



Technical Guide Introduction

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) is mandated through the *Conservation Authority Act*. Further direction is provided through the *Planning Act*, Provincial Policy Statement and the *Conservation Ontario, Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Memorandum of Understanding on Procedures to Address Conservation Authority Delegated Responsibility*. This delegated responsibility involves enhancing, protecting and managing the watershed through the endorsement of sustainable development practices. As development pressures increase throughout the watershed, the Authority's management role will become even more important.

The Authority's role in the watershed management process was documented in "Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Draft Strategic Plan – 2013-2017" which was developed in co-operation with watershed municipalities, residents, the agricultural and development industry, government and non-government organizations and special interest groups to provide direction for resource management in the Nottawasaga Valley Watershed.

The NVCA Strategic Plan outlines our mission of working together to lead, promote, support and inspire innovative watershed management. In order to achieve this mission, as an organization we are committed to:

- protecting watershed communities from natural hazards;
- promoting and protecting the value of the watershed and its resources;
- working effectively with our municipal partners to deliver superb customer service;
- partnering with the agricultural community to advance stewardship;
- collaborating with the development industry to advance low impact development;
- working with members of the environmental community to advance environmental sustainability;
- developing watershed science, information and knowledge.

To achieve these goals, the NVCA has initiated a number of proactive programs related to the identification and protection of our natural heritage features. In addition, the Authority has regulatory capacity relating to development, interference with wetlands and alterations to shorelines and watercourses. The Authority also acts as a commenting agency to our member municipalities with respect to environmental impact assessments and stormwater management approvals.

The “**Development Review Technical Guides**” are being developed to provide a fair, reasonable and uniform basis for development approval decisions within the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority jurisdiction. These guides will be created as living documents, with additional chapters to follow. The technical guides will address considerations including:

- natural hazards;
- stormwater management;
- stormwater plantings.

These guides are based on the most current versions and associated amendments of the following documents:

- *Conservation Authorities Act R.S.O. 1990 (CAA)*;
- Provincial Policy Statement (2005) – issued under Section 3 of the *Planning Act*;
- Nottawasaga Valley Watershed Management Plan (1995); and Watershed Plan Strategic Review (2006);
- Natural Channel Systems: Adaptive Management of Stream Corridors in Ontario, including Natural Hazards Technical Guides for River and Stream Systems: Flooding Hazard Limit, Erosion Hazard Limit and Hazardous Sites Technical Guides (MNR 2002);
- Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River System and Large Inland Lakes Technical Guides for Flooding, Erosion and Dynamic Beaches in support of Natural Hazards Policies 3.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement (MNR 2002).
- Stormwater Management Planning and Design Manual (MOE, 2003);
- Fish Habitat Protection Guidelines for Developing Areas (MNR, 1994).

As well, references to additional documents prepared by other conservation authorities in the Greater Toronto Area are made throughout the document and may be accessed from the appropriate organization.

Development requires a holistic approach to resource management including both upstream and downstream considerations for all development, as emphasized within the NVCA Strategic Plan. The guides present policies specific to the NVCA, summarize typical application information required for

NVCA technical review, and outline standard parameters to be applied throughout the watershed.

The technical guides present procedures, computation methods and input parameters that are commonly accepted by NVCA staff and accepted as industry standard; however, it is still the designer's/applicant's responsibility to recommend and justify the most appropriate methods. If the designer determines that alternative procedures, computation methods or parameters are required to best describe the development site, an explanation of the rationale must be provided to assist the NVCA in their review.

The NVCA strongly recommends that pre-consultation be undertaken with every development application proposed within our watershed. This is recommended to identify any site-specific concerns, existing site-specific studies, digital information the NVCA may be able to provide or additional study requirements from those listed in the other sections of this report.