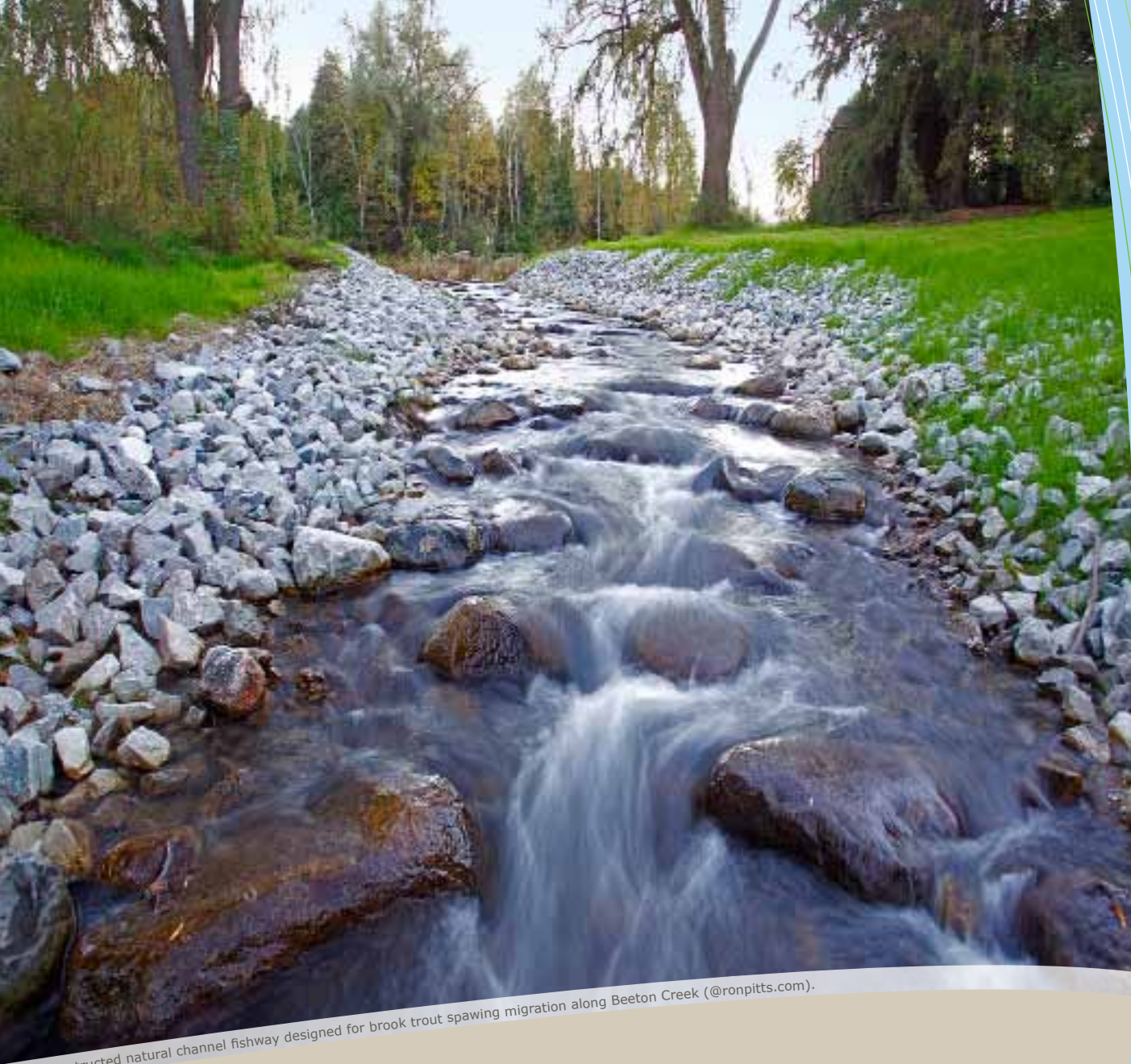




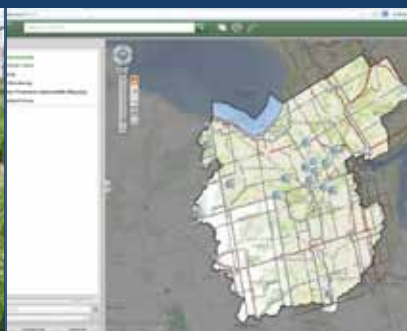
Constructed natural channel fishway designed for brook trout spawning migration along Beeton Creek (@ronpitts.com).



Healthy Watershed, Healthy Communities

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



A Message from Our Chair & CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

NVCA

Member Municipalities

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

Watershed Counties

Dufferin County

Grey County

Simcoe County

Our Vision—Innovative watershed management supporting a healthy environment, communities and lifestyles

Our Mission—Working together to lead, promote, support and inspire innovative watershed management

Setting the Course for a Healthy Watershed

2013 was a year of looking forward, charting the course for the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) and the services and programs we offer our watershed communities.

In 2013, we set high standards for customer service across the organization through our new Customer Service Charter. We looked to strengthen our ties with the agricultural community by establishing an Agricultural Advisory Committee. We continued to identify areas for improvement, including laying the groundwork for an efficiency audit in 2014. And perhaps most significantly, we developed a Strategic Plan to guide the organization over the next five years.

In that plan, we reaffirmed our mission of working together to lead, promote, support and inspire innovative watershed management. We built on the NVCA's existing accomplishments and confirmed our strategic direction to:

- *protect, enhance and restore*, protecting life and property from natural hazards and promoting a healthy, sustainable watershed;
- *learn and discover*, seeking new knowledge about our watershed and sharing that information widely; and
- *connect* people with the watershed through partnerships, projects and recreational opportunities.

It is an exciting time for the NVCA. We continue to work with our member municipalities, project stakeholders and community groups to develop efficient, innovative approaches to the challenges we face as our watershed changes and grows. As you will see from the highlights presented in this report, together we are taking steps to enhance the health of the Nottawasaga Valley watershed, and in turn, to shape and develop healthy, prosperous communities for tomorrow.

This wouldn't be possible without the strong support of our partners. We thank the many volunteers, businesses and community groups that work tirelessly to enhance local streams and forests, and to provide recreational opportunities that encourage people to experience our beautiful natural areas. We particularly recognize the contributions of the dedicated and hardworking NVCA staff, member municipalities, corporate sponsors and program funders that make our success possible.



Nina Bifulchi
2013 Chair of the Board



Wayne Wilson
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Engineering & Technical Services

Water Resources & Flood Warnings

- issued 8 flood messages
- inspected flood and erosion control structures; repaired erosion at two locations on the Pretty River dyke
- reviewed 125 stormwater management submissions related to subdivisions, site plans and environmental assessments
- provided technological support for updated generic regulation hazard mapping
- updated NVCA development technical standards for natural hazards and stormwater management

Watershed Monitoring

- published NVCA watershed report card and 10 sub-watershed health checks
- monitored water quality throughout the watershed: benthic monitoring at 85 sites, baseflow monitoring at 259 sites and provincial water quality monitoring at 18 sites
- finalized a biological inventory study on property in the Town of Mono
- prepared updated stormwater planting guidelines for internal and external review
- updated wetland and forest cover mapping for the entire watershed
- conducted water chemistry sampling and other analyses in support of the Oak Ridges Moraine Report Card
- continued to support invasive species monitoring, control and education efforts in the watershed

Groundwater Monitoring

- monitored groundwater at 14 locations in the watershed for groundwater levels and ambient water quality

- completed the *NVCA Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network Groundwater Quality Overview, 2002-2013*
- received comments on the draft Source Water Protection Plan in October 2013, assisted municipalities with implementation readiness, and completed significant drinking water threat verification work
- undertook a Drought Management Pilot Project for the Innisfil Creek Subwatershed, scheduled to be completed in early 2015
- completed a special project, *Percentile Groundwater Indicator Literature Review*, examining the use of groundwater as a drought indicator for Ontario

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) & Information Technology

- launched an interactive, web-based mapping system, *Is my property regulated?*
- worked with staff from various departments to update the regulation mapping
- improved staff efficiency through continued database and user application development and maintenance
- created a Source Water Protection - Threats Verification application
- developed a plan for off-site data storage to be implemented in 2014

