



## NVCA March 2024 Board Meeting Highlights

**Next Meeting: March 22, 2024, held virtually**

For the full meeting agenda including documents and reports, visit [NVCA's website](#).

### Legislative and regulatory proposals affecting Conservation Authorities

Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits, and Tyler Mulhall, Planner, gave a presentation on the new O. Reg 41/24.

On February 16, 2024, a new Minister's regulation (Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits) under the *Conservation Authorities Act* was approved by the Province. This regulation will replace NVCA's existing individual "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses" regulation (172/06).

The regulation's effective date is April 1, 2024.

#### Key changes to NVCA's permit review process include:

- The activity in NVCA's regulated areas is not likely to:
  - Affect the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or unstable soil or bedrock;
  - Create conditions or circumstance that, in the event of a natural hazard, might jeopardize the health or safety of persons or result in the damage or destruction of property.

Other requirements prescribed by the regulations are met

- Pollution and conservation of land will no longer be considered when reviewing permit applications
- New definition of a watercourse
- The regulated area around wetlands will be consistent at 30 m, including around

provincially significant wetlands (PSW). The current buffer is 30 m from wetlands, and 120 m from PSWs

- NVCA shall review and update maps at least once annually
- New exceptions for certain low-risk activities that meet specific requirements have been identified
- NVCA must confirm application completion within 21 days, and must give notice of decision for all applications within 90 days. NVCA may not request additional information from applicant once the application is deemed complete.
- Enhanced Minister Orders and Powers.
- Enhanced conservation authority enforcement powers, including entering properties, issuing stop work orders and enhanced penalties.
- Additional review and appeal mechanisms

#### Next Steps

NVCA will be completing the following steps to adopt the new regulations:

- Prepare communications for municipal partners, stakeholders and the public.
- Adopt interim policies until existing policy and procedure manuals are updated.
- Adopt a transition plan to ensure permits and new applications are subjected to the appropriate procedures and guidelines.
- Accommodate efficient timelines for permit review / issuance, administration reviews, permit cancellations, holding of hearings.
- Appointment of officers under a new class designation will be required. Provide new requirements for mapping updates.
- Update regulatory and legislative references on applications, maps, website, etc.

## **Delegation of Powers and Appointment of Officers under the Conservation Authorities Act**

As per the update of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, NVCA will appoint officers to enforce the provisions of Sections 28 and 29 of the Act. The Board of Directors have appointed the following staff as officers:

- Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning and Permits
- Meagan Kieferle, Senior Regulations Officer
- Tyler Mulhall, Planner
- Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services
- Mike Bacon, Manager, Lands and Operations
- Clint Collis, Lands and Operation Technician
- Spencer Macdonald, Lands and Operation Technician

## **Agricultural Committee Terms of Reference**

The Board of Directors approved the updated terms of reference for the Agricultural Committee.

## **NVCA Climate Change Action Plan: 2023 progress and 2024 goals**

Staff provided the Board of Directors a summary of climate related actions from 2023 and outlined the anticipated 2024 goals.

## **Appointment of Risk Management Official and Risk Management Inspectors**

The Board of Directors appointed Ian Ockenden as an alternate Risk Management Official and as a Risk Management Inspector.

## **Flood Structures Workplan**

NVCA is responsible for managing a total of six flood structures within the watershed. Safety Reviews have been completed for New Lowell Dam in 2019, and Tottenham Dam in 2021. The reviews provided prioritized recommendations for addressing structural and public safety deficiencies relating to the dams.

To begin addressing the high priority recommendations only, NVCA staff will be applying for funding through the provincial Water Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Program, which provides a 50% match for locally-funded projects pertaining to flood and erosion structures. Staff will plan to contribute the remaining 50% through the funding from NVCA's Asset Management Plan.

In the near future, engineering staff will develop a sustainable funding plan for NVCA's flood structures.

The recommended repairs for the Tottenham Dam would cost \$414,700, while recommended repairs for the New Lowell would cost \$765,000. It is important for NVCA to consider the lifecycle costs of maintaining each flood structure that does not serve a direct flood-related function, and weigh those against the costs of decommissioning these structures.

## **Update for MOU Cost Apportioning Agreement Programs and Services**

Most of NVCA's municipal partners are supportive of either an MOU or a Cost Apportionment Agreement between the municipality and the NVCA.

Municipalities that have executed and signed MOUs

- Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
- Municipality of Grey Highland
- Town of Mono
- Township of Amaranth
- Town of Shelburne
- Township of Melancthon
- Town of New Tecumseth
- Town of Innisfil
- Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
- Town of Collingwood
- Town of Wasaga Beach
- Township of Essa
- Township of Mulmur
- City of Barrie

- Town of Blue Mountains
- Clearview Cost Apportionment Agreement approved with Clerk to be signed
- Oro-Medonte to indicate support on MOUs in a future council meeting
- Springwater indicated support to date; before Council March 20, 2024

## Upcoming Events

### Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival

Hosted in partnership with the Rotary Club of Barrie, the Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival is hosted at the Tiffin Conservation Area. This event is a tradition spanning more than three decades.

Visitors will take a trip back in time to explore how maple syrup was made in the past. After that, they will return to current times and see how maple syrup is made today! End your tour with a pancake and sausage breakfast with fresh maple syrup. Prices for most activities are included in the admission fees.

**Date:** April 6 – 7, 2024

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

### Learn to Fly fish like a biologist

Learn to fly fish like a biologist so you can make the most of your fishing season! The event is hosted by Fred Dobbs, Manager, Stewardship Services, in partnership with Cabela's Barrie.

**Date:** April 6, 2024

**Location:** Cabela's Barrie, 50 Concert Way, Barrie, ON L4N 6N5

### Tiffin Nature Program (for preschoolers)

Tiffin Nature Program helps preschoolers gain knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our amazing planet. Children learn about risky play, and develop a better understanding of their relationship with the land.

**Half Day Dates:** Tuesdays March 19, 2024 – June 4, 2024

**Full Day Dates:** Thursdays March 21, 2024 – June 6, 2024

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

### PA/PD Day Camp Tiffin

Camp Tiffin encourages outdoor exploration, guided excursions in the forest fueled by student interest. Every day will be guided by student inquiry, seasonal changes, and weather and program availability. Camp Programming for April 8<sup>th</sup> will safely feature the solar eclipse!

**Date:** Friday, April 8, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation