Notes from the Land & Water Stewardship Advisory Committee
Meeting No. 3/09
Held on May 11. 2009

Members Present:
Reg Cowan, Springwater Township, Orville Brown, Clearview Township, Fred Nix Town of Mono

Regrets: Rick Milne, Town of New Tecumseth, John McKean, Town of the Blue Mountains, Gordon Montgomery, Mulmur Township, , Cal Patterson, Town of Wasaga Beach, Mary Brett, Township of Adjala Tosorontio, Ron Henderson, Essa Township, Terry Dowdall, Essa Township,
Staff: Byron Wesson, Fred Dobbs,

Called to order at 10:30
Agenda was accepted
No pecuniary interests

With only 3 members present there was no Quorum.

<u>Stewardship Services</u>

1. An overview of the current and future activities for 2009 within the Stewardship program was given. While staff are confident that all our deliverables will be met for 2009, it was noted that the available resources for staffing and other would make for a tight year. Some specific staffing challenges include not having enough levy or staff to cover time to :

   - manage the program
   - develop partnerships
   - fundraise
   - deliver basic Healthy Waters Program grants
   - coordinate small projects with local partner groups
   - provide technical support to private landowners

   It was agreed that additional resources would make this process that much more effective.

   The major focus for 2009 will be on the Source Water Protection Program. Other major program areas in 2009 include Nottawasaga Watershed Improvement Program (N-WIP), Oak Ridges Moraine Program, Ducks Unlimited Wetland Cares Program, Species at Risk Nottawasaga Sturgeon Program (potential) and South Simcoe Streams Network.

The reliance on government funded programs to assist us in providing grant dollars to our watershed residents for Best Management Practises on their land was discussed.
As with most programs funded by the federal or provincial government they all come to an end usually within 2 years of their inception. Staff are then required to start over again with the current focus of any given year. Staff expressed the importance of maintaining the NVCA's Healthy Waters program. In doing so it keeps the NVCA in focus with our landowners, avoids the difficult issues with program shut down and start up and ultimately allows us to use its past/ongoing successes to bring in new government grants.

Land Management

Staff are focusing on the enforcement of our lands for 2009 due to a perceived increase in illegal activities. A power point presentation highlighted some of the issues we are currently dealing with including ATV activity, vandalism, trespassing and encroachment. Areas that are seeing these challenges include Minesing Wetlands, Tiffin, Nottawasaga Bluffs, Osprey Wetlands, Pretty River Spillway and Petun.

To assist our enforcement efforts the OPP SAVE team has agreed to monitor our areas when in the immediate area. This program consists of 2-3 OPP Officers that travel known trails etc. and enforce the law accordingly. Staff have accompanied them to give a general understanding of the hot spots. The OPP have asked to utilize Tiffin as a starting point for their patrols. Lands enforcement staff will be in our areas more regularly for 2009 with an emphasis on weekends and evenings.

Staff noted the need for the full time **Lands Technician** position that was approved by the Full Board in 2008. This position was deferred in early spring 2008 due to the constraint put in place. The position was again put forward for consideration for 2009 and was again deferred to 2010 due to the constraint. Members present did acknowledge the need for this position and agreed that staff should pursue it again for 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.