



**Nottawasaga Valley**  
Conservation Authority

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Mayor and Council of the Township of Brock  
1 Cameron Street E.  
Cannington, Ontario  
LOE 1E0

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:

- 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Scott', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Jonathan Scott  
Chair, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

cc

Mayors and Councils within the LSRCA and NVCA

LSRCA Board

Conservation Ontario Council