



## NVCA November 2025 Board Meeting Highlights

**Next Meeting: January 23, 2026, held in person**

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

### **Presentation on Utopia Conservation Area**

NVCA's Director of Conservation Services, Kyra Howes, gave a presentation on Utopia Conservation Area.

Director Howes shared its history, including Bell's Gristmill – the only designated historic site in Essa – and thanked the Friends of Utopia Gristmill and Park for the vital support in managing the area and renovating the mill.

NVCA staff manage Utopia under its Master Plan and will review it in 2026 with exciting ideas to further expand the site as a vibrant event space. More on this to come in 2026.

### **2026 Budget Approved**

The Board of Directors unanimously approved NVCA's 2026 Business Plan and Budget at \$7,841,981, reflecting a year-over-year increase of \$180,372.37, including a \$101,307.36 increase in municipal levy.

This budget reflects fiscal prudence—reducing discretionary charges by 31% and holding most lines flat while advancing efficiency and service modernization. This positions NVCA to deliver services that are responsive to the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of the Nottawasaga Watershed.

[Download the approved NVCA Business Plan and Budget here](#)

### **Changes to Conservation Services and Fees 2026**

NVCA's Conservation Services program provides a variety of programs and services to watershed residents and visitors on a fee-for-

service basis. Services include environmental education, forestry, events and recreational opportunities.

The revenues generated through these fee programs are used to reduce the overall levy funds required by member municipalities to support staffing, lands, and infrastructure improvements.

Fee updates include:

- Daily conservation area parking fees increased from \$10/day to \$15/day, annual passes will remain at \$70.
- Hunting fees, resident and non-resident, will increase by \$31 and \$32, respectively.
- 2027 wedding rental fees will increase by 3% to reflect delivery cost increases between 2025 and 2027.

### **NVCA Board's position on Provincial Conservation Authority changes**

NVCA's Board of Directors passed a resolution supporting the province's goals of improved efficiency, consistency, and fiscal prudence in conservation delivery; opposing the regional consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities as a means of achieving these goals; and encouraging the province to meaningfully consult with those affected.

The Board's resolution and a letter were sent to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. NVCA will also submit a response to Environmental Registry Notice No. 025-1257.

Download NVCA's [Board Resolution](#), [Letter to the Minister](#) and [Media Release](#).

## Upcoming Events

### Families in Nature

NVCA's Families in Nature & Wellness Retreats invite you and your loved ones to slow down, breathe deeply, and rediscover what it means to truly be present – together.

Take your Me Time with Nature-Infused Yoga, and your family can explore hands-on outdoor experiences designed to inspire curiosity, confidence, and connection.

- Sunday, January 11, 2026 – Yoga & Wilderness Survival Skills
- Sunday, January 25, 2026 – Yoga & Land-Based Learning Through Indigenous Teachings
- Sunday, February 1, 2026 – Yoga & Winter Tree Identification
- Sunday, February 15, 2026 – Yoga & Kick Sledding Adventure

All yoga sessions are offered at 10:00 – 11:30 am & 1:00 – 2:30 pm, at the same time as Family Nature Experiences.

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

[Register here](#)

### Winter Camp Tiffin

Our staff have been excited to plan some winter camp activities for Winter Camp Tiffin, which will be full of outdoor adventures.

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.

**Dates:** December 29, 30, 2025, January 2, 2026

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

### PA Day Camp Tiffin

This special edition of Camp Tiffin encourages outdoor exploration and guided excursions in the forest, fueled by student interest.

**Date:** January 30, 2026 from 9 am – 4 pm

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

[Register here](#)