



NVCA March 2021 Board Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting: April 23, 2021, held virtually

For the full meeting agenda including documents and reports, visit nvca.on.ca/about/boardofdirectors

Presentation on Engineering

The NVCA has the responsibility to regulate activities in natural and hazardous areas in order to avoid the loss of life and damage to property due to flooding and erosion, and conserve and enhance natural resources.

The Senior Engineer provided an overview of NVCA's engineering program, which consists of three components: flood and erosion management, natural hazards and engineering services

Flood and Erosion Management

NVCA is on the front lines of the Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning program, as the Province of Ontario has delegated responsibility to conservation authorities to operate a flood forecasting and warning program, as well as manage flood and erosion control structures.

Tasks include data collection, issuing flood warning messages and ice management.

Natural Hazards

NVCA is empowered by the *Conservation Authorities Act* to regulate development and activities in or adjacent to natural infrastructure by delineating natural hazards and develop policy to guide the management and use of natural infrastructure.

Some hazards in the Nottawasaga Valley Watershed include river hazards, shoreline hazards, unstable soils, watercourses (including municipal drains and crossings).

Engineering Services

The engineering team also provides services to other NVCA teams and municipal partners.

For planning application reviews, the engineering department provides comments on flood and erosion hazard management, stormwater control, erosion and sediment control and low impact development.

Staff in the engineering team work closely with NVCA's Regulations staff to ensure permit applications comply with engineering guidelines.

Permit application process

NVCA staff will prepare a staff report for a future Board meeting, detailing the permit application process for NVCA in relation to getting permits from municipalities.



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Check to see if you need permits from NVCA before you build

UTOPIA, Ontario (March 25, 2021) – Spring is in the air, and many residents in the Nottawasaga Valley Watershed (NVCA) are looking to make improvements to their homes and properties. Some properties are in areas at risk from flooding and erosion, so it's best to check with NVCA if you're in a regulated area. Projects that may require an NVCA permit can include building or rebuilding a house, deck, garage, shed, dock, shorewall, or addition to your home. Depending on the extent and location, permits may also be required for grading, fill or topsoil importation and placement.

NVCA is tasked by the Province of Ontario to regulate activities in natural and hazardous areas in order to avoid the loss of life and damage to property from flooding and erosion. This is especially important in the face of climate change.

"Many property owners often tell us that their property has never flooded in the many years that they've lived there, but that is changing," advises Chris Hibberd, Director of Watershed Management Services. "Even today we are experiencing more intense rainstorms and other extreme weather events associated with climate change."

To check if you're in a NVCA regulated area, search for your property address in the [Interactive Data Viewer](#). If you're still not sure, NVCA provides free consultations online or over the phone so residents can easily correspond with Regulations Technicians to confirm if their property is regulated, discuss projects and permit requirements.

"Although our Regulations Technicians are mainly working from home, we have very good turnaround times," continued Hibberd. "In 2020, we met the customer service timelines set by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry by 98.2%."

If your property is in one of the following municipalities, check to see if you're in an NVCA regulated area: Adjala-Tosorontio, Amaranth, Barrie, Blue Mountains, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Clearview, Collingwood, Essa, Grey Highlands, Innisfil, Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur, Oro-Medonte, Shelburne, Springwater, New Tecumseth and Wasaga Beach.

Visit [NVCA's website](#) or email permits@nvca.on.ca for more information about NVCA permits, application process, timelines and more.

Photo Captions:

Example of project requiring an NVCA permit: If your property is in an NVCA regulated area, be sure to apply for a permit to ensure that your building is not at risk due to flooding and erosion.

Second example of project requiring an NVCA permit: If you are planning on moving fill material to an NVCA regulated area, contact NVCA to apply for a permit to ensure that the fill is placed in an area that will not impact flooding and wetlands, and to ensure erosion sediment controls are in place.

About NVCA: The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment through specialized programs to protect, conserve and enhance our water, wetlands, forests and lands.

Media contact: Maria Leung, Communications Coordinator 705-424-1479 ext.254,
mleung@nvca.on.ca



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fisheries and Oceans Canada contributes to improving habitat for species at risk in the Nottawasaga River watershed

UTOPIA, Ontario (March 23, 2021) – Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has provided \$165,000.00 over three years to the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) to help restore habitat for two species at risk in the Nottawasaga River Watershed - lake sturgeon and northern brook lamprey. Degradation of habitat and water pollution have contributed to declines in populations for these fish.

"Our Government is proud to work in partnership with NVCA to protect Canada's at-risk species and the habitats they call home," said the Honourable Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard. "Through the Habitat Stewardship Program for Aquatic Species at Risk, we are working together to restore the sturgeon and northern brook lamprey populations in the Nottawasaga River Watershed. Every act of conservation we take is critical to preserving Canada's natural environment for generations to come"

"Spawning habitats for these species at risk are impacted by soil released from eroding river banks and surrounding land" explained Fred Dobbs, Manager of Stewardship Services at NVCA. "Excess soil particles can clog up the pores in spawning gravel, eliminating the flow of water which provides oxygen and removes waste products from the fertilized eggs. Urban and agricultural areas also contribute phosphorus to the spawning grounds. Phosphorus promotes excess algae growth on the gravel which can reduce oxygen concentrations for incubating eggs."

The funding also allowed NVCA stewardship staff and partners such as Nottawasaga Futures, the South Simcoe Streams Committee and Nottawasaga Steelheaders to initiate a multi-year project to stabilize soil and reduce sediment and nutrient inputs to the Nottawasaga River.

This work also includes a floodplain construction component where low flat shelves are excavated adjacent to the river and revegetated. These floodplains reduce erosion by allowing floodwaters to spread out and slow down, like removing your thumb from the end of the garden hose. The floodplains also reduce flooding for adjacent landowners as well as providing habitat for a range of amphibians and birds.

Rural landowners are key partners in this initiative designed to improve habitat for species at risk, and have played a strong role in helping to complete projects in years 1 and 2. NVCA staff are currently developing a work plan for the 2021 field season and encourages landowners on the Nottawasaga River and Sheldon Creek to call Fred Dobbs at (705) 309-0522 if they are interested in participating in the river restoration program.

- 30 -

Photo captions:

Before restoration: Eroding river bank impacted by the removal of stream-side vegetation and its roots which stabilize the soil.

After restoration: Restored river bank stabilized using natural sod and woody material. The logs visible in the river were installed to provide trout habitat.

About NVCA: The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment through specialized programs to protect, conserve and enhance our water, wetlands, forests and lands.

Media contact: Maria Leung, Communications Coordinator 705-424-1479 ext.254,
mleung@nvca.on.ca