



THE NIAGARA
FOUNDATION

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE 2018 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

WHERE OUR CANDIDATES STAND

The Niagara Foundation asked candidates in the 2018 municipal election to share their views on a number of key heritage and development issues that are important to our community.

Following are candidates' full responses to our survey.

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Dennis Dick and Martin Mazza
did not respond to survey invitation

PAT DARTE

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

As the returning Lord Mayor, I am confident that I can continue some of the initiatives myself and this council have begun. A lot of them are based around land preservation, health and youth. I believe I have been a great ambassador for NOTL in a large array of areas. These relationships include all of our local educational facilities, upper tier governments, local businesses and other important groups and individuals.

Council's effectiveness comes as a result of it being a team effort. I know a lot more about this entire situation far more now. You will have noticed our council started on a very rocky footing. As time passed though, almost all members of council came to respect and work with each other. We all didn't agree on opinions of certain issues, but respectfully discussed and debated them.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

I would do my best to make sure that each member of council gets enough information to make proper, informed decisions. In the past four years we were quite often lacking all the necessary information. We could have done a better job in this regard because of that. We MUST protect certain areas of NOTL that have some of our richest heritage, namely St. Davids, Queenston and Old Town.

With the approval of the new OP we have to have strong, clear language that enforces our needs. It is mandatory that we have one that changes with our needs regularly. The new OP is scheduled to be complete in the first half of 2019. We should start immediately in the new year to consider any amendment to address any shortfalls in it without slowing that process.

As the new OP comes close to completion, we should be starting to work on the next one and keep it an ever evolving document. We not only need to start the one for five years down the road, it should also be accompanied with a ten year plan. Along with this we need to align our Strategic Plan to compliment it. This document should also have a five and ten year outlook.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

Agree! The secondary plans should be updated regularly as the OP is. These won't require as much depth but needs to be included. We should start with either the most outdated ones and/or the ones that will see the most change in the near future.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

I think this was addressed above.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

Agree! Again...see reasoning above.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

Absolutely! We need to work hand-in-hand with the Region. Having said that, WE have to drive the direction for our town. The Region sometimes likes to have more input that is preferred by the town. The new Glendale plan will do a couple

of things. First it will greatly improve provincial density numbers and also improve our tax base in order to create more amenities for our residents.

- *Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.*

As it is with that entire area, that property is in a sensitive area historically and we need to treat it with kid gloves.

- *Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.*

The Green Belt was a welcome piece of legislation in order to maintain the atmosphere of NOTL. It did, however, have some flaws. When the legislation was opened up for review, we, through the Region, asked for some specific areas to be reconsidered and looked at more carefully. None of these were in residential areas though. Expanding is not an important issue right now though. We will have our hands full making sure Glendale proceeds properly. We don't have the staffing resources to juggle too many balls at the same time. LETS DO IT RIGHT.

- *There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.*

Agree! We have a talent base of educated people that we need to enlist to work with council and staff in a couple of areas. Education, health, heritage, and resources to name a few.

4. *How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?*

I think the Greenbelt legislation takes a lot of that into consideration and protects these areas. Our agricultural people are extremely passionate about their industry. They are continually keeping council and staff aware of anything that will negatively affect them. They helped write the agricultural part of the new OP. The OP covers out farmland and as we go along it through amendments we can make sure our farmers have the ability to maintain their lands. I think we are already in good shape for their protection.

5. *Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?*

I wouldn't use the word critical but rather opportunities. We have so many opportunities to enhance and better the lives of our residents. We can bring a number of things to NOTL such as better health care, more education, arts and culture, and recreation. Good planning is key.

One of the first things the new council will do is hire a new CAO. This alone will allow the new council to begin a new path and fill in some staffing problems. The new CAO will be able to hire staff that the new OP and Strategic Plan will require to complete. They will also be able to put the right staff in place to fix some of the existing problems such as noise issues, planning issues, and budget/spending.

I would love to work with them to set up a whole means of communication. Communication within the staff, with council but by for the most important is communicating with the residents. That means "two-way" communication. They hear us and we hear them.

There are so many other opportunities we can explore.

BETTY DISERO

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

I have the leadership abilities and drive to complete the unfinished Official Plan and all the Master Plans that will fall under the Official Plan. I understand governance and the role of members of Council and the responsibility they have to the community to make decisions in the best interest of the community. I believe I have the strength to keep Council focused on the task at hand and work in a respectful manner; respectful to each other and the community.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

New planning techniques start with looking at the natural and cultural heritage and then compatible development comes secondary to that. We need to look first at what we want to preserve and then look at the way in which development fits in to that a compatible way. I believe this should be enshrined in our new Official Plan.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.
- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.
- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g. lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.
- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.
- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.
- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.
- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

I agree completely with your statements. The Official Plan should include preservation of the greenbelt, agriculture, heritage both cultural and landscape and keep our neighbourhoods liveable. The secondary plans should have much community input and be fashioned in a way that they maintain liveability. The secondary plans should be done in conjunction and fashioned in a way to meet the needs of each community. I am a strong believer in putting in protections for our strengths and then determining what type of development should be considered compatible to that.

With respect to housing targets, I will absolutely argue that we have met our required targets given us to 2031. I am aware that the new targets to 2041 are coming out from the region and we need to compare the numbers to see if we are still in excess of the requirement and will argue that point. I just want to add that the new Official Plan will determine where any development or intensification should go. Without the Official Plan, we are open to having any developer or any appeal board determine the locations for us. The Official Plan is essential.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

- *The protection of the Greenbelt*
- *An Irrigation Masterplan. We will need long term help from all levels of government*
- *A Phragmites eradication plan and proper mapping*
- *Proper mapping distinguishing manmade and natural water courses*
- *Discussions with the Region and the NPCA to have similar regulations and buffers as the greenbelt regulations*

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

*A focused strategic (short term) plan or a four year work plan with deadlines and evaluation measures.
Master Plans for Irrigation, economic development, transportation, culture and recreation.*

DANIEL TURNER

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

I was motivated to run for Lord Mayor because there were too many opportunities for the current council to provide strong leadership on issues of great importance that they had failed to act on. There currently is a huge lack of accountability. Before I decided to run for Lord Mayor, I decided to go door to door to hear concerns from residents about their experience with the municipality, and from what I heard repeatedly was that it always appeared that many of the town's laws applied to most but not all citizens. Seeing a lack of efficiency in the Council's spending has also motivate me to step up to run for Lord Mayor. Rather than the Council being able to rely upon their staff to provide information in order to make informed decisions they instead rely on expensive consultations time after time again. \$20,000 on an Urban-Tree By-Law consultation, still no Urban-Tree By-Law. Over \$200,000 on the Official Plan consultations, still no updated official plan. Now \$100,000 budgeted for a pool consultant. I do not want to see this pattern continue.

Being a life-long resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake I believe that I have a special connection to this town that will allow me to put the town, and its residents first on any decision I will make in Council. Unlike some candidates, I have never taken any contributions from developers or other businesses now or in the past for my campaign, the only people I will be working for as Lord Mayor are the Citizens of Niagara-on-the-Lake. As Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake I will use my experience as an Economic Analyst to seek out efficiencies in the town's budgets to ensure that not a single cent is wasted. Through my position as a Teaching Assistant at Brock University I effectively led and orchestrate discussions of Economic matters with students. I will not tolerate disrespect for fellow councilors and, just as I did with my students, I will not hesitate to call out an individual on their inappropriate behavior. I will ensure that our council is effective by having all our new members of council well oriented prior to our first council meeting, and to reinforce the fact that we were elected by the people for the people.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

The Official Plan must be updated to include restrictions for development on historic properties. I would also like to seek a Provincial Act to allow Niagara-on-the-Lake to have lower housing density requirements than the rest of the province. We want to ensure that Niagara-on-the-Lake remains a historic, agricultural town first, not a "commuter city". I would like to ensure that adequate communication is being shared amongst developers, the town and the public. I feel that there has been a huge lack of transparency with recent developments in our town.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

The first Priority of the new Council will be to hire a new CAO. One who has worked in municipalities that have experienced rapid growth, at the expense of agriculture in particular. This person will be a seasoned pro and will have also demonstrated the ability to produce concise and action oriented Official Plans. He/she will then be able to clearly assess the skills required by staff that are necessary to achieve the objectives and plan the organization of all Staff accordingly. This could be the most important hire in the history of the Town. There is no room for error given the current and future pressures.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

I agree. It is important to distinguish key differences between our Agricultural and Urban land, to prevent the continuation of Urban Sprawl here. Each community in town has its own history and culture and should be acknowledged individually with detailed Secondary Plans.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/ height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

I agree. It is unfortunate that there are currently many buildings in our town that do not fit in with the characteristics of its neighborhoods. The Bone Structure house next to the NOTL Golf Club should have never been approved. It disgusts me that such a house was allowed to be built on Front Street with no consultation for residents in the surrounding area. Across the street from the Bone house is the 200-year-old Kirby House, which is even provincially designated. It also bothers me that some of the new buildings in Virgil look like they came right out of Mississauga. There needs to be stricter guidelines for the designs of these buildings in certain areas. Why our Council approved these is beyond me and I know residents are very upset with all the changes that do not fit the NOTL community.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

No, council should seek special permission from the Provincial government to allow Niagara-on-the-Lake to have a separate lower intensification target than the rest of the province due to our unique agricultural lands and our historic properties. What is set for other municipalities in the region may not be right for us. NOTL is a very special Town in the history of Canada and therefore must not be included in broad-based Provincial Policies.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

I agree. First let me note that I am unhappy that our town lost Parliament Oak. Our council should have worked harder to advocate for the continuity of a school at that site or should have at least worked with the DSBN to acquire the land rather than blame the DSBN over the disputes. The Town should have had a strong business case based on demographic trending but did not and took no action to do so. Ideally, Parliament Oak should be designated a historic site. What happened to the former St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Elementary school is unacceptable, the houses there are far too densely distributed and are not harmonious with the immediate neighborhood.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

I agree, because our Green Belt is necessary to maintain a healthy environment and once you decide to recede the Green Belt even slightly it will continue to recede out of existence. Once it is unprotected, it will never be the same again. "You don't know what you've got till it's gone."

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

I agree, there should also be additional committees such as an Executive Advisory Committee. I have met many talented, experienced individuals in this town who would love to advice council. Their depth of experience is exceptional and some have even had global responsibilities. If given the opportunity, they would do so but were not interested in the past. I also believe that the current council should have never disbanded the Parking Committee. I have spoken with hundreds of residents over parking issues that perhaps could have been resolved had we retained this committee.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

We must be prepared to adapt to a changing climate and ensure that we have a well-established irrigation system that can handle more draughts in the future. We must do a better job of communicating with our farmers to understand what services they may need from the municipality in the future to remain operational under the new pressures of development and climate change. We must seek to better educate the public on things like pesticides and other farming practices that are necessary to protect the farmers' crops. I was born and raised on a farm in NOTL.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

We need to ensure we have alternative routes to enter and exit the town. Highway 55 is not our only option. We must plan now for where we will be in 20 years.

We must ensure that adequate consultation is given to the public on matters that will make significant differences to their communities.

We must create a code of conduct for all staff employees so that the Citizens of Niagara-on-the-Lake are well respected by the staff that their taxes pay for. I have heard of too many instances where citizens have been unhappy with their treatment.

We must focus on commercial development near the airport and attract service oriented businesses. Executives, who must access Toronto will be able to do so quickly and possibly faster than they are able to do now. Their employees will have a great lifestyle, short commutes (Toronto is now 90 min each way, average), by comparison, lower housing costs and will be more productive, thus improving the profitability of the companies. We can then leverage the establishment of these businesses to get the schools we need and they can help us do this with the school boards and Provincial decision-makers. I was told that this idea was brought forward at the original planning meetings about 4-5 years ago as the rationale to encourage a business to establish flight to Toronto. I am not aware of any efforts made by Council to advance this potential excellent opportunity for NOTL.

NORM ARSENAULT

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

I do not like the direction the town is heading. Development is out of control and being driven by developers rather than need. Subdivisions going up or being proposed have little character, do not have a community look and feel, i.e. inadequate sidewalks, lack of green space etc... I am not anti-development. I simply believe that we need to put people first. Developments should be sensible, sustainable and designed with lifestyles and appropriate architecture and house size for the lots. Large two storey houses on dense lots 3500 sq ft or less should not be allowed under any circumstances. I prefer medium to low density in all areas, with Glendale a possible exception. Council needs to put people first. It is really that simple. Homes need to be built so that people moving in can feel they belong rather being transitional home owners. That is critical to maintaining a high standard of home ownership and community feel and to encourage younger families to settle here. We need councillors who will be able to put people first without any kind of personal agenda. NOTL deserves nothing less. I will provide leadership while being respectful of the opinion of other members of Council and work to ensure that the overall needs of the people first and foremost keeping in the overall needs of the entire community.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

The Community Planning Permit System or CPPS (formerly the Development Permit System or DPS) is the ideal way to address the heritage preservation requirements for all NOTL, especially the Heritage Districts of Old Town, St David's and Queenston. The CPPS system allows council to create special development areas that require special attention. The CPPS can be understood as a sort of hybrid of Secondary Plans and zoning bylaws, combining site-specific zoning regulations with the broader, neighbourhood-oriented scope of a Secondary Plan. Zoning, site planning, and minor variance approvals are combined under the CPPS, allowing for an expedited and predictable process. Section 10.5 of the new Official Plan Draft 3 identifies the following three areas as the first step in using this permit system; additional development areas can be added going forward as required.

