



NVCA October 2024 Board Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting: November 22, 2024, held virtually

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

NVCA Board approves use of reserves to repair New Lowell Dam

The Ministry of Natural Resources' Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program (WECI) has granted NVCA \$40,000 to repair priority items identified in the New Lowell Dam Safety Review, as well as to conduct a preliminary assessment to assess the feasibility of decommissioning New Lowell Dam.

WECI is a cost-share program, where equivalent matched funding is required.

NVCA's Asset Management Plan provides \$25,000 in 2024 for repair works relating to New Lowell Dam. The NVCA Board of Directors approved the use of an additional \$15,000 from reserves for the remaining funding match.

Regulation Procedures and Fee Policy Update

NVCA's Planning and Regulations team updated the Regulation Procedures and Fee Policy document as a result of the enactment of O. Reg 41/24.

While much of the regulatory process remains the same, new processes were introduced in the regulation and were included in the procedure update. These include administrative review, determination of complete/incomplete applications, and additional permit exceptions.

No fees were changed in the update.

Conservation Areas Strategy

As part of the changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, NVCA is required to prepare a Conservation Areas Strategy to be approved by

the Board of Directors on or before December 31, 2024.

NVCA's Conservation Areas Strategy included a brief history of NVCA's Conservation Lands Program, conservation lands objectives and targets and a summary of NVCA's conservation lands. The four overarching objectives for NVCA's conservation areas were Protection, Education, Engagement and Financial Sustainability.

This strategy assisted with the development of the lands inventory in 2024. Staff will use this strategy to facilitate the development of NVCA's Strategic Plan and Business Plan and property management plans/master plans for NVCA's properties in 2025.

Conservation Authority Fee Freeze

In support of Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act*, 2022, the Minister of Natural Resources issued a Minister's Direction requiring conservation authorities to not change the amount of the fees it charges or the way it determines the fee for programs and services related to reviewing and commenting on planning and development proposals, land use planning policies or for permits issued by conservation authorities.

This direction has been in effect since January 1, 2023.

CAO Hevenor provided the Board of Directors a summary regarding conservation authority's fee freeze, the impact this is having on CA operations, and why the Minister should withdraw the fee freeze.

By maintaining the fee freeze, conservation authorities are falling behind in the ability to address costs required to carry out planning

and permit review. This includes the need to hire needed staff to ensure complete timely reviews are provided, service levels are met or enhanced, and allowing improvements to continue throughout the review and approval processes for plan applications and permits.

Upcoming Events

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

PA/PD Day Camp Tiffin

Camp Tiffin encourages outdoor exploration, guided excursions in the forest fueled by student interest. Every day will be guided by student inquiry, seasonal changes, and weather and program availability.

Date: Friday, November 15, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

Winter Camp Tiffin

Activities may include wilderness survival skills, kick sledding, Christmas Bird Count for Kids and much more!

Date: December 30, 2024, January 2 & 3, 2025

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation