



## NVCA April 2023 Board Meeting Highlights

**Next Meeting: May 26, 2023, held virtually**

*For the full meeting agenda including documents and reports, visit [NVCA's website](#).*

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### 2022 Financial Statement

NVCA receives clean audit for 2022.

Board members received the 2022 NVCA audited financial statements as presented by KPMG LLP Chartered Accountants. The financial statement is [available on NVCA's website](#).

### Presentation on NVCA's 2023 Watershed Health Checks

Ian Ockenden, NVCA's Acting Watershed Science Supervisor gave a presentation regarding NVCA's 2023 Watershed Health Checks to the Board of Directors.

The health checks provide an overview of forests, wetlands, stream and groundwater health across for the Nottawasaga Watershed and all nine subwatersheds between 2017 - 2021. They also identify stewardship restoration priorities, future challenges and opportunities to improve environmental health.

NVCA's Watershed Science team uses standard collection and analysis methods to collect and analyze forest, wetland, stream and groundwater information to offer an unbiased, factual analysis of the state of the watershed.

Overall, there is a loss of natural spaces, mainly due to land use changes. Despite this downward trend, some parts of the watershed are seeing positive change thanks to watershed residents, farmers, municipalities, volunteers and other environmental champions who are committed to restoring our environment.

### Forest Conditions

Aerial images were used to determine the amount of forest cover exists in each subwatershed. This information is used to determine the amount of habitat available to

support wildlife. Sensitive forest birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians require deep forest habitat for survival. Environment Canada suggests that 10% forest interior cover is the minimum needed to support a range of species.

### Wetland Conditions

Staff analyzed aerial images to determine the amount of wetlands in each subwatershed. When possible, staff doublecheck these results with on-the-ground surveys.

This information is used to determine the amount of habitat available to support wildlife, and the capacity of wetlands to retain flood waters.

### Stream Health

Stream health is determined by using total phosphorus information and evaluating the health of benthic macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects).

Healthy streams and rivers are important because they provide clean water for drinking, agricultural irrigation, industrial use, and recreational enjoyment. Municipal wastewater facilities also rely on clean rivers to dilute and carry away our waste.

### Groundwater Quality

NVCA analyzes information from the Ontario government's Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network to determine the health of groundwater across the Nottawasaga Watershed.

It is important to keep contaminants out of groundwater because it supports a variety of uses including municipal and private water supplies, agricultural irrigation, and is a source for rivers and streams.

## Stewardship priorities

Through information in the health checks, NVCA's Watershed Stewardship and Forestry teams have identified priority restoration areas in each subwatershed.

For information about your local subwatershed or which subwatershed covers your municipality, visit [nvca.on.ca](http://nvca.on.ca).

## 2023 First Quarter Budget Report

In the first three months of operations of NVCA, expenditures to date are tracking on schedule, with 31.65% of the budgeted expenses (25% of budget year completed). This is normal for the first quarter of the year.

Revenues are tracking well, with 21.97% of the budgeted revenues recognized. This includes the first 3 months of the general municipal levy of \$684,940.

Currently, NVCA is sitting in a deficit position as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (in the amount of \$740,879) was returned to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) due to a CRA audit determining ineligibility.

## NVCA to plant only native maple trees

NVCA's Board of Directors supported staff to plant only native maple trees whenever a maple is called for in any NVCA planting projects.

The maple family is a large group of trees and shrubs with only 6 species native to Ontario. There are three non-native, invasive maples that are present in the NVCA watershed: Amur Maple, Manitoba Maple, and Norway Maple.

These maples have the potential to become serious invaders when they spread from planting sites into nearby natural habitats or urban areas.

## Renaming of Meadow Mouse Trail

The Minesing Wetland's Meadow Mouse Trail will be renamed to Harold Parker Memorial Trail.

Harold Parker was a former Springwater Township Councillor, past-Chair of NVCA

(2000-2002), was involved with the Friends of Minesing Wetlands and was a lifelong resident of the community of Minesing.

Harold had worked closely with NVCA for decades in support of the Conservation Lands and Stewardship Programs. He has undertaken many restoration projects on his property adjacent to Minesing Wetlands and has been a strong advocate of NVCA's programs and purpose.

## Update of Administrative Bylaws for the Board of Directors

NVCA's Board of Directors approved updates for the administrative bylaws.

These reflect the possibility of a Minister appointed agricultural sector member and the changes within the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.

## Board of Directors Per Diem

NVCA's Board of Directors chose to maintain Per Diem rates at \$82.03.

## Upcoming Events

### Arbor Day Tree Sale

Are you looking to purchase native trees for your property this year? NVCA is hosting its annual Arbor Day Tree Sale.

Trees are bare root stock, and are sold in bundles of 10 for \$30 per bundle.

**Date:** Saturday, May 13, 2023 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Location:** Tiffin Conservation Area, 8195 8th Line, Utopia ON L0M 1T0

**Volunteer tree planting events. Space limited. Register through links below:**

[Creemore](#): Saturday, May 6, 2023 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

[Loretto](#): Saturday, May 6, 2023 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

[Hockley](#): Sunday, May 7, 2023 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

[Mansfield](#): Saturday, May 13, 2023 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

[Beeton](#): Saturday, May 13, 2023 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### **Tiffin Nature Program**

Geared towards pre-K and children in kindergarten, the Tiffin nature program will help children gain knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our amazing planet.

**Date:** 6-week sessions from September 20, 2022 to June 13, 2023.

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation  
8195 8th Line, Utopia, ON L0M 1T0

### **PA/PD Day Camp**

Offered on PA/PD Days only, kids will enjoy lots of physical activity, and be mentally stimulated as they explore ever changing scenery and landscapes. They will be able to move away from excess screen time, and learn how to integrate nature into their everyday lives.

**Dates:** June 2, 2023

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation  
8195 8th Line, Utopia, ON L0M 1T0

### **Homeschool Programs**

Tiffin's Homeschool Program is designed for homeschool families who want to spend structured time outside to develop a sense of wonder, appreciation and respect for the natural world.

**Date:** One Friday a month from October 15, 2022 to June 23, 2023

**Location:** Various locations throughout the Nottawasaga Watershed

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**From:** Maria Leung <mleung@nvca.on.ca>

**Sent:** Friday, April 28, 2023 2:54 PM

**To:** Maria Leung <mleung@nvca.on.ca>

**Subject:** NVCA Media Release - NVCA releases 5-year check ups on the health of the Nottawasaga Watershed

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NVCA releases 5-year check ups on the health of the Nottawasaga Watershed**

UTOPIA, Ontario (April 28, 2023) – Today, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) released its 2023 Subwatershed Health Checks.

These reports offer information on the health of forests, wetlands, streams and groundwater across the Nottawasaga Watershed from 2017 to 2021. They also identify future challenges and opportunities to improve ecological health.

“Overall, we are seeing a loss of natural spaces, mainly due to land use changes,” said Ian Ockenden, Acting Watershed Science Supervisor at NVCA. “Despite this downward trend, some parts of the watershed are seeing positive change thanks to watershed residents, farmers, municipalities, volunteers and other environmental champions who are committed to restoring our environment.”

The health checks cover the entire Nottawasaga Watershed and all subwatersheds in the NVCA

jurisdiction. These geographic areas are smaller basins within the larger watershed – think smaller bowls within one big bowl. Water from each subwatershed contribute to streams connected to the main Nottawasaga River, which flows into Georgian Bay.

“The subwatershed health checks provide crucial information to anyone who live, work and play in our watershed,” said Gail Little, Chair of NVCA. “They help us measure what worked and what didn’t work in development and policy planning, and also guide us to make better informed decisions for the future.”

To produce the health checks, NVCA’s Watershed Science team analyzed the most up to date data sources available, such as aerial photos, maps, provincial groundwater and stream health data, and the types of insects that live in rivers in the watershed.

“A healthy watershed matters because it provides habitat for fish and wildlife, but it goes beyond that as well,” said Jonathan Scott, Vice Chair at NVCA. “Our watershed helps attract economic opportunities, such as tourism, and recreational opportunities such as fishing and hiking. Green spaces also contribute to beautiful and livable neighbourhoods. Our farmers depend on clean water for irrigation, healthy soils and pollinators to grow crops. Maintaining a healthy watershed is critical to our quality of life and the economy across our region.”

For information about your local subwatershed or which subwatershed covers your municipality, visit [nvca.on.ca](http://nvca.on.ca).

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**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.

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