



Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



Conservation Lands Management

Education & Communications

Engineering

Flood & Erosion Hazard Management

Forestry

Geographic Information System

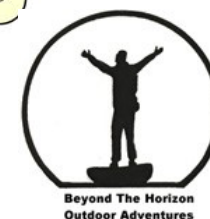
Healthy Waters

Permits & Compliance

Planning

Source Water Protection

Watershed Monitoring



Member of:



**Conservation
ONTARIO**
Natural Champions

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Centre for Conservation
John Hix Conservation Administration Centre
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Annual Report 2005



Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Member Municipalities and Members 2005

TOWNSHIP OF ADJALA-TOSORONTIO Mary Brett	TOWNSHIP OF CLEARVIEW Orville Brown Robert Walker Ian Lang* (past member)	TOWN OF MONO Fred Nix* Ken McGhee (acted in absence)	TOWN OF SHELBURNE Walter Benotto* Vice-Chair
TOWNSHIP OF AMARANTH Bob Currie Jennifer Lavoie (past member)	TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD Chris Carrier*, Chair Kathy Jeffery	TOWNSHIP OF MULMUR Gordon Montgomery	TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWATER Tom Elliott* Ross Money Tony Guergis (past member)
CITY OF BARRIE Michael Prowse Barry Ward*	TOWNSHIP OF ESSA Ron Henderson Terry Dowdall	TOWN OF NEW TECUMSETH Bob Marrs* Joan Sutherland	TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH Mike McWilliams George Sheffer*
THE TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS Wayman Fairweather	TOWN OF INNISFIL Lynn Dollin	TOWNSHIP OF ORO-MEDONTE Ruth Fountain Ralph Hough	
TOWN OF BRADFORD WEST GWILLIM-BURY Ron Simpson	TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON Garry Matthews	MUNICIPALITY OF GREY HIGHLANDS Brian Mullin	

*Executive Committee Members

Full Authority



From left to right:
Front Row -Ron Simpson, Barry Ward, Ian Lang, Chris Carrier, Walter Benotto, George Sheffer, Tom Elliott, Bob Marrs
Middle Row: Jennifer Lavoie, Joan Sutherland, Kathy Jeffery*, Lynn Dollin, Ken McGhee, Fred Nix, Ruth Fountain, Tony Guergis
Back Row: Garry Matthews, Wayman Fairweather, Mike McWilliam, Ralph Hough, Orville Brown, Mary Brett

Our Mission

Working together to value, protect, enhance and restore our watershed resources for a healthy, sustainable future



Our Vision

Conserving our healthy waters

“The NVCA is your public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment. As your partner, the NVCA provides the expertise to help protect our water, our land, our future.”

The NVCA Team



Planning Services

Application Statistics						
Application	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2005
OP & Amendments	32	38	16	19	20	25
ZBL & Amendments	118	155	152	121	96	104
Plans of Subdivision	11	20	5	4	12	17
Consents	230	264	210	110	167	152
Minor Variances	90	118	42	40	34	45
Site Plans	21	15	10	17	56	59
NEC Permit Review	87	72	65	62	76	84
CA Permit Issuance	205	210	230	253	290	275
EA Undertakings	4	8	10	11	9	10
Notices of Violation	14	23	12	41	39	20
Legal/General Inquiries	156	169	163	160	162	168
TOTAL	968	1092	915	838	961	959



Ponds Policy

In keeping with NVCA policy, the **Ponds Policy** is reviewed on an on-going basis to evaluate its effectiveness, and is amended accordingly to reflect changing legislation, regulations, and policies at the federal, provincial, and municipal level. Amendments to this *Policy* may also occur as a result of changing programs and procedures at the NVCA. Significant changes will only occur through the normal policy formulation process, which includes ultimate approval from the Planning Advisory Committee, the Executive Committee and the Full NVCA Membership.

In May, 2005, the Full Authority approved a revised *Ponds Policy*. The policy provides the pros and cons of pond construction and maintenance and a framework that will manage pond development and redevelopment on an ecosystem (watershed) basis. It also clearly describes when and where permits are required for pond construction or maintenance.

Natural ponds can provide important habitat for aquatic life and wildlife such as fish improvement due to increasing stream temperatures and changes to stream sediment movement; while artificial ponds can provide water for agriculture-related uses including livestock and irrigation. Ponds are also created to manage storm water as a result of urbanization and development. Despite their type and function, ponds can have both a positive and negative impact on our environment and ecosystem.

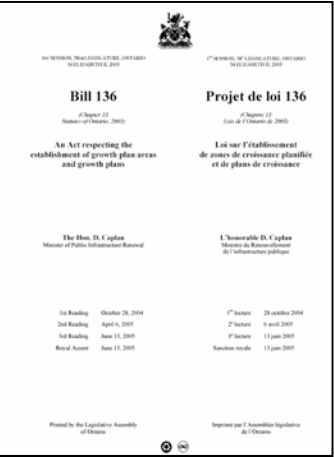


“Wise” Land Use Planning Provincial Initiatives

The **Provincial Policy Statement** which came into effect on 1 March 2005, is now a much stronger planning tool. All planning agencies “*shall be consistent with*” this Policy Statement. It directs development to existing settlement areas and promotes intensification and redevelopment, which in turn protects our rural natural heritage systems and water resources. There is also a new section “*WATER*” which requires that all planning agencies protect and improving water quality and quantity.

The **Places to Grow Act** which received royal assent on June 13, 2005, provides a legislative framework for the coordination and integration of long-term planning and growth recognizing the need for adequate roads, sewers and water etc. This Act promotes a healthy environment and a co-ordinated approach to growth related issues that cross municipal boundaries.

The legislation requires that a growth plan be created for our area (Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe) and that local plans would have to conform to the provincial plan. This process will require that development be located in complete communities and in settlements areas, further promoting intensification. All local municipal planning documents will have to be adjusted to conform to the Places to Grow Act and resulting Growth Plans and be consistent with the *Provincial Policy Statement*. As this official plan “conformity” process is completed over the next several years, NVCA and municipal planners will have two very strong documents to assist them in ensuring the protection our natural environment.



There’s a Chinese Proverb that states: “*When drinking water, remember its source.*” The importance of this statement was demonstrated over and over again during my tenure as Chair of the Authority for the past 3 years, and as a member of the Board of Directors since 1998. The things we do every day have an accumulative effect on our environment, and we must all take the time to listen and become better educated on how to become better environmental stewards.



Although we are making a positive impact with limited resources, it is important that we continue to lobby for provincial funding to allow us to better serve our municipalities and the public. We need to remind the Province of its responsibilities to fully fund new Source Water Protection initiatives and to become better funding partners with Conservation Authorities as we work to meet our goals of enhancing, protecting and preserving Ontario's Natural Heritage Features.

It has been a privilege serving with dedicated municipal politicians, a supportive Executive Committee, and the dedicated staff of the Authority who continually provide their knowledge and expertise in the interest of conservation.

From the CAO/Secretary/Treasurer

2005 was another busy and productive year at the NVCA. We exceeded many of our business targets, including:

- planting an additional 10,530 trees for a total of 96,000 tree seedlings on 162 acres across the watershed;
- supporting an additional 16 healthy waters projects resulting in improved water quality and fisheries habitat;
- increasing our stream health monitoring efforts by establishing 15 additional biological monitoring stations and 5 temperature stations, which will allow the NVCA to Publish our first comprehensive Watershed Health results in late 2006 or early 2007;
- developing enhanced Hazard Area mapping for the entire watershed to support the May 2006 Generic Regulations implementation, which included holding several public open houses;
- completing the first phase of the Source Water Protection Provincial initiative on time, and on budget.



The Assimilation Capacity Study (ACS) initiated in 2004, was undertaken in partnership with Lake Simcoe Region CA, local municipalities and the province. The study, which is phase one of the four phases of the Inter-Governmental Action Plan (IGAP), provides water quality science to support, sustainable growth in two major watersheds - the Nottawasaga River and Lake Simcoe. The ACS has been successfully completed and the results will be released when all IGAP phases have been completed.

The IGAP program may be one of the most important initiatives to impact our municipalities for many years. IGAP, involving the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MOE, MNR and Simcoe area municipalities, will address concerns about environmental protection, population growth, servicing and transportation, to help municipalities plan for future growth.

These are exciting times for Conservation Authorities, and I am extremely proud of the team of staff and board members at the NVCA who are committed to delivering effective programs to meet our vision of Conserving our Healthy Waters.

Remembering Ian Lang

Staff and Board Member were saddened by the untimely passing of Ian Lang, member of the Executive Committee and Full Authority in August.

Mr. Lang joined the Board of the NVCA in January 2001 representing the Township of Clearview, and became a member of the Executive Committee in January 2004.

His commitment to the environment was evident in his work with the NVCA, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust. During his 4½ years with the NVCA, he was also an active member of the Communications Advisory Committee and the Engineering & Technical Services Advisory Committee.



