



## NVCA Board Meeting Highlights, February 24, 2017

Next Board Meeting: March 24, 2017  
at Suite Works, 92 Caplan Ave., Barrie

For the full meeting agenda including documents and reports, visit [nvca.on.ca/about/boardofdirectors](http://nvca.on.ca/about/boardofdirectors)

### NVCA's Planning Services sees 25% increase in applications in 2016

The board received a report on NVCA's planning services activities in 2016.

Last year, planning services, which is composed of six staff members, reviewed and commented on 1,498 applications under the *Conservation Authority Act, Planning Act* and other regulations, up from 1,200 in 2015. Between 2013 and 2016, applications increased from 904 to 1,498 with staffing levels remaining unchanged.

The board also received the first report on cost/time tracking data for NVCA planning services, as was requested the recent planning fee review process.

### Record-setting planting year coming for NVCA forestry program

The NVCA board approved the purchase of tree seedlings required to meet the needs of the 2017 tree planting program. More than 227,000 trees will be planted by the authority in 2017, making it the largest planting season on record for the authority. Funding for this program comes from partners like Forests Ontario and from participating landowners; municipal levy is not used to purchase tree seedlings.

NVCA continues to set a high standard for tree planting. At the meeting, the board commended Rick Grillmayer, Manager of Forestry, who was awarded MVP (Most Valuable Planter) at Forests Ontario's annual conference in February.



Doug Lougheed, NVCA Chair (left), congratulates Rick Grillmayer, Forests Ontario's Most Valuable Planter. They are joined by Byron Wesson, NVCA Director of Lands, Education and Stewardship Services; Gail Ardiel, NVCA Vice Chair; and Keith White, NVCA Second Vice Chair

The MVP award recognized Rick for his outstanding contributions to restoring the health of our natural ecosystems through tree planting. Under Rick's guidance, NVCA planted 218,000 trees in 2016, one of the largest number planted by any conservation authority.

### Good marks for NVCA's Customer Service

The board received a presentation from CAO Gayle Wood on the *2016 Customer Satisfaction Report*. This report summarizes comments received on NVCA programs, including planning, stewardship and environmental education. Overall, feedback was very positive across all programs, with knowledge, courtesy and other aspects of customer service being rated excellent or good by 100% of respondents. The report is available online at [nvca.on.ca/about/CustomerService](http://nvca.on.ca/about/CustomerService)

## In brief

During the meeting the board also:

- authorized the Friends of Minesing Wetlands to host a BioBlitz event in the Minesing Wetlands Conservation Area on June 3, 2017. The BioBlitz will see volunteers take an inventory of as many species as possible under the guidance of experienced leaders. Guided walks, canoe trips, workshops and other educational activities are among the activities being planned for the event.
- renewed the Friends of Utopia Gristmill and Park lease of Utopia Conservation Area for a five-year period.
- approved the contribution of \$5,000 as matching funds towards a Canada 150 Community Infrastructure grant of \$17,500 for improvements to the Fort Willow Conservation Area. Other matching funds are being contributed in-kind by NVCA partners and member municipalities.
- approved the monthly board education presentations and the senior staff municipal action plan for 2017.

## Call for Nominations – 2017 Conservation Champion Awards

The nomination period for the 2017 NVCA Conservation Champion Awards is now open!

The Conservation Champion Awards are given out annually to recognize people, organizations, business and municipalities for their outstanding contributions to sustainability and stewardship in our watershed. There is a special category for young conservationists.

Nomination forms are available at [nvca.on.ca/about/conservation-champions](http://nvca.on.ca/about/conservation-champions).

Nominations close March 27.

## Future Meetings & Events

### **NVCA @ the Central Ontario Agriculture Conference**

Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 4,  
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Georgian College

### **March Break Monday Children's Program**

Monday, March 13, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Tiffin Conservation Area, Utopia

### **Nature Days for Homeschoolers – "Get back to the Sugar Shack!"**

Friday, March 17, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Tiffin Centre for Conservation, Utopia

### **NVCA Board of Directors Meeting**

Friday, March 24, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Suite Works, 92 Caplan Ave., Suite 309, Barrie

### **Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival**

Saturday, April 8 and Sunday, April 9  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Tiffin Centre for Conservation, Utopia

### **NVCA Evening of Thanks & Conservation Champion Recognition**

Thursday, April 27, 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm  
Tiffin Centre for Conservation, Utopia

### **NVCA Annual Tree Sale (Utopia)**

Saturday, May 13, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Tiffin Centre for Conservation, Utopia

For more information on these events, please visit the [NVCA website](http://nvca.on.ca).