

# MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 23, 2011

## ALL PARTIES UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**Oro-Medonte, ON** – At the November 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting, the Township of Oro-Medonte joined Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), and Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) by unanimously passing a resolution to endorse a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for delivery of environmental services.

In 2003, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority jurisdiction was added to the Severn Sound watershed that comprises approximately 53% of the Township of Oro-Medonte. The purpose was to add the regulatory authority of a conservation authority while maintaining the excellent environmental services already being provided by the SSEA.

To address the potential overlap and duplication that resulted with two environmental service agencies working in the same area, all parties agreed that an MOU was essential. However, for various reasons an MOU document was never fully executed by all three parties.

Between 2008 and 2010, the Township worked with the NVCA and SSEA on drafting a Memorandum of Understanding. Public consultation meetings were held at the Township and the NVCA to obtain public input regarding a series of options for future environmental service delivery for the Severn Sound watershed lands.

Throughout 2011, staff from the SSEA, NVCA and the Township worked together to prepare a final MOU document that would be supported by all three parties. The proposed delineation of service delivery outlined within the MOU is intended to ensure that environmental programs and services are delivered in a cost effective manner; that there are mechanisms in place to evaluate the efficiency of program and service delivery; that customer service is enhanced and there is continued protection of the environment.

The MOU document articulates the environmental programs and services to be provided by each environmental service provider with increased accountability for the services provided.

On the basis of the execution of the MOU document, Oro-Medonte's 2012 NVCA levy amount will be adjusted accordingly.

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*Oro-Medonte is a diverse and beautiful community with a central location in Ontario. A community of 20,031 full-time residents, Oro-Medonte covers a land area of 61,000 hectares, stretching from the northern border of Barrie and Lake Simcoe to the southern fringes of Orillia and north to Tay and Severn Townships. For more information, please visit our website [www.oro-medonte.ca](http://www.oro-medonte.ca).*

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