



2008 Annual Report

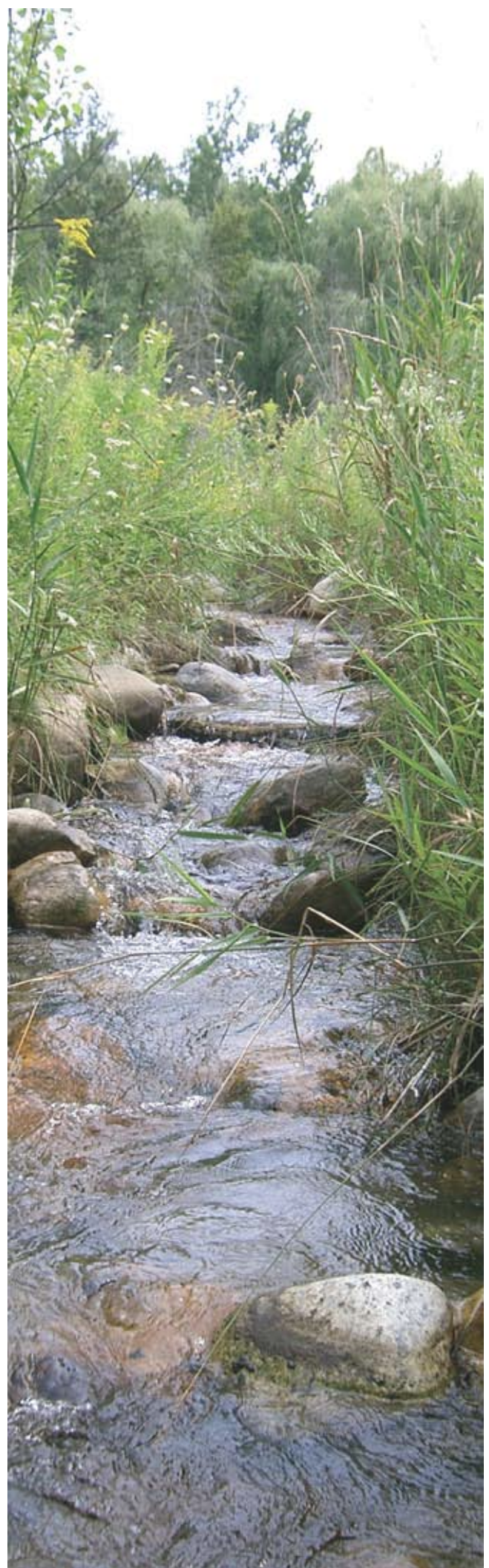
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority



Your local source
for conservation

2008 Highlights

- The NVCA was one of the most successful conservation authorities in the province in delivering landowner grants through the *Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program*.
- Drinking Water Protection Area signs were installed in two member municipalities to raise awareness about the vulnerability of municipal drinking water supplies.
- The *Innisfil Creek Low Water Response pilot study* was completed with funding from the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- The NVCA received funding from the Agricultural Adaptation Council to create an integrated water resource management strategy for the Innisfil Creek sub-watershed.
- We welcomed the Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources, to the Minesing Wetlands to announce funding for the *Ontario Wetland Care* program.
- A draft of the NVCA's *Planning and Regulation Guidelines* was released and will be finalized in 2009.
- We forecasted and communicated conditions during 3 watershed-wide flood events.
- We evaluated conditions in Bass Lake for the Bass Lake report card and stewardship plan.
- The Waterfowl Viewing Window was built to give the public a bird's eye view of the internationally-significant Minesing Wetland.
- The NVCA re-launched the Tiffin Centre Education Program after years of outsourcing it.
- An Earth Day conference was hosted by staff at the Tiffin Centre for Grade 10 students.



Message from the Chair

The year 2008 was my third one as Chair and it proved to be an exciting one. The positive excitement was because of things such as the reintroduction of an NVCA-run education program and several meetings we had with the Honourable Donna Cansfield (appointed Minister of Natural Resources in October, 2007). We were impressed with the Minister's obvious support of conservation authorities. There was also an announcement of new funding from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ducks Unlimited Canada for stewardship grants to help landowners protect wetlands. And there were improvements to our web site and a significant move to reduce paper consumption and operating costs by moving towards electronic meeting notes.



But perhaps the most exciting aspect of 2008 was the work staff did related to the *Clean Water Act*. They finished the work plan that will, in a few years, result in Source Protection Plans for all of our 18 municipalities. And, very significantly, NVCA staff were among the most successful of all conservation authorities in delivering grant money to landowners for things such as improving septic systems located near municipal wells. Finally, it was exciting when one of the NVCA's past Chairs, Harold Parker, was honoured with a Pioneer Award at the 15th annual A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium in November.

There was less positive excitement over aspects of the NVCA's finances. Planning revenues plunged during the year and it was only through hard work in developing and implementing a contingency plan that we were able to avoid a major operating deficit for the year. The province's plan for handling drought was also a major feature of 2008. Conservation authorities are supposed to implement these plans for the province but, as we learned during the summer of 2007, these plans do not work. As a result, we spent a good deal of time in 2008 working with the Ministry of Natural Resources to see if the drought plans can be improved. These less positive, but still exciting, things, plus a few other legal matters, remain on the agenda for the new NVCA Chair in 2009. I wish Walter Benotto well in this regard and plan to be available for any support I can offer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Nix".

Fred Nix

Message from the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



My message is very simple: **conservation through partnerships**. Discover through this annual report how the NVCA delivers a wide range of successful projects intended to protect and improve our water and land resources. Partnerships make this possible.

To all of our partners - thank you.

To the reader - join the NVCA team and become a partner in conservation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne R. Wilson".

Wayne Wilson

YOUR SOURCE FOR DRINKING WATER PROTECTION

Huge success delivering Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program

In conjunction with the *Clean Water Act*, early action funding is being provided by the Ministry of the Environment, through Source Protection Regions, to landowners in vulnerable areas to protect municipal drinking water sources. In 2008, landowners within 100 metres of a municipal wellhead or 200 metres of a surface water intake were eligible for grants for decommissioning abandoned wells or upgrading existing wells; septic system inspections and upgrades; runoff and erosion protection; and pollution prevention reviews.

The NVCA received approximately \$394,000 to fund grants under the *Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program* and \$140,000 for education and outreach.



There was exceptional response to the program in its first year, which greatly exceeded staff expectations. Highlights included:

- 62 completed or committed projects (represents an uptake rate of 8.8%)
- Conducted 316 site visits
- Contacted 3,935 landowners by mail
- Published the *Green Pages: A Watershed Stewardship Directory for Landowners*
- Modified a Non-farm rural landowner guide
- Hosted 6 workshops

For more information please contact our Healthy Waters Program Coordinator at sstephens@nvca.on.ca.

Terms of Reference submitted

The Terms of Reference (TOR) is the workplan for completing the Source Protection Plan. The NVCA submitted the TOR for the Nottawasaga Valley Source Protection Authority to the Ministry of the Environment for review in late 2008 and expects it will be approved in the spring of 2009. The TOR, which was developed with input from municipalities and other stakeholders, identifies the following:

- The drinking water systems to be included in the source protection planning process
 - A list of technical studies and tasks required to identify vulnerable areas

- A list of tasks required to develop land use planning policies, risk reduction strategies and monitoring activities
- A list of matters affecting neighbouring watersheds that need to be worked on together
- Who will coordinate the technical and planning tasks (municipalities, conservation authority staff or a partnership between the two)
- Cost estimates and a schedule for completing all required tasks

For more information please contact our Source Water Protection Coordinator at rpost@nvca.on.ca.

Source Water Protection 101

Source Water Protection is the first barrier in a multi-barrier approach to protecting Ontario's drinking water resources from contamination and overuse. There are 19 Source Protection Regions in the province. The NVCA's jurisdiction falls under the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region. The NVCA is providing technical, communications and municipal support for creating the region's Source Protection Plan through a planning process. Once complete, the Plan will address existing threats to drinking water and include land-use planning recommendations to prevent new threats.

For more information on our Source Protection Region, please visit www.ourwatershed.ca.

A sign of clean water

The NVCA partnered with the Town of Shelburne and the Township of Springwater to install a total of 41 Drinking Water Protection Area signs. The signs mark the perimeter



of the area where it takes less than 10 years for contaminants spilled on the ground to travel down to the municipal drinking water supply, and thereby make residents aware of

areas where community drinking water is most vulnerable to human activity.

YOUR SOURCE FOR WATER MANAGEMENT

Pilot project to respond to low water

Following the drought in the summer of 2007, the NVCA received funding from the Ministry of Natural Resources to undertake the *Innisfil Creek Low Water Response Pilot Project*. The project addressed difficulties the NVCA Water Response Team (WRT) experienced while preparing the information required under the *Ontario Low Water Response (OLWR) program* to declare a Level III low water condition. Level III is the most critical level and includes mandatory water-use restrictions to mitigate the impact of the drought. Levels I and II recommend voluntary restrictions.

Through the pilot project, NVCA staff did extensive background research on the Innisfil Creek sub-watershed, analyzed local actions taken during the summer of 2007 and made recommendations to the Ontario Water Directors Committee to improve the overall approach to drought management. *For more information, please contact our Hydrogeologist at rpost@nvca.on.ca.*

Innisfil Creek at the 14th Line in the Town of New Tecumseth on July 31, 2007.



The Innisfil Creek sub-watershed has long been noted for its vast agricultural fields and exceptional crop production of potato, sod, carrots and onions, which as of 2006 was valued at about \$10 million.

New gauges will monitor Innisfil Creek flows

As part of the *Innisfil Creek Low Water Response Pilot Project*, the NVCA received funding from the Ministry of the Environment to construct three new stream flow gauges in the Innisfil Creek sub-watershed. The gauges use solar power and broadcast stream flow data wirelessly to the internet, where the Water Response Team can access and analyze it. The gauges will be installed in Innisfil Creek at the 12th Line and the 5th Sideroad in New Tecumseth and in Beeton Creek at the 10th Line in New Tecumseth.

Water Resource Management on Innisfil Creek



Members of the newly formed Innisfil Creek Water Users Association. From left to right: Ralph MacKenzie, Kevin Thompson, Tom Brayford, Frank Soltz, Donny Lundy, Ross Reynolds and Ryan Post, NVCA Hydrogeologist.

The Agricultural Adaptation Council, through contributions from the government of Canada and the province of Ontario under the Canada-Ontario Water Supply Expansion Program, provided the NVCA with more than \$110,000 in project funding to gain a thorough understanding of the water resource issues in the Innisfil Creek sub-watershed.

The first project identified water supply alternatives for individual agricultural and golf course water users which are both achievable and cost-effective. The second project involved 3 workshops where stakeholders developed an integrated water resource management strategy for the Innisfil Creek area.

A component of the strategy is the creation of the Innisfil Creek Water Users Association (ICWUA). The local association will represent the voices of the irrigation-dependent community and promote best management practices to local water users.

Partners: Ontario Federation of Agriculture through Keith Currie, OMAFRA, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

For more information, please contact our Hydrogeologist at rpost@nvca.on.ca.

YOUR SOURCE FOR HEALTHY WATERS

Caring for wetlands

The NVCA has partnered with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) to deliver the *Ontario Wetland Care* program, which provides technical resources and grants to rural landowners to encourage good stewardship by helping them maintain and enhance wetlands on their properties.

Minister of Natural Resources Donna Cansfield visited the internationally-significant Minesing Wetlands on October 10th to announce \$1 million in funding for this province-wide program through a MNR and DUC partnership.

Some projects that watershed residents may be eligible for include the installation of wood duck nest boxes, livestock exclusion fencing, tree planting for wetland buffers and wildlife corridor planting.

For more information, please contact our Aquatic Biologist at scampbell@nvca.on.ca.

Caring for the Moraine

The NVCA is one of 34 partners working to encourage stewardship activity on the Oak Ridges Moraine. In the third year of the program, the NVCA received \$33,400 in funding and was able to contact 1,100 eligible landowners and deliver 12 natural cover and riparian projects, including:

- Planting 13,612 native trees and shrubs
- Enhancing cover and buffers on 800 metres of cold-water streams
- Restoring 4 hectares of rare Tallgrass prairie

For more information, please contact our Healthy Waters Coordinator at sstephens@nvca.on.ca.

Livestock Exclusion Fencing projects

The NVCA worked with the Midhurst branch of the MNR and the agricultural community to complete 5 priority, large-scale livestock exclusion fencing projects on high quality cold water stream habitats in the townships of Adjala-Tosorontio, Clearview, Oro-Medonte and the Town of New Tecumseth.



These solar panels will power an alternative watering source for this farmer's sheep flock. Preventing the sheep from watering directly from the Bailey Creek will help protect water quality in the headwaters of Bailey Creek, which flows to Wasaga Beach.



From left to right: landowner Harold Parker; MNR Minister Donna Cansfield; MNR Regional Director Southern Ontario Ray Bonenberg; DUC Director of Operations Eastern Region Jamie Fortune; NVCA CAO/Secretary-Treasurer Wayne Wilson.

Number of water quality improvement projects completed by the NVCA

Municipality	2008	5-year total
Adjala-Tosorontio	13	21
Amaranth	0	3
Barrie	0	0
Blue Mountains	0	0
Bradford West Gwillimbury	0	1
Clearview	7	30
Collingwood	3	4
Essa	1	27
Grey Highlands	1	4
Innisfil	1	10
Melancthon	1	9
Mono	2	15
Mulmur	1	8
New Tecumseth	5	33
Oro-Medonte	4	7
Shelburne	1	2
Springwater	5	31
Wasaga Beach	1	1
TOTAL	46	206

YOUR SOURCE FOR HEALTHY WATERS

Number of trees planted by the NVCA

Municipality	2008	5-year total
Adjala-Tosorontio	20,700	60,100
Amaranth	0	0
Barrie	0	0
Blue Mountains	0	0
Bradford West Gwillimbury	0	0
Clearview	28,600	81,900
Collingwood	0	1,100
Essa	0	35,500
Grey Highlands	0	2,700
Innisfil	0	4,500
Melancthon	1,400	4,500
Mono	0	17,650
Mulmur	18,600	45,925
New Tecumseth	8,300	84,465
Oro-Medonte	5,200	15,050
Shelburne	0	2,750
Springwater	0	8,425
Wasaga Beach	0	0
TOTAL	82,800	364,565

Restoration on Willow Creek

NVCA staff coordinated the construction of a deflector structure in Willow Creek at George Johnson Road in the Township of Springwater. The purpose of the structure is to increase depth, increase low-flow current velocities, expose gravel substrates and re-establish meander features in this channel of the stream. Through this structure, 60 metres of stream were restored. **Partners:** Elmvale District High School, Somerville Nurseries and Harold Parker (landowner).



Restoration on the Boyne River

NVCA staff and the Nottawasaga Steelheaders waded into the Boyne River in July to restore 80 metres of an eroding riverbank along a property in the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio. This project represented an extension of the *Boyne River Restoration Program* which has seen seven large-scale restoration projects completed since 1996.

The restoration work will increase bank stability and create aquatic habitat that will allow juvenile rainbow trout to hide from predators. The Nottawasaga River watershed supports one of the largest networks of trout streams in southern Ontario and the NVCA and its partners have been working for many years to restore coldwater stream habitats to allow the trout to thrive.

Partners: Nottawasaga Steelheaders, the Canadian National Sportsmens Shows, Wilsons Fly Fishing Shop, the South Simcoe Streams Network, Dufferin South Simcoe Land Stewardship Network, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canada Ontario Agreement Fund.

For more information, please contact our Manager of Stewardship Services at fdobbs@nvca.on.ca.

Restoration on Black Ash Creek brings out community

The NVCA coordinated the planting of 400 tree seedlings and 200 live willow cuttings along Black Ash Creek, working in partnership with Jean Vanier High School, Collingwood Collegiate Institute, the Town of Collingwood, the Georgian Triangle Anglers Association and the

Blue Mountain Watershed Trust.

This project was part of the Nottawasaga Watershed Improvement Program (N-WIP).

For more information on N-WIP, please turn to page 10.

Volunteers from Collingwood Collegiate Institute.



YOUR SOURCE FOR PROTECTION FROM NATURAL HAZARDS

Forecasting flood events

The year 2008 was a wet one, with no fewer than three noteworthy, watershed-wide floods, prompting the NVCA to issue 7 high water safety bulletins, 4 flood advisories and 14 flood warnings. Floods in January and December were surprise winter melts brought on by extended warm periods which thawed significant lake-effect snowpack. The flood of the greatest magnitude occurred in April when flows on the Nottawasaga River near Baxter reached levels

that have been exceeded only two other times during the past 56 years. During the summer, frequent localized and intense thunderstorms raised water levels and finally, the extreme cold of December produced frazil ice which formed dams and caused localized flooding.

During April, flood damage or inconvenience



April 1st in Stayner, Lamont Creek.

was experienced by every municipality in our jurisdiction. There were hundreds of road closures throughout the watershed and Stayner, Wasaga Beach and Angus experienced more serious flooding in which businesses and residences were damaged.

The NVCA and the Township of Essa have applied for funding to prepare a feasibility report on constructing a dyke to reduce the frequency of flooding in parts of Angus.



Same house in Stayner on April 2nd.

Highlights from Planning Services

- The NVCA received more than 1,000 applications to review under Regulation 172/06 - *Development, Interference with Wetlands and alteration to shorelines and Watercourse*, the *Planning Act*, and through the Niagara Escarpment Commission, as well as Environment Assessment reviews.
- NVCA staff participated in the County of Simcoe and County of Grey Official Plan updates as well as the County of Dufferin Growth Plan exercise.
- NVCA staff assisted our municipal partners on Ontario Municipal Board matters in Collingwood, Essa, Springwater and Adjala-Tosorontio, addressing natural hazard matters and ensuring the conservation of key environmental features.
- The NVCA's *Proposed Planning and Regulation Guidelines* were circulated to our member municipalities and the general public for comment.
- In November, the NVCA hosted a workshop for municipal planning staff and board members to encourage open communication on planning roles and responsibilities. Representatives from 12 of our 18 municipalities and 2 of our 3 counties attended.

Number of permit applications approved by the NVCA

Municipality	2008	5-year total
Adjala-Tosorontio	31	174
Amaranth	5	14
Barrie	7	32
Blue Mountains	1	10
Bradford West Gwillimbury	1	25
Clearview	41	227
Collingwood	21	113
Essa	26	131
Grey Highlands	3	9
Innisfil	7	62
Melancthon	7	21
Mono	17	79
Mulmur	15	66
New Tecumseth	23	167
Oro-Medonte	18	106
Shelburne	2	3
Springwater	24	81
Wasaga Beach	26	178
TOTAL	275	1,498

YOUR SOURCE FOR WATERSHED MONITORING

Studying streamflows in the Niagara Escarpment

The NVCA, the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve and the Niagara Escarpment Commission partnered in 2008 to monitor stream flow in the escarpment rivers running through the NVCA's jurisdiction. Stream flow and water quality measurements were taken in the Pretty, Mad, Noisy, and Boyne rivers to identify areas with significant groundwater contributions. In some areas, groundwater accounted for more than 90 per cent of the total stream flow. Results generated from this study can be used by various stakeholders to analyze sustainable development, to enhance fisheries habitat management, to provide information to the biomonitoring network, and to help protect the aesthetic value of the Niagara Escarpment. In addition, the data collected may also contribute to the next review of the Niagara Escarpment Plan which will take place in 2015.

NVCA co-op students Nikki Grantmyre (left) and Andrew Claydon measure water flows in the Boyne River.



NVCA staff Ian Ockenden (left) and Natosha Fortini conduct dissolved oxygen profiling in Bass Lake.

Reporting conditions in Bass Lake

In 2008, the Bass Lake Ratepayers Association (BLRA) developed the Bass Lake Stewardship Plan with the purpose of enhancing the quality of life for all citizens through balanced stewardship of Bass Lake's lands, waters, wildlife, and natural resources. To assist in implementing the plan, a partnership was forged between the BLRA, the NVCA, and the Township of Oro-Medonte. NVCA staff assessed water quality, forest and wetland conditions within the Bass Lake sub-watershed, as well as conducted a shoreline health and habitat survey of Bass Lake. Results showed that water quality and natural conditions within the sub-watershed are generally healthy, while shoreline health shows areas of impairment. The opportunity for partnerships between government, community organizations and residents, and the need for wise stewardship actions, are emphasized.

To read the Bass Lake Report Card, please visit www.nvca.on.ca.

Invasive Species monitoring

The NVCA partnered with Wasaga Beach Provincial Park, with support from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, to complete a survey of the distribution of *Phragmites australis* (Common Reed) along the Wasaga Beach-Collingwood shoreline. This invasive species has colonized parts of the shoreline

area and is threatening globally-rare shoreline wetlands and area beaches. NVCA staff also monitored native and invasive strains of Common Reed in the Minesing wetlands to document their presence, spread and effects on native flora. Work on management strategies is planned for 2009. A number of invasive plant and animal species threaten our watershed's natural heritage systems.



YOUR SOURCE FOR LAND MANAGEMENT & RECREATION

Phase 1 of the Huronia Lookout completed

The NVCA is a partner in the creation of the Huronia Lookout, which when complete, will be a gathering place for residents and visitors to learn, understand and celebrate our heritage and culture, economy, environment and recreation. The site is of historical, ecological, geological and recreational significance, providing panoramic views of the Nine Mile Portage trail, Historic Fort Willow, the internationally-significant Minesing Wetland, and the Niagara Escarpment. Phase 1 of the project was completed in 2008. The site was raised by 25 feet, a parking lot was constructed, the perimeter was fenced, signage was prepared and a competition was held to choose a large icon to be erected on the site and symbolize the Huronia Lookout. The committee selected the concept of a canoe being portaged.