Land Operations & Stewardship Services

Conservation Lands Program

- hosted more than 25,000 visitors to over 12,000 acres of conservation lands in 12 conservation areas spread over 8 different municipalities
- sold 122 hunting passes and 58 annual memberships (42 individuals, 13 family and 3 clubs) for NVCA conservation areas



Inspecting NVCA Dams



Watershed Monitoring



Online Interactive Mapping



NVCA Conservation Areas

- acquired the 180 acres (73 ha) Clarence Smith property from the Nature Conservancy of Canada, adding to the NVCA protected areas in the Minesing Wetlands
- completed upgrades to the Tiffin Centre's Sugar Shack and began upgrades on the picnic pavilion
- began work on the Mad River trail, a new hiking path starting at the Minesing Wetlands viewing platform
- removed invasive species on conservation lands throughout the watershed

Healthy Waters Grant Incentive Program

- completed 23 projects under the Healthy Waters Grant Incentive Program
- helped farmers install 2.2 km of fence to exclude livestock from waterways and create stream buffers
- answered more than 216 inquiries on stewardship programs and incentives, assisting landowners to protect and enhance water quality and habitat
- assisted a landowner in the Oak Ridges Moraine in restoring more than 1 acre of prairie
- reduced an estimated 47 kg/year of phosphorus runoff, which will help prevent about 19 tonnes/year of algal bloom growth
- delivered stewardship presentations, workshops, displays and activities at events attended by over 2,300 people

Community River Restoration Program

- removed an old dam structure and constructed a 30 m long brook trout fishway on Beeton Creek in New Tecumseth, working in partnership with the South Simcoe Streams Network (SSSN)
- engaged over 350 volunteers in community riparian tree plantings and river rehabilitation workdays

- supported the SSSN with the design and delivery of 14 volunteer workdays that planted 5,115 native trees along streams
- supported the Dufferin Simcoe Stewardship Network with multiple stewardship and outreach projects including a tree sale and interpretive hikes
- hosted a Fly Fishing Forum for 75 people in Collingwood in partnership with the Nottawasaga Watershed Improvement Program (N-WIP) and the Pretty River Academy
- volunteers planted 2,300 willow and dogwood live-stakes in the Minesing Wetlands and anchored woody material to stabilize river banks and improve fish habitat
- stabilized an 85 m long eroding stream bank on the Pine River at the LeClair soccer field in Angus, working with Essa Township, their Healthy Communities Committee and local volunteers
- worked in partnership with the SSSN to construct a 20 m long bypass channel on Beeton Creek in New Tecumseth, eliminating sediment inputs from an 80 m long eroding stream bank
- completed a radio tracking project designed to confirm lake sturgeon spawning habitat locations in the Nottawasaga River

Forestry Program

- planted 142,400 trees on 29 different properties, creating 182 acres of new forest
- received financial contributions (outside of levy) from provincial and municipal governments, corporations and private landowners totaling \$251,708
- conducted Arbour Day sales in 3 municipalities, selling 2,700 tree seedlings to support watershed tree-planting programs and encouraging residents to plant native trees appropriate to site conditions
- managed 395.3 acres of forest; worked with landowners to develop 9 Managed Forest Plans



Smith Nature Reserve



Tracking Lake Sturgeon



Lamont Creek Tree Planting



Camp Tiffin

and Key Initiatives (continued)

Environmental Education & Public Events

- provided environmental education to more than 11,250 youth in all education initiatives combined
- delivered curriculum-based environmental education programs to 9,536 students at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation
- delivered 'whole school approach' outreach programming to 1,594 students in the Nottawasaga Valley watershed
- offered fun and educational summer day camp program, Camp Tiffin, to 170 campers, up from 118 the previous year
- continued to build on partnerships in the community including Autism Ontario
- worked with lands and communications staff to provide public programming opportunities across all seasons:
 - Family Day—500 participants
 - March Break Family Day—200 participants
 - Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival (with Rotary Club of Barrie)—1,700 participants
 - Festival at the Fort (with Friends of Fort Willow, Rotary clubs and Springwater Township)—1,900 participants
 - 'Fright at the Fort,' a new Hallowe'en and historical themed event—100 participants registered (cancelled due to inclement weather)

