

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA  
CONSENT AGENDA  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025**

**A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION**

- p. 1        1. Essa Building Department February 2025 Report.
- p. 2        2. Correspondence from the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury dated March 12, 2025, re: Request for Landlord Tenant Reforms.
- p. 4        3. Notice from the Town of New Tecumseth, re: Open House and Public Meeting - Proposed Official Plan Amendment – April 1, 2025.
- p. 7        4. Correspondence from the Town of LaSalle dated March 4, 2025, re: Tariffs on Canadian Production.
- p. 9        5. Correspondence from the Township of Oro-Medonte dated February 3, 2025, re: Motion Requesting the Amalgamation of Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.
- p. 17       6. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe:  
a) February 27, 2025 – Advisory - County Opens 2025 Age-Friendly Housing Grant Program.
- p. 18       b) March 3, 2025 – Joint Release - Expanded Ontario SPCA Donations Helps Pets and their People Stay Warm this Winter.
- p. 21       7. Correspondence from the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA):  
a) February 28, 2025 – Response to Proposed Amalgamation of NVCA and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA).
- p. 29       b) March 3, 2025 – Media Release – NVCA Announces Interim CAO's Work Plan to Deliver Continuous Improvement.
- p. 31       c) February 2025 – Board Highlights.
- p. 34       8. Report from the Ontario Clean Water Agency re: 2025 Township of Essa Drinking Water System Operational Plan.

**B – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR ACTION**

None

**C – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR REVIEW AND REPORT TO COUNCIL**

None.

## Feb-25

### Current

Permits Issued	# Permits Issued	# Permits Issued YTD	Monthly Construction Value of Permits Issued	Construction Value of Permits Issued YTD	Monthly Building Permit Fees	Building Permit Fees YTD
Residential	4	13	\$50,000.00	\$2,615,600.00	\$830.00	\$27,845.20
Commercial	2	6	\$242,353.00	\$505,353.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,979.50
Industrial		0		\$0.00		\$0.00
Institutional	1	3	\$3,500.00	\$263,500.00	\$175.00	\$2,125.00
Public Utilities		0		\$0.00		\$0.00
Agricultural		1		\$800,000.00		\$422.91
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>\$295,853.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,184,453.00</b>	<b>\$2,005.00</b>	<b>\$ 32,372.61</b>

Y.O.Y.	34	52	\$7,187,493.00	\$15,567,509.00	\$88,215.85	\$146,915.65	-77.97%
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#### NEW SFD CONSTRUCTION

##### Dwelling Units Created

Type	Current Month	YTD	Dwelling Const. Value	Dwelling Const. Value YTD
SFD/SEMI/ROW	0	3		\$2,015,599.00
Mult Res Bldgs		0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Accessory Apt within Existing Res Bldg	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,015,599.00</b>

Reviewed by CBO Pedro Granes

Reviewed by Chief Building Official:

Y.O.Y.	13	21	\$6,108,993.00	\$9,086,609.00
	-92.31%	-80.95%	-100.00%	-77.82%



Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury  
100 Dissette St., Unit 7&8  
P.O. Box 100, Bradford, Ontario, L3Z 2A7  
Telephone: 905-775-5366  
Fax: 905-775-0153  
[www.townofbwg.com](http://www.townofbwg.com)

March 12, 2025

VIA EMAIL

The Hon. Doug Ford  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Ford

**Re: Motion to Request Landlord Tenant Reforms**

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At its Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council approved the following resolution:

Resolution 2025-79  
Moved: Councillor Giordano  
Seconded: Councillor Dykie

WHEREAS Ontario has expanded the accessory dwelling unit (ADU) framework to address the housing supply crisis, which includes the need to balance the interests of both tenants and small-scale landlords;

WHEREAS small-scale landlords may face financial strain when tenants withhold rent in bad faith, and delayed dispute resolution systems can result in undue hardship for landlords, while also affecting tenants' security and well-being;

WHEREAS it is crucial to support the development of legal ADUs and secondary rentals while ensuring tenants' rights are respected and upheld;

WHEREAS proposed reforms could include:

- Accelerating dispute resolution for ADUs and secondary rentals at the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) within 30 days, ensuring fairness for both tenants and landlords
- Introducing mediation services to resolve disputes quickly and amicably, reducing reliance on lengthy hearings
- Providing both landlords and tenants with enhanced tools for clear communication, such as standardized rental agreements and better screening practices

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- Strengthening protections for tenants against unfair eviction while enforcing stricter penalties for tenants withholding rent in bad faith
- Ensuring law enforcement access to properties only under appropriate circumstances, respecting tenants' rights while supporting landlords in the resolution of unpaid rent issues
- Establishing a hardship relief fund for landlords impacted by unpaid rent, while ensuring tenants are also supported in cases of financial distress
- Offering free or low-cost legal assistance to both landlords and tenants to navigate disputes fairly.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council requests the provincial government to look at ways to implement these balanced reforms that protect both small-scale landlords and tenants, ensuring fairness in the rental market; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, our local Member of Provincial Parliament, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Attorney General, and all Ontario municipalities to support the creation of balanced protections for both landlords and tenants

CARRIED.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Regards,



Tara Reynolds  
Clerk, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury  
(905) 775-5366 Ext 1104  
[treynolds@townofbwg.com](mailto:treynolds@townofbwg.com)

CC: President of Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Robin Jones - [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)  
Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing - [minister.mah@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mah@ontario.ca)  
Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General - [attorneygeneral@ontario.ca](mailto:attorneygeneral@ontario.ca)  
All Ontario Municipalities





**NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE AND PUBLIC MEETING  
PROPOSED COUNTY OF SIMCOE OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT  
PROPOSED TOWN OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT  
TOWN OF NEW TECUMSETH FILE NO.: D09-2025-001**

**TAKE NOTICE** that the County of Simcoe and the Corporation of the Town of New Tecumseth have initiated Official Plan Amendments pursuant to Sections 17 and 26 of the Planning Act.

**THE PURPOSE and EFFECT** of the Town Official Plan Amendment is to implement changes to effectively manage growth to 2051, update Schedules to reflect the proposed Settlement Area Boundary Expansions for Alliston, Beeton and Tottenham, and align the Town's Official Plan with changes made through the introduction of the Provincial Planning Statement. The proposed amendment will:

- Replace Section 3: Growth Management with a new section to manage growth over the long-term including Secondary Plan policies, phasing policies and policies to guide privately initiated settlement area boundary expansions.
- Update Section 5.4: Urban Employment to reflect changes to the definition of Employment Area in the Provincial Planning Statement and introduce a new designation 'Employment Transition'.
- Update various sections to align with the Provincial Planning Statement.
- Update Schedules 'A', 'B1', 'B2', 'B3', 'C', 'D1', 'D2' and 'D3' to reflect the Town's proposed Settlement Area Boundary Expansions to Alliston, Beeton and Tottenham.
- Update Schedule 'B1' to consolidate previous Official Plan Amendments that included large scale residential, updates to Employment Area designations and an Employment Land Conversion.
- Update Schedule 'B2' to remove the non-decision lands currently identified, update the Special Study Area designations to reflect the approved designations, and add the Minister's Zoning Order lands to the Settlement Area boundary with designations to reflect approved land uses.
- Update Schedules 'D1' and 'D2' and add a new Schedule 'D3' to reflect the adopted Multi-Modal Active Transportation Master Plan.

**THE PURPOSE and EFFECT** of the County Official Plan Amendment is to implement the proposed settlement area boundary expansion mapping changes on Schedule 5.1 of the County's Official Plan. The draft Official Plan Schedule is provided on the County's website: <https://www.simcoe.ca/dpt/pln/amendments-and-current-applications>. For the purposes of this notice, the draft Official Plan Schedule is the key map.

**THE PROPOSED TOWN OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT** applies to the entirety of the Town of New Tecumseth including all properties within the Settlement Area Boundary Expansions to Alliston, Beeton and Tottenham. The draft Official Plan Amendment and Schedules are provided on the Town's website: <https://www.newtecumseth.ca/en/town-hall/official-plan-review.aspx>. For the purposes of this notice, the draft Official Plan Schedules are the key maps.

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of New Tecumseth will hold an Open House at the times provided:

**Open House  
on Tuesday April 1, 2025 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM  
in the Community Room of Town Hall  
24 Tupper St W, Alliston**

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**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of New Tecumseth will hold a

**Public Meeting  
on Wednesday April 9, 2025 at 6 PM  
in the Council Chambers of Town Hall  
24 Tupper St W, Alliston**

**ANY PERSON** may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Official Plan Amendment. Please note that all comments received will form part of the public record.

**If you wish to make a verbal representation** at the public meeting regarding the proposed Official Plan Amendment, you should register online by 12:00 PM on Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at <https://www.newtecumseth.ca/en/town-hall/speaking-before-council.aspx>

**If you wish to make a written submission** regarding the proposed Official Plan Amendment, you can make a written request to the Planning Department, Town of New Tecumseth, 24 Tupper St W, Alliston, L9R 1H2 or via email at: [planning@newtecumseth.ca](mailto:planning@newtecumseth.ca)

**If you wish to watch the public meeting**, you can access the link to the livestream on the Town website or: <https://newtecumseth.civicweb.net/portal/>

**If a person or public body** would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Town of New Tecumseth, the Council of the County of Simcoe and / or the Minister of Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to County of Simcoe or the Town of New Tecumseth before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

**If a person or public body** does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the County of Simcoe or the Town of New Tecumseth before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

**If you wish to be notified of the decision** of the County of Simcoe and / or Town of New Tecumseth on the proposed Official Plan Amendment, you must make a written request to County of Simcoe and / or Town of New Tecumseth using the following details:

County of Simcoe Planning Department  
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario, L9X 1N6  
[planning.notices@simcoe.ca](mailto:planning.notices@simcoe.ca)

Town of New Tecumseth Planning Department  
24 Tupper St W, Alliston, ON, L9R 1H2  
[planning@newtecumseth.ca](mailto:planning@newtecumseth.ca)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** is also available at the County of Simcoe Administration Centre (address provided above) and Town of New Tecumseth Town Hall (address provided above) during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday).

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** relating to the Official Plan Amendments is also available for viewing on the County and Town websites:

County of Simcoe Website:  
<https://www.simcoe.ca/dpt/pln/amendments-and-current-applications>

Town of New Tecumseth Website:  
<https://newtecumseth.ca/OPR>

**DATED** at the Town of New Tecumseth this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.

Pam Fettes, Town Clerk  
Town of New Tecumseth Town Hall  
24 Tupper St W, Alliston, L9R 1H2  
705-435-3900  
[planning@newtecumseth.ca](mailto:planning@newtecumseth.ca)

Johnathan Magill, County Clerk  
County of Simcoe Administration Centre  
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, ON L9X 1N6  
(705) 726-9300  
[clerks@simcoe.ca](mailto:clerks@simcoe.ca)





March 4, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Via Email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Via Email: [justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

**Re: Tariffs on Canadian Production**

Council of the Town of LaSalle, at its Regular Meeting held Tuesday, February 25, 2025 passed the following resolution:

**40/25**

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Akpata

Seconded by: Councillor Riccio-Spagnuolo

Whereas the recent threats of an imposition on tariffs on Canadian production will have a substantial effect on the items produced in the County of Essex and purchased in the Town of LaSalle;

And Whereas there has only been a 30-day reprieve granted;

And Whereas, a tariff on Canadian steel and aluminum has been threatened;

And Whereas, these tariffs were going to be applied by another country and therefore can be deemed as being external to the Province and Country;

And Whereas, the interprovincial trade has been deemed by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) to represent 18% of Canada's GDP.

And Whereas, the CFIP released a report that said removing interprovincial barriers could boost the economy by up to \$200 billion annually;

And Whereas, items produced, grown, and manufactured in Essex County are sent across Canada;



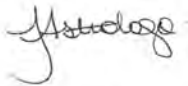
And Whereas, persons in the Town of LaSalle purchase goods manufactured in many provinces and from across the country, and these goods are in many cases subject to interprovincial barriers.

Be It Resolved that, the Town of LaSalle calls upon both the Provincial and Federal Governments to eliminate interprovincial trade barriers to ensure that items produced in the County of Essex and that Canadian items purchased in the Town of LaSalle are no longer subject to these interprovincial trade barriers.

**Carried.**

Please consider this letter as confirmation of the Town of LaSalle's support of the above matter.

Yours Truly,



Jennifer Astrologo  
Director of Council Services/Clerk  
Town of LaSalle  
[jastrologo@lasalle.ca](mailto:jastrologo@lasalle.ca)

cc: Association of Municipalities of Ontario [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)  
All Ontario Municipalities



Sent via Email

February 3, 2025

**Attention: Member Municipalities Within the Area of Jurisdiction of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority**

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Please be advised that at its meeting of January 22, 2025, Council of the Township of Oro-Medonte passed the following resolution:

**“Whereas**, Conservation Authorities are legislatively empowered by Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario to *“provide for the organization and delivery of programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds in Ontario”*,

**And Whereas**, there are both the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority [the LSRCA] and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority [the NVCA], together to be known as The Authorities, with jurisdiction in the Township of Oro-Medonte,

**And Whereas**, the Township of Oro-Medonte believes there to be advantages of economics, consistency, timeliness, and governance to amalgamate The Authorities,

**And Whereas**, the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario, Part III, Section 11 provides for a participating municipality to call a meeting to consider the establishment of one authority to have jurisdiction over the areas that are under separate jurisdictions [the Meeting],

**Now and Therefore**, be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Oro-Medonte hereby directs Staff to call the Meeting to consider amalgamating The Authorities,

**And To**, give notice of the Meeting to each participating municipality to consider the establishment of one authority by way of amalgamating The Authorities,

**And To**, do such other things as are necessary to fulfill the requirements of the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario, Part III, Section 11 that will cause the necessary parties to consider the amalgamation of The Authorities.”

The Township of Oro-Medonte respectfully requests your consideration for support of this matter.

Yours truly,

Randy Greenlaw  
Mayor, Township of Oro-Medonte

## Conservation Authority Amalgamation Process

### Frequently Asked Questions

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The details and process for the purpose of amalgamation of two adjoining Conservation Authorities is clearly outlined under S.11 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (Act). Please follow the link below to review the Act.

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90c27#BK15>

The following is information and details from frequently asked questions. As this process unfolds more information or details will evolve.

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#### **Why did the Township of Oro-Medonte pass a resolution to consider amalgamation of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority?**

The Township believes there to be opportunities for improved levels of service, economic advantages and improved governance to amalgamate the Authorities.

#### **Where do things stand currently?**

The Township of Oro-Medonte passed a resolution at their meeting of January 22, 2025, directing staff to call for a meeting of the member municipalities. This meeting has not been called yet. A copy of the resolution was circulated to the clerks of each member municipality and the two Conservation Authorities.

#### **What are other member municipalities required to do at this time?**

Any member municipality may consider the resolution circulated by Oro-Medonte as they would any other resolution. They may consider a resolution of support or not supporting the resolution or also may do nothing at this time.

#### **Who can call for a meeting and/or vote for the purpose to amalgamate two adjoining Conservation Authorities?**

Any member municipality of either adjoining Conservation Authority may pass a resolution to call for a meeting of all member municipalities.

#### **Who can vote for the purpose of amalgamation?**

Only member municipalities of adjoining Conservation Authorities may vote in accordance with the *Conservation Authorities Act* (Act). Please see below for more details.

#### **Do the respective Conservation Authority Boards of Directors vote for the purpose of amalgamation?**

No, the Boards of Directors are not the voting parties. The member municipalities will by Council resolution appoint their designated individuals to cast their respective municipal votes. Any



member municipality may appoint members of a Board of Directors to act as the designated individual for their respective municipality.

**Where or how does the resolution of amalgamation get voted on?**

The member municipality who calls for the joint meeting of member municipalities of adjoining Conservation Authorities will coordinate a meeting at such a date as they determine. The coordinating member municipality will provide meeting details as outlined in the Act and as needed for meeting administration.

**When are member municipalities required to appoint voting delegates for an amalgamation vote?**

Member municipalities will be required to identify / appoint those individual/s who will represent their respective member municipality in advance of the meeting. This should occur once the formal meeting date for the purpose of amalgamation has been established, and the information has been circulated to the clerks of the member municipalities.

**When is the meeting for purposes of voting on amalgamation scheduled?**

There currently is no date set. The potential timing is mid to later spring of 2025.

**What are the requirements of the meeting?**

Public notice must be made a minimum of fourteen (14) days in advance through local media (print or electronic) available to every member municipality and/or published on the member municipality, who calls for the vote, on their website and published in their office or at least one prominent place in the municipality. The meeting is managed typical of a council or a Conservation Authority board meeting. Quorum must be present and must consist of two-thirds of the member representatives that municipalities are entitled to appoint under section 2(2). Public deputations must be allowed at the meeting. A formal resolution as outlined in the Act will then be voted on and requires a two-third majority vote of the member representatives present at the meeting, as outlined below.

**Please Note:**

This process has just been initiated and more details will be developed and provided as the move towards a formal meeting occurs. This document will be updated as new questions emerge.

## Potential Municipal Representation (Voting)

### LSRCA / NVCA Amalgamation

**Description:**

The *Conservation Authorities Act* (Act) contains provisions for the consideration of member municipalities to potentially amalgamate two or more adjoining Conservation Authorities. The process and requirements for potential amalgamation are contained with S.11 of the Act. The Act prescribes (S.2 (2)) how the number of representatives is determined for each member municipality that may attend a meeting to vote for/against an amalgamation of two Conservation Authorities. This representation is based on the population of each member municipality. The table below is an estimate of the number of voting representatives each member municipality is entitled in accordance with the Act. These numbers were determined using best available population data and could be subject to change based on more current data.

Municipality	Reps	Municipality	Reps
York Region	7	Township of Amaranth	1
Durham Region	6	Town of the Blue Mountains	1
City of Barrie	4	Township of Clearview	2
City of Kawartha Lakes	3	Town of Collingwood	2
Township of Ramara	2	Municipality of Grey Highlands	2
Township of Oro-Medonte	2	Township of Melancthon	1
Town of Innisfil	2	Township of Mulmur	1
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury	2	Town of Mono	1
Town of New Tecumseth	2	Town of Shelburne	2
Township of Essa	2	Township of Springwater	2
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	2	Town of Wasaga Beach	2

**Amalgamation Voting Aspects:**

**Quorum**

Is comprised of two-thirds of the appointed member municipal representatives. Quorum would be reached at 34 representatives based on the numbers above.

**Approval of Amalgamation**

Passed by a majority of at least two-thirds vote of the representatives present at the meeting. Failure to not reach two-thirds vote, the resolution of amalgamation fails.

**Approval by Minister**

The Minister may approve the resolution of amalgamation and may makes changes and on such terms and conditions as he or she considers appropriate.

**Effective Date of Amalgamation**

The resolution takes effect in accordance with the terms of the resolution and the Minister's approval. Minister may set an effective date different than one contained in resolution.

## Conservation Authority Amalgamation Process

### Frequently Asked Questions

The details and process for the purpose of amalgamation of two adjoining Conservation Authorities is clearly outlined under S.11 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (Act). Please follow the link below to review the Act.

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The Township believes there to be opportunities for improved levels of service, economic advantages and improved governance to amalgamate the Authorities.

#### **Where do things stand currently?**

The Township of Oro-Medonte passed a resolution at their meeting of January 22, 2025, directing staff to call for a meeting of the member municipalities. This meeting has not been called yet. A copy of the resolution was circulated to the clerks of each member municipality and the two Conservation Authorities.

#### **What are other member municipalities required to do at this time?**

Any member municipality may consider the resolution circulated by Oro-Medonte as they would any other resolution. They may consider a resolution of support or not supporting the resolution or also may do nothing at this time.

#### **Who can call for a meeting and/or vote for the purpose to amalgamate two adjoining Conservation Authorities?**

Any member municipality of either adjoining Conservation Authority may pass a resolution to call for a meeting of all member municipalities.

#### **Who can vote for the purpose of amalgamation?**

Only member municipalities of adjoining Conservation Authorities may vote in accordance with the *Conservation Authorities Act* (Act). Please see below for more details.

#### **Do the respective Conservation Authority Boards of Directors vote for the purpose of amalgamation?**

No, the Boards of Directors are not the voting parties. The member municipalities will by Council resolution appoint their designated individuals to cast their respective municipal votes. Any



member municipality may appoint members of a Board of Directors to act as the designated individual for their respective municipality.

**Where or how does the resolution of amalgamation get voted on?**

The member municipality who calls for the joint meeting of member municipalities of adjoining Conservation Authorities will coordinate a meeting at such a date as they determine. The coordinating member municipality will provide meeting details as outlined in the Act and as needed for meeting administration.

**When are member municipalities required to appoint voting delegates for an amalgamation vote?**

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**When is the meeting for purposes of voting on amalgamation scheduled?**

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**What are the requirements of the meeting?**

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**Please Note:**

This process has just been initiated and more details will be developed and provided as the move towards a formal meeting occurs. This document will be updated as new questions emerge.

## Potential Municipal Representation (Voting)

### LSRCA / NVCA Amalgamation

#### **Description:**

The *Conservation Authorities Act* (Act) contains provisions for the consideration of member municipalities to potentially amalgamate two or more adjoining Conservation Authorities. The process and requirements for potential amalgamation are contained with S.11 of the Act. The Act prescribes (S.2 (2)) how the number of representatives is determined for each member municipality that may attend a meeting to vote for/against an amalgamation of two Conservation Authorities. This representation is based on the population of each member municipality. The table below is an estimate of the number of voting representatives each member municipality is entitled in accordance with the Act. These numbers were determined using best available population data and could be subject to change based on more current data.

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Township of Ramara	2	Municipality of Grey Highlands	2
Township of Oro-Medonte	2	Township of Melancthon	1
Town of Innisfil	2	Township of Mulmur	1
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury	2	Town of Mono	1
Town of New Tecumseth	2	Town of Shelburne	2
Township of Essa	2	Township of Springwater	2
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	2	Town of Wasaga Beach	2

#### **Amalgamation Voting Aspects:**

##### **Total Potential Voting Municipal Representatives:**

The total of eligible municipal representatives would be 61.

##### **Quorum**

Is comprised of two-thirds of the appointed member municipal representatives. Quorum would be reached at 41 representatives based on the numbers above if all were in attendance.

##### **Approval of Amalgamation**

Passed by a majority of at least two-thirds vote of the representatives present at the meeting. Failure to not reach two-thirds vote, the resolution of amalgamation fails.

##### **Approval by Minister**

The Minister may approve the resolution of amalgamation and may make changes and on such terms and conditions as he or she considers appropriate.

AS

### **Effective Date of Amalgamation**

The resolution takes effect in accordance with the terms of the resolution and the Minister's approval. Minister may set an effective date different than one contained in resolution.





## Advisory

County of Simcoe, Office of the Warden and CAO  
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6  
simcoe.ca

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### County Opens 2025 Age-Friendly Housing Grant Program

**Midhurst/February 27, 2025** – Back for its eighth year, the County of Simcoe Age-Friendly Housing Grant program opens March 1. This program provides \$500,000 in annual funding to help support seniors in their efforts to continue to live independently in their communities by implementing designs that are accessible, adaptable, and inclusive.

The grant program was originally recommended as part of the Simcoe County 2018-2023 Positive Aging Strategy. In 2024, 95 applications were approved.

"The County's Age-friendly Seniors Housing Grant Program has been instrumental in supporting more than 440 projects over the past seven years", said Warden Basil Clark. "These projects ensure that older adults can continue living independently in their homes, enhancing their quality of life and fostering a more supportive, age-friendly community."

Grants will be awarded under three streams: accessible housing design for seniors; design for individuals with dementia; and the provision of support services for housing that incorporates enhanced aspects of accessibility over and above compliance with the Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and building code standards for residential units.

