



## NVCA April 2023 Board Meeting Highlights

**Next Meeting: May 26, 2023, held virtually**

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

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### 2022 Financial Statement

NVCA receives clean audit for 2022.

Board members received the 2022 NVCA audited financial statements as presented by KPMG LLP Chartered Accountants. The financial statement is [available on NVCA's website](#).

### Presentation on NVCA's 2023 Watershed Health Checks

Ian Ockenden, NVCA's Acting Watershed Science Supervisor gave a presentation regarding NVCA's 2023 Watershed Health Checks to the Board of Directors.

The health checks provide an overview of forests, wetlands, stream and groundwater health across for the Nottawasaga Watershed and all nine subwatersheds between 2017 - 2021. They also identify stewardship restoration priorities, future challenges and opportunities to improve environmental health.

NVCA's Watershed Science team uses standard collection and analysis methods to collect and analyze forest, wetland, stream and groundwater information to offer an unbiased, factual analysis of the state of the watershed.

Overall, there is a loss of natural spaces, mainly due to land use changes. Despite this downward trend, some parts of the watershed are seeing positive change thanks to watershed residents, farmers, municipalities, volunteers and other environmental champions who are committed to restoring our environment.

### Forest Conditions

Aerial images were used to determine the amount of forest cover exists in each subwatershed. This information is used to determine the amount of habitat available to

support wildlife. Sensitive forest birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians require deep forest habitat for survival. Environment Canada suggests that 10% forest interior cover is the minimum needed to support a range of species.

### Wetland Conditions

Staff analyzed aerial images to determine the amount of wetlands in each subwatershed. When possible, staff doublecheck these results with on-the-ground surveys.

This information is used to determine the amount of habitat available to support wildlife, and the capacity of wetlands to retain flood waters.

### Stream Health

Stream health is determined by using total phosphorus information and evaluating the health of benthic macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects).

Healthy streams and rivers are important because they provide clean water for drinking, agricultural irrigation, industrial use, and recreational enjoyment. Municipal wastewater facilities also rely on clean rivers to dilute and carry away our waste.

### Groundwater Quality

NVCA analyzes information from the Ontario government's Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network to determine the health of groundwater across the Nottawasaga Watershed.

It is important to keep contaminants out of groundwater because it supports a variety of uses including municipal and private water supplies, agricultural irrigation, and is a source for rivers and streams.

## Stewardship priorities

Through information in the health checks, NVCA's Watershed Stewardship and Forestry teams have identified priority restoration areas in each subwatershed.

For information about your local subwatershed or which subwatershed covers your municipality, visit [nvca.on.ca](http://nvca.on.ca).

## 2023 First Quarter Budget Report

In the first three months of operations of NVCA, expenditures to date are tracking on schedule, with 31.65% of the budgeted expenses (25% of budget year completed). This is normal for the first quarter of the year.

Revenues are tracking well, with 21.97% of the budgeted revenues recognized. This includes the first 3 months of the general municipal levy of \$684,940.

Currently, NVCA is sitting in a deficit position as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (in the amount of \$740,879) was returned to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) due to a CRA audit determining ineligibility.

## NVCA to plant only native maple trees

NVCA's Board of Directors supported staff to plant only native maple trees whenever a maple is called for in any NVCA planting projects.

The maple family is a large group of trees and shrubs with only 6 species native to Ontario. There are three non-native, invasive maples that are present in the NVCA watershed: Amur Maple, Manitoba Maple, and Norway Maple.

These maples have the potential to become serious invaders when they spread from planting sites into nearby natural habitats or urban areas.

## Renaming of Meadow Mouse Trail

The Minesing Wetland's Meadow Mouse Trail will be renamed to Harold Parker Memorial Trail.

Harold Parker was a former Springwater Township Councillor, past-Chair of NVCA

(2000-2002), was involved with the Friends of Minesing Wetlands and was a lifelong resident of the community of Minesing.

Harold had worked closely with NVCA for decades in support of the Conservation Lands and Stewardship Programs. He has undertaken many restoration projects on his property adjacent to Minesing Wetlands and has been a strong advocate of NVCA's programs and purpose.

## Update of Administrative Bylaws for the Board of Directors

NVCA's Board of Directors approved updates for the administrative bylaws.

These reflect the possibility of a Minister appointed agricultural sector member and the changes within the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.

## Board of Directors Per Diem

NVCA's Board of Directors chose to maintain Per Diem rates at \$82.03.

## Upcoming Events

### Arbor Day Tree Sale

Are you looking to purchase native trees for your property this year? NVCA is hosting its annual Arbor Day Tree Sale.

Trees are bare root stock, and are sold in bundles of 10 for \$30 per bundle.

**Date:** Saturday, May 13, 2023 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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

**Volunteer tree planting events. Space limited. Register through links below:**

[Creemore](#): Saturday, May 6, 2023 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

[Loretto](#): Saturday, May 6, 2023 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

[Hockley](#): Sunday, May 7, 2023 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

[Mansfield](#): Saturday, May 13, 2023 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

[Beeton](#): Saturday, May 13, 2023 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### **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:** 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