradients within the province).

- Clarification and implementation, province-wide, of best ecological practices related to the assisted migration of regionally rare native plants on conservation land and within the appropriate seed zone (or adjacent seed zone), but across conservation authority watershed boundaries;
- Promote the planting of regionally rare native Ontario species in any appropriate habitat, including novel urban habitats, within a species' seed zone, particularly including conservation authority land where that species has a good chance of thriving, by specifically removing regulatory barriers that discourage opportunities for restoration.
- Regular conversation among conservation authority officials, Royal Botanical Gardens officials, MNRF officials, First Nations, scientists, citizens, and private sector stakeholders on biodiversity and sustainable development concerns related to the conservation authorities and to biodiversity generally.
- Sharing of information related to best practices with regard to the above goals, among all relevant stakeholders.
- Formalization of rules and/or expectations with regard to best practices with regard to the above goals, among all relevant stakeholders.

The primary aim of the motion is to ensure that during the review process all relevant stakeholders are engaged and consulted on a number of issues that are important to the City and our partners, with a goal of finding environmentally and economically responsible policy solutions.

Minister, through this letter we wanted to inform you as a group that there is agreement in principal with the motion and to present to you our plans to work together going forward throughout the review process.

A first step is the formation of a technical working group amongst our members to further evaluate the implications of the motion and to determine common ground which will form the basis for another joint letter/submission from this group. We anticipate that the technical group will meet throughout the fall with possible recommendations in the spring.

We believe the work of the technical group will be valuable to your efforts during the review of the *Conservation Authorities Act*; therefore, we would like to invite a representative(s) from your Ministry to participate in our technical working group.

This working group will give us the ability to ensure there is full agreement and support from our members as we review the technical aspects of the motion.

On a slightly separate note, just as the review of the *Conservation Authorities Act* reviews the tools needed for conservation authorities to carry out their duties of resource management and environmental protection, as a group we also wanted to commend your Ministry on the work being done to support environmental sustainability through the *Invasive Species Act*, we look forward to its eventual passage.

We also look forward to continuing to work with your ministry throughout the review process.

I have attached a copy of the formal motion for your background and review. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our partners to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Mayor Fred Eisenberger

On behalf of our local conservation partners