Projects are required to be located within Simcoe County (excluding the cities of Barrie and Orillia), and applicants who were successful in obtaining an Age-Friendly Seniors Housing grant in the past three years are not eligible to apply again in 2025. Applicants can be homeowners of principal residences or developers, who wish to include accessible, adaptable and inclusive design modifications for occupants aged 60 or older. Grant amounts will be distributed based on the number of applications received and ability to meet funding criteria.

An Age-Friendly Grant Selection Sub-Committee will evaluate each grant submission in accordance with established evaluation criteria. **The deadline for 2025 application submissions is May 31, 2025.** For further details, or to apply to the Age-Friendly Housing Seniors Grant program, please visit [simcoe.ca/agefriendly](https://simcoe.ca/agefriendly).

The County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at [simcoe.ca](https://simcoe.ca).

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Jennifer Straw  
Senior Public Relations Consultant  
County of Simcoe, Service Simcoe Branch  
705-790-5979 (mobile)  
[Jennifer.Straw@simcoe.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Straw@simcoe.ca)

Collin Matanowitsch  
Manager, Public Relations  
County of Simcoe, Service Simcoe Branch  
705-734-8386 (mobile)  
[Collin.Matanowitsch@simcoe.ca](mailto:Collin.Matanowitsch@simcoe.ca)



ONTARIO  
SPCA  
AND HUMANE SOCIETY



## Joint Release

County of Simcoe, Office of the Warden and CAO  
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6  
simcoe.ca

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Expanded Ontario SPCA donation helps pets and their people stay warm this winter

Enables warming centre in Wasaga Beach to become pet friendly

**Midhurst/March 3, 2025** – The County of Simcoe and its partners at the Town of Wasaga Beach and Faith Missionary Church thank the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society for once again providing help so that vulnerable residents and their pets can stay warm this winter.

Through a generous donation from the Ontario SPCA Barrie Animal Centre, individuals experiencing homelessness can now bring their pets to the Wasaga Beach warming centre. The expanded partnership between the County and the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society allows unhoused people and their pets in the Wasaga Beach area more access to safe, warm facilities over the winter months.

The donation includes essential supplies such as food, crates, dog jackets, and ongoing support throughout the winter season.

While using County-funded warming centres, individuals can also access support to find shelter, housing, healthcare, and other services and supports. These services are part of a larger effort to help more individuals gain access to social and wellness-related assistance and help them move to other levels of housing supports if they choose.

The Wasaga Beach warming centre remains a true collaborative effort to support unhoused individuals. The centre's partners also include Faith Missionary Church, who provides shelter and food, the Town of Wasaga Beach, who has generously donated cots, bedding and local public transit, and the County of Simcoe with financial support for its operations through funding of operator costs, food, and needed supplies.

### Quotes

"As part of its expanded partnership with the County of Simcoe, the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society is once again helping unhoused people in Wasaga Beach keep their pets close while accessing critical support during the coldest months of the year. Animals provide crucial emotional support and motivation during difficult times, and this collaboration ensures that unhoused individuals can receive care without worrying about separating from their beloved pets."

~ Basil Clarke, Warden, County of Simcoe





"This partnership is a heartwarming example of how we can work together to make a difference. Thanks to the generous support of the Ontario SPCA Barrie Animal Centre, individuals experiencing homelessness now have a safe place to come in from the cold with their pets this winter. It's a reminder that compassion doesn't stop at people – it extends to our furry friends too. The Town of Wasaga Beach is proud to be a part of this effort to help ensure that our most vulnerable citizens are not forced to choose between their safety and the well-being of their pets."

~ *Brian Smith, Mayor, Town of Wasaga Beach*

"The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society wants to keep animals with the families who love them. By working together, we can help make that possible. We are very appreciative to everyone who has come together to make this pet-friendly warming centre a reality."

~ *Shannon Laflamme, Community Outreach Coordinator, Ontario SPCA Barrie Animal Centre*

### **About the Wasaga Beach Warming Centre**

The Wasaga Beach Warming Centre is a temperature-activated warming centre when temperatures are expected to fall below -10°C. It operates up to seven nights per week, from 8:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m.

The warming services funded by the County of Simcoe complement regular municipal service contributions as part of its 10-point Homelessness Prevention Strategy. Anyone needing shelter or warmth can call 2-1-1 to connect with a nearby shelter or visit [simcoe.ca/WinterWarming](http://simcoe.ca/WinterWarming) for location information. For more information about the homelessness prevention plan and updates, visit [simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem](http://simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem).

### **Keeping pets safe during the coldest months of the year**

As winter progresses, it's crucial to monitor your pet's well-being during cold weather. Watch for signs that your pet may be too cold, including:

- Shaking or shivering
- Changes in behaviour
- Lifting paws off the ground
- Signs of [hypothermia](#) (weakness, lethargy, muscle stiffness)

It's important to pay attention to these warning signs, but you shouldn't wait to see the first signs of discomfort to find warm shelter. Remember: if you think it's too cold for you, then it's too cold for your dog.

While maintaining a dog's exercise requirements during the winter is important, when conditions are especially cold, it's a good idea to keep walks short and supplement your pet's exercise with some indoor activities. For more tips on keeping your pets safe this winter, visit [ontariospca.ca](http://ontariospca.ca)

### **About the County of Simcoe**

County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at [simcoe.ca](http://simcoe.ca).

### **About the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society**

The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society is a registered charity that has been changing the lives of animals for over 150 years. The Society provides care, comfort and compassion to animals in need in communities across Ontario. It values all animals and advocates to treat them with respect and kindness. The Society strives to keep pets and families together and does so through a variety of community support services, such as sheltering and adoptions, including emergency sheltering, feral cat management programs, animal transfers, food distribution, humane education, animal advocacy, and spay/neuter services.



The Ontario SPCA does not receive annual government funding and relies on donations to provide programs and services to help animals in need. To learn more, or to donate, visit [ontariospca.ca](http://ontariospca.ca). Charitable Business # 88969-1044-RR0002.

