



## NVCA May 2024 Board Meeting Highlights

**Next Meeting: June 28, 2024, held virtually**

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

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### Provincial Planning Statement

On April 10, 2024, the Province proposed a new planning policy instrument titled the "Provincial Planning Statement" for comment on [the Environmental Registry of Ontario](#). The comment period was open for 30 days and closed on May 12, 2024.

The new instrument blends the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS 2020) and the A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Growth Plan, 2020) into a new provincial planning policy instrument.

Should the new Provincial Planning Statement be adopted, the PPS 2020 and the Growth Plan, 2020 will be revoked.

NVCA submitted comments through Conservation Ontario, highlighting matters such as:

- Vision of the Provincial Policy Statement
- New Settlement Areas and Settlement Area Boundary Expansions
- Stormwater Management
- Natural Heritage
- Natural Hazards and Human-made Hazards
- Other General Recommendations

### Minister's permit and review powers

On April 5, 2024, the Province posted a proposal for a regulation on the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) to specify when the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry can:

- Issue an order to prevent a Conservation Authority (CA) from issuing a permit and to take over the permitting process

- Review (and potentially alter) a CA permit decision at the request of the applicant

NVCA submitted comments to the Environmental Registry emphasizing details regarding the new Minister's powers must be carefully developed. This is to ensure decision making on permits remains technical, apolitical and integrates a watershed perspective so lives and properties will continue to be protected from natural disasters such as flooding and erosion.

The comments also addressed the liability of the permits issued by the Minister.

### Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 (Bill 185)

The Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 (Bill 185) was presented to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for first reading on April 10, 2024. Subsequently, it was posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario for commenting under ERO Numbers [019-8365](#), [019-8366](#), [019-8369](#) and [019-8370](#).

NVCA submitted comments through Conservation Ontario addressing matters such as:

- Changes to Appeal Rights
- Settlement Area Boundary Expansions
- "Use It or Lose It"
- Pre-Consultation requirements for municipalities
- Additional Residential Units
- Facilitating Standardized Housing Designs
- Minister Zoning Orders

- Expediting Approval process for Community Service Facilities and Exempting Universities from Planning Act Requirements
- Upper-Tier Planning Responsibilities

## Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival Update

The Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival has been operating at the Tiffin Centre for over three decades.

Many of the offerings at the event have remained consistent over the decades with a focus on maple syrup production and family friendly events. Partnerships have also been established with local service providers, including the Simcoe County Paramedics, the Essa Fire Department and the Cadets.

Every year, over 3,000 community members and visitors come out to enjoy this festival. Support provided by the Rotary Club of Barrie results in over 300 volunteer hours required to successfully run the event every year.

The revenues generated by the Spring Tonic Maple Syrup festival are split between the Rotary Club of Barrie and NVCA.

## Upcoming Events

### PA/PD Day

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:** June 7 and 28, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation