



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### NVCA budget to increase by 3 per cent in 2009

UTOPIA, Ontario, Feb. 17, 2009 – The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors approved a 3 per cent levy increase over 2008 on Friday.

Of the 25 board members present, 20 voted in favour of the proposed budget, while five objected. One member was absent.

This budget increase is necessary to help offset the decline in the planning program’s user fee revenue, which is expected to be approximately \$310,000 less than in 2008 due to the current economic slowdown.

“While we do have a budget increase, it is a cost of living increase to simply maintain our services,” says NVCA Chair Walter Benotto. “When the economy improves, we hope to revisit the budget to expand our program services.”

In November, the Board approved to circulate a 6 per cent levy increase to its 18 member municipalities for consideration. After receiving feedback from 13 municipalities, the Executive Committee directed staff to prepare a budget with only a 3 per cent increase.

The reduction to 3 per cent from 6 per cent, which amounted to approximately \$52,000, was achieved by eliminating a corporate contingency fund and using a portion of the capital reserve.

“Staff are committed to working diligently with our municipal partners in implementing the approved budget to ensure that our valuable watershed resources are protected and restored,” says Wayne Wilson, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer.

The NVCA’s total budget for 2009 is just less than \$4 million. The budget supports the delivery of core services such as flood forecasting, review of development proposals to ensure their regard for the natural environment, land stewardship including tree planting, source water protection, Conservation Authority land management and environmental education.

The NVCA watershed is made of 18 municipalities and spans approximately 3,700 square kilometres.

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#### 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

#### 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 2009 budget, please contact Wayne Wilson, CAO/Secretary Treasurer, at (705) 424-1479, ext. 225, or [wwilson@nvca.on.ca](mailto:wwilson@nvca.on.ca).

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