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Media Relations  
Ontario SPCA, Provincial Office  
1-888-668-7722 ext. 375  
[media@ontariospca.ca](mailto:media@ontariospca.ca)

Collin Matanowitsch  
Manager, Public Relations  
County of Simcoe, Service Simcoe Department  
705-734-8386 (mobile)  
[Collin.Matanowitsch@simcoe.ca](mailto:Collin.Matanowitsch@simcoe.ca)

**Photo caption:** *SPCA staff delivers essential supplies to the Wasaga Beach Warming Centre on February 28, 2025*



**Nottawasaga Valley**  
Conservation Authority

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Mayor and Council of the Township of Essa  
5786 Simcoe County Road 21  
Utopia, Ontario  
L0M 1T0

February 28, 2025

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) Board of Directors regarding Oro-Medonte's recent resolution proposing the amalgamation of the NVCA and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) under section 11 of the *Conservation Authorities Act, 1990*.

Following careful deliberation with our Board, and discussion with the Chair and CAO of the LSRCA, it is the position of the NVCA Board that a formal amalgamation is neither necessary nor advisable. (Our resolution to that effect is enclosed.)

Let me outline why our Board has taken this position:

To date, no independent, expert analysis has been presented to demonstrate that amalgamation would improve efficiency or service delivery. On the contrary, experience has shown that larger municipal entities often result in increased costs, governance challenges, operational inefficiencies and a loss of local focus.

Further, NVCA and LSRCA serve distinct watersheds with unique ecological, planning and regulatory frameworks. While some municipalities are within both Authorities, the vast majority of NVCA member municipalities have little in common with the Lake Simcoe watershed. Additionally, the LSRCA has distinct responsibilities under the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act*, which highlights the unique challenges of that watershed. A single, combined Authority could dilute focus and reduce responsiveness to local needs, given the new entity would span a very large geographic area.

Rather than pursuing an amalgamation process—one that would inevitably lead to debates over jurisdiction, governance and composition—the NVCA Board is focused on delivering meaningful improvements that address the concerns of our municipal partners. Our goal is to enhance service delivery, streamline permitting and development processes, and maintain a strong commitment to protecting people and property from natural hazards under Ontario law.

This work is already well underway under the leadership of our Interim CAO. I would like to highlight several initiatives that directly respond to the issues raised by our stakeholders and members:

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- Operational Accountability: We have implemented a new monthly reporting system for development and permitting applications to the Chair and Vice-Chair to ensure heightened accountability and service improvement.
- Process Review and Best Practices: We are undertaking a comprehensive audit of our development-application processes to identify opportunities for greater efficiency. As part of this review, we are working collaboratively with LSRCA and other Authorities to share best practices and standardize processes where appropriate.
- Improving Consistency Between NVCA and Other Conservation Authorities: Recognizing that some municipalities are subject to both authorities' regulations, we are committed to aligning our review processes to ensure they are as consistent and predictable as possible.
- Customer Service Improvements: We are updating our customer-service policy and will provide additional staff training to enhance responsiveness and efficiency.

You may view more about this action plan in the enclosed staff report presented to our board. These measures are practical, targeted and achievable. They will result in tangible improvements without the disruption, expense and uncertainty that an amalgamation process would bring.

The NVCA Board remains committed to continuous improvement and collaboration with our municipal partners. We welcome your feedback as we pursue these important initiatives and remain open to further discussions on how we can best support your community's needs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me or our Interim CAO, Sheryl Flannagan at [sflannagan@nvca.on.ca](mailto:sflannagan@nvca.on.ca), if you wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Scott  
Chair, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

cc

Mayors and Councils within the LSRCA and NVCA  
LSRCA Board  
Conservation Ontario Council





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NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING NO. 02-25-BOD  
February 28, 2025

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Agenda Item#: 13.4.1  
Resolution#: 18-25

MOVED BY: Cllr. June Porter

SECONDED BY: Mayor Gary Harvey

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**WHEREAS:** the Board of Directors is in receipt of correspondence from Oro-Medonte Council that seeks to start the amalgamation process between the NVCA and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) as outlined in Section 11 of the Conservation Authorities Act; and

**WHEREAS:** NVCA and LSRCA serve distinct and separate watersheds, each with unique ecological, planning and regulatory considerations, including LSRCA's additional responsibilities under the Lake Simcoe Protection Act; and

**WHEREAS:** no independent, expert analysis has been conducted to determine whether an amalgamation would improve efficiency and service delivery or whether it may instead result in increased costs, governance challenges, operational inefficiencies or dilution of focus on the needs of the individual watersheds; and

**WHEREAS:** Conservation Ontario has generally supported maintaining the current structure of thirty-six Conservation Authorities across Ontario, recognizing the value of locally focused watershed management; and

**WHEREAS:** the NVCA is actively collaborating with other Conservation Authorities and through a customer centric focus, has been making improvements to processes and procedures, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that the NVCA Board of Directors opposes the proposed amalgamation of NVCA and the LSRCA, as it has not been demonstrated that such a change would benefit watershed management, municipalities or the public; and

**FURTHER THAT:** the Board supports continued and enhanced collaboration between NVCA, Conservation Ontario, and other Conservation Authorities to standardize processes and procedures where feasible, particularly to assist development and permit applicants whose activities fall within municipalities that straddle multiple watersheds; and

**FURTHER THAT:** remains committed to working constructively with Oro-Medonte and all NVCA member municipalities to address and resolve any challenges, including planning and permitting, in a fair, transparent and efficient manner; and

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NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING NO. 02-25-BOD  
February 28, 2025

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**FURTHER THAT:** a copy of this resolution with a letter from the Chair be sent to all NVCA and LSRCA member municipalities, the LSRCA Board and Conservation Ontario Council.

- Carried Unanimously
- Approved by Consent
- Defeated
- Tabled
- Deferred until \_\_\_\_\_

NVCA Chair



Staff Report: 04-02-25-BOD

Date: 28/02/2025

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Sheryl Flannagan  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer/Director, Corporate Services

**SUBJECT: Interim CAO Workplan**

**Recommendation**

**RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Directors receive Staff Report No. 04-02-25-BOD regarding the Interim CAO workplan.**

Purpose of the Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report is to update the Board on the Interim CAO's workplan during this transitional period and to update the Board on progress and commitments moving forward.

Background

The NVCA is going through a transformative time with the departure of the previous CAO and the upcoming recruitment of a new CAO. To ensure stability and continuity, the Interim CAO has implemented a focused workplan that addresses current challenges while positioning the organization for success under new leadership.

