



## Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

# HIGHLIGHTS

of the NVCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - No. 07/12 – Jul. 27, 2012

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### ***NVCA RECEIVES \$100,000 IN STEWARDSHIP FUNDING FROM U.S. "SUSTAIN OUR GREAT LAKES" PROGRAM***

NVCA staff submitted a proposal for funding to the U.S. Sustain Our Great Lakes program, highlighting 16 stewardship projects throughout the Nottawasaga Valley watershed. The proposal was accepted and \$100,000 in funding has been pledged for projects completed between January 1, 2012 and May 30, 2014. The NVCA is one of only two Conservation Authorities in Ontario to date to receive this grant. The grant recognizes the significant role the Nottawasaga River watershed plays in the protection of Lake Huron's fisheries and wildlife.

The Sustain Our Great Lakes program is a public-private partnership among the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and US steel and mining company ArcelorMittal.

More details are included in a separate press release, available on the NVCA website at [www.nvca.on.ca](http://www.nvca.on.ca).

### ***GRANT RECEIVED FROM CANADIAN LAND TRUST ALLIANCE***

The NVCA received a \$4,000 grant from the Canadian Land Trust Alliance (CLTA), to assist with costs related to the acquisition of 114 acres in the municipality of Springwater. The lands were donated by the Dunsmore family in 2011.

The mission of the CLTA is to promote private land conservation and to strengthen the land trust movement nationally. In January of 2012, the CLTA announced an "Opportunities Fund" to assist organizations by offsetting the securement costs for lands of significant ecological value. Eligible costs include appraisals, baseline data reports and legal fees.

### ***DROUGHT PERSISTS IN NVCA WATERSHED – CONSERVING WATER AND MONITORING CONDITIONS ARE PRIORITY***

The entire NVCA watershed has been in a Low Water Level I drought condition since the first week of July. This means that precipitation has been less than 80% of three-month average, and streamflow less than 70% of the lowest average summer month flow. When this occurs, the NVCA convenes a Low Water Response Team, and communicates the situation to the public via the media and municipalities, recommending 10% voluntarily cutbacks to water users. NVCA staff have also been working with a collective of the major business and agricultural irrigators, who

voluntarily coordinate water use to minimize the impact on the environment and fellow water users.

The NVCA Board of Directors approved a staff recommendation to continue to actively support the local Low Water Response Team by encouraging water conservation initiatives, water conservation communications, and ongoing low water condition monitoring and updates. Additionally, NVCA staff are to monitor the effectiveness of the 2012 Low Water Response Program and prepare a recommendations report summarizing the effectiveness of the 2012 Low Water Response Program in the NVCA watershed, to be presented to the Board for direction in September.

### ***BLUE MOUNTAIN WATERSHED TRUST FOUNDATION PRESENTS THEIR "VISION OF THE FUTURE" TO NVCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

The Board received a presentation from the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation (BMWTF) regarding their vision for protecting the Silver Creek Wetland Complex – a Provincially Significant Coastal Wetland complex consisting of four individual wetlands along the Nottawasaga Bay shoreline in the municipalities of The Town of the Blue Mountains and Collingwood. The large wetland is one of the few remaining coastal wetlands in Lake Huron, and provides a critical habitat for a diverse variety of birds, fish and plant species. THE BMWTF is currently presenting to municipal governments, conservation authorities and environmental interest groups to seek support for their efforts to ensure these wetlands come under conservationist ownership in order to ensure the long term protection and restoration of these critical wetlands. The BMWTF will propose further recommendations to the BOD following input from other groups.

### ***NVCA VEHICLE USE POLICY REVISED***

The Board approved the revised Vehicle Use & Personal Vehicle Use Policy & Procedure to include reference to a newly created NVCA Safe Driver's Handbook, and to reflect the new Board governance structure.

### ***NVCA ELECTROFISHING POLICY & PROCEDURE APPROVED***

Electrofishing is a common scientific survey method – whereby under approved and controlled conditions, electrical current is used to temporarily stun fish – used to non-lethally sample fish populations to determine abundance, density, and species composition. When performed correctly, electrofishing results in no permanent harm to fish, which return to their natural state in as little as two minutes after being stunned.

The Board of Directors approved the NVCA Electrofishing Policy & Procedure, to ensure NVCA staff carries out electro fishing in a safe and authorized manor, including a description of the required training and responsibilities.

### ***6-MONTH BUDGET REVIEWED***

The six-month budget report indicated that the NVCA is tracking very well relative to the 2012 approved budget. Overall at the end of June, 48.71% of budgeted expenses had been made, and 49.77% of budgeted revenues had been received.

### ***NVCA TO UNDERTAKE STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW***

The Board of Directors approved staff's recommendation to implement the development of a NVCA Strategic Plan to provide strategic direction for the NVCA. The plan will complement the NVCA's Business Plan and Watershed Plan already in use. Staff will prepare an RFP to hire a consultant to assist in the development process, and to facilitate stakeholder input sessions.

#### **Future meetings and events:**

Board Meeting 8/12 – Aug., 2012

Festival at Fort Willow – Sept. 15, 2012

#### **For more information, contact:**

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