Earth Day

As part of National Earth Day, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), celebrated *Every Day is Earth Day*, on Friday, April 22 at the Tiffin Conservation Area, Utopia. The Authority also celebrated their 45th Anniversary and the Official Opening of the new Outdoor Classroom.

The outdoor classroom was sponsored by the Barrie-Kempfenfelt Rotary Club. Chair Carrier introduced Mac Anderson, President of the Barrie-Kempfenfelt Rotary Club acknowledging the Authority's strong community partnership with the Club, who showed their strong support and interest in the environment by contributing financially and assisting in the hands-on building of the outdoor classroom.



From left: Erin Cooney, NVCA Co-op Student, Wayne R. Wilson, CAO/Sec-Treasurer, NVCA, George Sardelis, Exec. Ass't. to Helena Guergis, MP, Joe Tascona, MPP, Diane Lessels, Past-Chair, NVCA, Mac Anderson, President of the Barrie-Kempfenfelt Rotary Club, Chris Carrier, Chair, NVCA and Katrina Sutherland, student.

Members & Guests Bus Tour

Once again this year, the Authority was pleased to conduct a bus tour for NVCA members and guests concentrating on sites in the County of Dufferin. The tour visited sites in the Townships of Mulmur, Melancthon, Amaranth, and the Towns of Shelburne and Mono. En route staff and members gave updates on Natural Heritage, watershed growth, dam sites, forest plantations, livestock fencing sites, land use proposals, and much more.



Forestry Program

2005 was the 41st consecutive planting season for the NVCA. Nearly 96,000 tree seedlings were planted on 162 acres in our watershed. We acquired and built specialized equipment designed to safely apply herbicides required to prepare sites for tree planting, and to care for the trees post planting. This equipment gave us the ability to prepare riparian sites safely, and enabled us to complete many projects in-house, generating revenue and reducing out-sourcing costs. The following table outlines the tree planting programs per municipality:

Municipality	# of Sites	# Trees Planted	Acres planted	Landowner Contribution	Program * Grants
Adjala-Tosorontio	3	13,400	19.5	\$6,890.00	\$8,700.00
Clearview	2	7,000	10.5	\$3,100.00	\$5,000.00
Essa	4	14,200	25.0	\$6,600.00	\$10,050.00
Mulmur	4	10500	15.0	\$4,800.00	\$7,200.00
Mono	1	3,100	4.6	\$800.00	\$3,000.00
New Tecumseth	5	35780	71.0	\$35,000.00	\$9,900.00
Oro-Medonte	1	7,900	12.0	\$2,600.00	\$7,000.00
Town of Shelburne	1	2,750	3.5	\$0.00	\$4,200.00
Springwater	1	900	1.0	\$0.00	\$1,300.00
Total	22	95,530	162.1	\$59,790.00	\$56,350.00
* Grants from the HWP, Forest 20/20, COA, Town of New Tecumseth, and the Essa Salmon Derby.					

Seed Collection

In 2005 we launched our own seed collection. We collected red oak from seed zones 33 and 34, as well as northern hackberry from the Minesing Wetland. The seed was sent to Somerville Seedlings, who will be growing the trees specifically for the NVCA Forestry Program. These seeds will be the best genetic match possible for

our watershed. The Northern hackberry was collected as a trial to see if the species can be collected, propagated, and planted as a replacement for green and black ash which are at risk due to the pending arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer.

Tiffin Conservation Area Management Plan

Was completed in 2005. The plan summarize the current state of the Tiffin Conservation Area while providing a framework for management in the future.

Outdoor classroom, Tiffin Conservation Area

We were very excited to enter into a partnership with the Rotary Club of Barrie to build an outdoor classroom at the Tiffin Conservation Area. The building will provide children the opportunity to learn outside, yet be protected during inclement weather. The building was officially opened at the NVCA Earth Day open house in April.

Lands Program Brochures

The guide to Minesing Swamp and the Nottawasaga River Canoe Route map brochures were completed. We are very pleased that the cost of the brochures was sponsored by some of our corporate partners.

The CA Lands Enforcement program was initiated in early 2005 with uniformed staff making appearances on all of our lands to educate and ensure Section 29 of the CA Act is being followed.

