



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

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1. CALL TO ORDER	
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA	
3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST	
4. PREVIOUS MINUTES	
4.1 July 17, 2024	2
5. PRESENTATIONS	
5.1 Steve Burke, Manager of Policy and Heritage Planning - Official Plan Update	4
6. BUSINESS	
6.1 Official Plan Feedback - Steve Burke	
7. ADJOURNMENT	



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 17, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Norm Arsenault - Chair, Councillor Gary Burroughs, Councillor Sandra O'Connor, Christine Earl, Paul Jurbala, Kyra Simone

Members Absent: Marco Brunato, William Rapley

Staff Present: Darren MacKenzie - Director of Operations, Aimee Alderman-Manager of Planning, Shannon Mista - Legislative and Committees Coordinator

Others Present: Adam Christie – Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Norm Arsenault, Chair at 3:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Burroughs that the agenda be adopted as presented.

APPROVED

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None were declared.

4. BUSINESS

4.1 NPCA Memorandum of Understanding - Agreement for Services - OPS-23-066

Darren MacKenzie, Director of Operations gave an overview of the report.

The Committee asked clarifying questions and gave feedback on the MOU.

Moved by Councillor O'Connor that the following recommendations be considered by Council;

1.1 That Council endorses the NPCA Memorandum of Understanding – Agreement for Services and operational parameters for the Virgil Reservoirs attached as Appendix 1;

1.2 That the fee schedule be attached to the MOU;

1.3 That the Chief Administrative Officer names be updated on the agreement and;

1.4 That the wording of Appendix 1 *"its members appointed by participating municipalities in accordance with the Act"* be revised to reflect that current situation that Niagara-on-the-Lake has no voice in appointing a member to Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

APPROVED

5. NEXT MEETING DATE

It was discussed that a meeting will be held in September.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment unanimously took place at 3:44 p.m.

Official Plan Update

Environmental Advisory Committee – April 23, 2025

Agenda

- How we got here
- OP Update Drivers & Theme Areas
- Environmental policy changes
- Next Steps



How we got here



Adopted Official Plan

- Adopted in October 2019 providing a solid foundation for the OP Update
- 2031 planning horizon and growth forecasts
- Completed before new Niagara Official Plan and changes to Provincial legislation and planning policies
- Based on significant community engagement
- Addressed local issues and priorities – including unique agricultural system of NOTL
- Completed before several local plans and strategies