Partners: Friends of Minesing Wetlands, County of Simcoe, Township of Springwater, First Nations Chippewa Tri-Council of

Rama, Beausoleil and Georgina Island, Rotary Clubs of Barrie, Kempenfelt and Huronia, and the Minesing Women's Institute.



Waterfowl Viewing Window



Located 12 feet above the Minesing Wetland, the new Waterfowl Viewing Window is a tower that gives one a bird's eye view of this internationally-significant wetland. This perspective will allow people to witness the great migration and nesting habits of more than 200 bird species, especially in early spring time when the water level rises.

Partners: Ministry of Natural Resources, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Rotary Club of Barrie, the Nature League, Barrie Chiropractic & Health Services Centre and the Friends of Minesing Wetlands.

NVCA receives land in Dufferin County

The NVCA acquired its first piece of property in Dufferin County. The Bruce Trail Conservancy donated the 76-acre Boyne Valley Springs property as part of its efforts to realize the trail's optimum route. The NVCA will manage the property as per its Land Management Strategy, conserving it for future generations to use.

Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival

Double-digit spring temperatures brought more than 2,500 people to the Tiffin Centre on April 5th & 6th, making it one of the most successful Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festivals ever. Maple syrup tours featuring traditional and modern methods of production, a full pancake breakfast, horse-drawn wagon rides and bird box building were the weekend's biggest attractions.

The festival is hosted by the Rotary Club of Barrie and the NVCA, with half of the proceeds going to each organization. The NVCA received \$7,500 and used it to enhance outdoor recreation at the Tiffin Centre with more interpretative signage and picnic tables.



YOUR SOURCE FOR EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Earth Day conference at the Tiffin Centre

On Earth Day (April 22nd), 60 local high-school students came to the Tiffin Centre for a full-day conference called *Science in your Backyard*.

NVCA staff designed the conference to link our daily environmental work to the Grade 10 science curriculum. Students had a choice of breakout sessions on issues such as invasive species, pond management and fish habitat, species at risk and ecosystem management. Students attended from Orillia District Collegiate & Vocational Institute and Jean Vanier Catholic High School in Collingwood.



NVCA re-launches education program

In the fall of 2008, the Tiffin Centre education program was reintroduced under the 'wing' of the NVCA after having been outsourced in previous years.

Programs delivered at the Tiffin Centre aim to engage students in rewarding, hands-on environmental and outdoor education experiences. In re-launching this program, many new curriculum-based programs were developed, and now more than 30 programs are available to watershed students ranging from the pre-school to secondary level. Education staff also worked to expand programming beyond the traditional school program and developed a variety of programs for other user groups including day cares, corporate groups and Girl Guide and Scouting organizations.

For more information, please contact our Education Coordinator at outdoored@nvca.on.ca.

Event listings

Healthy Waters Workshops

- New initiatives: Pilot stewardship program for Lower Nottawasaga River
- Protecting our drinking water: New grant programs
- Drinking water & watershed improvement workshop
- 2 Trees Ontario Workshops

Oak Ridges Moraine Workshops

- Tree planting: From start to forest
- Sustainable business opportunities on rural land
- Protecting running water
- Land Securement: How to leave a conservation legacy

Festivals

- Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival
- Gates Open - RBC Day
- Elmvale Water Festival
- Essa Salmon Festival
- Nine Mile Portage Festival

Yellow Fish Road

The NVCA coordinated 7 Yellow Fish Road paintings in the municipalities of Barrie, New Tecumseth, Wasaga Beach and Springwater. Youth volunteers paint a yellow fish symbol beside storm drains in their neighborhood which remind us that anything that flows down a storm drain goes directly untreated to the nearest stream where fish live.



19th annual Arbour Day Tree Sale

About 5,000 trees were sold at the annual tree sale. More than \$9,000 was raised for watershed restoration.

Partners: Stayner Heritage Society, Wasaga/Ganaraska Hiking Club and 1st Elmvale Scouts.

Native Plant Sale

Staff ran the annual plant sale to promote the benefits of using native plants. More than \$500 was raised for stewardship projects.

