



NVCA November 2021 Board Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting: December 10, 2021, held virtually.

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

Presentation on NVCA's Living Snow Fence Program

Rick Grillmayer, NVCA's Manager of Forestry, gave a presentation regarding the living snow fence program.

Living snow fences are trees or other plants that are strategically planted to stop snow from blowing from fields to roadways. These fences form a barrier that slows the wind that carries the snow, in turn stopping the snow from drifting onto roads.

In many municipalities in the Nottawasaga Watershed, snow drifting on roads creates dangerous driving conditions, forcing road closures. While living snow fences are a good option solve this problem, the distance where the trees are planted must three times the height of the trees.

As road allowances in the watershed are too narrow to allow this distance, living snow fences must be planted on private land. However, the majority of private land in the watershed is used for agriculture, therefore once living snow fences are planted, farmers lose around 0.4 hectares (1 acre) of area where they can farm, as it is difficult to manipulate large farming equipment between the rows of trees.

The County of Dufferin worked with NVCA and the Grand River Conservation Authority and created an incentive program for private landowners to plant living snow fences. However, the uptake was very low.

Possible solutions are to create a performance incentive tied to the value of the land, or purchasing the land where snow fences should be planted.

2022-2026 Lake Huron Lakewide Action and Management Plan

Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the governments of Canada and the United States are committed to restore and maintain the physical, biological and chemical integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes.

Every five years, the two countries prepare and issue Lakewide Action and Management Plans (LAMP) for each of the five Great Lakes.

The Lake Huron Partnership will deliver the next Lake Huron LAMP by the end of 2021.

2021 Year End Surplus/Deficit Allocation

The NVCA Board of Directors approved that any deficit/surplus for 2021 will be allocated accordingly to the budget reserve.

Transition Plan for Submission to the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks

The *Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act)* requires conservation authorities to prepare transition plans outlining steps and timelines for the preparation of an inventory of program and services and for the development and execution of funding agreements with participating municipalities.

NVCA's transition plan sets out the process and timelines for the development and execution of memorandum of understandings/agreements between partner municipalities to fund program and services that are not deemed to be provincially mandatory services outlined in the CA Act and associated regulations. [Please refer to NVCA's website for the details of the transition plan.](#)

Updates to the Hearing Guidelines Appendix B of Procedures for Implementation of Ontario Regulation 172/06

NVCA staff work with permit applicants in an attempt to find a solution to their proposal to ensure that it is in conformity with approved policies and legislation.

However, there are occasions when a mutually agreeable solution cannot be reached, and NVCA staff may recommend refusal of the application to the Board of Directors. In these cases, applicants can request a hearing by NVCA's Board of Directors, in accordance to Section 28 of the *CA Act*.

With the passage of Bill 229, *Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act* (Budget Measures), 2020, a new section of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (Section 28.01) came into force. This section governs the appeal process for applicants granted Minister Zoning Orders.

NVCA's Board of Directors approved an update to the hearing guidelines to reflect the changes related to Minister's Zoning Orders.