Healthy Waters Program

We visited 61 landowners, received 41 applications and completed 36 projects for this Grant Incentive Program in 2005. In addition, through the Ministry of Natural Resources Canada-Ontario Agreement fund, we completed two priority livestock exclusion projects which will considerably improve water quality within the Nottawasaga River watershed. Funds for this program support best management projects that contribute to water quality improvements. The following table summarizes the project funding by partner municipality:

Municipality	Total projects	Landowner Contribution	Other Funds (ORM and COA)	HWP Grant	Total
Adjala-Tosorontio	4	\$ 3049.10	\$ 2,302.21	\$ 4,705.09	\$ 10,912.40
Clearview	9	\$ 29,189.61		\$ 11,381.58	\$ 40,571.19
Essa	6	\$ 2,389.01		\$ 4,542.26	\$ 5,968.76
Grey	2	\$ 1,987.79		\$ 3,653.36	\$ 5,641.15
Melancthon	2	\$ 37.50	\$ 2,437.50	\$ 112.50	\$ 2,587.50
Mono	1	\$ 173.00		\$ 517.00	\$ 690.00
Mulmur	2	\$ 1,966.70		\$ 3,757.95	\$ 4,829.02
New Tecumseth	2	\$ 3,127.81		\$ 4,097.80	\$ 7,225.61
Oro-Medonte	1	\$ 605.00		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,605.00
Springwater	7	\$ 1,490.84	\$ 8,480.00	\$ 2,298.62	\$ 12,269.46
TOTAL	36	\$44,016.36	\$13,219.71	\$36,066.16	\$92,300.09

Community River Restoration

The Community Rivers Restoration (CRR) program continued to address water quality impairments through strategic community-based projects. Highlights include a partnership with Nottawasaga Futures and the New Tecumseth Streams Committee, which received funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for stream restoration and monitoring in the municipality of New Tecumseth. Some municipal initiatives included:

New Tecumseth

- In partnership with New Tecumseth Streams, 350 native trees were planted with help from the community on May 7, 2005.
- The staff at F&P Manufacturing, Tottenham, planted 100 native trees along their section of the East Beeton Creek.

Springwater

- In partnership with Wasaga Beach Fish and Game Club and Elmvale District High School, 250 native trees were planted, 8 bird boxes were installed and 75 trees were wrapped to protect from beavers.

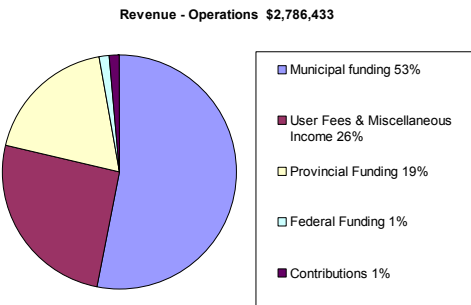
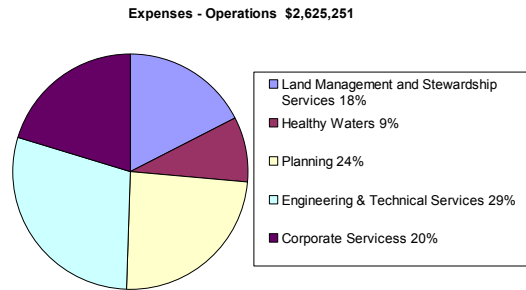
Melancthon

- Volunteers from Trout Unlimited, Headwaters Fly Fishing Club and Nottawasaga Steelheaders planted 700 native trees and installed tree revetments and Beaver Bafflers.



Over 500 metres of stream at this site were fenced to restrict cattle from having access to this section of Willow creek

2005 Financial Summary Budget



2005 Audit

The *Conservation Authorities Act* requires the Authority to have its accounts and transactions audited annually by a person licensed under the *Public Accountancy Act*.

In discharging this duty, the Auditors are given full access to all NVCA records. They also meet periodically with staff to discuss matters arising from the audit or from new policies and procedures.

In May 2006, Mike Laycock, Auditor, B.D.O Dunwoody, reviewed the 2005 Financial Statements with the Full Board. Mr. Laycock provided a positive overview of the 2005 year, giving an unqualified audit report.

Policy Administration

Job Evaluation System

In April the Full Authority approved a new Job Evaluation System policy and procedure outlining the purpose of a Job Evaluation System and the guiding principles of the NVCA in ensuring an equitable system.

Salary Administration—Personal Development Plan/Performance Review

This policy was approved by the Full Authority in June. It outlines the NVCA's philosophy in its commitment to applying a compensation system that is internally equitable, externally competitive and financially feasible. The policy included guidelines for supervisors and staff in implementing the new pay for performance model.

Purchasing & Purchase Orders

To expedite purchases efficiently, a revised purchasing and purchase order policy was approved by the Full Authority in June. The most significant changes included purchases over \$25,000 and purchases greater than \$2,500 that are not in

the current budget require the approval of the Executive Committee. Further purchase order changes were made streamlining the process and a generic tender form was developed.

