



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Coun. Benotto of Shelburne elected as Conservation Authority Chair

UTOPIA, Ontario, Jan. 12, 2009 – Walter Benotto, councillor for the Town of Shelburne, was elected Chair of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors at the NVCA’s 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on Friday.

Benotto has been an NVCA board member since 2001 and has served as the Vice Chair since 2005.

“I believe very strongly in the NVCA. I believe in conservation and leaving behind a legacy for our children,” says Benotto.

Continuing to build that legacy is one of Benotto’s goals for 2009 as he hopes to see the NVCA increase the number of tree plantings and water restoration projects it undertakes. In 2008, the NVCA planted 88,300 trees and undertook more than 100 water quality improvement projects.

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority’s jurisdiction is approximately 3,700 square kilometres and includes 18 municipalities, spanning through the counties of Simcoe, Dufferin and Grey.

Benotto also plans to continue the good work his predecessors have done.

“I would like to see the NVCA continue to lead the charge with the many projects required under Source Water Protection, and to continue Past Chair Fred Nix’s work to bring forward problems with the province’s Low Water Response Plan,” says Benotto.

Some of the Chair’s highlights to date of working with the NVCA include installing Drinking Water Protection Area signs in the Town of Shelburne to raise awareness about the vulnerability of drinking water, and creating an NVCA pond policy to protect area rivers and aquatic habitat.

A new Vice Chair was also appointed to the Board of Directors. Joan Sutherland, former councillor for the Town of New Tecumseth and now a citizen appointee to the NVCA, was acclaimed to the position. Sutherland has been a member of the NVCA for almost 20 years and is actively involved with the New Tecumseth Streams Committee.

In addition to Benotto and Sutherland, the 2009 NVCA Executive Committee is made up of Past Chair Fred Nix, Town of Mono; Coun. Mary Brett, Township of Adjala-Tosorontio; Coun. Rick Archdekin, Town of Wasaga Beach; Mayor Gord Montgomery, Township of Mulmur; and Tom Elliott, citizen appointee for the Township of Springwater.

The NVCA also welcomed three new board members: Deputy Mayor Ralph Hough, Township of Oro-Medonte; Coun. Mel Coutanche, Township of Oro-Medonte; and Gerald Poisson, citizen appointee for the City of Barrie.



NVCA Chair Walter Benotto

#### Member Municipalities

Adjala-Tosorontio

Amaranth

Barrie

The Blue Mountains

Bradford-West Gwillimbury

Clearview

Collingwood

Essa

Innisfil

Melancthon

Mono

Mulmur

New Tecumseth

Oro-Medonte

Grey Highlands

Shelburne

Springwater

Wasaga Beach

#### Watershed Counties

Simcoe

Dufferin

Grey

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Member of



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NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY • Centre for Conservation

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### **About the NVCA**

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment through specialized programs to protect, conserve and enhance our water, wetlands, forests and lands.

For more information about the NVCA's Annual General Meeting, please contact Wayne Wilson, CAO/Secretary Treasurer, at (705) 424-1479, ext. 225, or [wwilson@nvca.on.ca](mailto:wwilson@nvca.on.ca).

## **Member Municipalities**

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Wasaga Beach

## **Watershed Counties**

Simcoe

Dufferin

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