- a) *Heritage Conservation Districts designated under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act.*
- b) *Individual buildings and properties designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.*
- c) *Areas where Council has approved urban design guidelines or architectural controls.*

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

Without a doubt, this is priority one and I agree with the timeline. Without the new plan in place, development will continue to be based on a plan that is well over 20 years old and does not address any of the developments that have taken place in the last 20 plus years. Without this plan in place, how can we address many of the issues around heritage, infrastructure, development, transportation and others. If we don't know where we are going, how will we know how to get there.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

The new Official Plan identifies exactly those issues. Here is a quote from Section 3 of the proposed Official plan: "The rural area in Niagara-on-the-Lake is designated as Protected Countryside in the Greenbelt Plan. It is also identified by the Province as part of a Specialty Crop Area in recognition of the unique soils and climate that allow grape and tender fruit production not possible in other parts of the Province. By identifying the land as part of a Specialty Crop Area, the Province has imposed the highest levels of protection on the town's rural land base. These protections, which prohibit re-designation of the lands for non-agricultural uses except for very specific reasons as outlined in Provincial Policy and do not allow urban expansion into the Specialty Crop Area, must be implemented in this Plan.

In addition to this protection, Section 12 deals with the various communities within Niagara-on-the-Lake identifying density of housing etc. Secondary plans will need to be developed to deal with site specific details such as lot sizes, setbacks etc.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/ height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

Agree. While Section 12 deals with the various communities in some details, it will need secondary plans to identify setbacks, lot sizes etc. St David's, for example, is identified as being low to medium density housing in the proposed Official plan, but not in the details that is needed to control development going forward. However the CPPS model could be used for this purpose.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

Agree. Intensification is fine to a point. With set boundaries of our five major communities, this will need to be addressed, however, my understanding is that we are well ahead of the provincial mandate when it comes to intensification. Intensification should be limited to areas where additional development is not possible and only if it makes sense.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

Absolutely. Development of such areas needs to blend in with the surrounding neighbourhood. In this instance, colonial type houses or similar architecture would be appropriate. Low density housing would be inappropriate in this area and I would not support such a development.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

Totally agree. There is no need to even look at expanding current boundaries for the foreseeable future. The greenbelt boundaries were reviewed in 2016 and should be maintained at least until the next review which I believe will be in 2026. We have enough expansion capability in St. David's, Virgil and certainly in the Glendale area to adequately deal with housing demand for many years.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

Totally agree. NOTL is blessed with an abundance of professional talent, many of whom are more than willing to volunteer their services on various committees to provide guidance to Council. What a great resource this would be to help us move forward.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

We absolutely must resist the urge to expand into the agricultural lands. NOTL is the source of a vast amount of tender fruit farming for the province and beyond and this sector generates billions of dollars for the Ontario economy and generates thousands of jobs. This must be preserved at all cost. Farmers in this area use the most advanced agricultural practices to produce healthy products and support of this industry is critical going forward.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a community like no other in Canada. We are blessed with moderate climate, exceptional land for agriculture and a tourism industry that is absolutely booming because of the wine industry, exceptional weather, general beauty and proximity to Niagara Falls. With this kind of growth comes challenges of infrastructure stress, meaning that as we become a more popular destination for tourism, we need to ensure that our infrastructure keeps pace with development and the influx of mass amounts of vehicular traffic. We have not added any capacity to our roads for many decades and find ourselves with the same three routes to access Old Town, for example. The increase in traffic requires a new look a moving traffic in and out of the peninsula in such a way as to avoid the inevitable gridlock. For example, we need to look at moving traffic away for

Niagara Stone Road using concessions and lines where feasible. I would propose a permanent Virgil by-pass using concession 6 to East West line then on to the Niagara Parkway to access Fort George and Old Town. A secondary option would be to use line 3 as well. This would remove gridlock in Virgil and allow for a more efficient use of Niagara Stone Road. Additionally, we must start looking at Park and Ride options by using existing land for parking areas outside Old Town in order alleviate the huge number of cars coming in to this area. Parking is at a critical point in Old Town and park and ride options with a hop-on/hop-off type of transit which may include a loop with various wineries would encourage a more pleasant visit for our tourist while solving the problem of excessive vehicular traffic in Old Town. This type of option could be expanded to include all areas of NOTL to provide visitors access to all our historical and cultural areas as well as shopping in Glendale. It needs to be flushed out, but it does have long term benefits.

SIMON BENTALL

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

The motivation was that I was fed up with this present Council, full of broken promises, and fragmentation within. They don't work as a team and have too many conflicts of interests. They have just lost the confidence of the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake and I want to make sure with a good team we can get the trust and confidence back.

The impacts I can give as a member of the Council is that I have been a full-time resident here in Niagara-on-the-Lake for coming up to my 12th year now, I go to many of the council meetings and have spoken a couple of times about certain issues. I understand how they work. Having knowledge in a lot of the areas that make this town such as, experience in retail having a shop of my own, so understanding small business owners, working in wineries although this job does not cover the rest of the farm industry but, I know how frustrating it is to talk to the Town Council and get things done. Having also worked as a historical researcher for 2 years for Welland Historical Society and qualifications in archaeology I understand the importance of our heritage and the environment. So the impacts I can bring is understanding how to protect our fragile town and listen to the people that live and work here and act on their behalf.

I would propose the council's effectiveness by working as a team and work with fellow Councilors that have a likeminded approach, listening and treating the people that live and work here with respect.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

I fully understand that there is a need for a better balance between cultural heritage and development and so, I would ensure that the balance is respected by: putting a halt on any land development that is in question of infringing onto Green belt land, wild life or wooded areas because they can bring in ecotourism so we need to protect it. Making sure that buildings are no more than 3 stories high and when it comes to the Old Town, ABSOLUTELY no modern designed houses are to be built amongst the period houses like that eye sore 'The Bone House' next to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Course.

The specific issues within heritage preservation I would like to address is the creation of a larger HCD (Heritage Conservation District) and not to twist the rules of the Ontario Heritage act part IV and V in Designations, better district plans, more public consultation that is lacking in this present Council. Insisting on municipal compliance and stricter control on alterations to buildings of historic and cultural nature. 'There is a strong relationship between HCD designation and Cultural Tourism. Designation can be used both to encourage and manage tourism activity in rural and urban areas' (according to the HCD Hand book page 9.)

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

I fully agree that the Official plan should be the Council's first priority including secondary plans and should be reviewed and enhanced by June 2019. Six months is long enough for the plan to be in place. There seems to be fighting in the Town hall in their final decisions and we need to put a stop to this by having a clear decisive plan right from the word go. Talking to Councilors of likeminded views as mentioned before. So it is vital we vote in people that have been here more than a couple of years and have very little conflict of interest that will affect the decision making.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

For Agricultural and Urban areas, there most definitely be a comprehensive plan and secondary plan for each distinct community as each area is slightly different in its needs. BUT Agricultural should be the same along the whole board as we see time and time again the abuse of the Greenbelt land and the bad communication and understanding between Council

and farmers which I plan to make better if elected. Urban areas should be looked at by limiting the size height wise and the amenities surrounding them and will it affect the historical and beauty of that area.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/ height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

Secondary plans should most definitely include community-specific design and planning guidelines, otherwise we get a mixture of beautiful and ugly designs. When people come down here off the QEW they want to feel relaxed and take in all the beauty we can offer them from history/heritage, shopping and ecotourism and with fruit and wine industry. They don't want to come off the highway into more traffic build up which also needs to be addressed and, certainly not into another high-rise concrete and metal jungle. The Old Hospital private car park I would love to see used for more public car parking to elevate the stress along Queen Street.

At the same time I would love to see local artists and local crafts being displayed in a pop up scenario on the hospital grounds and car park to help and encourage the small local businesses.

The Dock area should be helped to be fixed up by the help of developers that will have to help in projects around all of the 5 areas of Niagara-on-the-Lake to enable them to even build here, just to prove they are real when they say they are caring about this area.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

When it comes to the Council obtaining confirmation from the region, I agree in part, BUT the Region is also there to help and give support in a way so, I would like to see better involvement between Region and Council on important issues that the region think differently about like roads such as highway 55 and 4 mile creek road. We need input in the form of quarterly meetings with locals to express their concerns on these matters. The new Council should listen more to everyone that lives and works here.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

Infill development is one of the areas I have been slightly involved in both here in the Niagara region and the UK, it should be harmonious and respect the local residences by keeping height and lot size to a minimum in certain areas also, how will it affect the surrounding communities. Parliament Oak school where one of my daughters went to is close to my heart and although I can't say too much now I feel certain designations on part of its ground should be looked into, even though it is now in private hands.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

For the Green belt support and preservation, well yes, once this is cut away at, then what's stopping developers, etc. from taking advantage of even more areas? I feel that, like HCD, there should be a Niagara-on-the-Lake version for Green belt conservation which we create with the support of locals and the farming community.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

When it comes to broader inclusion of the community in key advisory committees, I have touched on this in the form of quarterly meetings with the community. I would like to form a committee of a number of Council members and two representatives from each 5 areas that makes up Niagara-on-the-Lake. This I feel will make things more transparent and not confusing that leads to false accusations.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

When it comes to agriculture, I feel that the Council does not give credit where credit is due when it comes to our farmers whether its tender fruit growing, grape growing or other types of farming. I myself am not a farmer but, for many years I have

worked in the wine industry. So I would like to create a better advisory committee between farmers and the Council giving advice and help to each other good or bad.

In the NNFA (Niagara North Federation of Agriculture), using the 2016 data, although farms and farmland are decreasing, the economic value of the agriculture sector continues to increase, generating \$838.1 million in total gross farm receipts, \$3.1 billion in gross output impact and \$1.4 billion in gross domestic impact, not only that, it created 19,892 jobs in the Niagara Region. From 2011 to 2016 the agriculture had a GNP increase of 15.5%. This is the reason why I fully support the farmers here and look forward, if elected, to working with them. Working with Parks Canada on the Lakeshore road project is, if elected, going to be exciting, along with other eco projects in the community.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

The other issue that keeps coming up is the 'Ward System of Council.' This works in large towns and cities, but in small towns can cause segregation between wards and resentment, which can lead to what we have at the moment in Council which is division and confusion. I am not ruling it out but we must get a good official plan and secondary plan going and get on the right track. Then we can decide on Ward Councils.

ALLAN BISBACK

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

I am passionate about our community of Niagara-on-the-Lake. I have attended most Committee of the Whole meetings and Council and feel I have the skill sets need to help solve problems. I want to help change the way our Town make decisions for our future. It is important to have a clear plan to guide us forward. To understand all issues thoroughly so that we can make informed decisions. And to be transparent and accountable. I am a good listener, informed decision maker and a team player. Council members can disagree however decisions need to be made on behalf of all residents.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

The recent Bray Heritage report that was received by Council needs to be accepted and embedded within Draft #4 of the Official Plan, which should be in front of Council in January 2019. Designation of heritage assets is important, and more education is required to resident soon the benefits of designating their properties as heritage assets. These assets need to be inventoried and protected. Development in Old Town needs to be carefully managed to prevent loss of our heritage properties and buildings.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

Agree that Official Plan needs to be priority, notwithstanding Draft # 4 based on current workplan should come forward to Council in January 2019 with public consultation in July. I would expect to could then be sent to the Region in fall for approval. I do not feel it has to be 100% to be enacted.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

Yes, as part of the Official Plan, we already have a secondary plan for Queenstown, St David's and Docklands. A plan has been started for Glendale.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

Yes, agree.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

Yes, agree. As I understand it, we have already reached our intensification targets to 2035. Any further intensification should be focused on Glendale growth plan.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

Absolutely.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

I do not support changing Greenbelt boundaries or any extension of the urban boundaries.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

Yes. I support engaging the tremendous expertise we have in Niagara-on-the-Lake. I would suggest focusing first on Finance and Budgeting and Competency Staffing Processes.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

We need to continue to support our agricultural industry. Investment on the Town asset, the Irrigation system is priority as our farmers are concerned about the lack of water and the system decline that is currently used to deliver water throughout the growing lands.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

Key issue to be reviewed as priority is the decision on a permanent COA and the role of council related to the CAO. A review of staffing and a competency assessment needs to be completed to ensure we have a plan to have the right skilled resources to manage our growing and special Town.

CRISPIN BOTTOMLEY

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

I'm running for council because I love this town and want to be proud to be from here. I saw the disappointment at the end of the last run of elections in many who wanted to see me as a candidate so this time I decided to run. I'm a lifelong resident and want to ensure this town remains unique, a place for all ages and welcoming to visitors. In a democracy, a citizen is supposed to step forward and actually do something; you can't sit back and complain. My main motivation was when the current council canceled the parking committee and then failed to come up with a new committee and new terms of reference. If they can't do that, I question what else is being missed. The impact I can have as a member of council is promoting the ideas of residents and seeing these projects reach their completion. I bring attention to detail and experience working on boards and committees. I believe my past actions and activities will help our town in collaboration with other municipalities and the region.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

We first need to adopt the new official plan. From a young age (and most of my life) I've been involved in protection of heritage, promotion of our past and developing an understanding among new residents to our rich history. It is my feeling that in every way we should try to maintain comparable lot sizes to the community they are in, promote individual building (not mass development) I believe that intensified development in the Glendale neighbourhood should be featured in economic development. The balance I will promote is to share what this town looked like and felt like growing up here. In the next term we need to ensure that severances are looked at with a view that they are not always in the interest of the town. We need to invest in promoting development in the south west corener of the town. By providing transportation improvements we could continue to allow access and opportunities for all.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

This should have been done three years ago. Without Mr. & Mrs. Howe's letter to the editor, the current council would not have even put out the update they did. I've been involved in the Queenston Secondary plan and the dock area and want to see these two (and others) put into reality.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

I agree.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

This and appropriate inclusion of items like parking and transportation. We need to continue to promote connections between these communities as we need to ensure residents feel welcome and a sense of belonging to ALL corners of our town. We are stronger together.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

It is not just the region we need to get these details from, but also the province, as with the recent election this could all be in flux. We need to work with the two upper-tier governments and representatives having a positive communication channel.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

Yes.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

Yes. *We need to share our opinion with the province. We also need to be aware of the Niagara escarpment lands.*

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

Absolutely. As vice chair of two committees, parking (shut down in first year) and active transportation (no budget) the committee structure was one in which reporting and activity follow up to budget area were not always possible.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

We should revisit what (sub)agriculture practices are compatible in the era in which we are currently living. A review of acreage vs. permissions should be started. Permission to promote their product and help getting product to "market" should also be considered. We must also ensure those working in the agricultural sector, farmers and migrant workers feel they are as much a part of the community as those in our urban areas. Safety for workers, access to services and transportation are all aspects this council and previous era's have forgotten.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

I think the council needs to continue to foster through their activity the promotion that we are one town made up of equally valuable communities. I believe that we need to address the "town & gown" relationship with Niagara College, continue to investigate transportation corridors and how to mitigate traffic congestion. We will need to continue to ensure we are getting our share of services from the Niagara Region as our level of service vs. finding is something residents want to make sure is fair. We need to ensure that our residents have the opportunity to comment and be a part of any changes to property like the Rifle range, seaway lands, and dnd/sewage lands.

MARK BROWN

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

Although a resident for only 2 ½ years, we moved here because we loved the area where we spent our honeymoon and every anniversary since. As a result, I care about the community and I believe that my previous experience as a Councillor can benefit the community.

My business background and Council experience have trained me to try and get to the root of issues faced by Council and try and deal with the real issue. Not all issues have black or white solutions and by being able to work with my fellow Councillors, I believe that we can find acceptable solutions.

Based on my observations, I think the next Council should take a look at its committee structure and procedural by-law to stream line decision making. Planning and Development items will continue to take up a lot of Council time. I believe that there is a case to deal with them as a separate Committee of Council so that they get the attention they deserve.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

I agree, it does and it is a difficult balancing act to protect our cultural heritage, respect individuals' rights without smothering the natural evolution of the community.

Strong support for the Heritage Committee is important, and I believe that Council should listen to that group and try and take action, before they must react.

Encourage people to designate their homes.

I support the strategic purchase of some physical properties, but the purchase must be strategic. The Town can't buy every home.

The Community Permit Planning System is a tool that I believe we should be employing as a way to ensure complimentary development.

Intensification is here to stay, but again it needs to be complimentary in terms of built form and as well suitability to a specific area.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

Qualified, yes. I believe that it could be done in 2019, I'm not sure of June. Secondary Plans should start, but may take a bit longer.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

This would be covered under the Official Plan referenced above.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

Agreed.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

Agreed. I also believe that we need to defend the Urban Boundaries.

If the Region says we have met those targets, this should also be a factor in our plans moving forward.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

Agreed.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

Agreed.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

Agreed. One possibility is the use of Community Councils.

I also think that the new Council should meet, invite key stakeholders to participate and map out a plan to move forward. I don't have all the answers, but I've found if a plan is created with performance targets, a lot can be accomplished. Not everything will, but if we all understand what the work plan is, we all have a means to measure progress.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

I believe that we have to continue to protect the Urban Boundaries and the Green Belt as currently defined.

We have to respect the right to farm and work cooperatively with the agricultural community to make sure that urban concerns are balanced with their rights. It can be a tightrope to walk. It should be two-way conversation on all issues.

The legalization of cannabis will have an impact on the agricultural sector. Once it's a legal product, we will have to modify our Zoning requirements so that existing agricultural uses and residents are not negatively impacted.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

Council has to be forward thinking in everything it does. For example, while we have 17.5 thousand people, our growth target is higher. We need to start asking ourselves the following questions (the list is not exhaustive nor in order of priority), and attempt to have answers or ways to find answers:

- *Do we have enough doctors in Town? How many will we need, and when should we start working with the LHIN to recruit them?*
- *Fire protection services will become busier as more people come to live here. When do we start modifying our model of volunteer firefighters to more paid?*
- *Are we charging enough for Development Charges, both Commercial and Residential? You only get one shot to pay for infrastructure from new construction.*
- *Master Plans for recreation, fire, growth etc. are important to guide this Council and future Councils, and for long term budgeting. They go beyond just 10-year Capital forecasts.*
- *How do we manage the traffic? It will never be 'solved', but we have to expect that if the population of the GTA continues to grow, visitors are going to continue to arrive. Do we use technology to manage parking differently, do we try and divert day visitors elsewhere with advance notice of traffic/parking conditions?*
- *Do we cap the number of hotel rooms and BNBs?*

- *Prepare for the impact of GO service to arrive in Niagara.*
- *Develop our relationship at regional/provincial/federal levels.*
- *Manage our spending tightly. There is only one taxpayer.*

There are a lot of challenges ahead of us, and they will in reality never end. I believe that if we are collaborative, we can work our way through them and come out the other side in good shape.

GARY BURROUGHS

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

I am passionate about the Town of Niagara on the Lake. I have lived and worked here for most of my life. My children grew up here. My grandchildren visit regularly. I love what it is. The Town is changing and I want to ensure that it is changing for the better. I want to make a difference.

I am not your typical candidate. I have been on Town Council and was Lord Mayor for 10 years. I have been a Regional Councillor and was Regional Chair and CEO for four years. I understand how the Town works and how the Town and Region should be working together. Just last week, Council was presented with a "vision" of the new Glendale area. Because the Region paid for it, they assumed that we would be grateful. It is not what Niagara-on-the-Lake should be!!

I'm returning to politics to focus on the many challenges facing Niagara-on-the-Lake and I believe that this can best be done as a Town Councillor. I have no unstated political agenda or political ambitions.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

My stated priorities call for a comprehensive approach to dealing with development and developers. Development cannot be solely for the benefit of developers. Developers need to listen to, and work with us and develop plans that preserve our heritage and are workable within existing, approved and planned infrastructure. We need an Official Plan and an Urban Tree by-law. We cannot deal with development, and developers as one-offs. We must consider the impact of all projects that are underway or planned. Developers who have the potential for multiple projects need to consolidate their vision for our community, and ensure that vision agrees with both politicians and our residents. To ensure that there is a balance between preservation and development the new Town Council must be like-minded, share a vision for our community and be willing to work together and compromise without, at the same time, compromising their individual principals. Much will depend on who voters choose in the upcoming election. There are a number of issues that need to be addressed in the short term. The most pressing is the current Randwood proposal. It is still not acceptable. From all the comments at all of the meetings, it is clear that residents are not yet satisfied. I strongly believe that the Lord Mayor, (and not the staff), should meet with the developer to outline the expectations of our community. All the various studies, such as traffic studies, must consider all of his properties and plans (both stated and unstated). We should not deal with his various projects as "one-offs", but what these projects will do to our Town.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

The new Council should pass a new Official Plan within six months of the new term. There will be appeals and this may take some time to work through. Again, for this to happen the new Town Council must be like-minded, share a vision for our community and be willing to work together. As I indicated, much will depend on who voters choose in the upcoming election. I believe that if possible, our new Official Plan, in the introduction, should define our status regarding Provincial Requirements for Intensification and Density. Also, The Plan needs to provide a definition for "Minor Variance" as our Town interprets it. This will help potential applications, and committee members understand what our expectations are.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

Our rural and urban areas and each distinct area within them, require and deserve a Secondary Plan to direct development, define more locally what land uses are available and wanted, and describe when and how development takes place. However, the passing of the Official Plan should not be held up waiting for these Secondary Plans. Just like every Official Plan, it is a "moving target" and Amendments (once approved) will start almost immediately.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/

height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources. In the past, the Town had a "Streetscape Plan", which required infilling developments to consider the surrounding properties, when at the site plan stage. This was intended to ensure that any new development would be sympathetic to their neighbour's properties "on the street". This program appears to have been discontinued, but should be reinstated immediately.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

I understand that we have already exceeded our minimum intensity and density requirements for 2035. The Region has the document, and I have requested a copy. Once determined, our Official Plan should include a very clear statement regarding our status. Currently, the Province determines our "Growth Goals", and passes them on to the Region, which then determines how these goals are applied to each municipality. This should be accounted for in the plan.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

I believe that the concept of "streetscapes" should be included in the Official Plan. Infill projects should be required to consider and be sympathetic to surrounding homes, and other buildings in an urban area. This would include the former Parliament School.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

We must preserve the Green Belt and existing urban boundaries. The "10-year review" was completed last year, and the Greenbelt Plan should be "safe for another 9 years, depending on any changes initiated by the new Provincial government. Yes, this new Council should formally Support the Green Belt Plan.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

My priorities include improving relations and communications with residents. We must improve processes and transparency in dealings between Town Council, town staff and residents. Council and staff exist for the sole purpose of serving our residents, the taxpayers, who must be informed, involved and, above all, treated with respect. This respect must be mutual. We have terrific expertise in our Town, and the new Council must involve this talent base on our committees (if they want to be), or develop a system whereby they can provide their expertise and experience. My concept is to form a group called RESOURCE NOTL. We have an excellent Agriculture Committee which advises Council. This model could be used more widely, and Council should assist our growers (for example: re mapping used by the Province, and dealing with phragmites).

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

We must support our agriculture community and agri-businesses. We have world class tender fruit and vegetable farms, vineyards and wineries. We must support the aforementioned Agriculture Committee on issues such as mapping of agricultural lands and water sources and working with all levels of government. Again, we need to preserve the Green Belt and existing urban boundaries. Cannabis will be legal with Federal and Provincial laws governing growers, wholesalers, retailers and users. Local governments will also have a say. We need to determine our 'say'. Our Town, and our growers have an emerging crisis, known as phragmites, and the new Council must assist in resolving it.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

The only one of my priorities not referred to in the above answers relates to tourism. Tourism is an integral part of our community. We must have a coordinated plan, with the Town, Region and Province all working together, to not only promote tourism, but to manage the significant impact on traffic and parking and other issues that affect all of us. It is critical that we balance ever increasing tourism with the needs of our residents.

CLARE CAMERON

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

As a parent of one young child with another on the way, I have been uniquely motivated this year to run for Council by thinking about the future of Niagara-on-the-Lake in relation to my children. I feel that it is incredibly important we have elected officials in place who can make the right decisions now, so that Niagara-on-the-Lake in 20 or 30 years remains a very special place with a unique character where all of us and the next generation can live, work and play feeling pride in our local community.

I have also been motivated to run this year by my experiences on advisory committees to Council. As a member of the Municipal Heritage Committee, Canada 150 and Indoor Pool Committees, I have been very close to the decision-making process at Town Hall, yet limited to offering research and expertise in an advisory capacity. I feel very strongly that as a Town Councillor in the next term, my unique combination of skills, experience and sensibilities would be a great benefit to the quality and efficiency of public decision-making in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

I can have a particular impact by bringing real world, up-to-date and ongoing experience from today's municipal sector in to my work as a Town Councillor. As a Program Manager at one of Canada's top mid-sized municipalities, I am actively engaged in achieving innovation and service excellence in a municipal organization, with an extensive network of professional contacts to draw upon in understanding how other municipalities have tackled similar challenges to the ones that we now face.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

I will ensure an effective balance between preservation and development by doing everything in my power to see a strong and up to date Official Plan approved by Council as a top priority in 2019.

On the preservation of built heritage, I will encourage the Town to share more information on the heritage designation process and educate property owners that it is not a clampdown or freeze on the ability to modify or update properties. I will share the message that designation and preservation can complement modern design, open opportunities to enjoy heritage grants and increase property values. I will also work with the real estate sector and GIS professionals across Niagara to share more information with prospective buyers in NOTL on existing guidelines and expectations for heritage building designation and preservation.

As a Town Councillor, I will address and advance the update of existing heritage designation by-laws to include consideration of individual buildings in the context of surrounding cultural heritage landscapes, and ensure that the recommendations from Bray Consulting's recent report on cultural heritage landscapes are incorporated into the new Official Plan. I will be strongly supportive of the Municipal Heritage Committee and Urban Design Committee, and hopefully have a role in the selection process for appointments to these very important advisory teams. I will advocate for the Town continuing to acknowledge outstanding and successful examples of adaptive reuse, heritage restoration and harmonious contemporary additions, highlighting examples for others to follow with annual awards. On the preservation of natural heritage, I will support approval of tree by-law for urban areas that effectively addresses the concerns of residents, and balances private property rights. And finally, I would like to participate in community vision exercises facilitated for all communities in NOTL, including Old Town, Virgil, St Davids, Queenston, Glendale and rural areas, to determine and document the kind of communities we would like to be. These discussions should include determining residents' preferred architectural forms, massing and height of buildings, and related issues like walkability, cycling, traffic, perceptions of safety and density targets.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

I agree, though in order to allow for adequate long-term vision sessions and public consultation, anticipate that Dec 2019 is a more realistic time for the Town to complete and approve a new plan.

While the Official Plan progresses, I would like to pursue another immediate priority, to increase the ease of public participation in committee and Council meetings with enhanced A/V technology, more seating, posting meeting agendas in Council Chambers, and revising the Procedural By-law to require stricter time management and focus on decision-making when in session.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

I agree, and hope that community-focused sessions for setting a vision of our future mentioned above will assist in this process.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

I agree, and am in favour of examining the Community Planning Permit System as a potential method to define and capture these specific types of standards.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

I agree, and further believe that the Town should explore opportunities to request a lower density target for Niagara-on-the-Lake given the remarkable quality of soil in our area, and the unique history that is represented by our cultural heritage landscapes.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

I agree, and will encourage Council to pursue the opportunity for designation of a portion of the original 1947 school building at Parliament Oak and conversion to a small community hub. Any new development that occurs on the large surrounding lot should be well-designed and reflective of adjacent streetscapes.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

I agree, and will support the maintenance of existing urban boundaries.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

I agree, and will facilitate broader inclusion by allowing public delegations to advisory committees, and capturing this opportunity clearly in updated Terms of Reference. I will also demand that the meeting schedule for advisory committees be corrected so that every committee can view and approve the minutes of their meetings before going to Council for approval. I will request that the Town livestream all advisory committee meetings, and remove the delay that can occur between open session and posting online. And I will work to align the existence of committees to the primary interests of residents, which may result in creation of Official Plan Advisory, Traffic and Transportation, Economic Development and/or Community Health Committees as ways of drawing on the considerable expertise of residents across Niagara-on-the-Lake.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

As a councillor I will be strongly supportive of the agricultural sector and do everything possible to ensure its health as a vital part of our local economy. I will listen to farmers and incorporate their expertise in decision-making for all matters related to agriculture in Niagara-on-the-Lake. I will build relationships with organizations like the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre and Grape Growers of Ontario and be a vocal advocate for the recommendations of our Agricultural Committee. And I will work to ensure that the business needs of our local farmers are adequately addressed with effective economic development services for this unique sector.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

I look forward to setting a new standard for leadership at Town Hall, and intend to build a culture of openness and service excellence that places the interests of residents at the forefront of decision-making within our municipality.

WENDY CHEROPITA

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

Friends encouraged me to run for Council. They feel, as I do that our Council needs a fresh new approach. People with strong, relevant skills and experience and a willingness to work together as a team on behalf of the residents. I was born and raised in Niagara and moved away to further my education and to build my career. I spent half my career in leadership roles in the Ontario grape and wine industry, including leading the marketing strategy for 150+ wineries for 6 years.

I know the area well and I've lived through our simpler beginnings and fear that we've reached a critical tipping point. Our issues are becoming more complex and the need has never been greater for improvement to the way that Council functions. As a marketer, I'm trained to put customers at the heart of every decision. As a strategic planner I start by listening to the stakeholders; gathering all the facts and filtering vast amounts of information into goals, key priorities and an action plan.

We need to start with the vision of what we want Niagara-on-the-Lake to look like and be, then build the strategy to get there. Protecting and preserving the historic and cultural elements are at the heart of what makes Niagara-on-the-Lake special and must be a priority.

This is the type of work that I have been doing for the past 10 years — building a strategic plan will bring focus to the things that residents care about most. A road map outlining goals, key priorities, timelines and adding accountability to ensure that the plan is executed.

I am engaged in the community as Chair of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fund, supporting local charities including heritage preservation, culture, health, youth and sport and a Board member of Bravo Niagara Festival of the Arts.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

It would be my goal to make the preservation and education of our rich history, culture and traditions in Old Town, St. David's, Queenston and Virgil a key priority. It is these very elements; that make Niagara-on the-Lake one of the best places to live, work and visit. The plans should include preserving and protecting of our architectural, cultural and natural elements.

The town has experienced a significant growth in population. This growth is expected to continue. As such developers are attracted by the immense opportunities. I intend to regain control and manage the development and ensure that it is compatible with the existing architectural design styles and quality that we expect. It is critically important that we maintain and grow our green spaces and design walkable communities with attractive streetscapes and natural features.

Attracting smaller developers to all our communities, developers that are willing to work within our standards and building codes is a better option than big Toronto developers that are more interested in mass, high density development which does not fit here.

I would encourage Council to build a historic registry of places, properties and buildings that we want to protect over the long term. A public consultation and input/guidance from The Niagara Foundation on this topic would be an asset.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

The Official Plan must be completed and considered a #1 priority for the new council. The issues we are experiencing with the Randwood Estate and the unsightly high-density development is the direct result of the constant delays or neglect to update the Official Plan by the current Council. Draft #3 was just published this week but does not include important elements like Cannabis production which should be redirected away from fertile land and residential areas.

I will advocate that the Official Plan be completed within the first 6 months of holding office. My vision is to gather not only the Town staff, the Mayor and Councillors but also members of the public to participate in the process. We need a broad range of skill sets at the table including a historian, an engineer, an urban planner, a respected small developer, a representative from the agricultural community, a transportation expert, cultural expert, and an environmental expert living in the community and willing to get involved. There is a wealth of talent in this Town and to date we have not leveraged this strength enough.

The Official Plan should include a comprehensive, clear framework for present and future development. I would like to see the addition of prescriptive design controls and building codes. All methods available to protect our heritage, historic elements and design features, including green space policies to protect our neighbourhoods. Secondary plans should include Culture, Tourism, Heritage, Transportation to name a few.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

Agree with this comment.

Each community has its own personality, issues and opportunities and as such must be addressed with separate plans. Old Town and Queenston plans should be focused on historic, cultural and heritage preservation along with strict standards around density, zoning, green space, tree canopies, height restrictions, set-backs and prescriptive architectural tools and building codes. Virgil and St. David's residents want to preserve their historic and cultural elements while creating vibrant communities where families and retirees can live in harmony and have access to the facilities and services they need most. Glendale is posed for major residential and commercial expansion, which must be managed to create a broader range of housing options and protection of our natural green spaces, trees and public access to the canal.

Our agricultural communities have changed over the years. Much of the tender fruit farms have been replaced by grapes. Grape growers are focused on building sustainable businesses for their families. The grape and wine industry is a significant driver of economic value for our community. We need to listen to the community as they are a part of our landscape and history. With the legalization of Cannabis at our door step, there is a need for short, and long-term plans that protect the farming community and fertile farm land from the invasion of Cannabis greenhouses. There should be restricted areas for Cannabis greenhouses that are set back from residential areas and on land not suitable for grapes and tender fruit.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

Agree with this statement.

We need long-term urban plans to create communities where people can live, work and shop in walkable, bicycle friendly areas with safe roads, integrated green spaces, trees and non-commercial public access to the wet lands and the water fronts.

As a Councillor, I will make it a priority to reclaim and restore our village structure. I would protect the former hospital from becoming a parking lot but rather promote the idea of a space of cultural significance. I would protect and create public accessibility to the important dock area and protect public trails from developer destruction. A funding model should be created to complete and maintain the Heritage Trail.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

Agree with this statement. Niagara-on-the-Lake has exceeded the targets.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

Extraordinarily important historic site for our community. We need to work with the developer to preserve and protect this property and ensure that any development on this site fits with the surrounding area and is compatible with the existing design features and height restrictions. There must be public consultation and the historic value of this property must not be lost.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

Critically important to protect the Green Belt and maintain existing boundaries. I would not be open to expanding the urban boundaries.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

I have met and had conversation with so many residents that are former CEOs, architects, historians, engineers, city planners and other immensely talented professionals, most of them retired and interested in helping. I see this as an untapped resource.

I would introduce the idea of building a Talent Bank to utilize the talent in our community. Encouraging residents to participate on advisory committees, consulting on key decision-making processes and the Official Plan rewrite is something I would champion. There is immense expertise within our own community; utilizing this talent would strengthen community participation and build trust.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

The agricultural community has told me that they would like to see cumbersome processes streamlined for farmers. They also need roads in rural areas to be maintained and repaired. They travel along rural roads where ruts and holes can cause serious damage to very expensive farming equipment.

Council needs to work with the farming community and build plans to ensure that our agricultural community is sustainable over the long term.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

Resolve the Randwood Estate development and protect this significant historical property from a high-density development that would negatively impact our community and the residents abutting the property.

Create a long-range transportation strategy that address road congestion, lack of bicycle lanes and parking.

Tourism is important to our economic well-being. The focus should be on attracting high value tourists. Quality over quantity.

The Healthcare Centre must be built and a plan for palliative care needs to be a priority.

TERRY DAVIS

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

When you're not happy with the way things are being managed in a community, you can either passively hope that things improve or you can work to make positive change happen. That's why I am seeking election as a town councillor in Niagara-on-the-Lake. I want to see the town's approach to development change substantially, with more focus on preserving its unique heritage and natural characteristics — the historic buildings, the tree canopy, parks and the greenspace that make our town one of the most beautiful places to live in the world. Ultimately, I want to keep NOTL the best that it can be, and I believe that the way to make change happen is from within — as a member of council with a voice at the table.

My 11 years of experience as a federal government executive and manager, as well as the 15 years I worked in the not-for-profit sector, have given me the skills I need to be effective as a town councillor and direct knowledge of how government must operate if it is to be effective, efficient and focussed.

In my career, I've worked collaboratively with federal ministers' offices and the elected leaders of volunteer organizations. I understand the level of communication, oversight and commitment needed to ensure that policies and direction set by elected officials, as the representatives of their constituents, are implemented effectively.

My work experience has been varied and rich. I've run the family farm, as well as been a small businessman, newspaper reporter, magazine editor and communications specialist. Part of my job included talking to people from all walks of life and backgrounds, and hearing what they had to tell me. That's something I continue to do well.

I've both served boards of directors, and served on boards as a director. I know about rules of order, and how they contribute to good and effective decision-making. And I understand the roles and responsibilities of elected officials versus staff when it comes to decision-making and direction-setting.

In short, I know what it takes to get things done in municipal government, to bring about change, to build consensus, and to work with people coming from different backgrounds and different perspectives.

Ultimately, the success of the incoming council will depend to a large extent on it setting clear priorities, engaging in effective planning, and establishing both short- and long-term goals and objectives, along with timelines and action plans for them to be achieved. It will also depend on councillors rolling up their sleeves and doing the work required to get the job done. I'm committed to doing that.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

I believe that updating and modernizing Niagara-on-the-Lake's Official Plan is a key part of this process. Completing the plan will provide a level of certainty to residents, developers, farmers and businesses about future growth in our town. It will engage the public in consultations on what they want NOTL to be and give them a direct voice in shaping its future.

Council also has more direct tools at its disposal to shape future development in NOTL, including zoning, bylaws and permitting. It can say 'no' when developers request variances to existing zoning and bylaws, if those variances would compromise the heritage and natural characteristics of our town. It can seek heritage designation for historic buildings that augment the heritage feel of our town (and has done so in some cases). It can work with developers to ensure that new developments are designed using building materials, setbacks and lot sizes that reflect the heritage characteristics of our town. It can set development fees that fairly compensate NOTL for the added burden that new development places on town infrastructure, including sewer systems, wastewater treatment systems, roads, libraries, parks, pools and community centres. However, the effectiveness of these tools will depend to a significant extent on completing the process to update the Official Plan, and passing the bylaws required to implement it.

The Official Plan will provide the long-term vision and direction to determine where high-density development will be permissible, and what setbacks, building heights and land uses, etc. will be allowed in different areas in town. It will also give council a powerful tool should developers take decisions of council to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

We need to support and encourage development — both commercial and residential — that makes sense for our community. Niagara-on-the-Lake needs to keep attracting tourists, residents and businesses if we are to be a vibrant and prosperous community, with the financial resources as a town to maintain and upgrade our infrastructure, and to offer residents the programs, services and facilities they want. But council, as representatives of the people of NOTL, needs to ensure that new development occurs in areas and ways that do not compromise the heritage and natural characteristics of our town, nor the tree canopy. It also needs to listen to and act on the concerns of residents who will be directly affected by new developments.