Making art from water pollution

The NVCA teamed up with Double Door Studios and Gallery to clean up Marl Creek. The artists then used the debris to make art and held an exhibit to showcase it.

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



NVCA Conservation Champions

From left to right: John Herring, Andy Owens, Silvia Pedrazzi, Dave Mills, Dave Johnston, Arlette Utton, Stu McMillan and Jack Burke.

entrance of Fort Willow, provided funding for the Waterfowl Viewing Window and the Huronia Lookout, and hosted the Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival.

Larry McGregor, former CAO/Director of Public Works for the Town of Shelburne, was thanked for leading a project to install 16 Drinking Water Protection Area signs in his municipality to raise awareness about the vulnerability of municipal drinking water supplies.

Celebrating Conservation Champions

At its 2nd annual Evening of Thanks, the NVCA celebrated its Conservation Champions. Three recipients were recognized for engaging their community to help the local environment.

The **New Tecumseth Streams Committee** was thanked for restoring more than 2 kilometres of stream habitat along Beeton Creek. This was accomplished by about 1,600 volunteers taking part in more than 40 field activities.

The **Rotary Club of Barrie** was recognized for undertaking 7 projects with the NVCA, the largest of which was wrapping up an 18-month project to restore Momma Bear pond into a wetland. The site serves as a great demonstration project for the NVCA to encourage landowners to disconnect ponds from streams. Rotarians also built a 500-foot boardwalk linking the Nine Mile Portage Heritage Trail to the

Nottawasaga Watershed Improvement Program (N-WIP)

N-WIP was launched in January 2008 and is guided by a steering committee consisting of local interest groups, residents and various levels of government working together to improve watershed health along the Lower Nottawasaga River basin. The program area includes the towns of Collingwood, Wasaga Beach and The Blue Mountains, and the townships of Clearview and Springwater. The steering committee has identified 6 priority watercourses for restoration, which are the Lamont, Marl, Trillium, Black Ash, Silver and Willow creeks.

N-WIP is a pilot project of the Lake Huron-Georgian Bay Watershed Framework for Community Action and is supported by the Lake Huron Committee including Environment Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canada Ontario Agreement Fund.

For more information, please contact our Manager of Stewardship Services at fdobbs@nvca.on.ca.

“Friends of” Groups

The work of the NVCA benefits significantly from its dedicated “Friends of” groups. They are the Friends of Tiffin, the Friends of Minesing Wetland, and the Fort Willow Improvement Group.

For more information on any of these groups, please contact our Director of Land Operations & Stewardship Services at bwesson@nvca.on.ca.

South Simcoe Streams Network

This network was formed in 2008 through multiple partners, including the NVCA, Nottawasaga Futures, New Tecumseth Streams Committee, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and Dufferin South Simcoe Land Stewardship Network. It is based on the model of the hugely successful New Tecumseth Streams Committee and will aim to deliver stream improvement projects beyond New Tecumseth into Adjala-Tosorontio, Essa Township, Innisfil and Bradford West Gwillimbury. The network has received funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

For more information, please contact our Manager of Stewardship Services at fdobbs@nvca.on.ca.

Municipalities & Board Members

Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
Mary Brett

Township of Amaranth
Percy Way

City of Barrie
Richard Lloyd
Barry Ward

Town of The Blue Mountains
John McKean

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
Ron Simpson

Township of Clearview
Orville Brown
Robert Walker

Town of Collingwood
Chris Carrier
Sonny Foley

Township of Essa
Terry Dowdall
Ron Henderson

Municipality of Grey Highlands
Brian Mullin



2008 Board of Directors

Front row: Barry Ward, Tom Elliott, Fred Nix, Walter Benotto, Brian Mullin, Joan Sutherland, Gord Montgomery (Executive Committee members)

Second row: Cal Patterson, Ron Simpson, Dennis Egan, Richard Lloyd, Robert Walker, Orville Brown, Chris Carrier, Sonny Foley, Reg Cowan, Rick Archdekin

Third row: Garry Matthews, John McKean, Bill Van Berkel, Sandy Agnew

Fourth row: Percy Way, Mary Brett, John Crawford

Absent: Terry Dowdall, Ron Henderson



2008 Staff

Front row: Rick Grillmayer, Chris Hibberd, Karen Dykxhoorn, Tina DesRoches, Debbie Swindells, Lorraine Adderley, Wayne Wilson, Tim Salkeld, Byron Wesson, Kim Garraway

Second row: Bimal Sarkar, Abdullah Hossain, Laurie Barron, Christine May, Susan Whitters, Steve Green, Barb Perreault, Dave Crossman, Monica Essig

Third row: Ian Ockenden, Patti Young, Susan Richards, Fred Dobbs, Greg Bray, Kimberly Winder, John Jardine

Absent: Holly Bothwell, Sarah Campbell, David Featherstone, Natosha Fortini, Damon Hase, Jessica Keats, Bob Law, Joe Mazza, Kate Northcott, Ryan Post, Linda Raeburn, Allan Rodie, Adam Scott, Bahar SM, Brian Smith, Shannon Stephens, Glenn Switzer, and Lyle Wood.

Municipalities & Board Members

Town of Innisfil
Bill Van Berkel

Township of Melancthon
Garry Matthews

Town of Mono
Fred Nix

Township of Mulmur
Gord Montgomery

Town of New Tecumseth
Dennis Egan
(January to March)
Rick Milne
(May to December)
Joan Sutherland

Township of Oro-Medonte
Sandy Agnew
John Crawford

Town of Shelburne
Walter Benotto

Township of Springwater
Reg Cowan
Tom Elliott

Town of Wasaga Beach
Rick Archdekin
Cal Patterson



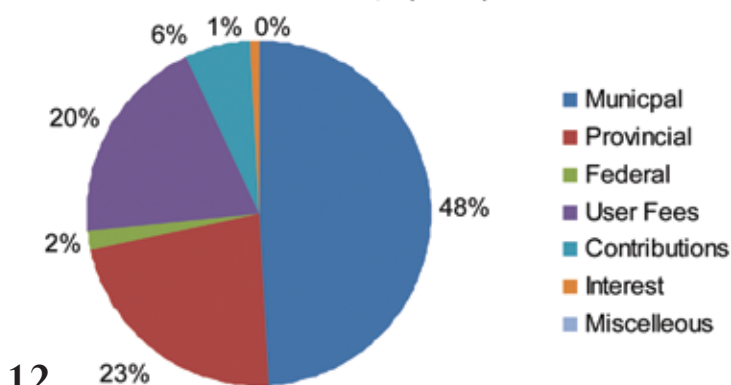
NVCA WATERSHED

The NVCA's watershed is a large geographic area, spanning approximately 3,700 square kilometres, with jurisdiction in 18 municipalities in the counties of Simcoe, Dufferin and Grey. It has a population base of almost 180,000 people (2008).

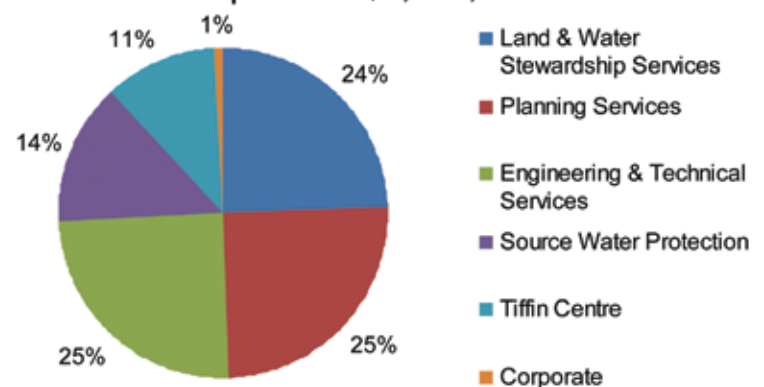
Significant landform features in the watershed include the Oak Ridges Moraine, Oro Moraine, Osprey Wetlands, Niagara Escarpment, Georgian Bay shoreline and the internationally-significant Minesing Wetlands.

2008 NVCA BUDGET

Revenues \$3,603,949



Expenses \$3,606,174



The work of the NVCA is guided by targets it has set to improve watershed health. They include:

- Improve stream health to 100% healthy streams
- At least 75% of the watershed's natural stream length should be naturally vegetated
- Meet Provincial Water Quality Objectives
- At least 10% of a sub-watershed should be wetlands
- At least 30% of the area of any sub-watershed should be forest self-sustaining vegetation
- At least 12% of the watershed should be preserved and managed by public agencies
- Zero lives lost and minimal property damage
- Zero unauthorized development in hazard lands
- Provide 8,000 student environmental education opportunities per year

NVCA mission

Conserving our healthy waters





Your local source
for conservation

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