



**Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority**

July 7, 2016

Pamela Fettes, Clerk
The Township of Clearview
Box 200
217 Gideon St.
Stayner, Ontario
L0M 1S0

Dear Ms. Fettes

**Subject: Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Board of Directors' Governance**

In January of 2016, with the consent of our 18 member municipalities, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority embarked upon a pilot project to reduce the Board of Directors from 27 to 18 members.

It was agreed that the pilot project would be re-visited at the NVCA's September 23, 2016 Board Meeting, where all 27 members would be invited to vote on considering a permanent Board membership reduction.

If the Board supports a permanent reduction in members, approval is required from all 18 municipalities under Section 14 (2.1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

To assist in considering the current pilot project and next steps, the NVCA's Board of Directors approved a *Governance Fact Sheet* which is attached to this correspondence.

We will continue to update your municipality regarding this pilot project over the next several months.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Gayle Wood".

D. Gayle Wood
Chief Administrative Officer

Att. NVCA Governance Fact Sheet
Copy: NVCA Board of Directors



Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Governance Fact Sheet

June 24, 2016



What is a conservation authority?

In the 1940's, as a result of raising concerns regarding environmental deterioration, the Province enacted the **Conservation Authorities Act, (CAA) 1946**. This legislation enabled municipalities to request that a conservation authority be formed through an Order-in-Council.

Section 20 of the CAA, outlines the objects of an authority:

"to establish and undertake, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, a program designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources, other than gas, oil, coal and minerals."

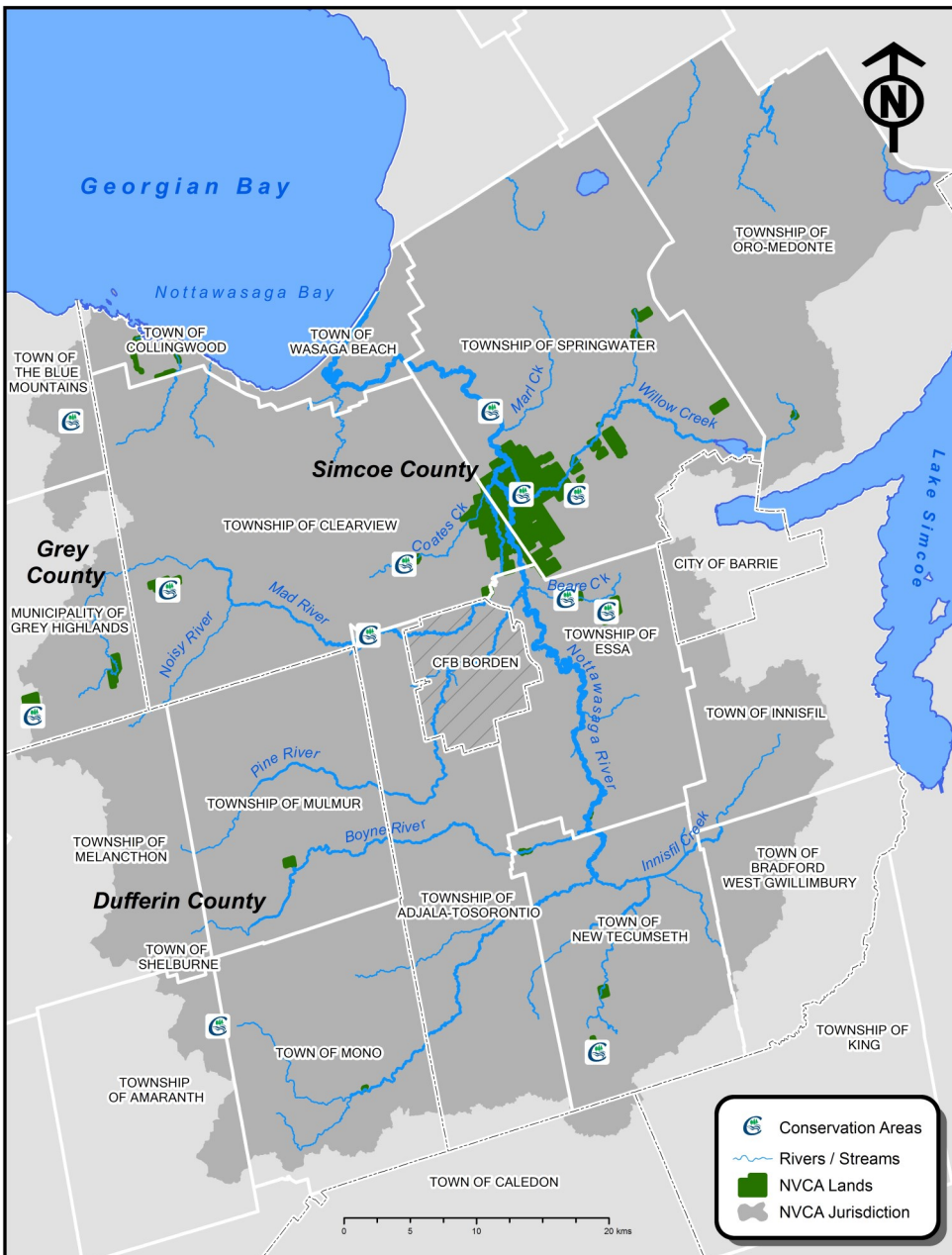
To date, there are 36 conservation authorities operating under the umbrella of Conservation Ontario; one of which is the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA).

NVCA is one of
thirty-six
conservation
authorities in
Ontario.

When and how was the NVCA created?

Under Section 2 (1) of the **Conservation Authorities Act (CAA)**,

"where the councils of any two or more municipalities situate either wholly or partially within a watershed by resolution request the Minister [of Natural Resources and Forestry] to call a meeting for the establishment of an authority for the watershed...the Minister shall fix such time and place for such meeting and shall forthwith notify the council of every municipality...within the watershed..."



NVCA was established under the provincial *Conservation Authorities Act* in May 1960.

A meeting as noted under Section 2 (1) was held and all the municipalities within the Nottawasaga watershed provided a resolution as required under Section 3 (1) of the CAA. As a result the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) was created on May 5, 1960, through provincial Order-in-Council OC-1837-60.

How are members appointed to a conservation authority?

Section 2 (2) of the CAA states that, “the council of each municipality may appoint representatives” to a conservation authority according to their population within the watershed. Over the years, as a municipality grows, the number of representatives that they can appoint to serve on a Conservation Authority Board of Directors can grow to a maximum of seven (7).

How many Board Members does NVCA have?

As the Nottawasaga municipal population grew, so did the NVCA's Board of Directors. Currently the Board is served by 27 members, as follows:

Municipality	Number of Board Members
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	1 member
Township of Amaranth	1 member
City of Barrie	2 members
Town of The Blue Mountains	1 member
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury	1 member
Township of Clearview	2 members
Town of Collingwood	2 members
Township of Essa	2 members
Municipality of the Grey Highlands	1 member
Town of Innisfil	2 members
Township of Melancthon	1 member
Town of Mono	1 member
Township of Mulmur	1 member
Town of New Tecumseth	2 members
Township of Oro-Medonte	2 members
Town of Shelburne	1 member
Township of Springwater	2 members
Town of Wasaga Beach	2 members

Why consider a reduction in NVCA Board Members?

In 1986, Cabinet requested the former Minister of Natural Resources to review the extent of funding received by Conservation Authorities, the effectiveness of such expenditures, and accountability of Conservation Authorities for these expenditures. In December, 1987 a provincial report entitled **A Review of the Conservation Authorities of Ontario** was released. Recommendation 6 of the report addressed "reduction of membership" and requested all Board to reduce members to no more than 25.

After reviews throughout the 1990's and 2000's, the NVCA Board of Directors approved a pilot project in 2016 to reduce our membership from 27 to 18 for a trial period of January to September 2016.

In 1987, the Province recommended reducing conservation authority board membership to "no more than 25"—NVCA currently has 27.

Resolutions of support from all member municipalities were received, and the municipalities noted in red in the above table volunteered to reduce from two members to one during the pilot project.

During this period, the Board approved a "Governance Transition Plan" which outlines eight steps to ensure that all 27 Board members are apprised of NVCA business throughout the pilot project.

What are the next steps?

The full 27 member Board of Directors will meet on September 23, 2016, to review the results of the pilot project and determine if a permanent reduction should occur. Should the Board support a reduction in membership, each municipality will be requested for a resolution of support.

Section 14 (2.1) of the CAA states that

"the total number of members of the authority and the number of members that each participating municipality may appoint, may be determined by an agreement that is confirmed by resolutions passed by councils of all participating municipalities."

Municipal resolutions of support will be required from all municipalities within the NVCA in order to permanently reduce the board membership.

Where can I get more information?

For further information about governance at the NVCA, please contact:

D. Gayle Wood
Chief Administrative Officer

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

8195 8th Line

Utopia, ON, L0M 1T0

T 705-424-1479

E gwood@nvca.on.ca