In conjunction with supporting new development, town should work with the owners of heritage buildings to protect those buildings. This could include establishing a municipal inventory of heritage buildings, and undertaking an evaluation of the heritage characteristics of buildings in the inventory to assess whether or not they should be protected through heritage designation. As part of this work, town, possibly through the municipal heritage committee, could provide owners with information on the federal and provincial funding programs available to support the restoration and preservation of heritage buildings. I would like this to occur in a planned and ongoing manner, so that heritage buildings are designated and protected — to the extent this is possible under municipal, regional, provincial and federal regulations — well in advance of them being put under threat by future development.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

Strongly agree. The Official Plan is council's best tool to control future development in town, and ensure that NOTL's special heritage and natural characteristics are preserved. Secondary plans would not only contribute to this, but also give council more tools to protect and support key sectors such as agriculture, and to provide taxpayers with the services, programs and facilities they need and want in the communities where they live within NOTL. In addition, the public consultation that would occur during the development of these plans would provide council with invaluable information on what residents, businesses and the farming community want to see NOTL look like in the future, as well as help council engage in developing a long-term vision for our town.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

Strongly agree. Each urban community in NOTL is unique in its own way, and has its own distinct needs. With the legalization of cannabis in Canada, the agricultural area will face new challenges as growers seek to expand their operations and initiate open-field production, and new growers enter the sector. There is a potential risk to current crops — soft fruit and wine grapes — should this occur. Where cannabis production is allowed, it will be critical to have an agricultural plan in place that ensures appropriate setbacks and land uses are specified, as well as requirements for odour control, which is consistent with regional as well as provincial policies and regulations. Developing secondary plans for each community within NOTL can help council to resolve community-specific issues such as parking and greenspace use in ways that work for the taxpayers who live in those communities, and the town.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g. lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

Strongly agree. I have observed what happens when this type of planning does not occur or is insufficient — streets devoid of trees, developers seeking to place condo towers in the middle of historic districts, lawns paved over to create parking spaces, heritage buildings torn down, lots subdivided and subdivided again, and setbacks reduced — and I don't want to see that occur in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Our town is special in large part because of its unique heritage and natural characteristics, and its community feel. We need to preserve these things if we wish to keep NOTL one of the best places in the world to live, work and visit, and developing strong secondary plans will help us to do so.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

Strongly agree. One of the challenges town has faced in winning the day when developers go to LPAT (formerly the Ontario Municipal Board) is that developers have successfully used provincial and regional intensification targets to

argue in support of their high-density development proposals. Having confirmation from the region that NOTL has met or exceeded regional intensification targets would help council say no to development proposals that do not respect the heritage and natural characteristics of NOTL, or are simply not the right development for our town, and provide a strong argument to council in support of its decisions should developers appeal them to LPAT.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

Strongly agree. The heritage character of Old Town, as well as its tree-lined streets, are a key part of what makes Niagara-on-the-Lake attractive to tourists, as well as residents, and of what brings people here to live, work and visit. In turn, the number of tourists and growing number of residents who come here attract businesses to establish themselves in NOTL. Old Town is a special place, both historically and as an economic driver for our town. Its charm and special feel will be lost if infill development is allowed to occur in Old Town that does not reflect its unique heritage and natural characteristics. That would be detrimental to the local economy and to the quality of life in NOTL.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

Strongly agree. If development is allowed to expand into the Green Belt, part of NOTL's natural heritage will be lost forever. The recreational opportunities provided by the Green Belt, along with the views, peace and tranquillity that residents as well as visitors can experience when they go there, are priceless. Our bike paths and walking trails, the vistas of the river and escarpment, are part of what makes our town so special and such a wonderful place to live, work and visit. They, like Old Town, provide important economic benefits to our town.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

Strongly agree. Councillors are elected to represent the people of NOTL on council, and to provide them good, transparent and honest government. In a town such as NOTL, which is made up of several distinct communities, as well as a large rural/agricultural sector, it can be difficult for council to balance the needs and aspirations of these communities in its decisions. Including additional community members on key advisory committees would help council to do this, as well as provide council with additional information/feedback on what constituents want from their municipal government.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

The moratorium on open-land production of cannabis was a good first step by council. It will allow time for the question of how we ensure that a vibrant and prosperous agriculture sector continues in NOTL to be carefully considered by council, and ideally for consultation with the farming community to occur. To be able to plan effectively for the future, council needs a clear understanding of the issues that affect the farming community in town, i.e. labour supply, costs of production, demographics of farming community, and the transfer of farms into family or third-party hands to allow farmers to retire financially secure. That type of information will help council and the agricultural committee to develop effective strategies to address issues. Those strategies could include supporting educational programs for young people interested in becoming farmers, as well as working with the provincial and federal governments in a number of areas, from supporting farm purchase loan programs to tax incentives to encourage new farmers to enter the field, and programs in support of innovation and capital investment. But council needs to talk to and listen to farmers.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

I believe that council must take charge of the agenda and set clear direction for town staff. It should set priorities for current and future spending, as well as for where development occurs in town and what type of developments are built. Setting priorities will help council to manage change in NOTL, as well as to preserve the things that make our town a wonderful place to live, work and visit, including its heritage buildings, tree canopy, greenspace and streetscapes. Council must address the issue of tree canopy loss, and put an effective tree bylaw in place, along with sufficient bylaw personnel to enforce it. The same applies to noise. NOTL's noise bylaw should be strengthened and better enforced to address noise issues in Glendale as well as from airbnbs. Property taxes and user fees are also a concern. They're high. Future tax and use-fee increases must be kept reasonable. To do this, council should strive to attract new businesses to town, creating employment and expanding the tax base. Traffic volume and road safety are also concerns, particularly along Niagara Stone Road. Town will need to work closely with

the region to address traffic concerns on this road. Parking is also an issue in some neighbourhoods, and is something council should look at. Odours from cannabis producing operations have the potential to be a serious issue as well. Council needs to be proactive in regards to setbacks and ensuring that effective odour-control measures are in place. Knowledge gained from other odour-producing industries, such as the organic waste composting industry, may prove to be helpful as council assesses the cannabis issue.

TERRY FLYNN

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

I have 21 years of experience with council, nine of those as Deputy Lord Mayor. My family is what motivates me. They have instilled in me the belief that you must give back to your community. That is why I became a volunteer firefighter, Lions Club Member have chaired the former Polo for Heart event and Shakespeare in the Vineyard. I have been blessed, to say the least, to have been named citizen of the year and received the honour of receiving the Paul Harris Fellowship award from Rotary International and the Melvin Jones Fellowship award from Lions International. I have proven leadership as chair of the Glendale Task force, community centre build, the Niagara District Airport and the N-O-T-L Library. I have received additional training in effective leadership as Superintendent of Operations for Niagara Emergency Medical Service. I believe all these traits together make me an effective leader and still have drive, plus projects to complete. Every term of Council, I ask myself, what would be my pet project or which committee would I like to tackle. I have been on the Municipal Heritage Committee, Building/Facilities committee which oversaw the building of the new town pool, library, community centre, arena and three new fire stations. I took on the airport this last term, which saw daily passenger service being introduced. I need three years of more than one thousand passengers a year to qualify for federal funding. I have two years (2017-18) where the goal has been met and will be heading into year three starting in 2019. Nav. Canada has also announced they are building a new control tower starting in 2019. For the 2018-22 council term, I would like to concentrate my efforts on the Niagara Historical Museum and work with other municipalities to build a proper "climate controlled facility" to store artefacts. Also interested in bringing all possible heritage, such as war and agriculture, into one facility, not just for our residence, but for the world to see.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

One area we cannot lose sight of is area owned by the federal government known as the rifle range/D and D property. These lands need to be protected and a Carolinian forest along with trails and an interpretive park created. One area of huge concern is the erosion of the shoreline and how we best protect the shore. I have been a strong proponent in purchasing property along the shore to return it to its rightful stewards. Not just the indigenous people but us, as stewards for now and in to the future. Contrary to "Trump politics". We need to be very concerned for the protection of lakes and oceans. We all need to be at the forefront along with advocating for stronger and better recycling programs as it relates to heritage preservation and development. Council needs more control at the site plan process. I have many examples how that has failed us in the past. We can still develop and protect heritage however we need developers that are willing to sit down with council, staff and residence to create the best most sensible plan. Local talent should be utilized as well as local trades. In the interim, a freeze on development should take place in Old Town and Queenston. I know this would cause great concern to some, however we need to step back, reevaluate and work on the official plan and secondary plans. A breather is good from time to time.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

I agree with the OP and Sec. Plans however the date may be too ambitious. Unless we spend more money, add more staff and have no objections that would take us to the tribunal. But agree it should be priority.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

Same as above for me. Let's get it done!!!

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

I have asked to sit on the legacy committee to deal with the heritage trail along the former railway right of way. And contextual zoning has always been a priority for me.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

I actually think the intensification targets are too aggressive for N-O-T-L. Let us decide how much more we can handle. Not the region or the province. Yes we need growth but slow growth and sensible growth.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

YES YES YES. Again contextual zoning. Why will no one listen to me on this point.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

We were well ahead of the province dating back to the '70s with locking in our boundaries. Leave them alone.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

We have been moving to that over the years. Think back to the '80s and '90s and look where we are now. Now, I will say technology has played a large roll in today's society but good old fashion charrettes and group discussion go a long way.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

Protect the lands from encroachment. Work with the ag community to give them the tools they need to survive. Better build for our irrigation system which is in need of an infusion of funding. Advocate advocate advocate. University, college, high school programs to promote continued interest in farming and ag practices.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

We need to build on trust. Trust between the six communities of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Trust among staff, council and the public, we need to unite, to get what we so deserve from the Region, Federal and Provincial government. We have too many groups forming, all wanting the same or similar results but creating angst, stress, and mistrust among each other. We need to do a better job at getting ahead of rumours and be ready to give the facts. We seem to be chasing our own tails and this is not a healthy environment for anyone. Let's realize we have great talent resource within our community and use the talents for good, not to divide. I was around when the town was not on the map. I feel we are becoming victims of our own success. I love the passion that newcomers bring to the table. Let's figure out how to get the job done while respecting each other and growing as one large community recognizing the distinct features and needs of the individual communities. I think it is great to see so many people wanting to get involved and put their name forward.

LAUREN GOETTLER

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

Our community is at a critical juncture in its history. There are as many as seven different communities within NOTL and each has its own specific needs and desires. More importantly, each is under development pressure that is often inconsistent with its character and aspirations. This is no more apparent anywhere than in Old Town with the Rand Estate issue.

My vision is to foster a community that is engaged in the preservation and enhancement of the unique heritage and culture of NOTL, while meeting the needs of well-planned growth that is consistent with the character of NOTL and the desires of its people. As a member of council, I am confident that I will bring the pragmatic perspective of managing conflict and balancing the interests of the communities and various stakeholders such that healthy growth is achieved.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

Agreed. We live in a unique town, rich in its cultural heritage and its natural preserves and green-belted areas. Any decisions made by council must be made by taking these factors into consideration. We can no longer operate in isolation and must actively solicit community input into major decisions.

We need to protect our employment lands for prestige employment uses, not big box retail. Our prime location just off of the QEW and close to the US border puts us in an excellent position to attract prestige employment.

We need to recognize that we are a growing region, but this growth should not undermine the unique local character that we all love. A careful examination is needed as to where growth is occurring, and what type of growth is appropriate to each area of NOTL.

Carefully constructed urban design guidelines are required that reflect the heritage character of the region and are tied to stronger protection of heritage resources, both natural, physical and cultural. Therefore, the design of our buildings, the types of business and the use of land needs to reflect our heritage character.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

Agreed. Time is running out as developers have their sites sets on NOTL.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

Agreed. Again, time is not on our side in this matter.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

Agreed. The Rand Estate proposal highlights what happens when there is an absence of good planning.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

Agreed. We must know what the Region is contemplating and deal with it proactively.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

Agreed. Again, if we do not guide development, it will manage us.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

Agreed. Absolute requirement if we are to save our green space.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

Agreed. Meetings on all issues need to be communicated well in advance, so that all of the population can have input. There are many snowbirds here and we must include this group.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

We can encourage and promote various types of farming such that we attract young people from the community to this endeavour. This can be done by education and community promotion such as events etc., that bring the farm from the field to the town.

There may also be opportunities to promote organic farming as a more sustainable type of farming. Organic farms are often tourist attractions as well.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

Trees must be protected with an enforceable by-law that has teeth. We must also begin a proactive tree planting program because our old growth trees will ultimately die. New York has an excellent program in this regard.

Native plantings in our parks are also essential to a healthy bio-diversity in our community. Properly orchestrated, these programs can attract bees, birds and butterflies, many of which are endangered.

GUS KORONEOS

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

My initial motivating factor to run for council was my children. I want them to be able to live and see what I have seen in this great area we call Niagara-on-the-Lake. Along with that came my love and respect for my community, the majority if not everyone is saying that we are losing our identity, our character, our soul. We need to protect what we have.

Having said that, the inaction around the council has been incredible. The town has gone through so much growth over the last 5-10 years in terms of new homes, yet we have not noticed any new infrastructure.

As I door-knock I hear many complaints, traffic, road conditions, lack of official town plan, losing our schools, marijuana growing facilities, there are a number of issues, many of these issues should have been dealt with and some of which should never have happened. Let me give several examples: OP four years in the making and still not approved, St Davids Pool has been neglected for years (it was given to the town for free), tree by-law a 127 page document that missed the mark. This can no longer continue the lack of direction and the waste of time and money must stop. This inaction must end!

I bring forward a diverse background. I have lived in several regions within Niagara; I know how blessed we are being in this area. Having been raised on a farm and currently having several agri-business operations in West Lincoln and Lincoln (not related to tender fruit or grapes) I understand agriculture, and I understand farmers. I have a science background which gives me a very fact-based approach. I have sat on many boards, from being a commissioner on the Niagara Regional Airport, a member of Sunrise Rotary of Niagara Falls, health boards, as well as agriculture committees. Diversity is a key asset I bring to the table.

I enjoy fact based debate. There is no room for personal attacks; we all need to work together for the common good of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Communication and respect is imperative between all council and staff.

The timing is right for me now as my two young children are in full-day schooling, my wife has come back to work full-time in our practice in Virgil. I have lived in the Niagara Region my whole life, and have lived in St Davids for the past 10 years, as well I have owned and operated a Denture and Hearing practice in Virgil for over 6 years.

