



## Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

# HIGHLIGHTS

of the NVCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - No. 09/13 – Nov.29, 2013

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### ***2014 DRAFT BUDGET APPROVED FOR CIRCULATION/INPUT***

The NVCA Board of Directors approved a total budget of \$4,525,040 for 2014, including a 3.25% levy increase based on a 1.92% population growth rate and 1.33% inflation. Consistent with the recently approved NVCA Strategic Plan, the budget focuses on maintaining the current level of services. The draft budget will now be circulated to all 18 NVCA Municipalities for input. The budget vote is scheduled to be held on January 10, 2014. The complete budget and the staff presentation are posted online at [nvca.on.ca](http://nvca.on.ca).

### ***EFFICIENCY AUDIT GETS UNDERWAY***

The NVCA's Efficiency Audit Committee crafted a Terms of Reference document, which was approved by the Board at the November 29 meeting. A draft Request for Proposals for the third-party efficiency audit was reviewed, and the final version will be presented at the December Board meeting.

### ***WEDDING RATES AT TIFFIN CENTRE GO UP***

The Tiffin Centre Conservation Area has become a sought-after venue for events, particularly weddings, with the May-October "wedding season" regularly booking a year in advance. An assessment of prices at similar venues, as well as increased value for price due to improvements at the Tiffin Centre, indicated that a rate increase should be made. Revised prices for all wedding packages will be effective January 1, 2014, and the new rates will be posted on [nvca.on.ca](http://nvca.on.ca) by mid-December.

### ***FORESTRY PROGRAM TO APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL STAFF SUPPORT***

The NVCA will pursue funding that would allow the creation of an 8-month Forest Technician contract position for 2014. Staff will apply to a new Trees Ontario's funding program that would provide 50% cost-sharing for contract positions involving forestry graduates. The NVCA forecasts planting in excess of 165,000 trees in 2014. Currently the Forestry program has reached its maximum capacity for program delivery with a single staff person.

### ***NEW PLANNING FEE SCHEDULE FINALIZED***

Following a 21-day period of public input, the draft Planning Fee Policy and the revised Fee Schedule were finalized and approved for implementation effective December 1, 2013. The revised policy will see several reductions in user fees due to the creation of a sliding scale for larger residential subdivisions, a per-hectare charge for apartment/high-rise units within subdivision developments and expanding the exemption and minor permit categories. Review fees have also been adjusted/increased to reflect cost-of-living changes since the last fee update in 2011.

Additionally, the permit category has been expanded to reflect the varied complexity of permit applications, including adding a major-complex category.

***NVCA CONTINUES TO MAKE FACILITIES ACCESSIBLE***

As part of an ongoing commitment to the improvement of accessible services, facilities and information, the NVCA's Accessibility Plan was presented and approved. The plan describes measures the NVCA will take to remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who use the facilities and services of the NVCA, including employees and members of the public. This first iteration of the plan focuses on the NVCA's most widely used property, the Tiffin Conservation Area and Administration office. The draft budget for 2014 includes capital expenditures for automatic doors for the Administration office and Environmental Education Centre to increase accessibility at the Tiffin Conservation Area.

For the full agenda including documents and reports, please visit our website:

<http://nvca.on.ca/meetings/BoardofDirectors/Agendas/>

**Future meetings and events:**

Board Meeting 10/13 – December 13, 2013

**For more information, please contact:**

Wayne Wilson, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer  
(705) 424-1479 ext. 225

[wwilson@nvca.on.ca](mailto:wwilson@nvca.on.ca)