Issues/Analysis

The following is a list of the four key priorities and commitments.



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1. Strengthening Municipal relationships

The Interim CAO, Chair, and Vice-Chair have prioritized engaging with partner municipalities to foster collaboration and address concerns. To date, meetings have been held with Wasaga Beach, New Tecumseth, and Oro-Medonte, with a meeting scheduled with Springwater on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, the Chair has issued an introductory letter inviting all partner municipalities to share any concerns or ideas with the NVCA.

Progress to Date:

- Engaged with four municipalities to discuss development priorities and address concerns
- Implemented a 48-hour response protocol for issues raised by municipal partners
- Issued a Chair's introductory letter inviting all municipalities to meet or connect with the NVCA

Continued Commitment:

Goal – Meet with any municipality that expresses interest in engaging with the NVCA

Next Steps – Continue outreach to municipalities and respond promptly to all requests for meetings.

Outcome – Strengthen municipal partnerships and identify opportunities for process improvements based on their feedback.

2. Restoring and Enforcing Customer Service Standards

The NVCA's customer service strategy and charter, implemented in 2013, lapsed in practice due to high workloads during the COVID-19 pandemic. In January 2025, the Interim CAO reinstated compliance with the customer service strategy and reminded all staff of their obligations to meet service standards. A copy of the strategy is attached (see attachment #1).

Progress to Date:

- Customer Service Strategy compliance was reinstated in January 2025
- All staff have been instructed to comply with service timelines as outlined in the charter

Continued Commitment:

Goal – Achieve full compliance with the Customer Service Strategy within Q1 2025

Next Steps – Review customer service strategy compliance with senior staff on a monthly basis and identify any issues of concern

Reporting – Provide progress updates to the Board at the end of Q2 and again at year-end

Outcome – Improve response times and enhance customer satisfaction

### 3. Evaluating Planning, Permitting, and Engineering processes

The NVCA recognizes the need for a comprehensive evaluation of planning, permitting, and engineering process to ensure efficiency and alignment with legislative changes. The Interim CAO is currently consulting with other CAO's to identify the best approach for this review.

Progress to Date:

- Initiated discussions with other conservation authorities to evaluate process review options
- Solicited recommendations for consultants experienced in conservation authority process evaluations.

Continued Commitment:

Goal – Initiate an external process review by March 31, 2025

Next Steps – Select a consultant or peer conservation authority(s) to conduct the review and set a clear timeline for completion

Outcome – Identify inefficiencies, streamline workflows and enhance service delivery

### 4. Developing a backlog reduction strategy for Planning, Permitting, and Engineering

The NVCA is exploring immediate and long-term solutions to address the backlog in planning, permitting and engineering files. While process improvements from item 3 will drive long-term efficiency, short-term solutions are also under review.

Progress to Date:

- Considering third-party consultants to expedite peer reviews, but cost estimates (approximately \$100,000) raise concerns due to budget constraints

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- Exploring internal measures to reduce workload on engineering staff without compromising service standards

Continued Commitment:

Goal – Present a backlog reduction strategy to the Board by the March 2025 meeting

Next Steps – Conclude process review from item 3 to identify internal efficiencies, investigate phased or capped use of consultants if internal measures are insufficient, and provide the Board with a cost-benefit analysis before committing significant funds to peer reviews.

Outcome – Reduce backlog while maintaining fiscal responsibility and service standards.

Relevance to Authority Policy/Mandate

The workplan directly supports the NVCA’s mandate under the *Conservation Authorities Act* by ensuring efficient operations, enhancing customer service and fostering productive relationships with partner municipalities.

Impact on Authority Finances

Staff time to prepare this report is addressed in the 2025 budget. Any additional costs related to external consultants for process reviews or backlog reduction will be brought to the Board for approval with a clear cost-benefit analysis.

Climate Change Implications

There are no climate change implications related to this report.

Reviewed by:  
*Original Signed by*  
Sheryl Flannagan  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer/  
Director, Corporate Services

Approved for submission by:  
*Original Signed by*  
Sheryl Flannagan  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer/  
Director Corporate Services

Attachment #1 – Customer Service Strategy





## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NVCA announces Interim CAO’s work plan to deliver continuous improvement**

UTOPIA, Ontario (March 3, 2025) – Sheryl Flannagan, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority’s (NVCA) Interim CAO, shared a [work plan to improve operations](#) with the NVCA Board of Directors at its recent meeting.

The plan consists of four key priorities and commitments:

1. Strengthening Municipal Relationships;
2. Restoring and Enforcing Customer Service Standards;
3. Improving Planning, Permitting and Engineering Processes; and
4. Developing a Strategy for Planning, Permitting and Engineering to Complete Existing Files.

“NVCA is going through a transformative time with the upcoming recruitment of a new CAO,” said Flannagan. “To ensure stability and continuity of our organization, we have implemented a focused work plan that addresses feedback from our stakeholders and member municipalities, while positioning the organization for success under new leadership.”

To date, NVCA has engaged with several municipalities to discuss development priorities and address concerns. The organization reinstated a customer service strategy that lapsed in practice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Last week, NVCA also launched a new e-permitting system, to help residents and businesses better navigate NVCA approval processes. Further, NVCA is initiating an external review to evaluate the planning, permitting and engineering processes in order to identify efficiencies and improvements.

“Conservation authorities do important work to protect people, property and our environment, but we also must ensure this work is efficient, expeditious and meets the high standards of our customers,” added Jonathan Scott, Chair of NVCA. “Our goal is to ensure concerns raised in recent months are addressed and the

organization meets its commitments to our member municipalities. I am confident this plan represents a thorough approach to achieve these important goals.”

Staff at NVCA works with many partners across the Nottawasaga Watershed to avoid the loss of life and damage to property due to flooding and erosion. They restore rivers, streams, wetlands and forests, and provide environmental education opportunities to watershed residents to help them connect with our natural world and become the future stewards of our watershed. NVCA staff ensure visitors have a safe and enjoyable experience at NVCA’s 11 conservation areas, and also identify stressors that are impacting the local environment.