I am a bridge-building, fact-minded person and appreciate time. We have a task to do, let's all get it done.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

We need to have an official plan in place that has some teeth, as well we need to follow and institute our rules. We need to sit down with the provincial government and explain to them why we are unique; micro-climate, prime agricultural land, distinct history and heritage, all of this needs to be protected and the Ontario government must give us special treatment when it comes to development and population density requirements.

Our zoning and site plan developments need to provide architectural guidelines so everyone including the developers can share the same vision. If this information is shared at the initial stage of process we can ensure better outcomes as the process continues. I would ensure that adequate communication is being shared between all stakeholders, town, developer and the public.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

I agree. As well, we need a new CAO with good experience, someone that has faced similar challenges that we are facing today. We may have to pay more to attract the right candidate, but we are at a critical point — we cannot afford to get this wrong, future generations are depending on us. In the long run, a good CAO can save the town money through efficiencies and legal costs.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

I agree. It is imperative to distinguish between the two. We cannot expand the urban boundaries any further into agricultural land. If boundaries are moved we will lose all prime agricultural land in this area.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

I agree, secondary plan needs to have architectural guidelines to protect the character and the soul of the area, we do see some homes and buildings that do not fit the community. All residents are seriously worried about these rapid changes. We are losing our identity – we need to act fast before its too late. We need to create a 20-year vision for Niagara-on-the-Lake, take that vision and create policies in order to protect our future.

“The best way to predict the future is to design it” – Buckminster Fuller

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

As I suggested earlier we are truly unique. We need to lobby and have discussions directly with the province. What is good for West Lincoln may not be best for us. Intensification could be diverted to other areas without prime agricultural land being lost.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

We (NOTL) had an opportunity to buy Parliament Oak School, unfortunately the council dropped the ball and I’m hoping the building can be truly repurposed with the remainder of the property fitting in harmoniously with the rest of the community.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

I agree, we need to dig in our heels here. If you allow a little it will never stop. Again, we need to talk to the provincial government and explain our FACTS. We cannot tolerate any further expansion of the Green belt.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

Yes, absolutely. We need to draw on some of the experienced people who live in this community. People want to feel included and you get a better understanding, as well as better results. We need to put out some requests to the public at large. We have a dynamic group of people who have come to this area that would love to participate. We all need to pool our strengths for the betterment of our community.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

We need to talk to farmers, figure out what they need in order to make a healthy living, help with irrigation if needed, help with marketing. We have no cannery in town, none in Ontario for that matter; we need to bring the farmers to the table so we can ensure they have a healthy future, without them we no longer have prime agricultural land.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

Staff and council need to all work together, proper clear direction needs to be given and tasks need to be completed – no misunderstandings. Misunderstandings cost time and money, both of which we cannot afford. Everyone needs to get along; we are on council at the will of the people. The voters have entrusted us with a very important duty. Let’s get to work and get the job done.

Development needs to be focused in the Glendale area as well as around the airport. The Regional Airport is starting to take off, and as a passed airport commissioner I believe the airport is a key asset that we can still build upon.

Traffic along hwy 55 and Four Mile Creek is bad and is only getting worse. St Davids has some real issues with traffic and safety. The lack of policing is another concern that people have. We deserve a better police presence for the money we contribute to the region.

ANNE KURTZ-JUST

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

My motivations for running for council are varied, but are mainly driven by the passions in my life. On the business front, my passions include a love for the green space upon which our family business is based. I have a passion for history. This passion for history was instilled in me at an early age by my father. Growing up a family trip often included a weekend trip to a battle field, a museum or a cemetery. Car trips seemed to always include a historic covered bridge and rural tours always had a discussion about architecture and historic barns. It is not surprising that my love for history exemplifies itself in my own residence which is included in NOTL's list of most significant historical properties. However, my most driving passion that motivates me to run for council is my family, specifically my two children. My son is a resident of NOTL and is the fourth generation involved in our family business. My daughter is currently in Medical school, and hopes to someday practice medicine back in NOTL. It is my hope that I can continue to encourage both of my children to remain in NOTL as both residents and business entrepreneurs by helping our community to shape its future.

I believe that my experience based in agriculture and land-based planning is of importance to our community at this current time as we navigate and solidify our new Official Plan.

I believe that a strategic plan led by an effective new council and not directed primarily by staff is a key to ensuring that voters' votes have been heard. Newly elected council members together will have the opportunity to lay out a strategic 4-year plan. However, any strategic plan should have bench marks of accountability throughout Council's term. Just as Tim Hortons now asks at the window "How did we do?", council members too need to have a regular review of "How are we doing?" With a frequent review of accountability, strategic plan targets will be met and council will be effective.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

I believe that I am uniquely positioned to respect both our community's natural and cultural preservation. I have spent decades in pursuit of sustainability for agriculture and it's green space. I have served in a consulting capacity for land use policies at the Ontario level (through Ontario Farm Fresh directorship), contributed at the regional level in land use policy making regarding agriculture and contributed to the planning sessions for agriculture for the upcoming Official Plan. Collaborative work I have been involved with has been a part of our current Official Plan for years and my recommendations have made it into the upcoming draft Official Plan. It is my firm belief that natural and cultural heritage are uniquely intertwined. Much of what we have learned from agricultural value added planning in the last decade has been through our diligent review of heritage planning, especially from the UK. With a passion for both agriculture and heritage issues, I believe that I can bring to the council table a balance to decision making. I firmly believe in adaptive reuse policies that give incentives to both farmers and owners of heritage properties. With effective adaptive reuse policies history is touchable, understandable and ultimately is given an economic incentive for upkeep and preservation. I believe that our community is ideally situated to lead in the example of heritage preservations on farms. I would like to progress the thought that we need innovative ideas with which to preserve our heritage. I propose that the Town needs an innovation committee whereby both agriculture and heritage should both have a representative at the table.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

I believe that the Official Plan and its completion is long over due. I project that it will be completed in the first year of the next Council's term. I believe that this new council will want an opportunity to interject it's priorities and as such a 1 year projection is suitable.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

I believe that council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for all of our distinct communities within Niagara-on-the-Lake., including Secondary Plans.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/ height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

(see above response)

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.
- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

Specific to Parliament Oak School, my heart is most disappointed the Town was unsuccessful in its bid to purchase the property. I would advise the new Council to “ follow every brick” in this development, ensuring it fits with the immediate neighbourhood.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

I do not believe that the green belt with its existing boundaries will be tampered with. I encourage the preservation of the green belt whole heartedly with the understanding that farmers were promised that they would have opportunities to sustain their livelihoods with new farming opportunities. There's a trade-off. Farmers have supported the green belt, and our community needs to support our farmers.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

I look forward to a change in community interaction whereby there is more community involvement through advisory committees to council. I also will be a proponent of more person-to-person interaction with staff and with council. I will be a proponent of technology assisting us with meetings so that all committees may be streamed and recorded. Many times, I myself am not able to attend council in-person but I certainly make time for review of council's decisions by watching live streamed meetings when I am able.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

It is my firm opinion that the key to ensuring a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector is to encourage the official plan to include value added activities. In order for agriculture to thrive, we as a community need to go beyond protecting the land base. There needs to be supportive planning that allows for activities that support agriculture and encourages its long term viability.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

I believe that there must be a more proactive relationship with the Region to get the job done. It is not acceptable that the Town has waited for over a decade in some instances to see regional road improvements. Council must do better at communicating with the Region, especially in the area of transportation and road safety. Our citizens, especially our children, deserve better.

STUART McCORMACK

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

I was motivated to run by what I perceived as a lack of good governance at council. It would appear that the council has deferred too many decisions, and the perception I have is that there are many people throughout Niagara-on-the-Lake in all communities who believe council is not representing the interests of the people.

As to impacts, I am knowledgeable in reading and understanding the content of legislation and its hierarchy. I have spent a 30-year legal career working in various negotiations (many contentious), with numerous parties of diverse backgrounds and cultures always with a goal of arriving at workable solutions reasonable for all concerned.

As to effectiveness, park egos at the door and agree we all work for a common purpose to make Niagara-on-the-Lake better. We may not always agree on what "better" means, but if we know we have this common purpose, hopefully we can act with respect towards each other and avoid the personal animosity which seems to exist at current council and which is so counter-productive. Personally, I both chaired and participated in meetings with individuals who I disagreed with, but treating people with respect avoids escalating tensions and allows people to focus on the issue, not the person.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

Absent an updated Official Plan with implementation of the system described in question 3a below, the Town will performe be required to address natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification on an ad hoc basis. The Town will have to review zoning changes and site plans to ensure that they blend in harmoniously with surrounding buildings and streetscapes. The Town must also give greater consideration to cultural heritage landscapes, which may include trees, land forms, or even historical views.

As to heritage preservation, the Town may also consider the steps the city of Burlington has taken to provide guidance as to heritage features for those developing or renovating buildings.

<https://www.burlington.ca/uploads/92/635575154691546768.pdf>

But in my opinion the challenge will be as outlined in question 3a below, creating a Community Planning Permit System, which will require input from experts in articulating its objectives while at the same time being informed by community input as well.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

I do not believe it is reasonable given the statutory requirements described below to expect the enactment of New Official Plan by June 2019.

As you may know there is a new version of the Official Plan (OP) to be released I am told in September/October. It is unclear as to precisely what the contents are, although I have been told it is substantially different from draft 3 from 2016. Accordingly the document will require internal review by the new Council; some of whom may well have never reviewed such a comprehensive document nor be fully aware of the legislative context in which the OP is to be created. There will be a statutory requirement of at least one open house and one public consultation and there are notice periods required for each amounting at a minimum to approximately one month, assuming the OP is then reviewed and revised based on input from stakeholders and assuming it is in conformity with the various statutory regimes (Growth Plan, Greenbelt act, Niagara Escarpment Act etc.) the OP could then be viewed as being in one sense "finalized". This should be possible within the first year, assuming there are a sufficient number of councillors to agree on this as a priority.

However as a lower tier municipality there is a process to be followed by Niagara-on-the-Lake to get approval and thus enactment of a comprehensive Official Plan. The OP must be reviewed and accepted by the upper tier Niagara Region as being in conformity with its own OP. My understanding is that the Niagara Region is reviewing its own OP and is looking at a 3-year timeline for completion. NOTL's OP may be completed and submitted to the Region, it will then be reviewed by the staff at the Region, assuming the staff does not find objectionable content it will be submitted to the Regional Council for approval. The Regional council may approve, reject or defer its decision.

Further on the subject of secondary plans, as desirable as it may seem I would be somewhat concerned that given several distinct communities (Queenston, Old Town, Niagara-on-the-Lake excluding Old Town, Virgil, St David's, Glendale) with different needs and forms of development that it is overly ambitious to expect these to be completed by June 2019.

Moreover, I am more inclined to proceed with inclusion in the new OP of a Community Planning Permit System (CPPS) which will, if adopted allow the creation of a CPPS by law which will (i) provide a greater level of detail as to the nature of acceptable development in each community (ii) require that zoning changes and minor variances be submitted simultaneously with a site plan, allowing the development to be reviewed in its entirety at the outset. Initially I would propose to address the use of a CPPS by law in Old Town, more preferably the urban boundaries of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

A CPPS bylaw (by regulation) must contain inter alia:

1. Area to which it applies
2. Set out and define permitted uses
3. Set out minimum and maximum standards for development
4. Describe any internal review procedures for development permits e.g review by a design review panel (DRP) (composed of architects, landscape professionals, urban planners, heritage experts, cultural heritage landscape architects etc.) to vet the application for conformity with Towns requirements.

This strikes me as a more effective tool for addressing planning issues in each of these communities.

But as stated above the content will have to be tailored to each community, I would think Old Town is a first starting point, doing all communities at the same time would in my opinion be biting off more than we could chew, and not give us the opportunity to build off the learning curve from the first experience.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

Please see my answer to question 3a re: Secondary's Plans. But yes, I agree the OP must address the Agricultural areas.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

See my answer to question 3a above. The function of CPPS bylaw is to establish the standards that must be adhered to in buildings, such as setbacks, lot size basically set out minimum and maximum standards for development. Yes, the OP needs to address inter alia the specific Heritage properties listed.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

I definitely agree.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

I definitely agree. This is part of the function of a CPPS bylaw to establish the parameters of harmonious development.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

I believe in preserving the Green Belt. I also believe consideration has to be given to updating the Natural Heritage Map of Niagara-on-the-Lake with the potential to use this as a means of extending the natural areas and inhibit development in or near such areas. The Provincial policy statement on Natural Heritage (see below) has, in conjunction with Natural Heritage mapping, been used in this manner to limit development in towns such as Oakville (see OMB file # 0040214 / decision PLO41188).

Below is the statement on Natural Heritage taken from the Provincial Policy:

2.1 Natural Heritage

2.1.1 Natural features and areas shall be protected for the long term.

2.1.2 The diversity and connectivity of natural features in an area, and the long-term ecological function and biodiversity of natural heritage systems, should be maintained, restored or, where possible, improved, recognizing linkages between and among natural heritage features and areas, surface water features and ground water features.

2.1.3 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in:

Significant habitat of endangered species and threatened species;

....

2.1.4 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in:

.....

Significant wildlife habitat; and

Significant areas of natural and scientific interest

Unless it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions.

2.1.5 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in fish habitat except in accordance with provincial and federal requirements.

