



## NVCA November 2022 Board Meeting Highlights

The December 2022 NVCA Board Meeting is cancelled

Please join us in person at the 2023 Annual General Meeting at the  
Tiffin Centre for Conservation

January 27, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

8195 8<sup>th</sup> Line Utopia, ON L0M 1T0

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

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### 2022 Third Quarter Budget Report

In the first six months of operations of NVCA, expenditures to date are tracking on schedule, with 74.9% of the budgeted expenses (75% of budget year completed).

Revenues are tracking well, with 83.76% of the budgeted revenues recognized. This includes the first 9 months of the general municipal levy of \$1,953,576.

Currently, NVCA is sitting in a surplus position, primarily due to three reasons:

1. Section 28 permits have already surpassed the budgeted number of \$255,000 sitting at \$427,208 after the first 9 months
2. Revenues are tracking higher than expenses so far this year which puts us in a surplus position.
3. There was a large payroll accrual in 2021 due to the timing of the last payroll and a larger than normal vacation accrual.

### 2022 Year End Surplus/Deficit Allocation

The NVCA Board of Directors approved that any deficit/surplus for 2022 will be allocated accordingly to the budget reserve.

### Data Management Strategy for Planning Services Program

Currently, NVCA's Planning and Regulations staff spend significant time doing manually intensive data entry in the absence of an automated data management solution. This work includes uploading and assigning of documents, processing applications, data entry, preparing fee requests, invoices and responding to status requests. It is estimated that NVCA requires 1.5 full time staff to complete these tasks currently.

NVCA is investigating automating processes beginning with possible internal changes to the current system. If an in-house solution cannot be developed by the end of 2023, staff will be exploring software solutions that offer a full suite of software for planning, permitting and enforcement and regulatory services.

A subsequent staff report will be submitted to the board outlining the preferred data management solution. This report will also identify direct and indirect costs associated with the implementation of the solution and possible funding sources.

## List of all existing NVCA programs and services fees

In April 2022, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks released a list of programs and services conservation authorities can charge fees for.

Conservation authorities must develop a written fee policy, which includes a fee schedule that lists the fees for chargeable programs and services. The fee schedule must also include the frequency that policy and schedule(s) will be reviewed, the review process, notice of the review and changes, and the circumstances under which any person may request the authority to reconsider a fee

NVCA staff have developed a draft fee policy and associated schedules that consolidates all NVCA programs and services existing user fees.

At the November 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board of Directors directed staff to apply a 2% cost of living increase to all fees. The new schedule will take effect on January 1, 2023.

## Overview of Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 and related environmental registry postings

On October 25, 2022, the Ontario government introduced the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 to support More Homes Built Faster: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022-23. As part of the province's Housing Supply Action Plan, the government is proposing to streamline approvals under the Conservation Authorities Act to focus on natural hazards.

NVCA published a [media release](#) and [official statement](#) on November 2, 2022.

Under the *Environmental Bill of Rights*, the government has put these proposals on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for public review and comment. Below are the ERO postings that are relevant to NVCA

[ERO Posting: 019-2927](#) – Proposed updates to the regulation governing the activities that require permits under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The changes are intended to

streamline approvals to focus on natural hazards.

[ERO Posting: 019-6141](#) – Legislative and regulatory proposals affecting conservation authorities to support the Housing Supply Action Plan 3.0. This includes a series of proposed changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and *Planning Act*.

[ERO Posting 019-6160](#) – Proposed Updates to the Ontario Wetland Evaluation Systems (OWES). The Province is proposing to add new guidance related to re-evaluation of wetlands and updates to mapping of evaluated wetland boundaries. Also, to make changes to recognize the professional opinion of wetland evaluators and the role of local decision makers (e.g. municipalities)

[ERO Posting: 019-6161](#) – Conserving Ontario's Natural Heritage. The Province has developed a discussion paper and is seeking feedback on how Ontario could offset development pressures on wetlands, woodlands, and other natural wildlife habitat. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is considering developing an offset policy that would require a net positive impact on these features and help reverse the decades-long trend of natural heritage loss in Ontario.

Please refer to the November 2022 Board Agenda for NVCA staff comments for each posting.

## Inventory of Programs and Services for Submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

NVCA's Board of Directors received an update on the development of the new Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) relating to the Inventory of Programs and Services. The updates include:

Between October 1 and December 31, 2022, NVCA has had informal meetings with the following municipalities within our jurisdiction to present the draft inventory and to move forward MOU discussions: Township of Amaranth, Town of Mono, Town of Wasaga Beach, Town of Collingwood, Town of Innisfil,

Township of Melancthon, Township of Mulmur,  
and Township of Oro-Medonte.

Many municipal partners are unclear of the changes that Bill 23 may bring forward that will need to be factored into MOUs for 2024.

## Upcoming Events

### Tiffin Nature Program

Geared towards pre-K and children in kindergarten, the Tiffin nature program will help children gain knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our amazing planet.

**Date:** 6-week sessions from September 20, 2022 to June 13, 2023.

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation  
8195 8th Line, Utopia, ON L0M 1T0

### PA/PD Day Camp

Offered on PA/PD Days only, kids will enjoy lots of physical activity, and be mentally stimulated as they explore ever changing scenery and landscapes. They will be able to move away from excess screen time, and learn how to integrate nature into their everyday lives.

**Dates:** October 24, 2022, November 18, 2022, January 27, 2023, April 28, 2023, June 2, 2023

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation  
8195 8th Line, Utopia, ON L0M 1T0

### Homeschool Programs

Tiffin's Homeschool Program is designed for homeschool families who want to spend structured time outside to develop a sense of wonder, appreciation and respect for the natural world.

**Date:** One Friday a month from October 15, 2022 to June 23, 2023

**Location:** Various locations throughout the Nottawasaga Watershed