



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Keep families and pets safe in conservation areas

Keep dogs on leash, stay off the ice and follow public health guidelines

UTOPIA, Ontario (February 4, 2021) – In the COVID-19 pandemic, NVCA's conservation areas offers much solace for nature seekers. However, it is vital that families and pets are safe while enjoying the great outdoors.

"NVCA manages 11 conservation areas in the Nottawasaga Valley Watershed," said Byron Wesson, Director of Conservation Services at NVCA. "In the winter, they are great places to hike, snowshoe, bird watch or simply explore. We're asking visitors to be considerate to others, the natural areas and wildlife while they're there."

While some dogs are great listeners, others may harass wildlife or attack other dogs or small children while off leash. To be consistent, all dogs must be on leash while at NVCA's conservation areas. Dog owners are also asked to place dog poop in available garbage cans. Each week, our Lands team gathers up garbage bags full of dog poop from the trails.

One of nature's wonders is the beauty of frozen ponds, rivers and streams. While it is tempting to walk, skate or play on the ice, NVCA would like to send a stark reminder for visitors to stay off the ice. Even if the weather has been cold, other factors such as water flow, fluctuating water levels, and snow on the ice can contribute to unsafe conditions.

Lastly, visitors are urged to follow [public health guidelines](#) when visiting conservation areas, including group gathering limits, staying 2 metres apart and wearing masks.

[Visit NVCA's website for more information about NVCA's conservation areas.](#)

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About NVCA: The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment through specialized programs to protect, conserve and enhance our water, wetlands, forests and lands.

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