



Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority

October 7, 2016

Mayor Jeff Lehman and Council
The City of Barrie
70 Collier Street
Barrie, Ontario
L4M 4T5

Dear Mayor Lehman and Council:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) requesting your support to reduce our Board from 27 to 18 members.

As you will recall, your municipality supported a pilot project commencing in January 2016 to reduce our Board of Directors to 18 members and review the initiative in September of 2016.

At the September 23, 2016 meeting of the Board of Directors, Resolution RES: 96-16 was passed as follows:

RESOLVED THAT: the Staff Report No. 61-08-16-BOD regarding the Board reduction from 27 members to 18 members be supported by the Board of Directors; and

FURTHER THAT: Staff Report No. 61-08-16-BOD be circulated to the 18 watershed Councils by the Chair requesting a municipal resolution of support for a permanent Board reduction to 18 members; and

FURTHER THAT: staff prepare a final report for Board consideration after resolutions have been received from all 18 member municipalities; and

FURTHER THAT: a pilot project supporting an 18 member NVCA Board of Directors continue until a final report is submitted.

As you will recall, the size of a conservation authority's Board is determined under the Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) – the more a municipality grows the more members can be appointed to the Board. As a result of a provincial review in 1987, it was

recommended that Boards in excess of 25 members reduce their size with the approval of all watershed municipalities. Without a new Agreement with our municipalities regarding membership, our Board will continue to grow in size as our watershed population expands.

As such, we are respectfully requesting that your Council consider passing a resolution such as the following:

WHEREAS: the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) has endorsed a membership reduction which would reduce the Board of Directors from 27 to 18; and

WHEREAS: the NVCA is seeking a resolution of support from all 18 watershed municipalities for a permanent membership reduction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The City of Barrie support the NVCA membership reduction; and

FURTHER THAT: The City of Barrie support the drafting of a municipal Agreement by the NVCA once resolutions of support have been received from all municipalities.

Our Chief Administrative Officer, Gayle Wood and I would be pleased to present the details of this reduction to your Council, if requested.

As NVCA is preparing to finalize the membership reduction at our Annual General Meeting in January 2017, we are respectfully requesting that a Council resolution be received by December 16, 2016.

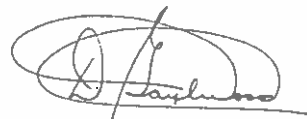
If you require further information regarding this initiative or would like a presentation to Council, please feel free to contact our CAO, Gayle Wood at 705-424-1479 ext. 225 or gwood@nvca.on.ca

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,



Councillor Doug Lougheed, Chair



D. Gayle Wood,
Chief Administrative Officer

C: Carla Ladd, CAO
Dawn McAlpine, Clerk
NVCA Member(s): Councillor Rose Romita, Councillor Arif Khan,
Councillor Sergio Morales
Att. NVCA Governance Fact Sheet



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."

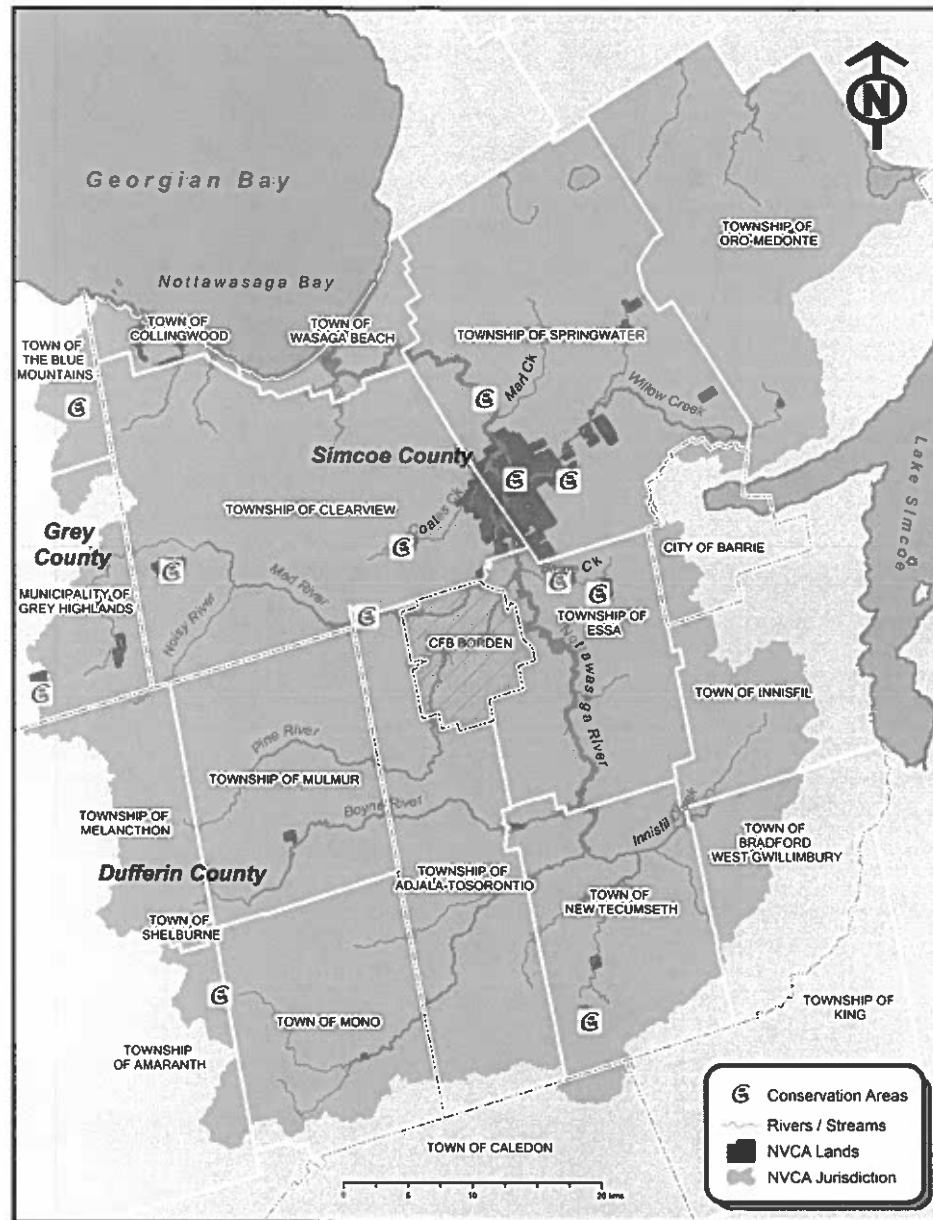
To date, there are 36 conservation authorities operating under the umbrella of Conservation Ontario; one of which is the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA).

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