Planning Services

- processed 904 applications and inquiries under various provincial acts, primarily the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the *Planning Act*
- investigated 16 violations under the *Conservation Authorities Act*
- engaged municipalities and stakeholders on updates to NVCA's regulation mapping through landowner mail outs, a public open house and numerous site visits

- participated in a Mining Lands Commission hearing, NVCA Board hearing and Ontario Municipal Board pre-hearing process in Collingwood
- reviewed and updated the planning and development fee schedule; an ad hoc review fee committee of Board members and staff engaged stakeholders and municipalities as part of the review process
- continued to develop and finalize municipal planning streamlining agreements

Corporate Services

- worked closely with the Board of Directors to prepare the 2014-2018 NVCA Strategic Plan
- presented Conservation Champion awards to: John Herring, a long-time supporter and a founding member of the SSSN; the Nature League for ongoing support including removing invasive species and donating funds to help the NVCA acquire land in the Minesing Wetlands; and the Nature Conservancy of Canada for their ongoing support of land acquisition within the Minesing Wetlands
- presented Young Conservation Champion award to Chelsea Osborne for her volunteer work with the Camp Tiffin summer program
- worked with lands and operations staff to host 21 wedding celebrations at the Tiffin Centre
- formally committed to excellence in customer service through the creation and adoption of a Customer Service Strategy & Charter
- introduced client permit surveys to track customer satisfaction and identify areas for improvement
- launched NVCA's Social Media Strategy with outreach through Facebook and Twitter; exceeded engagement goals with more than 200 Twitter followers and 165 Facebook likes at year's end



Environmental Education



Spring Tonic Festival



Conservation Champions



2014-2018 Strategic Plan

Municipality	Land Operations & Stewardship Services							Environmental Education			Corporate Services
	Parcels of Conservation Lands	Total Acres of Conservation Lands	Healthy Waters Projects	Healthy Waters \$ Spent	Trees Planted - all programs	Forest Acres Managed	km of Stream Protected or Rehabilitated	Schools Hosted	School Group Visits	Children Attending Education Programs	Freedom of Information Requests
Adjala-Tosorontio	1	7	2	\$2,857	25,726	20	0.1	4	5	221	
Amaranth	1	74			10,200						
Barrie								67	86	4,772	
The Blue Mountains	1	109									
Bradford West Gwillimbury					1,500			4	8	443	
Clearview	20	2,809	4	\$16,125	11,340		6.0	1	1	20	3
Collingwood	13	58	3	\$6,218	1,305		0.7	3	6	231	2
Essa	11	415	3	\$27,144	16,808	15	0.4	8	14	1,701	
Grey Highlands	5	709									1
Innisfil			1	\$1,000	335			6	10	776	2
Melancthon					16,000						1
Mono	1	8	1	in-kind	20,900	86					
Mulmur	1	79			23,050	95	1.1	1	1	200	
New Tecumseth	8	225	5	\$34,403	6,490	30		9	11	587	
Oro-Medonte	2	15			1,500	50		2	3	88	1
Shelburne			1	\$2,118	4,613		0.4				
Springwater	38	8,179	2	\$4,266	1,250	99.3	0.2	2	2	269	
Wasaga Beach			1	\$1,956	90		0.0	3	4	143	1
Watershed Total	102	12,687	23	\$96,087	141,107	395.3	8.89	110	151	9,451	11

2013 NVCA Board of Directors



Front Row: Perry Ritchie, Springwater; Alicia Savage, Clearview; Nina Bifulchi (Chair), Wasaga Beach; Gail Ardiel, The Blue Mountains; Dan Davidson, Innisfil; Arif Khan, Barrie; Michael Smith, Essa

Middle Row: Percy Way, Amaranth; Earl Hawkins, Mulmur; Mel Coutanche, Oro-Medonte; Bob Marrs, New Tecumseth; Keith White, Essa; Fred Nix, Mono; Darren White (Vice Chair), Melancthon; Rob Keffer, Bradford West Gwillimbury

Back Row: Paul McQueen, Grey Highlands; Mike Edwards, Collingwood; Walter Benotto (Past Chair), Shelburne; Brent Preston, Clearview; Rick Webster, Springwater; Kevin Lloyd, Collingwood

Not pictured: Mary Brett, Adjala-Tosorontio; Donna Jebb, New Tecumseth; Marty Lancaster, Oro-Medonte; George Watson, Wasaga Beach

Services Summary

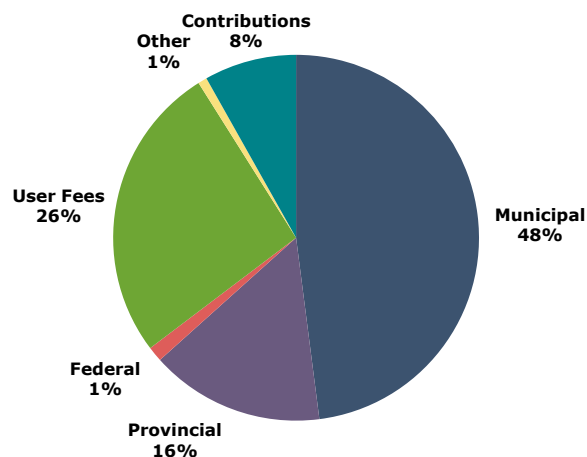
Engineering & Technical Services				Planning Services								
Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Sites	Benthics Monitoring Sites	Baseflow Monitoring Sites	Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Sites	Solicitor Inquiries	Conservation Authorities Act Approvals	Violations	Zoning Amendments, Official Plans & Official Plan Amendments	Subdivisions	Consents, Variances & Niagara Escarpment Commission	Site Plans	Environmental Assessment	Preconsult & Other
2	10	10	2	5	15	4	7		14			
	1		1	1	10				3			1
	3		1	5	10		7	2	1	1		2
	1				3		1		4	1		1
	2		3	1	7	1			3			
1	1	90		4	38	1	5		44	5		4
4	3			8	22	1	10		26	11	1	14
3	6	7	2	2	45	2	4	1	9	1	1	6
	2			1	2		3		2	3		1
	1			11	15	1			12		2	3
	1				33		1		7			
	2			7	22	1	3	1	24	1		
	5	44		6	14	2	3		20			
3	25		1	16	32		6	1	6	1	1	2
	1	22		1	26		8	1	18	1	1	2
	1			1	3	1		1	1	2		
3	17	81	2	6	46		1	8	13			3
2	3	5	2	18	48	1	13		23	5		20
18	85	259	14	93	391	16	78	15	230	32	6	59

2013 NVCA Financial Statement

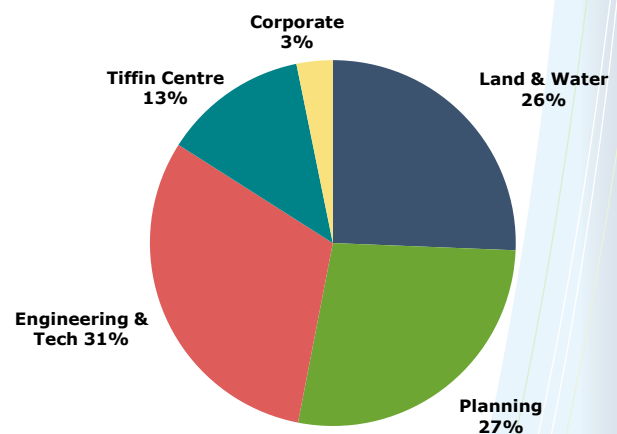
In 2013, NVCA had total revenues of \$4,053,666. These funds came from diverse sources, including member municipalities, provincial and federal governments, local non-governmental partners, and user fees for programs and services. Expenses were held to \$4,067,982, with the majority of expenses supporting engineering, planning and lands management services, all of which focus on protecting people and property and/or enhancing our natural environment.

The 2013 balanced budget as approved required the use of \$255,000 from NVCA's reserves. With solid revenue performance including new funding partnerships, and expenditure control, the NVCA ended the year requiring the use of just over \$14,000, leaving \$1,087,353 in reserves.

Revenues (\$4,053,666)



Expenses (\$4,067,982)



Find full financial statements at nvca.on.ca.

Watershed Monitoring & Stewardship Projects 2013



Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
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A member of:

