



NVCA October 2021 Board Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting: November 26, 2021, held virtually.

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

Property Lease Renewals

NVCA renewed leases with the Friends of Utopia Gristmill and Park and Procyon Wildlife Rehabilitation.

The west portion of the Utopia Conservation Area is leased to the Friends of Utopia Gristmill and Park. The Friends are currently fundraising to support the implementation of the Utopia Conservation Area Master Plan, which includes the restoration of the historic gristmill. Since 2007, \$200,000 has been raised and invested into the restoration of the grist mill.

In early 2009, 73 acres of land within Town of New Tecumseth close was donated to NVCA. The land contains approximately 45 acres of agricultural land, wetlands, a short stretch of the Beeton Creek and a small seasonal cottage.

Since late 2009, the cottage and 15 acres of land has been leased to the Procyon Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. This lease has been renewed at \$335.92 plus HST per month with a 3% annual rent increase.

Appointment of Officers under the Conservation Authorities Act

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) recommends that "officers" be appointed in order to enforce the provisions and regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

In 2012, NVCA's Board of Directors has approved that following staff positions be delegated the authority to approve permissions consistent with Board approved policies and guidelines, for a maximum period of 24 months (2 years), under Ontario Regulation 172/06:

- CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

- Director, Watershed Management Services
- Manager, Planning Services
- Supervisor, Planning Services
- Senior Regulations Technician
- Regulations Technician
- Planner III
- Planning Ecologist

As NVCA's new Manager, Planning, Ben Krul has been appointed as an officer for NVCA

Revision of Permit and Planning fees

NVCA staff developed a draft fee schedule addressing cost of living along with identified gaps. Key gaps include multiple resubmissions on large scale developments and pre-consultations. In developing the draft fees, NVCA staff considered other Conservation Authorities fee approach.

The draft fees were circulated to the development community in May 2021 and based on received comments, the proposed fees were updated. The attached tables outline the proposed changes to the 2016 fees and include:

- An aggregate 2020/2021 cost of living change to current fees.
- A design resubmission surcharge for site plans, subdivisions related to 3rd submission and subsequent submissions.
- Redline revision fees for site plans and subdivisions that include minor and major categories.
- Updated pre-consultation fees.

- Enhancement of the notes and glossary section to assist in providing clarity on fee implementation.

NVCA Board of Directors approved staff to circulate the draft fees to municipalities, agricultural comment and development industry representatives. Staff would then address any comments provided through the circulation process as appropriate, and present the final draft to the Board for approval.

Phase One of regulatory amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*

On November 5, 2020 the province introduced Bill 229 the *Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act*. Schedule 6 of this bill proposed significant amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

While some amendments came into effect immediately, others were proclaimed on February 2, 2021. On October 1, 2021 the MECP proclaimed additional regulatory amendments for phase one and announced that additional amendments including phase two regulatory amendments will be proclaimed later in 2021.

Transition Plan

The Transition Plan and Agreements Regulation (O.Reg.687/21) is part of Phase One of the regulatory amendments. Key elements that will need to be addressed include:

1. Transition Plan. To be completed by December 31, 2021.
2. Inventory of Programs and Services. To be completed by February 28, 2022.
3. Consultation on Inventory and Cost Apportioning Agreements/Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)
4. Conservation authorities are to submit six quarterly progress reports to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Mandatory programs and services

Mandatory Programs and Services Regulation (O.Reg. 686/21) will come into force January 1, 2022.

Mandatory Programs conducted by conservation authorities include:

- Natural Hazards,
- Conservation Lands,
- Source Protection,
- Lake Simcoe,
- Other Legislation – NBMCA and Ontario *Building Code Act*
- Prescribed in Regulation – Core Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy, Provincial Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring

These programs are eligible for general municipal levy.

There are six deliverables associated with the mandatory programs and services that have been provided a due date of December 31, 2024 to enable more time, where necessary, to complete them, including:

- Ice management plans(s),
- Natural hazard infrastructure operational management plan(s),
- Natural hazard infrastructure asset management plan(s),
- A conservation area strategy,
- A conservation land inventory, and,
- A watershed-based resource management strategy.

All other mandatory programs and services are expected to be in place by January 1, 2024.

Conservation Authorities will still have the ability to deliver non-mandatory programs and services to respond to local priorities either under agreement with municipalities who are willing to pay for that program or service, or if they are able to secure other funding (e.g. provincial grants or self-generated revenue).