



NVCA Board Meeting Highlights June 23, 2017

Next Board Meeting: August, 25 2017
at Tiffin Centre for Conservation, 8195 8th Line, Utopia

For the full meeting agenda including documents and reports, visit nvca.on.ca/about/boardofdirectors

Updated Provincial Plans

The board of directors received information on how the Province's recently updated provincial plans—the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Niagara Escarpment Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Plan—may affect the authority.

The updated plans place greater emphasis on watershed planning and climate change. There are calls for establishing Greenbelt-level protections for natural heritage systems (e.g. wetlands, woodlands, rivers, etc.) beyond the Greenbelt, changing the way excess soil is managed, and increasing intensification targets. These changes and others have implications for the authority and watershed municipalities, which NVCA staff will be reviewing over the next few months.

New Partnership focuses on Improving Fish Habitat

The board agreed to enter into a partnership agreement with Bruce Power for a new fish habitat improvement program.

Under the agreement, Bruce Power will provide \$14,000 in funding to NVCA to support the Petun Dam removal project in the Town of the Blue Mountains. Bruce Power has earmarked an additional \$20,000 for pre-project fish community monitoring in Black Ash Creek that would support both the Petun Dam removal and Black Ash Creek urban trout stream projects in the Town of Collingwood.

Work on these projects will begin later this year.

219 Permits & Approvals issued Dec 2016 to June 2017

The board received a report on permits and approvals issued by NVCA staff under the *Conservation Authorities Act* for the period December 2, 2016 to June 7, 2017. During this period, the authority issued 219 permits and approvals, and 68 clearance letters. All were issued within the time frames set by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Tree Planting Program

Rick Grillmayer, Manager of Forestry for NVCA, presented the board with an update on the authority's forestry program.

The authority's forestry program began in 1964. This year, the program saw 217,260 trees planted on 32 properties in nine municipalities between April 19 and May 29. During this time, forestry staff also held the 27th annual Arbour Day Tree sale, with locations in Utopia, Wasaga Beach and Elmvale.

In addition to planting trees and monitoring their success, the forestry program is developing an Emerald Ash Borer management plan for NVCA's properties and working with Dufferin County on a living snow fence program, among other projects.

Funding for the forestry program is provided by the landowners receiving services, along with Forests Ontario, the Town of New Tecumseth, landowners, the County of Simcoe forestry and other agencies.

In brief

During the meeting the board also:

- learned that NVCA received funding under the National Mitigation Disaster Relief Program (NDMP) for Wasaga Beach Floodplain Mapping.
- approved a new banking and investment policy, allowing NVCA to consider other options for investing reserves at potentially higher rates of return.
- agreed to make a request to members of Conservation Ontario for financial assistance in covering costs related to a legal matter.
- received an update from Fred Dobbs, Manager of Stewardship Services for NVCA, summarizing this year's volunteer tree planting initiatives under the Healthy Waters Program. Despite the wet weather, this spring's program continued work to reforest targeted streamside and wetland zones in our watershed. While exact numbers are being tallied, hundreds of community volunteers took part in the program, which saw thousands of trees and shrubs planted.

Future Meetings and Events

NVCA Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, Aug. 25, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Tiffin Centre for Conservation
8195 8th Line, Utopia

Board members are invited to attend a board-staff BBQ following the August Board meeting.

Festival at Fort Willow

Saturday, Sept. 30, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Fort Willow Conservation Area, Grenfel

For more information on these events, please visit the [NVCA website](#).