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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.

**Media contact:** Chris Parker, Communications Assistant, 705-424-1479,  
[cparker@nvca.on.ca](mailto:cparker@nvca.on.ca)





## NVCA February 2025 Board Meeting Highlights

**Next Meeting: March 28, 2025, held virtually**

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

### Presentation regarding NVCA's Environmental Education program

Naomi Saunders, NVCA's Manager, Environmental Education presented to the Board of Directors regarding the history, successes, challenges, and financial management of the Environmental Education program.

#### Program Objectives

This program's objectives are to connect watershed residents to nature, inspire sustainability, promote physical and mental health, and increase environmental awareness and understanding of local ecosystems.

Through NVCA's environmental education program, environmental stewardship, community health, and well-being are improved. Residents tend to engage more in their communities, contributing to sustainability and cost savings over the long-term.

#### Revenue sources

NVCA's Environmental Education Program is a "Category 3" activity and currently receives approximately \$17,000 in municipal levy, averaging to \$0.08 per watershed resident per year.

The majority of program revenues are self-generated, which is directly linked to the number of program participants.

#### Program challenges

As current revenues only allow for staff to be present for teaching hours, and not for preparation time, program development, or fundraising, it is challenging for the team to develop and maintain current and culturally

sensitive program content. It is also a challenge to be able to expand services to offer programs in all corners of the watershed.

Looking forward, NVCA is investigating opportunities for business expansion to ensure financial sustainability and program increased watershed reach.

During the meeting, the Board of Directors recommended that this presentation be brought to councils for information and that a board committee be formed to assist in finding solutions to the challenges.

### Update on NVCA's Planning and Regulations Program

Chris Hibberd, NVCA's Director, Watershed Management Services, updated the Board of Directors on the Planning and Regulations Program.

With a commitment to continuous improvement, NVCA's Planning and Regulations program implemented procedures such as providing courtesy calls, improving timeline tracking, and updating standard operating procedures to streamline the permit review process in 2024. They also continued to encourage pre-consultations for permit applications and began pre-screening applications with technical staff.

Some action items they are currently focused on include:

- Re-examine the use of peer reviewers to fast-track reviews and help address the review backlog
- Prioritize older submissions with an emphasis on risk management



- Launched an e-permitting system to streamline permit application processes and to allow staff to focus on permit reviews rather than manual work

Other actions in 2025, include:

- Modernize NVCA guidelines/procedures
- Enhance communications with municipalities, applicants and stakeholders
- Review of program processes
- Develop a program-specific customer service strategy

### Permits Approvals under the CA Act

Between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024 NVCA, staff issued permits on an average of 20 days after technical staff have deemed the application complete. Major permits were issued within 90 days 95% of the time, and minor permits were issued 100% of the time for the same time frame.

Under Conservation Ontario's Best Practices timelines, minor permits were issued within 30 days 83% of the time.

NVCA staff notified applicants of the status of their application within 21 days 98% of the time.

### NVCA Climate Change Action Plan 2024 progress report and 2025 goals

NVCA's 2022 – 2025 Climate Change Action Plan emphasizes the importance of responding to climate change, supporting NVCA partners' actions to reduce the impacts of climate change, and strengthening the commitment to face the challenges it poses to NVCA watershed and member municipalities.

There are seven goals and 34 actions listed in the action plan. The goals are:

- Flooding and Erosion
- Monitor
- Communicate and educate
- Natural heritage
- Stewardship
- Partnership

- Corporate practices

At the end of 2024, 11 of the actions were completed, 24 were incomplete, and five are ongoing.

### Procedures for the Implementation of Ontario Regulation 41/24 Update

NVCA staff has drafted an update to the Procedures for the Implementation of Ontario Regulation 41/24 document. This update will provide greater clarity for applicants and staff regarding the Administrative Review. The procedure regarding stop orders is also more transparent and clearly laid out.

The draft procedures will be posted on the NVCA website for a 30-day public commenting period. Subsequent to the comment period the draft procedures will be brought back to the Board for approval.

### Interim CAO Workplan

NVCA is going through a transformative time with the departure of the previous CAO and the upcoming recruitment of a new CAO. To ensure stability and continuity, the Interim CAO has implemented a focused work plan that addresses current challenges while positioning the organization for success under new leadership.

The four key priorities and commitments include:

- Strengthening municipal relationships
- Restoring and enforcing customer service standards
- Evaluating planning, permitting, and engineering processes
- Developing a backlog reduction strategy for planning, permitting, and engineering

[For more information, download the work plan here.](#)

### NVCA Planning and Regulation Guidelines Update

NVCA's Planning and Regulation Guidelines is a core document used by Planning and Regulation



staff to review applications, similar to a municipality's zoning by-law.

The guidelines were last updated in 2009, and the proposed modernizing of the guidelines includes referencing current legislation and provisions that better respond to growing pressures throughout the watershed.

Staff will seek input from our municipalities and stakeholders, and the public will have a 30-day commenting period. The feedback will be incorporated where possible to ensure strong yet responsive policies are enacted for the watershed.

## Upcoming Events

### March Break Camp Tiffin

Led by NVCA's environmental educators, Camp Tiffin is an outdoor camp designed to enhance your child's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our amazing planet.

Activities may include wilderness survival skills, kick sledding, wildlife discovery and learning how maple syrup is made!

Our staff have been excited to plan some winter camp activities which will be full of outdoor adventures.

**Date:** March 10 – 14, 2025

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

### Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival

Hosted in partnership with the Rotary Club of Barrie, the Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival at the Tiffin Conservation Area is a tradition spanning more than three decades.

Visitors can explore how maple syrup was made in the past. After that, they will return to current times and see how maple syrup is made today! Ending the tour with a pancake and sausage breakfast with fresh maple syrup. Prices for most activities are included in the admission fee.

**Date:** April 5 – 6, 2025

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

### Tiffin Nature School

At Tiffin Nature School, children aged 2.5 to 10 are invited to explore and connect with the natural world. We nurture their innate curiosity, offering immersive outdoor experiences that inspire discovery and growth.

**Dates:** Tuesdays & Thursdays until May 29, 2025

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation