



2009 Annual Report

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Conservation First

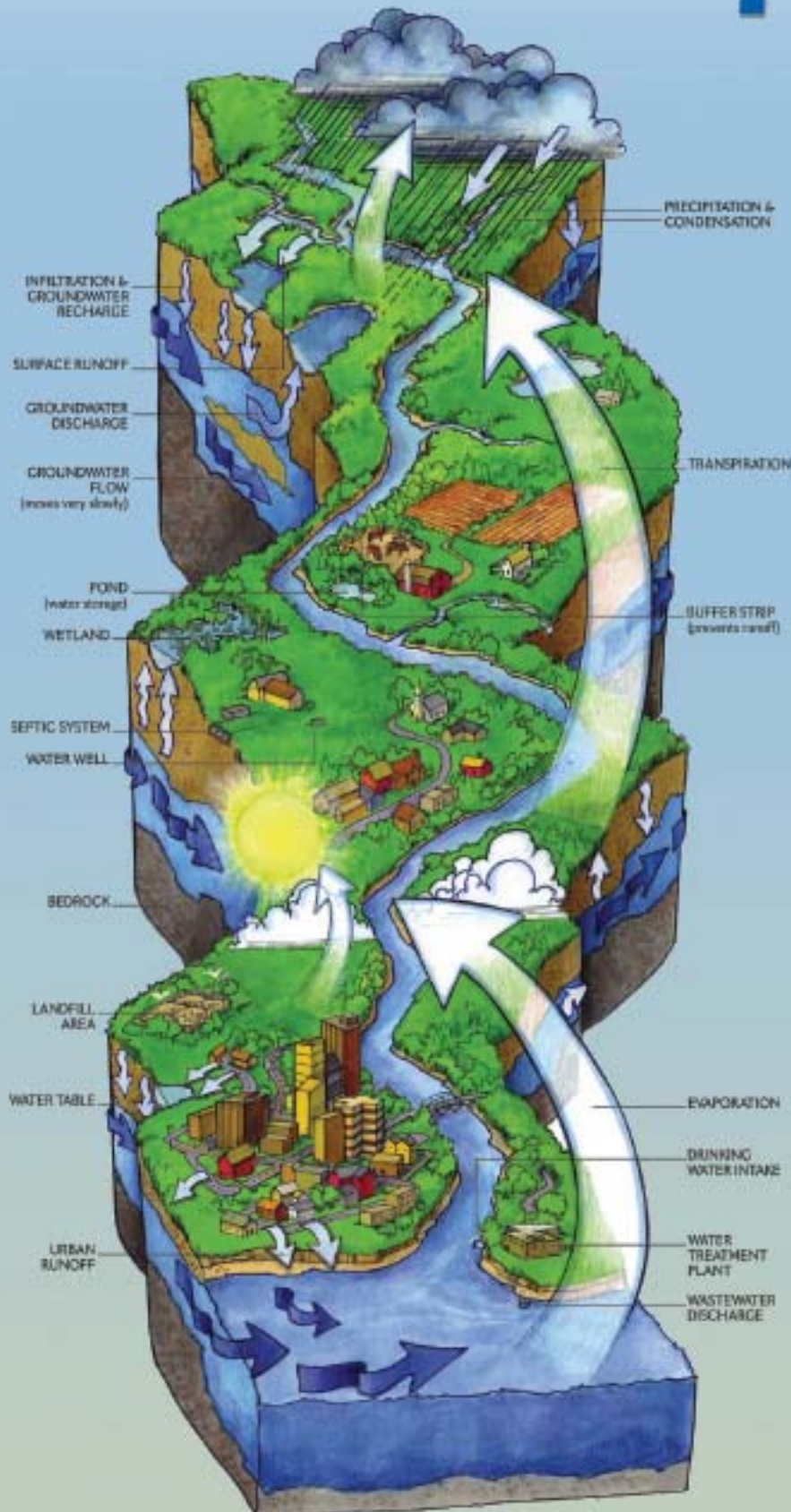
*Headwaters of the
Nottawasaga River*

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority 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 and our future.

WATERSHED Connections

What makes up our Watersheds?

A watershed is an area of land that is drained by a river and its tributaries. Watershed management, in its simplest terms means managing upstream activities and resources wisely so that downstream remains healthy.



Municipalities in the
Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority
watershed:

Township of Adjala-
Tosorontio

Township of Amaranth

City of Barrie

Town of The Blue
Mountains

Town of Bradford West
Gwillimbury

Township of Clearview

Town of Collingwood

Township of Essa

Municipality of Grey
Highlands

Town of Innisfil

Township of Melancthon

Town of Mono

Township of Mulmur

Town of New Tecumseth

Township of Oro-Medonte

Town of Shelburne

Township of Springwater

Town of Wasaga Beach



Message from the Chair and CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



Conservation First. That is the concept that drove our work throughout 2009, whether we were implementing projects to protect and enhance our watershed or responding to questions about conservation authority service duplication, particularly in the area of planning services.

Towards the end of the year, the Ministry of Natural Resources released the draft CALC (Conservation Authority Liaison Committee) report, which was written to clarify the role of conservation authorities in plan review and *Conservation Authorities Act* regulatory permitting processes. The committee is made of members from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, Conservation Ontario, select conservation authorities, the development industry, municipal sector and environmental groups.

Our Board of Directors voted unanimously in support of the draft report in December. It is our hope that the final report will soon be released and it will give clear direction to the NVCA and our member municipalities.

One of the recommendations in the CALC report is that conservation authorities should have a memorandum of understanding with each of their member municipalities. Throughout the fall and into the winter of 2010, we went to 17 of our 18 municipal councils to present a memorandum of understanding template that was developed by our planning advisory committee. We asked that their staff work with us to develop an agreement that they felt could work for their municipality.

The question of service duplication was also raised by one of our municipalities who felt that a portion of the municipality that falls under a different watershed was getting duplicate services from both the NVCA and the Severn Sound Environmental Association. We have been, and continue to work with all parties to solve this issue.

In addition to these matters, the recession caused planning user fee revenue to decline below our budget estimates. To ensure a balanced budget the Executive Committee and senior staff developed a \$208,000 expenditure constraints plan, approved by the Board. Staff worked diligently to implement the constraints and ended the year with a small surplus.

Despite the challenges, we accomplished many successes in 2009. Our Source Protection Region completed the second highest number of drinking water protection projects in the province. We released a Groundwater Overview which reported on the state of groundwater in our watershed and provided strategic direction for our monitoring and stewardship activities. We hosted our first annual Family Day event at the Tiffin Centre, which brought hundreds of people to the conservation area to enjoy and learn about our local environment. We implemented hundreds of stewardship projects with landowners, including planting almost 90,000 trees, to improve our watershed health.

The NVCA will continue to monitor the health of our watershed to better understand the science behind it, and work with our partners to protect this wonderful environment for future generations.

Walter Benotto, Chair

Wayne Wilson, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Tributary Habitat Restoration Strategy for Southern Lake Huron-Georgian Bay

NVCA staff developed a draft strategy to implement **habitat improvement and phosphorus management projects** in the Lake Huron and Georgian Bay sub-watersheds. The strategy will coordinate and harmonize the efforts of various Ministry of Natural Resources districts, conservation authorities and other partners who work on the area's tributary streams. This project was done in partnership with the Upper Great Lakes Management Unit of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

The strategy includes a range of stream restoration techniques and technical support by using case studies. NVCA staff shared their experience and expertise with dam decommissioning/head pond removal and floodplain construction projects. The draft strategy has been circulated to stream restoration coordinators for feedback.

Restoration on Lamont Creek

George Sheffer Memorial Tree Plant

The NVCA, Town of Wasaga Beach and the Nottawasaga Watershed Improvement Program (N-WIP) joined forces on May 2nd to **restore a portion of a degraded creek**, as well as **honour former NVCA Board Member** and Wasaga Beach Deputy Mayor, George Sheffer.

Mr. Sheffer was a dedicated conservationist and member of the NVCA from 1998 until 2006. NVCA Vice-Chair, Joan Sutherland, said George had the foresight to know that what happened upstream impacted the water in Wasaga Beach.

Family, friends, politicians and the 2nd Wasaga Beach Scouts planted about 500 tree seedlings along Lamont Creek. The watercourse is priority for restoration under N-WIP, which aims to improve the health of Georgian Bay by improving

water quality in tributary streams from the towns of The Blue Mountains, Collingwood, and Wasaga Beach, and the townships of Clearview, Springwater and Essa.

Special assistance for the tree planting was provided by the Town of Wasaga Beach, Wasaga Beach M&M Meat Shops, Baycliffe Homes and the McNabb family.

Left: The Sheffer family

Right: Scouts from the 2nd Wasaga Beach troop



Lake Sturgeon Species at Risk program

The Lake Sturgeon is Ontario's largest and longest-living freshwater fish. It is also a threatened species.

In 2009, NVCA staff implemented a **Species at Risk project** designed to provide baseline information for the sturgeon population and critical sturgeon spawning habitats in the Middle Nottawasaga River sub-watershed in the Township of Essa.

The NVCA coordinated local sturgeon sampling in partnership with the Nottawasaga Steelheaders and local sport fishermen in the Angus area.

Four key reaches of candidate sturgeon spawning habitat were identified between the Nicolson Dam and Essa Centennial Park. Possible threats to habitat health were also documented. Landowners living adjacent to spawning habitats received information about the life history of sturgeon, best habitat management practices and contact information for reporting poaching activities.

This project was supported by Species at Risk funds provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Canada.



A Lake Sturgeon caught in the Nottawasaga River.



HEALTHY WATERS

Forestry Program

The NVCA **planted 89,150 trees** throughout the watershed in 2009 to increase local forest cover. We worked with 18 landowners to plant the seedlings on 112.9 acres of land. In addition, 14 forest management plans were completed to manage 643.74 acres. NVCA staff aim to plant sites that strategically enhance vulnerable areas of the watershed, but also work to accommodate landowner interest and the priorities of our municipal and provincial grant funding partners.

Healthy Waters Program

Interest in this program was high in 2009, with 253 landowners calling for information and to access Healthy Waters grants. Despite fiscal constraints to staff time and the grant budget, **19 projects were completed** in 2009 (9 of which were approved and funded in 2008). They included:

- 8 well decommissionings
- 2 riparian (streamside) tree plantings
- 1 alternate watering source
- 1 livestock exclusion fencing
- 1 livestock yard clean water diversion
- 5 community tree plantings
- 1 community action project

Ontario Wetland Care Program

In partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the NVCA delivered this program to enhance and protect wetland habitat through conservation agreements and stewardship plans. The following projects were completed:

- 13 wetland enhancement projects (includes installation of 13 wood duck nest boxes)
- 4 Natural Area Stewardship Plans
- 82 acres of wetland and 82 acres of upland habitat were protected under Conservation Agreements.

Community River Restoration

Fifteen projects were completed, 13 of which were volunteer tree plantings, as well as 2 large-scale construction projects. The projects were completed on the following watercourses:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| • Lamont Creek (3) | • Cookstown Creek |
| • Black Ash Creek (2) | • Beeton Creek (3) |
| • Bear Creek | • Nottawasaga River |
| • Willow Creek (2) | • Un-named Tributary |
| • Boyne River | • Nottawasaga River |



Ontario Stewardship Rangers help a landowner install a wetland buffer with native plants to create fish and wildlife habitat.

This was the last year of this 4-year program offered by the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation. In the NVCA watershed, rural residents within the Oak Ridges Moraine had access to free site visits from NVCA stewardship staff and funding for a third of the cost of projects that increased natural cover and protected water. Three municipalities in the NVCA watershed – Adjala-Tosorontio, Mono and New Tecumseth – are part of the Oak Ridges Moraine, which extends 160 km from the Trent River to the Niagara Escarpment.

Between 2006 and 2009, the following outreach and environmental enhancements were completed:

- 1,578 landowners, with more than 5 acres of property, received several information packages about the Caring for the Moraine program and best management practices
- NVCA staff did 138 one-on-one site visits with landowners
- 14 acres of wetland were protected



- 30 natural cover and stream projects were completed including planting 138 acres of forest, prairie and stream/wetland buffers; enhancing 6.4 km of coldwater streams; and upgrading or decommissioning 5 problem wells.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program

This grant program is designed to raise awareness, education, engagement and action to protect our municipal sources of drinking water. It is part of the Source Water Protection program and a component of the *Clean Water Act*.

In 2009, landowners within the 2-year time of travel of a municipal well (the time it takes for contaminants to reach the water) or within 1 km of a surface water intake, were eligible for grants for well and septic system care, runoff and erosion protection and pollution prevention reviews.

Since the start of the program in 2007/08, the NVCA had received \$1,014,093 to deliver the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program, and has completed the following actions:

- 75 septic system improvement projects
- 6 well projects
- 4 business pollution prevention reviews
- earmarked funds for 32 more projects that were in-progress by the end of 2009
- notified 4,500 eligible landowners by mail about the program and how to protect their local drinking water sources.
- visited 667 landowners to deliver information packages
- participated in 21 events and workshops to raise awareness about source water protection.

What is Source Water Protection?

It is the first barrier in a multi-barrier approach to protecting Ontario's municipal drinking water from contamination and overuse.



Upgraded well project

Water budgets underway for NVCA watershed

A water budget is an estimation and comparison of the available water supply to water demand. Under the source water protection planning process, water budgets are being completed through a multi-tiered process to identify water flows and potential threats to them.

The entire watershed is evaluated in the tier 1 budget, and those sub-watersheds whose water supplies show signs of stress, undergo a tier 2 budget. Results of the NVCA watershed tier 1 budget indicated that 4 sub-watersheds are under water quantity stress. Tier 2 budgets will be completed for the Innisfil and Willow creek and the Pine and Mid Nottawasaga river sub-watersheds. The tier 2 budgets are expected to be completed in 2010 and integrated into the Nottawasaga Valley Source Protection Authority Assessment Report.

Terms of Reference approved

The Terms of Reference for the Nottawasaga Valley Source Protection Authority (SPA) were approved by the Ministry of Environment on July 13th, 2009. The Severn Sound SPA terms were approved on the same day and the Lake Simcoe and Couchiching-Black River SPA terms were approved on June 29th. The Terms of Reference are the workplan for the Source Protection Plan, due in 2012.

Work continues on the Assessment Report

Studies are being conducted to better understand surface and ground water characteristics and which vulnerable areas need protection. These include watershed characterization, water budgets and water quantity stress assessment, groundwater vulnerability, surface water vulnerability and threats inventory and issues evaluation. The Assessment Report is expected to be completed in July, 2010.

Municipal workshops

Throughout 2009, the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region hosted 4 workshops to further inform and engage municipal councillors and staff in the source water protection planning process as they will have responsibilities in implementing the Source Protection Plans. The workshops covered a range of topics including technical studies, communications, funding for stewardship grants, land use planning and public health.

WATER MANAGEMENT

Water Resource Management in Innisfil Creek

The NVCA continued its work to further understand water resource and quality issues in the Innisfil Creek sub-watershed, which is an intensely agricultural area. Several projects were started, including:

- An eco-hydrological assessment to determine the **in-stream water flow levels** required to protect the fisheries while balancing the social, economic, and environment needs.

Partners: Ministry of the Environment

Target completion date: 2011

- A **community based social marketing project** investigating the likeliness of local agricultural landowners adopting phosphorus reduction best management practices (BMPs). Previous nutrient and water budget modelling has indicated that implementing agricultural BMPs can reduce phosphorous loading by 24 per cent.

Partners: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and funding from the Canada-Ontario Agreement.

Completion date: March 31, 2010

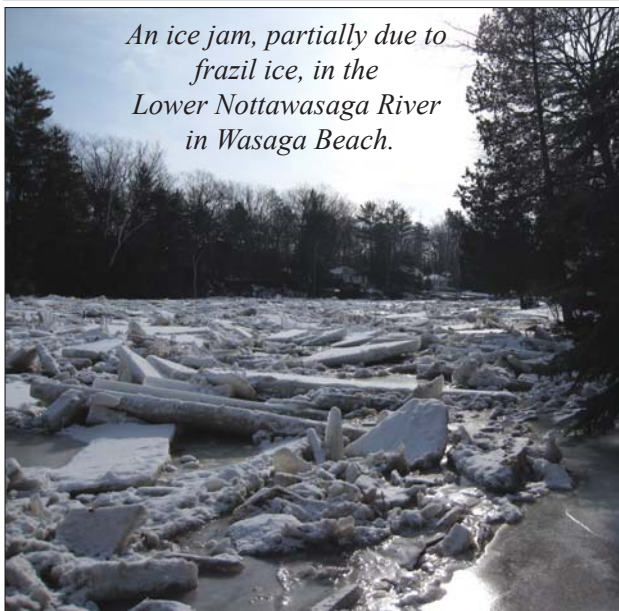


A water sample is tested for nitrate levels in a Ministry of Environment lab.

- A subwatershed-wide study to sample, monitor and analyze **water quality and nitrate levels**, which have historically been high in the area. Water chemistry will be examined for nitrogen isotopes which will be used to determine the sources of the chemical found in the surface and ground waters.

Partners: Environment Canada, University of Waterloo, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Target completion date: Spring 2010



An ice jam, partially due to frazil ice, in the Lower Nottawasaga River in Wasaga Beach.

temperatures hit, frazil and anchor ice formed, causing nuisance flooding in isolated locations. The cold temperatures also caused intense lake effect snow and the formation of thick river ice cover in other areas. This led to ice jam flooding during the melt periods, particularly in Adjala-Tosorontio and Wasaga Beach. A notable flood occurred in February which saw most of the snowpack melt away. Some snow returned but

the spring thaw was not as intense as that in February.

Although there was higher than average rainfall throughout the summer, no further flooding problems occurred.

In total, **17 flood related messages** were issued by the NVCA in 2009.

Groundwater Overview

On World Water Day (March 22nd) the NVCA released a report on the **state of groundwater** in the watershed. Monitoring data indicates that local groundwater meets Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. NVCA staff monitor 15 wells annually, as part of the Ministry of Environment's Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network program, so they can track changes in quantity and quality over time.

The majority of watershed residents are dependent on groundwater for their drinking water as the watershed

has more than 130 municipal wells and 10,000 private wells. The overview is posted on www.nvca.on.ca.



Flood forecasting

Our watercourses had unusually high winter flows as the result of a surprise melt in December 2008. The flows prevented surface ice from forming on the Mad, Noisy and Pine rivers and when cold

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Revised Planning and Regulation Guidelines

In August 2009 the Board of Directors unanimously approved the *NVCA Planning and Regulation Guidelines*. The guidelines will assist staff in meeting the Authority's goals, objectives, targets and planning and permitting obligations. They provide staff with the Authority's technical standards and requirements (e.g. vegetative setbacks required for streams and wetlands) for both the plan input and review and permitting programs. The guidelines will also be a valuable source of information for the Authority's Board of Directors, municipal staff, development industry and the public. The guidelines are posted on www.nvca.on.ca under the planning policies section.

NVCA planning program works on new streamlining agreements with member municipalities

Throughout the fall of 2009 and into early 2010, the NVCA Chair, Vice-Chair, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer and Director of Planning visited 17 of the NVCA's 18 municipalities to present the new *NVCA-Municipal Streamlining Partnership Agreement for Plan Review and Technical Clearance & Fee Collection*.

The agreement is intended to streamline planning services through clearly defining roles and responsibilities, identifying NVCA technical support resources and ensuring coordination of planning activities to reduce duplication, all while ensuring the protection of the environment.

The need for updated agreements was identified by the Planning Advisory Committee while it was preparing the 2009-11 business plan in the spring. In the fall, when one member municipality passed as resolution asking the NVCA to cease collecting permit fees and to undergo a third party review of its planning services, the streamlining agreements were expedited to address any concerns municipalities may have had. Several watershed municipalities have expressed interest in the partnership opportunities offered by streamlining agreement.

GIS enhancements to support NVCA programs

New software

NVCA staff was migrated off the obsolete Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) ArcView 3.2 GIS software platform and onto ESRI's latest version of ArcGIS. This was made possible through a license sharing agreement with the County of Simcoe. This migration has allowed for more advanced and consistent GIS functionality to be available to all NVCA staff.

Source Water Protection

GIS staff assisted with source water protection studies including data preparation and analysis for input into the water budget model.

Land use layers

A new project was started in 2009 to update land use layers in the NVCA watershed to be consistent with/based on 2008 Ortho Imagery.

6 Completion is expected by the end of April 2010.

Plan Review and Input

- The NVCA received almost **900 applications** to review under *Regulation 172/06 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses*, the *Planning Act*, and through the Niagara Escarpment Commission, as well as Environment Assessment reviews.
- NVCA staff assisted its municipal partners on **Ontario Municipal Board matters** in the Town of Collingwood and the townships of Essa, Springwater and Adjala-Tosorontio, to address natural hazard matters and ensure the conservation of key environmental features.
- NVCA staff provided input on **Official Plan updates** for the City of Barrie, towns of Wasaga Beach and New Tecumseth and the townships of Mulmur and Adjala-Tosorontio.

NVCA supports draft CALC report

The Board of Directors voted unanimously in support of the draft report titled *Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting Activities*. The report was written to clarify the roles of conservation authorities in development plan review and Conservation Authorities Act (Section 28) regulatory permitting processes.

The report was written by the Conservation Authority Liaison Committee (CALC), which has representation from various government agencies and private sector stakeholders.

WATERSHED MONITORING

Benthic monitoring

Benthic macroinvertebrates (bottom-living insects) were monitored in the **Boyne River and Willow Creek sub-watersheds**. Staff monitor all of the NVCA's 10 sub-watersheds on a five-year rotation. The data collected will be used to update the watershed report cards, which are scheduled to be released again in 2012.

Minesing monitoring

Replicating a 1999 PhD thesis, staff monitored groundwater influences on the fen complex within the Minesing wetlands, looking for changes that might have occurred. Early results show little change in data collected over the past 12 years. NVCA and MNR staff worked together to confirm the presence of endangered orchids, threatened Least Bittern and the continued nesting of Bald Eagles and Black Tern. Marsh bird surveys were conducted for the third straight year as part of Bird Studies Canada's Marsh Monitoring Program.

Reporting on 2 more watershed features

Background work began for new environmental health report cards for **Orr Lake** and the **Oro Moraine**.

In the Orr Lake sub-watershed, staff completed a shoreline inventory of lakeside residences, a survey of aquatic vegetation, dissolved oxygen and temperature profiling and benthic invertebrate sampling and temperature logging in tributary streams.

Partners: Township of Springwater, the Orr Lake Ratepayers Association and the Severn Sound Environmental Association.

On the Oro Moraine land form, staff compiled existing data from

Invasive species control and public awareness

In 2009, staff conducted **two experiments** to study the effectiveness of **invasive species control methods**. Vinegar mixtures were tested on Giant Hogweed in Collingwood and Common Reed in the Minesing Wetlands. Preliminary results show success. Mature plants that were injected or sprayed with the mixture died; however, staff still need to re-visit the sites to determine the long-term viability of the methods.

In addition, staff prepared a **Giant Hogweed fact sheet** for residents to learn how to safely eradicate the plant should they see it on their property.

Giant Hogweed has broad leaves and dense canopy and often out-grows native species. Its stalks, leaves, and bristles also

contain a noxious sap

that sensitizes skin to

sunlight. Hogweed has

been recorded in Collingwood, Mono, Adjala-

Tosorontio and Essa.

Common Reed is a tall grass that spreads easily and has colonized parts of the Wasaga Beach – Collingwood shoreline, as well as parts of the Minesing Wetlands.

Invasive species monitoring

The extent of **garlic mustard infestation** along sections of the Bruce Trail in the NVCA watershed was documented in a report by the NVCA and Bruce Trail Conservancy. **Garlic mustard** is an invasive species that can invade and dominate the forest floor.

Heavy infestations were observed along some trail sections in the Hockley Valley, the Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area and Pretty River Valley provincial park.

Lighter infestations were observed at Petun Conservation Area. Many of the infestations were observed near parking lots and trail access points, suggesting that the seeds are inadvertently being carried by hikers' footwear.

The final report includes recommendations for controlling this plant species. It is posted at www.nvca.on.ca.



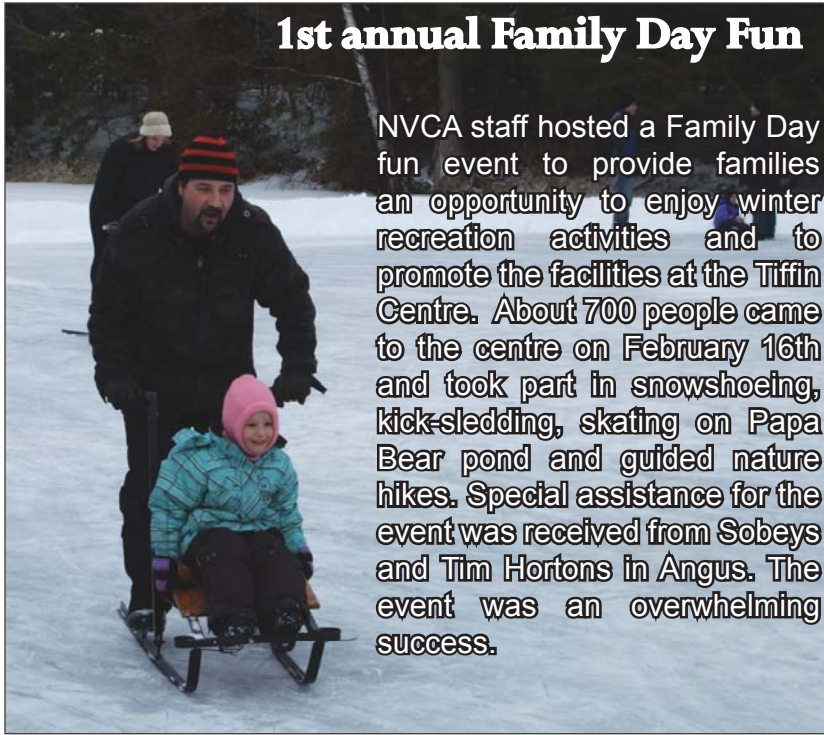
These projects were supported by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

previous Willow Creek, Severn Sound and Bass Lake monitoring efforts, as well as pre-existing data from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA). New data will likely be collected in 2010 for water temperature, benthic invertebrates and stream flow. **Partners:** OMEGA (Township of Oro-Medonte), LSRCA and the Couchiching Conservancy.

CONSERVATION AREAS & RECREATION

1st annual Family Day Fun

NVCA staff hosted a Family Day fun event to provide families an opportunity to enjoy winter recreation activities and to promote the facilities at the Tiffin Centre. About 700 people came to the centre on February 16th and took part in snowshoeing, kick-sledding, skating on Papa Bear pond and guided nature hikes. Special assistance for the event was received from Sobeys and Tim Hortons in Angus. The event was an overwhelming success.



Minesing Wetland tower and memorial to trappers unveiled

In May 2009, the NVCA and Friends of Minesing Wetlands hosted the grand opening of the Waterfowl Viewing Window and a dedication ceremony for John Meyer and other fur trappers of the wetland. John Meyer, who began trapping at the age of 13, taught conservation and fur management courses at Georgian College and was dedicated to preserving the Minesing Wetland.

The viewing platform provides a bird's eye view of the wetland for people to witness approximately 200 species of birds that flock to the area in the early spring.

Neeva Gayle Hix Greenway

A **240-foot boardwalk** was unveiled at the Tiffin Centre in September. The greenway connects the NVCA's administration office to its environmental learning centre.

It was designed and funded by Tottenham architect John Hix and named for his wife - the Neeva Gayle Hix Greenway.

The greenway helps to make the Tiffin Centre an accessible place for environmental learning and recreation.



Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival

Winter weather tried to upstage this spring time tradition, but about **1,300 people** found their way to the Tiffin Centre on April 4th & 5th for the festival.

Families enjoyed maple sugar bush tours, pancake breakfasts, horse-drawn wagon rides, arts and crafts, guided hikes, an environmental fair and face painting. The festival is hosted by the Rotary Club of Barrie in partnership with the NVCA. Funds raised go towards community projects.

The NVCA owns and manages almost 12,000 acres of land throughout the watershed. We focus on acquiring lands for the long-term protection of ground and surface waters and significant flora and fauna habitat.

LAND MANAGEMENT

2009-13 Minesing Wetland Management Plan

The Minesing Wetlands is one of the most significant wetland systems in southern Ontario and has *internationally-significant* designation.

The NVCA and the Nature Conservancy of Canada completed the **2009-13 management plan** to assess biodiversity targets, threats and conservation actions for the protection, recovery and enhancement of the wetland.

One of the most important actions identified is to maintain the ecosystem's natural hydrogeological regime (groundwater flows). NVCA staff is establishing baseline conditions, tracking changes and analyzing potential and actual impacts of development.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Tiffin Environmental Education Program

About **6,100 students** participated in the environmental education program at the Tiffin Centre throughout the 2008-09 school year. All programs at Tiffin aim to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the environment while providing hands-on learning opportunities that connect to the Ontario curriculum.

Three new programs were developed and offered in 2009:

The **orienteering program** got a modern touch with a donation of 20 GPS units from The Source By Circuit City. Now, with these devices, students will learn both traditional and modern map-reading skills as they navigate through the wilderness.

The **Trappers and Traders program** was enhanced to help students experience early Canadian history. Through a \$2,000 donation from Barrie Chiropractic & Health Services Centre, a new trade route presentation was made and new props were acquired for role playing, orienteering, problem solving and a scavenger hunt.

Outreach program for schools

In September 2009, education staff began offering an in-school outreach program to schools in the watershed. The program is designed to deliver environmental education to schools that may be hindered by transportation costs and travel time to the Tiffin Centre.



YMCA/Tiffin Outdoor Day Camp

In the summer of 2009 the NVCA partnered with the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka for the first time to **host a summer day camp** at the Tiffin Centre. About **200 campers** took part in the camp over the course of the summer, which was designed to engage children in experiential learning activities with a focus on fun, interaction and a deepened sense of global stewardship. Camp program themes included Focus on Forests, Habitats & Communities, Instincts for Survival, Rocks & Minerals and Wilderness Skills.



Bus subsidies to increase participation in winter environmental education

The NVCA partnered with Sinton Transportation and the Rotary Club of Barrie to cover half the cost of busing to bring students to the Tiffin Centre to enjoy winter activities and Canadian traditions such as snowshoeing, kicksledding, spotting winter wildlife and learning the science of snow. About **800 students** participated in the program.

Events & Outreach

- Jan. 8: SWP presentation to Rotary Club of Shelburne
- Jan. 14 -16: Ag Info Days
- Feb.16: Family Day Fun at Tiffin
- Feb. 23: SWP presentation to Stayner Horticultural Society
- Feb. 26: Trees Ontario workshop
- Feb. 28: Wonderful Wetlands & Duck Box workshop
- Mar. 10: Trees Ontario workshop
- Mar. 19: March Break at Tiffin
- April 2: SWP municipal workshop
- April 4 & 5: Spring Tonic
- April 20: Yellow Fish Road with Barrie Girl Guides
- April 23: Oak Ridges Moraine/Ducks Unlimited workshop
- May 2: Wasaga Beach Healthy Living Show
- May 9: Arbour Day tree sales
- May 29: SWP municipal workshop
- June 13: Native plant sale
- July 21: SWP Pollution Prevention Review workshop
- Aug. 15: Oak Ridges Moraine workshop
- Aug. 22: Elmvale Water Festival
- Aug. 25: SWP presentation to Collingwood Probus Club
- Sept. 17: SWP municipal workshop
- Sept. 19: Nine Mile Portage Heritage Festival
- Sept. 19: Essa Salmon Festival
- Sept. 26: Brook Trout in your Backyard community event
- Oct. 17: Oak Ridges Moraine workshop
- Oct. 29: SWP municipal workshop
- Nov. 3: Evening of Thanks and Conservation Champion Awards
- Nov. 25: Lake Sturgeon/Species at Risk workshop

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

Conservation Champions

Lifelong conservationists and new environmentalists came together on Nov. 3rd to be named Conservation Champions at the NVCA's 3rd annual Evening of Thanks.

Bruce Haire, Editor Emeritus of the New Tecumseth Times, has been a tireless supporter of the New Tecumseth Streams Committee and South Simcoe Streams Network. He has been instrumental in getting the stewardship message to the community via publications in his newspaper.

William Brooks and **Troy Wilson** are both first-year members of the South Simcoe Streams Network who participated in more than half a dozen events in 2009 with on-site volunteer coordination and tree planting. Their work has contributed greatly to stream restoration in the south end of the watershed.

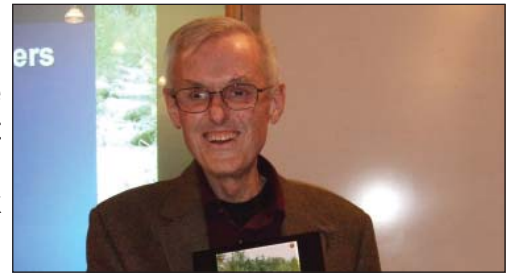
The **Bass Lake Ratepayers Association** (BLRA) prepared a three-year stewardship plan in consultation with the NVCA, Severn Sound Environmental Association and the Township of Oro-Medonte, to protect the health of Bass Lake. Over the past couple of years, the BLRA has

encouraged and participated in the production of the Bass Lake Report Card, which sets forest, wetland and water quality benchmarks to track environmental restoration efforts in the future.

Kyle Pearson, a Grade 7 student at St. Mary's school in Collingwood, was named the **Young Conservation Champion**. When in Grade 6, Kyle had to analyze a local issue for a project and he chose development pressures on the Silver Creek wetland. He made a slide show, a short film, a one-hour presentation to his class and he became the youngest member of the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation.

A **special recognition award** was presented to the remaining founding members of the Fort Willow Improvement Group, **Bernie Longson**, **Harold McMaster** and **Frank Ford**.

The three men started the group in 1996. They are responsible for turning the forgotten lot into the majestic fort it is today, complete with palisade walls, interpretative signage, archaeological digs and re-enactments of the War of 1812.



Bruce Haire



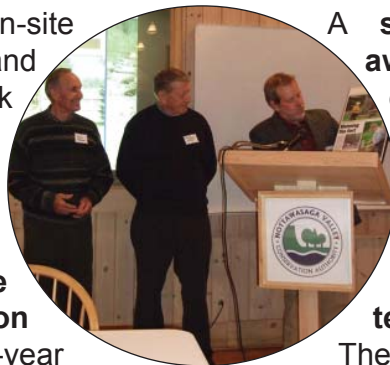
Troy Wilson (L) and William Brooks (R)



BLRA - (L to R) Erin Evans, Coun. Sandy Agnew, Connie Simo, David Featherstone (NVCA) and John Cameron

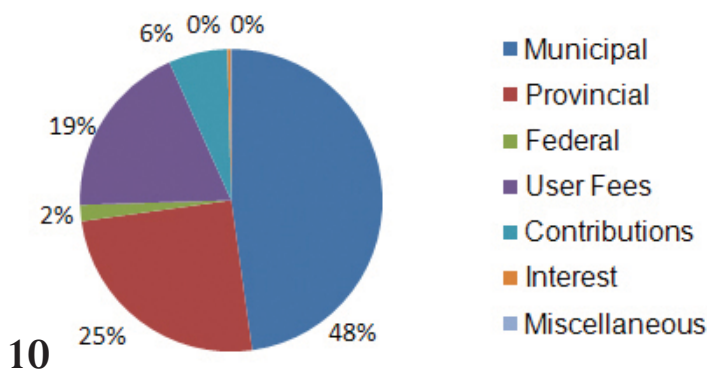


Kyle Pearson (L) and Norm Wingrove (R)

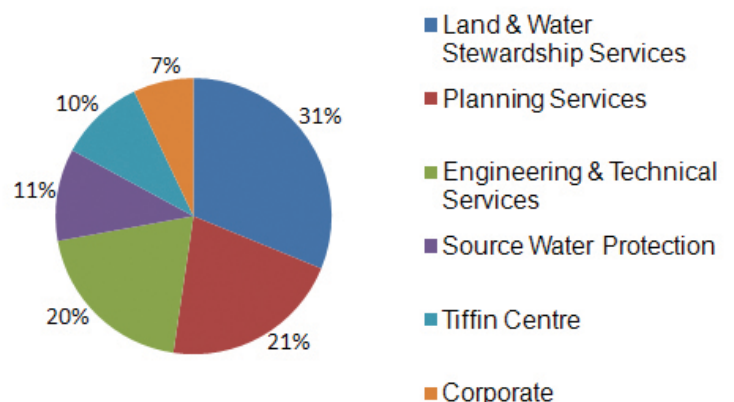


2009 NVCA BUDGET

Revenues \$3,768,8337



Expenses \$3,699,751



Municipalities & Board Members

Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
Mary Brett

Township of Amaranth
Percy Way

City of Barrie
Gerald Poisson
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



2009 Board of Directors

Front row (L to R): Fred Nix, Tom Elliott, Walter Benotto, Joan Sutherland, Rick Archdekin (Executive Committee members)

Second row: Garry Matthews, Barry Ward, Sonny Foley, Robert Walker, Chris Carrier, Ron Simpson, Peter Kmet*, Percy Way

Third row: Gerald Poisson, Cal Patterson, Mel Coutanche, Orville Brown, Ralph Hough, Reg Cowan, Brian Mullin

Absent: Mary Brett, Terry Dowdall, Ron Henderson, John McKean, Rick Milne, Gord Montgomery, Bill Van Berkel

** Peter Kmet represented the Town of Innisfil in Bill Van Berkel's absence*



2009 Staff

Front row: Tim Salkeld, Kimberly Winder, Kim Garraway, Henry Pelley, Debbie Swindells, Holly Bothwell

Second row: Brian Smith, Chris Hibberd, Laurie Barron, Monique Smart, Naomi Saunders, Glenn Switzer

Third row: Wayne Wilson, Kate Northcott, Sue Whitters, Christine May, Andrew Claydon, Linda Raeburn

Fourth row: Patti Young, Tina DesRoches, Barb Perreault,

Top row: Sarah Campbell, Lyle Wood, Susan Richards, Allan Rodie, Miguel Alva.

Absent: Rick Grillmayer, Byron Wesson, Ian Ockenden, Fred Dobbs, Greg Bray, David Featherstone, Natosha Fortini, Jessica Keats, Bob Law, Joe Mazza, Ryan Post, Adam Scott, Bahar SM, Shannon Stephens, Rod Aubin, Leslie Roach.

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
Rick Milne
Joan Sutherland

Township of Oro-Medonte
Mel Coutanche (Jan. to Oct.)
Ralph Hough
Harry Hughes (Nov. & Dec.)

Town of Shelburne
Walter Benotto

Township of Springwater
Reg Cowan
Tom Elliott

Town of Wasaga Beach
Rick Archdekin
Cal Patterson

WATERSHED MAP

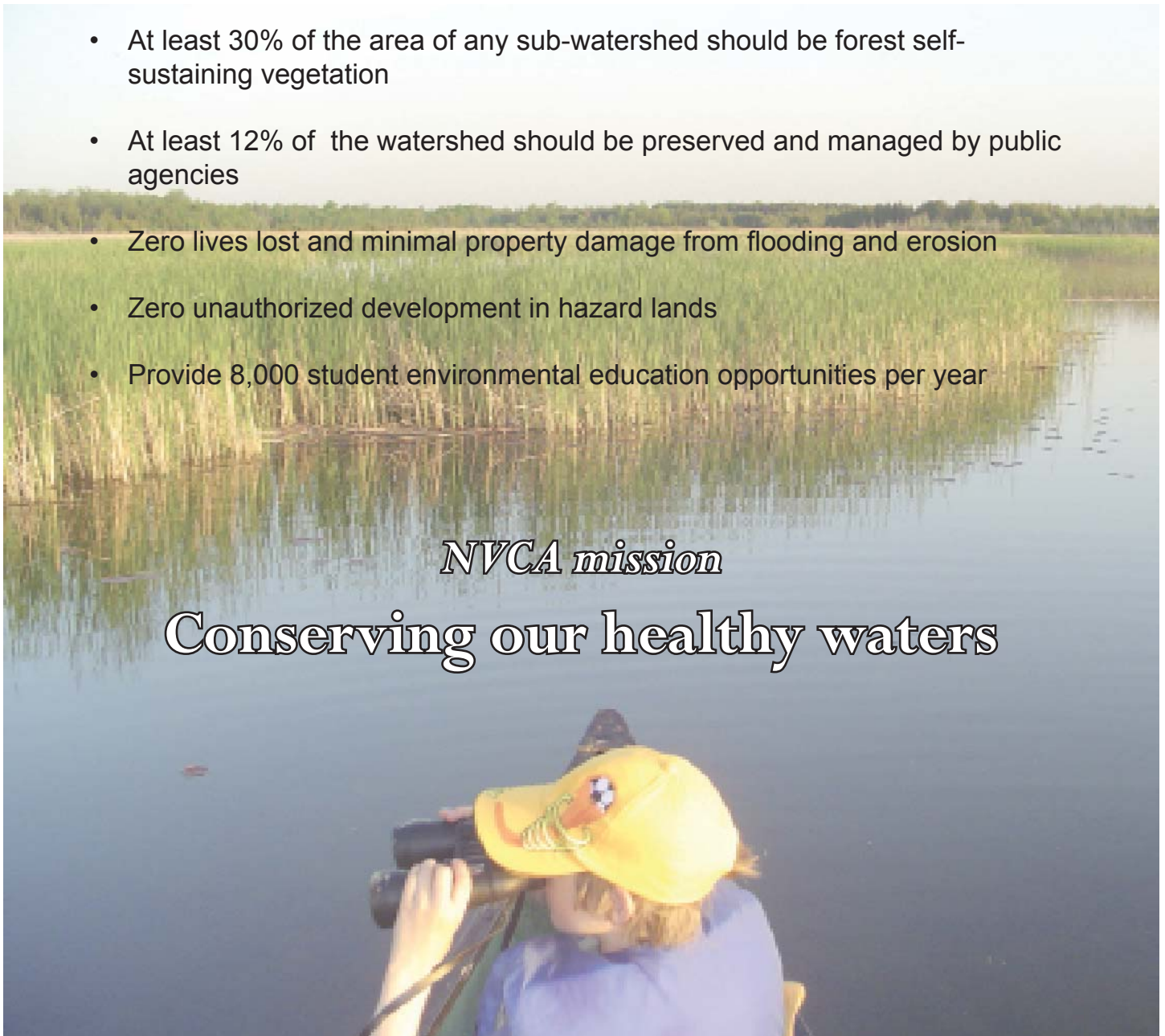


The work of the NVCA is guided by targets it has set to improve watershed health. They include:

- 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 for surface water
- 100% of groundwater aquifers should meet provincial water quality standards
- 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 from flooding and erosion
- Zero unauthorized development in hazard lands
- Provide 8,000 student environmental education opportunities per year

NVCA mission

Conserving our healthy waters



*Nottawasaga Bay,
outlet for the
Nottawasaga River*

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
John Hix Conservation Administration Centre
8195 8th Line
Utopia, Ontario, L0M 1T0
(705) 424-1479
www.nvca.on.ca

A member of