Outdoor Education

It was another busy year for the program delivered by Fred Tustin, Director of Operations, Beyond the Horizon Outdoor Adventures. Over 5000 children participated at the John L. Jose Education Centre, at the Tiffin Conservation Area. The curriculum was enhanced with the inclusion of education aimed at children working on a non-traditional, home school plan. The program introduced a new winter recreation activity- Kicksleds! These Scandinavian designed modes of transportation were a great success with students and adults!



Spring Thaw

By March 2006 the Nottawasaga Valley Watershed had above average snow on the ground. Warm temperatures combined with spring rains resulted in significant runoff and flooding in the Nottawasaga River and its tributaries. Staff provided technical expertise for flood forecasting and warning to area residents particularly affected structures within the Town of Angus. The Pine River caused minor flooding in the Angus Plaza but no serious damages were reported.

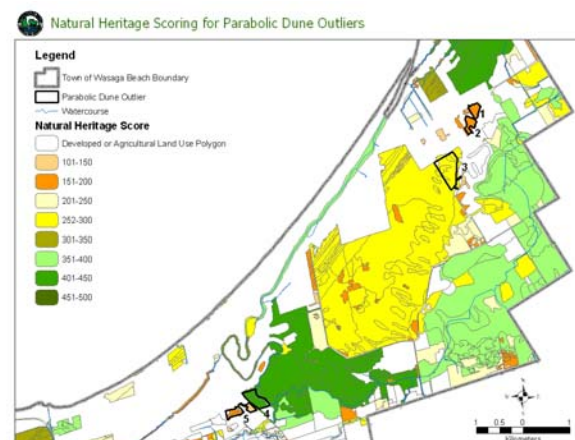


Natural Heritage Reports—Town of Wasaga Beach

NVCA staff worked closely with the Town of Wasaga Beach to develop a series of natural heritage reports focused on protecting key natural heritage features within the Town. These reports assessed the significance of natural heritage features such as forests and wetlands and included specific studies of:

- the Wasaga Beach shoreline;
- parabolic dunes outside of the provincial park boundaries;
- eastern hog-nosed snake (a threatened species);
- lands south of Jack's Lake.

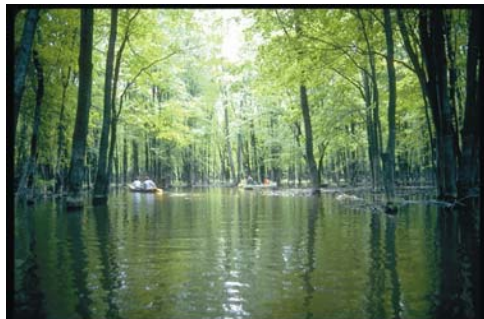
NVCA staff continue to work closely with the Town, using these reports to update natural heritage maps and policies within the Town Official Plan.



Watershed Wetlands

Wetlands were identified throughout the watershed in support of the Generic Regulation. This identification exercise built on past wetland evaluation efforts by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the NVCA, and will help protect these important watershed features in the future. Wetlands provide several important watershed functions, including:

- acting as filters, taking up pollutants and ensuring that our streams remain healthy;
- natural storage areas, protecting downstream residents from flooding; and,
- providing important habitat for a number of fish and wildlife species within the watershed.



Geographic Information System (GIS)

On November 16th, 2005, GIS staff hosted the **International GIS Day**. This event is held every year on the Wednesday of National Geographic Society's Geography Awareness Week in November.



GIS Day is a global event that celebrates GIS technology—the innovative technology that uses geography to bring countless benefits to the world. The NVCA, in partnership with the Counties of Dufferin, Grey and Simcoe, provided an opportunity for those curious about GIS to see its applications in action. Many GIS professionals, students and teachers, attended the event where we demonstrated GIS—a computer-based mapping tool that takes geographic features from a database, such as streets, buildings, water features, and terrain, and turns it into visual layers. The ability to see this on a map makes it easier for users to visualize and interpret information enabling planners, engineers, and others to make informed decisions

about their communities.

Biomonitoring

Looking at stream insects and instream temperature sampling are important tools used to monitor the health of watershed streams.

Staff monitored 35 stations in the Upper Nottawasaga River and Blue Mountain subwatersheds in 2005. The collected data will be used to evaluate stream health which will be communicated to watershed stakeholders through a Watershed Report Card in 2006.



Subwatershed Report Card

A Subwatershed Report Card was developed for the Upper Nottawasaga River in 2005, documenting the health of forests, wetlands and streams. A Watershed Health Report, including report cards for all NVCA subwatersheds, will be produced in 2006.