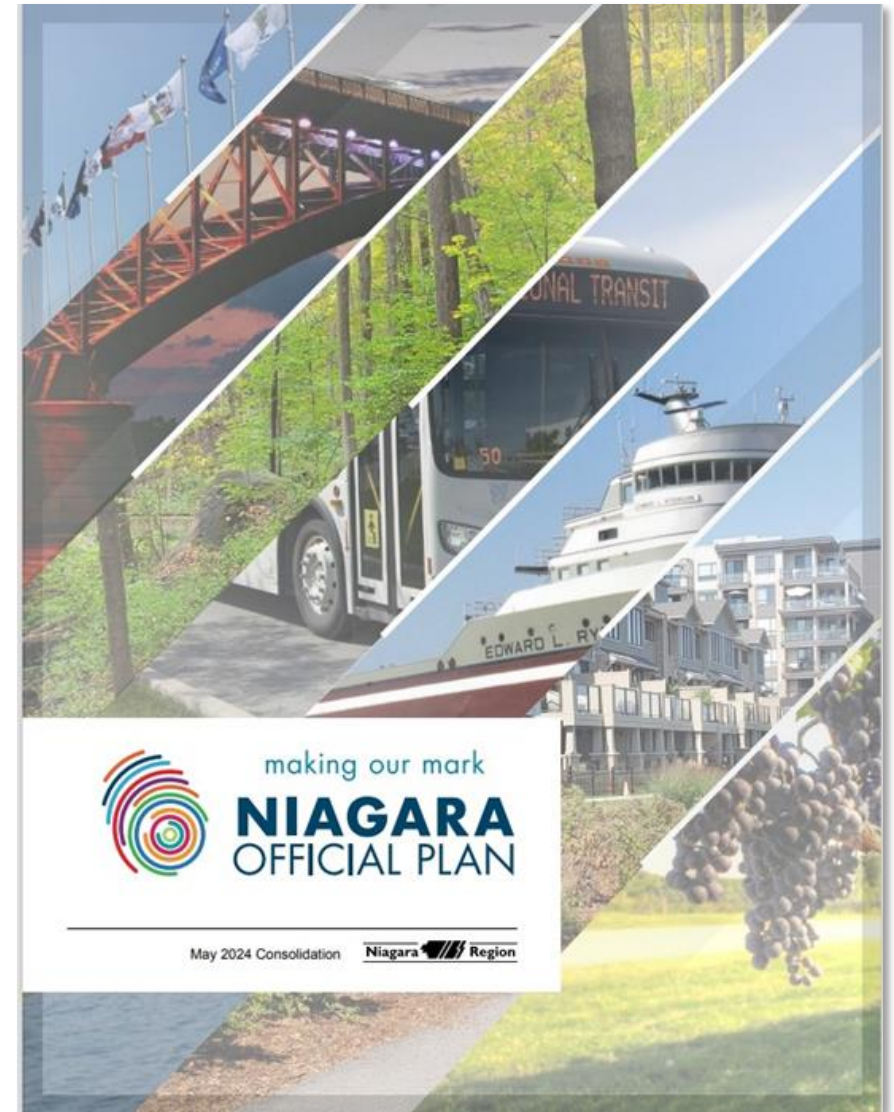
Official Plan Update - Drivers

1. Niagara Official Plan – Conformity and Integration with Town Official Plan; Repeal of Niagara Official Plan
2. Consistency with new Provincial Planning Statement, 2024, Planning Act and other legislation changes
3. Local Priorities

Driver #1

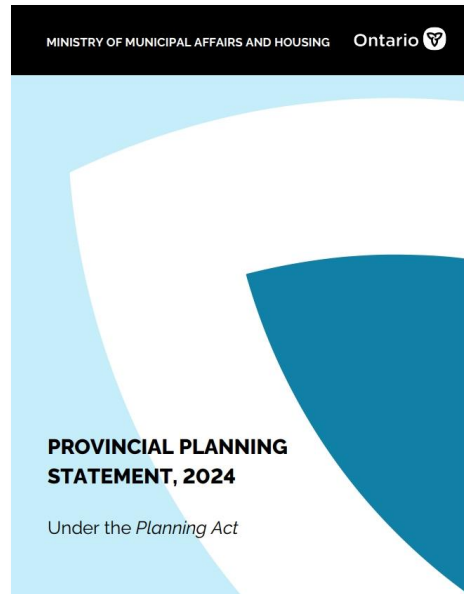
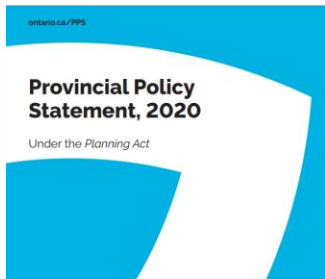
Niagara Official Plan Conformity

- 2051 planning horizon and growth forecasts
- Conforms to Growth Plan, 2020 and Provincial Policy Statement, 2020
- Became an official plan of the Town on March 31, 2025
- Intent to incorporate mandatory NOP policies and mapping into NOTL OP and repeal NOP upon approval of NOTL OP by Minister
- Contains important updates such as new Natural Heritage System, watershed planning and climate change policies



Driver #2

Provincial Planning



- Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 combined and replaced the Growth Plan, 2020 and Provincial Policy Statement, 2020
- Prescriptive Growth Plan policies replaced by more general policy direction
- Policy changes on growth forecasting, growth management, agricultural systems approach etc.



Driver #3

Local Priorities

- Strategic Plan
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Transportation Master Plan
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Glendale Secondary Plan
- Pollution Prevention Control Plan
- Infill/Intensification policies OP Amendment
- Character Study OP Amendment
- Heritage Conservation District Study

