



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mariane McLeod and Gail Little to continue to lead 2022 NVCA Board of Directors

UTOPIA, Ontario (January 28, 2022) – Councillor Mariane McLeod of the Town of Collingwood, and Councillor Gail Little of the Township of Amaranth were acclaimed to lead the 2022 Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) Board of Directors as Chair and Vice Chair.

"I'm honoured to have the confidence of my Board colleagues during this challenging time," said Councillor McLeod. "I look forward to continuing my role as the NVCA Chair as conservation authorities across Ontario adapt to the changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act)*."

As part of her role as NVCA Chair in 2021, McLeod advocated with the province for changes to the *CA Act* be brought in in a reasonable timeline, communicated on behalf of the NVCA Board about the regulations accompanying the *CA Act* changes, and ensured Board meetings were efficient and effective.

"I would like to thank my fellow board members for their support for a second year," commented Councillor Little. "We live in an area with an abundant and clean water supply that is vital to our environment, our population, our food production and our economy. I feel very privileged to be a part of this organization that does some amazing work in a very special part of Ontario."

Councillor McLeod continued to say "On behalf of our board, I would like to sincerely thank staff for all the work that they do, including mitigating climate change, protecting people and property from flooding and erosion, restoring our watershed, educating our youth, and providing much needed greenspace for visitors old and young."

"It is so important that we continue to protect and enhance our natural resources as we prepare for a future with possible climate issues," echoed Councillor Little. "Thank you to the employees of the NVCA who continue their work in this watershed as we face the challenges ahead."

The NVCA's Board of Directors provides guidance and leadership to the organization. Members are appointed by the municipalities served by the Authority. For more information, please visit [NVCA's website](#) for more information.

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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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NVCA January 2022 Board Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting: February 25, 2022, held virtually

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

On January 28, 2022, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) held its 2022 Annual General Meeting.

NVCA Board of Directors Election

Councillor Mariane McLeod of the Town of Collingwood, and Councillor Gail Little of the Township of Amaranth were acclaimed to lead the 2022 Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) Board of Directors as Chair and Vice Chair.

Keynote Speaker

Dr. David Sills, Executive Director of the Northern Tornadoes Project, gave a presentation on Tornadoes in Ontario and Canada.

The Northern Tornadoes Project aims to better detect tornado occurrence throughout Canada, improve severe and extreme weather understanding and prediction, mitigate against harm to people and property, and investigate future implications due to climate change.

NTP actively works to develop new methods and tools to inform the field of severe storms.

For more information about tornadoes in the Nottawasaga Watershed area, or across Ontario and Canada, [please review the keynote presentation](#).

2021 Accomplishments

[Watch a video that celebrates NVCA's accomplishments in 2021.](#)

- NVCA's Planning Team released the Ecological Net Gains Policy. As the Nottawasaga watershed faces increasing urbanization, it becomes a challenge to protect and enhance wetlands and other important ecological areas. With this new

policy, NVCA can prevent further losses of these areas, and have the potential to increase their size, value and functions.

- By working together with municipalities, NVCA's Regulation Team proactively protected watershed residents and their properties from natural hazards like flooding and erosion. Municipalities also benefit from this relationship, as NVCA provides expertise in natural heritage, stormwater management, groundwater and water quality.
- The Watershed Science Team gathered information to identify stresses that are impacting the local environment, which can help shape land use planning and policy decisions. We can also see how effective our environmental restoration projects are or understand the impacts of new development.
- As COVID lockdowns prevented volunteers from helping during the intense spring planting season, NVCA received grants for tree planters to continue these watershed restoration efforts. As restrictions were lifted throughout the year, 250 volunteers participated in restoration events, such as tree planting, river restoration, planting native plants and removing Phragmites.
- NVCA's Forestry department planted over 100,000 trees for property owners to help convert their land into forests.
- Our Education Team created programs for the youth in the Nottawasaga Watershed. For example, students in Grades 4 to 8 learned how to help our environment through a new climate

change program. Children as young as 2.5 years old had the opportunity to attend the new Tiffin Nature Program. New Canadian families experienced the great Canadian outdoors this summer at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation.

- NVCA's Lands Team continued to maintain and construct trails and other infrastructure for conservation areas.
- Our Flood Management team continued to monitor weather forecasts and watershed conditions while maintaining and improving the system. In 2021, our flood team issued 5 flood messages.