Official Plan Update

Theme Areas



Growth
Management



Housing



Employment/
Economy



Climate Change



Agriculture



Cultural
Heritage



Natural
Environment

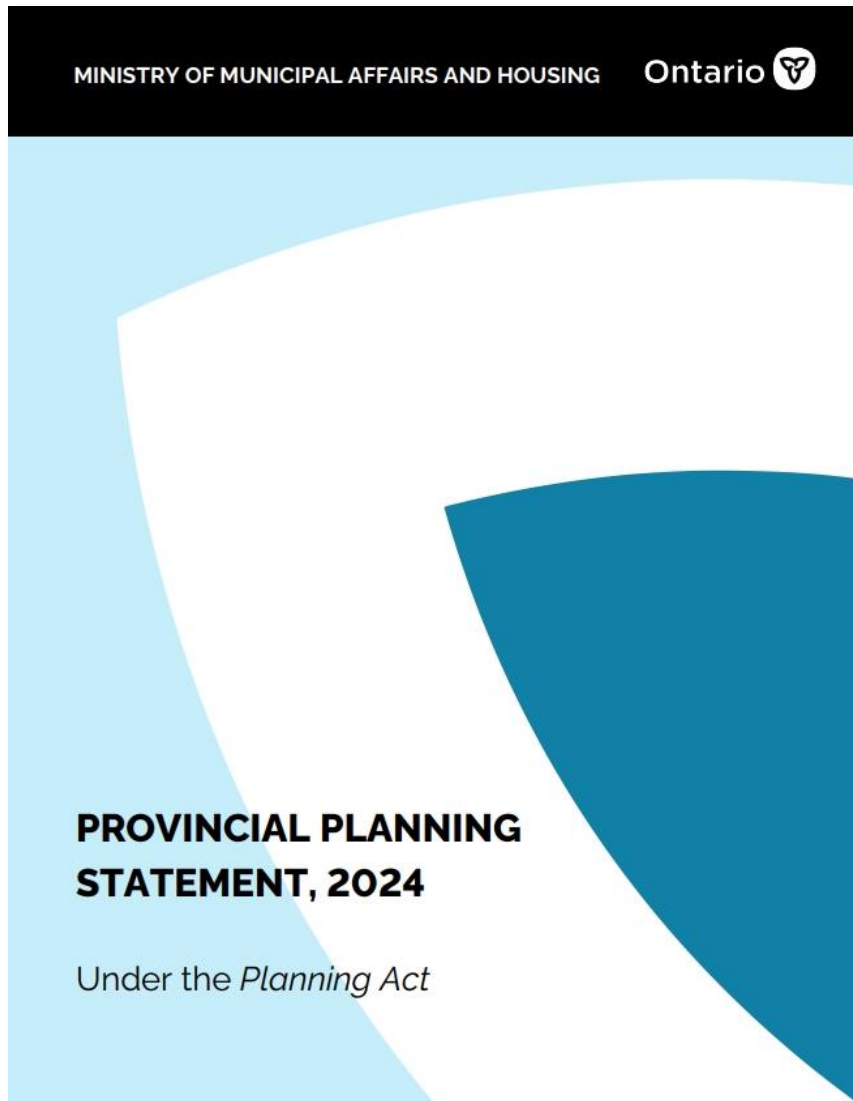


Indigenous
Engagement



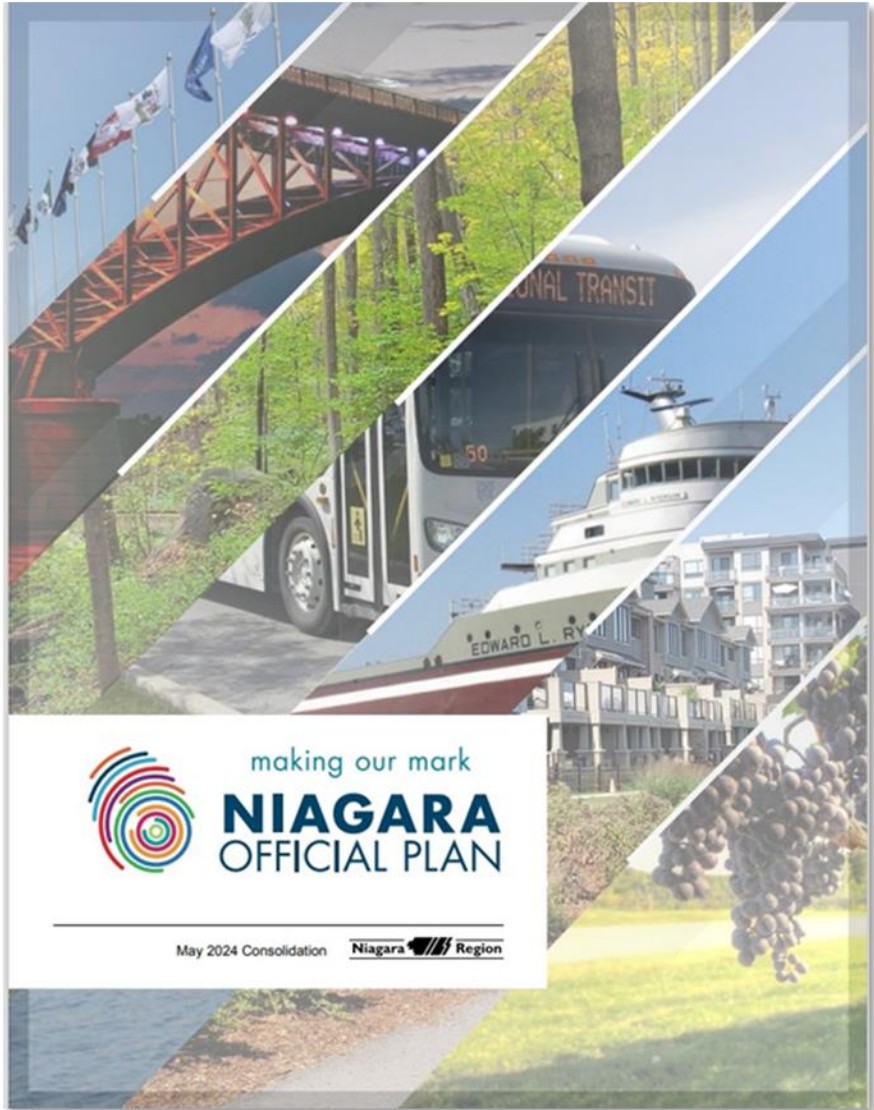
Transportation/
Infrastructure

PPS Environmental Policy Changes



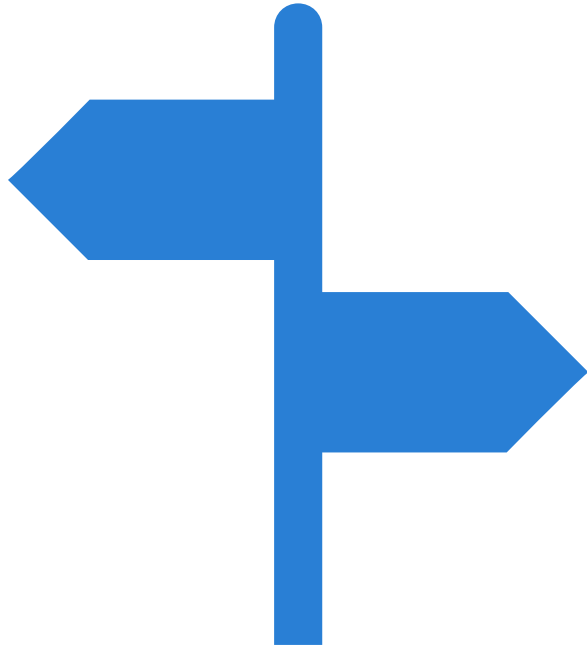
- Municipalities must use “natural heritage systems” approach to map, based on provincial guidance, but not provincially-mapped Growth Plan NHS – no impact in NOTL as it is entirely Greenbelt Plan NHS
- Encouragement for watershed planning to inform planning for servicing and SWM infrastructure
- ‘Watershed planning’ definition added
- Municipalities encouraged to work with conservation authorities in watershed planning
- Planning authorities shall plan to reduce GG emissions and prepare for impacts of a changing climate

NOP Environmental Conformity Review



- Incorporate mapping and policies of the natural environment system into OP and zoning by-law in a manner that implements the NOP
- Responsible for preparation of sub-watershed studies and implementing sub-watershed plans through development review process
- Climate projections must be considered by the local municipality in land use policies, strategies and guidance
- Mapping of Natural Environment System – linkages, buffers
- Address permitted and prohibited uses adjacent to key natural heritage /key hydrologic features and areas
- Address permissions for small-scale agricultural or residential buildings in vegetative protection zones, buffers and adjacent lands, w/o EIS
- Address Special Policy for Tender Fruit and Grape Area in Greenbelt Plan

Next Steps



- Engagement Period (April – May)
 - Town Advisory Committees – Agricultural, Environmental, Heritage
 - Indigenous communities
 - Community groups/ resident associations
- Draft Official Plan to Council/release for public engagement (June)
- Engagement Period (July – August)
- Public Open Houses/Statutory Public Meeting (September)
- Adoption of new Official Plan by Council (October/November)

THANK YOU!

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