2.1.6 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted on adjacent lands to the natural heritage features and areas identified in policies 2.1.3, 2.1.4 and 2.1.5 unless the ecological function of the adjacent lands has been evaluated and it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or on their ecological functions.

2.1.7 Nothing in policy 2.1 is intended to limit the ability of existing agricultural uses to continue.”

I am advised the Region is intending to update the Natural Heritage Map as part of the update of its comprehensive OP.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

I also definitely agree. I have met inter alia a Law Professor, an Urban Planner, a renowned clinical psychologist, a Community recreation Supervisor (City of Toronto Parks Forestry, Recreation 36 years).

We should be facilitating a robust volunteer experts Talent Bank (not just a volunteer bank as we have now) and draw on the incredible skills of these people. Unfortunately, too often I have heard their overtures where either rebuffed, ignored, or the committee simply didn't function.

In creating committees we should be requiring council members to take an active role, monitor and post attendance, record minutes, have action items and timelines, all posted on a revamped Town website for everyone to see. You make people accountable when their activities are transparent.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

The first thing we must do is LISTEN TO THE FARMERS. They are the people that work the land and know better than non-farmers what the issues are. The interim control by law regarding cannabis production effectively freezes the issue for one (possibly two) years. However, there will be pressure for the farmers to switch crop production to cannabis, since the dollar values will be higher, anecdotally this contributed to the switch from soft fruit to grapes. I personally would like to see continued diverse crop production and avoid having cannabis dominate the territory.

I also believe we need to draw on outside expertise such as the Ontario Farmland trust (<https://ontariofarmlandtrust.ca>) to see whether we may assist farmers through farm easements and tax incentives to dedicate the land to farming in perpetuity.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

I have heard numerous complaints about the performance of Town staff, unresponsive, rude, etc. In my opinion, staff members take their cues from leadership and this has to be addressed. There is usually no good excuse for failing to use best practices, and giving the clients, in this case the townspeople, the service they both deserve and have paid for.

There will need to be a search for a qualified CAO, who can lead and implement change for both staff and processes.

PAOLO MIELE

Heritage is important and we should preserve it across Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Rand Wood. I respect the current official plan and the 2011 bylaw for Rand Wood.

I did not support the hotel on Queen. I was the only councilor to vote no.

The village hotel I was the only councilor to vote no.

Rand Wood property owners need to respect its current bylaw and that's what I will vote for for Randwood.

ANDREW NIVEN

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

Born and raised in Niagara, I am a resident of St. Davids, and the Director of Marketing at Konzelmann Estate Winery. Currently, I am the chair of the Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Icewine Festival and local favourite Candlelight Stroll. I also sit on the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce board, involved in both the Communications and Golf committees and am on the Tourism Partnership of Niagara Regional board. Prior to Konzelmann, I was the Marketing Manager at the Niagara Falls Hilton for close to 10 years. In my time there I learned how to work with big budgets, a large staff and the importance of a team. Since moving to Konzelmann Estate Winery, where I have been for over 6 years, I've seen first-hand the true spirit of Niagara-on-the-Lake and importance of both farming and tourism in our community. I chose to run because I am worried about the direction in which our town is headed. Gone are the days of working together and celebrating community. Instead our social media and news channels are consumed with political grandstanding and fighting amongst our very own council members. I believe we should be true to our founding principles and celebrate our heritage, farming, natural landscapes and significance in Canadian history. We have to realize that no matter where we live in Niagara-on-the-Lake, we cannot solve the challenges of our time unless we solve them together.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

To start, we need a more proactive and informed council. I am ready to do the research, put in the work and make a stand to protect our heritage. I believe council and town staff need to carefully consider the implications all future development. The sensitive nature of both natural and historic designations must be treated with the utmost scrutiny; as well as the realization of both the immediate and long term impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods and town. We need a stronger relationship with the MHC, as well as the individual property owners. We need to concentrate on enhanced enforcement and tougher consequences; especially for those who knowingly break the rules or those who leave their properties unattended and in disregard once designation has been granted. Treelines and natural landscapes must be protected. Compatibility of architectural planning also has to be considered. Community input has been and should continue to be a key factor through all decision making processes.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

Yes, our Official Plan needs to be addressed and updated immediately. I believe this could be completed by June 2019, and am ready and willing to put in the work to do so.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

Yes, I believe a comprehensive Agricultural and Urban area plan is necessary. I also believe a secondary plan for each distinct community is needed. Contrasting two communities such as Old Town and Glendale truly illustrate the need for such adoption.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

Yes, the Secondary Plans can act as a comprehensive 'guidebook' including specific design/planning guidelines and detailed heritage component.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

Intensification and density targets should be made public and used by the town to guide future planning.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

I believe the key word here is 'compatible'. I support a strategic a growth management program that conforms with both our natural and heritage landscapes.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

The preservation of Green Belt, environmentally sensitive areas, and productive farmlands is crucial for Niagara-on-the-Lake. As our town grows we must be mindful, strategic and ready to push back if the province begins to 'loosen' these areas. Unfortunately, once we give this up there is no getting it back.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

Yes, I see community involvement as a very important aspect of the town going forward. I would like to get our community more involved with advisory committees and focus groups. We live amongst some of our countries brightest and most capable people, from CEOs to Senior Planners, Architects to Biologists, most of which would be interested and excited to add their voice and expertise to the many issues we are facing. This will also engage our residents and enhance a community feeling.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

I believe we should do a better job of celebrating what we do best and protect what we value most. Let's properly market and spread the word about our agricultural industry. We need a re-branding to tell our story to the world (and invite them to experience it themselves). We need valuable tourism dollars, allowing us to compete with competitor markets; and capital/grants to further build on the character of Niagara-on-the-Lake as a world class destination.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

Glendale: No doubt, a community where new council will see the most change. The Glendale area is in need of basic nearby amenities such as grocery and drug stores. The need will only become more evident as the population continues to increase with future development. We have to strategically plan and take careful steps to get this right. Preservation of trees, maintenance of greenspace and protection of the escarpment are all points that should be advised.

Old Town: The protection of our heritage is most important here. I believe we need to be more aggressive in preservation. Old Town has to continue to be a livable place with 'full time' residents and the proper services to support them.

Queenston: Preservation of this area should be top of mind. Completion of the park and maintenance of natural landscapes will compliment this quaint community. Let's continue to celebrate it's significant historical roots, but in new modern ways. I would also explore re-routing tourist bus traffic (from Niagara Falls).

St. Davids: A community that I am proud to call home, St. Davids needs to control traffic. An area in my opinion that has gotten too big, too fast, we need to catch up and properly plan for future growth. The introduction of a new pool, basic infrastructure such as sidewalks on main roads and a properly designed 'downtown area' is needed.

Virgil: Virgil is the central point of Niagara-on-the-Lake and will continue to serve as the community where residents shop, meet and socialize. The main street(s) have to become more inviting, allowing locals (and guests) to comfortably walk and meet friends. We should continue to celebrate and protect our farming community; and welcome in compatible new businesses. Virgil is an exciting area, and with careful planning and controlled development, will only get better.

SANDRA O'CONNOR

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

I believe in giving back to my community and being engaged with my community. In the past I have served on Boards of community associations (including being President), on municipal committees, on school committees, and on professional association and condo boards. In the seven years that I have been living here, I have been actively engaged in supporting this community: fighting to save the Niagara-on-the-Lake hospital; spearheading the urban tree by-law on behalf of the Conservancy; working to preserve agricultural lands and the greenbelt; helping the farmers; and much more.

In my early career I reviewed official plans, mapped hazard lands and reviewed subdivision plans for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority. This experience is directly relevant to understanding the development process in this Town and adding to effective decisions. I have developed many other skills during my career that could be used on Council to deal with the complex issues facing this Town, and enhancing Council's effectiveness. These include:

- *problem-solving, analyzing complex situations, and presenting solutions;*
- *building relationships within and across organizations;*
- *negotiating and mediating agreement on issues;*
- *sound financial management; and*
- *leading committees and groups of varying sizes and objectives.*

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

Regarding balancing the preservation and development issues, the first step would be to finalize a very strong Official Plan and complimentary by-laws. These are the tools needed to enforce the vision for Niagara-on-the-Lake and the balance between natural, built and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification.

I would like to initiate a dialogue with the community on the value of heritage designations of homes and properties, and on expanding our heritage protections to include heritage neighbourhoods/areas. Ensuring that our natural heritage is adequately protected (e.g. heritage trees, special landscapes, area of natural and scientific interest, conservation areas) is a priority. Amendments to zoning would need to address the heritage of the area. I would advocate looking into expanding the mandate of the Municipal Heritage Committee. Investing in the preservation of areas such as the "Wilderness" in Old Town by the Niagara Foundation is an excellent example of saving our natural, built and cultural heritage.

Development should abide by the Official Plan and zoning by-laws. Intensification targets have been met in Niagara-on-the-Lake for years into the future. So intensive development to meet such general targets is not a valid justification for development.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

Agree. Having a new Official Plan (OP) is one of my top priorities, as it was when I ran in the last election, and I would work to have it implemented by June 2019. However, the Town is in the middle of a contract regarding the OP, which should be completed in the Spring after another public consultation with residents. The other constraint is that the Region must approve the OP before it is officially implemented.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

Agree. Niagara-on-the-Lake needs a very strong Official Plan with complimentary Secondary Plans. Another key element would be to strengthen the heritage aspects of the plan – cultural, built and natural heritage. Words such as "may" ought

to be changed to “shall”, in most cases. Other weak words that need strengthening are: “flexibility, if possible, and not significantly”.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

Agree. Niagara-on-the-Lake is composed of communities, each with their own unique characteristics. A Secondary Plan is a visionary planning tool to guide and direct future development and addresses community needs at a finer scale. They ensure that each community is nurtured to maintain its uniqueness using such tools as lot size/coverage/height and design features. Natural, built and cultural heritage must be protected, and the nature of each varies with the specialness of each community. Estate lots need to be protected. Overarching preservation targets include the maintenance of the Greenbelt, Niagara Escarpment Lands and federal/provincial parklands.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

Agree. The Region has confirmed this, however it has not been made public, which leaves developers to use this rationalization for intensification, and municipal planners to agree.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

Agree. Rededication of land in an urban environment, i.e. infill, if intensive may overload urban services, including increased traffic congestion and pollution, and decreasing urban green-space and our natural heritage. New structures built as infill may detract from our built heritage by clashing architecturally with older, existing buildings.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

Agree. The current Council asked the previous provincial government to take Greenbelt designated land out of the Greenbelt on the parcel behind the Randwood Estate and other areas under a “rationalization” justification. The province did not approve it, thank goodness, however this Council has kept it in the proposed NOTL Official Plan. The new Council must remove that request and preserve the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

Agree. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience in this Town that would add such value to advisory committees. The call for volunteers should not be limited to assistance at special events. Appointments should be transparent. In addition, in line with transparency, “open data” should be promoted, i.e. ensuring that data should be freely and easily accessible. Niagara-on-the-Lake should be committed to improving citizen services, providing transparency and showing government accountability through supporting an open government philosophy.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

Preserving the agricultural land base, particularly prime agricultural land/specialty crop lands, is essential to the well being of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Planning Act requires that prime agricultural areas be protected and designated for long-term use for agriculture, and this is done through the Official Plan — a very strong plan is needed. We have a well-respected Agriculture Advisory Committee that plays a major role in the Town, and this link to the agricultural community needs to continue.

The tender fruit industry needs more support. I would support programs from senior levels of government, financial and otherwise, that encourage the development and well being of the tender fruit industry. Specifically I would like a program of restrictive covenants on fruit land with accompanying provincial compensation to farmers for the restrictions. It is being done with success in Michigan where urban development pressure has slowed and fruit farming is on the upswing. This would help to ensure a long-term prosperous tender fruit industry in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Council could partner with other like-minded organizations to lobby the provincial government to reinstate this provincial program, which was cancelled in the 1990s.

Accurate, verifiable data must be available to the agricultural community. We need to participate with the Region to ensure that the mapped data accurately portrays the difference between irrigation ditches and natural streams. The conditions that apply to the different watercourse categories significantly impact the use of the adjacent agricultural lands.

The Town needs to work with the Region and the Province on controlling phragmites. This invasive species causes drainage concerns for farmers; impedes flow in municipal drains; a loss of crop yield and subsequent loss in revenue; sightline issues at intersections; etc.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

Yes. To protect our natural heritage, we need to approve the urban tree by-law and make it strong, but not cumbersome for the residents. I support sound financial management and accessible information about budgets and issues. A climate of trust with all of the communities, which also includes the rural areas, must be built by being inclusive and responsive. Communities need to be consulted in meaningful ways before changes are raised for discussion at Council e.g. St. Davids pool. To maintain the health of the Town, accessible medical services are paramount. Managing economic and development opportunities responsibly is crucial. I will work with the Region to address our traffic concerns on regional roads, particularly for hot spots such as Virgil and St. Davids, as well as local roads in Queenston. Public transportation needs a review to address the growing communities.

BERNHARD PETERS

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

There is no one that speaks to the needs of St. Davids. As a resident of St. Davids, business owner of a electrical and property development company, president of a charity for low income people, deacon of a local church, landlord and have taken 4 companies out of bankruptcy, I believe I could bring good fiscal spending from my time on other boards and owing business and the ability to work with people from all walks of life.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

All development must take into account our special town and keep it that way, or we could loose the heritage and the draw that brings tourist dollars to our town. But also have the right to development in the right spots to let growth happen. The public should be able to bring their thoughts into this before council.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

Yes, without the right plan bad planning will happen. Really need this this to be top of the list.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

Yes, the wine industry is becoming a major part of our tourist industry and secondary plan for distinct areas should also be looked at.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

Yes, agree.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

Targets should be set that are good for are area and not be a blanket policy.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

Yes fully agree.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

I agree in most part, but some areas should be added and some should be taken out. Again a blanket policy does not always work.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

Yes I agree. Committees with developer should work things out before planning goes ahead.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

Asking each group to make a committee to bring up their concerns and to really work to bring forth good ideas that will strengthen each group.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

Traffic is an issue and needs to be worked on before its to late, keeping are spend under control, insure that all group have a say in are future and most important a new official plan.

KATHERINE REID

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

I do many hours of volunteer work with the Lions Club. I also sit on two Town committees: the Safety Committee and the Agriculture committee. I feel very strongly about keeping the Town safe and preserving agricultural land by allowing the farmers to farm their land. Having studied urban planning at McMaster University, I believe I can communicate with the Town staff and be a good liaison between the growers and the Town's planning staff.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

I do believe that maintaining a cultural and natural balance is important to keeping our community historic and beautiful. Like Savannah and coastal Georgia, the balance brings out the charm of the community. The residents and tourist want to see the historic buildings, the horse drawn carriages and the agri-tourism businesses, not a concrete jungle and Holiday Inns. There is a place for growth, but Old Town and Queenston should retain their unique characteristics. As a member of the QRA (Queenston Residents Association), I would listen to the needs of each community and respect their requests. I would expect to see more development in the Glendale area.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

I basically agree, but I think the first priority should have the Town, NPCA, Region and Provincial map match for hydro-logical feature be identical. At the moment, the maps do not match. I consider the maps to be the blueprints, and once they are corrected, than the foundation of the Town can be built with the Official plan.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

I strongly agree with this concept. I studied Agricultural Geography and want to preserve Agricultural land. I also like the idea of Secondary Plans as I see first-hand how it works in Queenston. All areas of the Town should have a committee as well run as this one.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

Yes, this is important. Development should blend in with the existing community and not hinder or devalue the existing neighbours.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

Yes, the intensification numbers by the Region should be made public. There is not much room for growth in Queenston and Old Town. Much of the growth in Virgil and St Davids has been on land that was in the agricultural belt, farmland.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

I would like to see Infill development blend in the neighbourhoods. Any development should be respectful of the existing neighbours and not hinder the enjoyment or property value of the neighbourhood.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

Yes it should, but it should also allow for farmers to grow their crops economically and not deter growers to the point where they need to sell their farms. Council should not create bylaws that restrict normal farming practices.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

I know the high profile committees like the MHC get much attention. I do sit on two lower profile committees, and rarely do the minutes get circulated or discussed. I have only seen two visitors to the Agriculture committee and the cannabis bylaws were being discussed. Some Council members did not take this issue seriously, and did not understand the OMAFRA rules.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

It is important to work with the agricultural community, not against it. The maps (Town, NPCA, Region and Province) have differing hydrological features indicated, and this has different setbacks for the growers. This makes less of the farm practical and would devalue the land. We have a unique micro-climate that enables us to grow food better than most areas of the world. It would be essential to keep as much as we can in natural agricultural production. It is bringing in many dollars in the agri-tourism industry, including the wineries, breweries and farm markets.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

I am concerned with the Town staff. We have unique area and the Official plan is like the official playbook of a sports team. When the staff that creates the playbook is hired by the opposing team, it is very difficult to win the battle. I do not know why so much of the senior staff has left, but on the Agriculture committee, we have worked with Leah, John Hendricks, Shirley and now Craig. I have only been on the committee this term. This is a concern I have and do not understand. I want the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake to be the winning team, not the developers. I will do my best to make this happen.

JOHN WIENS

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

I wish to continue to serve our community and am ready to continue to embrace the challenge as a Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Councillor. I believe that I bring the unique blend of business wisdom, local commitment and strong values that will allow me to represent our community interest and deal with our town issues directly and honestly at the council table.

I was born and raised in Niagara-on-the-Lake and I am a well know business leader of our community for over 44 years. This experience has been in the tourism and hospitality industry – a sector that is vital to this community.

I believe in the importance of truth and straight-talk. We deserve to talk about our issues and not around them.

I believe in being approachable and accountable. Everyday in the hospitality industry, I need to listen and I need to connect with people. My job is to serve people; as a Councillor that will be my mind set. I am hard-wired to be open, receptive and responsible. That is simply who I am.

I am committed to our community and I believe leaders are people who step-up to make a difference where they live. I am very proud of my record on council and was honoured to serve as Deputy Lord Mayor. As well, I have thoroughly enjoyed my years leading local and regional initiatives since the 1980s.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

I agree that Council needs to work hard to establish a proper balance between heritage and future development in most areas of Niagara-on-the-Lake. It is essential that Council presses the Niagara Region to clearly outline in their new Official Plan the importance to identify and PROTECT our heritage areas in Queenston, St. Davids, the Old Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and other vulnerable historic sites and buildings that have historical significance throughout Niagara-on-the-Lake from the density and intensification percentages that the Province asks for. In other words, the Niagara Region must say ok to these intensification targets in the Glendale area, all employment lands throughout Niagara-on-the-Lake and the new growth area in Virgil bordering Line 1, Concession 6 and Line 2 only. The Niagara Region must say NO to these intensification targets in the Old Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Queenston, the heritage area of St. Davids and any other historic significant areas in town.

Clearly outline our mapping of our irrigation and drainage ditches in our farming community.

Council should not allow any of our urban boundaries to be enlarged and that all of our Greenbelt lands need to stay intact.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

I agree that Council must get our Official Plan done in 2019, but I believe that it will take to the end of 2019. Staff will present the 5th OP draft to council and all interested this fall and hopefully council can approve by spring of 2019. Then the Niagara Region and the Province must approve our new OP which will probably take till the end of 2019. But I hope that I am wrong and that we have our new OP sooner!!

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

I agree to both statements. It will take a lot of time and money to get these done, but well worth it.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

The same answer as above.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

I believe that it will take more than this as I explained in your question 2. We must have the Niagara Region agree and have our designated intensification/density areas written in their OP.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

Yes I agree and I am hopeful that we can expand our Old Town Heritage District to include the Parliament Oak School property as soon as we have our OP in place. Much of the work for the expanded Heritage District was well under way and I believe that public consultation could be close once this expanded Heritage Plan becomes a priority.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

I believe this will be addressed in our new OP, as I mentioned this in question 2.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

I believe that all of our council advisory committees are primarily made up from the general public that have an interest in whatever the committee is asked to advise council on. I believe that these committees are transparent to the public as well.

But I do believe that our new council must build bridges for our community residents to have a more open dialogue with our town directors and their departments. Pure and honest communication needs to be at the forefront of all discussions from the residents and town staff.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

It is extremely important that council and the community looks at agriculture as a permanent feature of our landscape and cultural heritage. In the planning process, farming needs to be recognized and valued as an economic activity, not seen as a secondary concern behind residential development. I strongly believe that we need to hold steadfast that our urban boundaries do not expand and that our Greenbelt lands stay intact.

From this point, we have to maintain a proper balance from agricultural development application facilities and how much good farming land is required to build these "agricultural development facilities". For example, we must be careful that if a new winery application is received that this proposed winery's sales, production and storage buildings do not take away from any of the planted vineyards or specialty crops, or must be replanted on the same property.

Continue to support our agricultural community through best farming practices, agri-tourism, drainage and irrigation.

After saying this, we all understand that the Province dictates Smart Growth to existing urbanized areas, where it is far less expensive to use existing infrastructure like sewers, roads and transit to support urban growth. Here comes the problem with intensification and density percentages.

We must save our farm land and we must only allow density development in locations that the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has designated as I mentioned in my answer to your question 2.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

A few other issues that I feel are very important for our next council:

We need to continue to be fiscally responsible as a town council so that we may provide the resources and support the quality of life that we all enjoy as residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We must revisit our Public Transit program and fund a route that will service all communities of Niagara-on-the-Lake, that will eventually connect to the new Niagara Regional Transit Plan and the Go Transit system.

Spend more time, resources and research to put an effective made in Niagara-on-the-Lake Economic Development plan in place that will work to attract the prestige industry for our designated employment lands.

I believe that the new Cannabis Production and Processing Industry possess a very real problem for our community and we need to legislate very firm controls. Odor has been the one problem that doesn't seem to have a solution, so generous setbacks from neighboring properties, limiting green house square footage, proper licensing and inspections from all agencies, professional security and NO open field production are a few of my concerns and suggestions.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide you with my believes and thoughts to your questions. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate in contacting me.

I congratulate The Niagara Foundation for your continued concern and asking the tough questions that will help our wonderful community to grow with the proper balance between our heritage and future development.

ERWIN WIENS

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

The town has several major components; agriculture, heritage, tourism and quality of life for the residents. As the sole farmer running, I am motivated to give a voice from agriculture. The town needs to protect farms, both in the greenbelt and the urban boundary. This dovetails with heritage and quality of life for the residents. Agritourism is vital to our town and it needs to mesh with the heritage town and respect for the residents. I want to bring a thoughtful, intelligent and informed voice in a collaborative manner forward to protect our town's rich agricultural heritage and town history for future generations. At present, our town is under a great deal of pressure to develop our farmland and heritage areas and I want to be the voice to protect what has made Niagara a great place to live, work and enjoy.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

The council needs to look at the town as a whole, which requires understanding that the preservation of heritage in the villages and protecting farmland is paramount to promoting tourism, the economy and more importantly, the quality of life for residents. Council and staff need to live out our corporate mission statement along with our official plan to keep all development 'in sympathy' with the area. New and denser development can be placed in the Glendale area, taking the pressure off of the villages, which will also elevate the student housing issues in Niagara on the Green. I would be in favor of removing the provision in the OP dealing with increasing density for housing in certain designated areas, like Queenston, St Davids and the Old Town and moving it to Glendale. I am dismayed at the amount of in-town lots that are being 'cookie cut' to make several small lots with buildings out of tune with heritage. It appears that developers are driven by revenue and not the need to protect heritage. Staff and council need to understand this and work to protect the town's interests and not the developers'. I believe in advancement but NOT at the expense of the integrity of the town. I would want to increase the size of our heritage district. We need to protect all of the Old Town.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

Agreed, the plans and mission statement should be the top priorities of the council, excluding if emergent unforeseen issues arise. Along with that, it is incumbent that they are 'lived' and understood and by staff and council. Merely completing the plans without the intention of following them is counter productive.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

Agreed, these plans need to understand what ag land is in the urban boundary and what is in the greenbelt. It must also understand the uniqueness of the specialty crops we produce and the necessary relationship with the escarpment, wet lands and irrigation system and quality of soil and that by destroying one, it has an effect on the other. There is an incredible movement nationwide in sustainable agriculture and the town must support it, champion it and understand it. As a farmer, I promise to fight for the survival of our industry.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

Agreed, we have a voice with the region through the mayor and our lone regional representative. We need to be one voice to the region explaining the uniqueness of Niagara-on-the-Lake, bringing intelligent, fact-based solutions to the Regions that protect the interests of Niagara-on-the-Lake, not just for the residents, but the country as a whole. As the original capital,

rich in heritage with the best farm land in the country, we have an awesome responsibility to educate the public and the region and lead, rather than follow.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.
- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

Agreed, our official plan states that all development needs to be 'in sympathy' with the surroundings. This statement along with the provision for input from our heritage committee, seems self explanatory, yet is routinely ignored. This is solved simply by a council that believes and lives out the mission of our town. To me it is obvious, yet numerous developments do not appear this way. This goes against everything the town purports to stand for.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

Disagree, our greenbelt was meant to protect farmland and greenspace. At present, in the town there are greenspace areas that are not in the Greenbelt. The Greenbelt was designed for the province as a whole and does not always address all the uniqueness of our specialty crops, world biosphere, tributaries and wetlands. Some issues were addressed and added in the 2017 plan through hard work from the Grape Growers, tender fruit organizations and advocates from the world biosphere, but we should be vigilant and keep an open mind to further protections of these greenspaces as they apply to the town specifically.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

Agreed, involving the wealth of information that residents have is two-fold. It brings intelligent fact-based arguments, raises awareness and promotes communication and resident involvement. It adheres to the premise of 'many hands make light work'. Further, the town has a rich heritage of volunteerism and it needs to be embraced.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

As a farmer, this is a crucial part of my platform. Our micro climate and incredible soils allow Niagara-on-the-Lake to be among very few places in the world capable of growing the specialty crops we do. We also have Niagara College, Brock University and Vineland Research to assist us, as we continue to be world leaders in agriculture and research. Along with the charm it brings to the quality of life for the residents, it is a vibrant part of our economy, locally, provincially and federally. The town needs a councilor that has direct knowledge and understanding of agriculture so there is a voice to promote, protect and inform about this vital part of the town. The legalization of cannabis is an important issue that will face the new council. We need informed people at the table that understand this farming issue and the impact it will have on the community. I understand greenhouse operations and would not want to see good arable land transformed into greenhouses.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?

I am very concerned with the town's budget. I have direct experience and involvement in crafting police budgets during my 29-year career with the police service and I also have personal experience with budgets as they pertain to ownership in my farm and winery. I am very mindful of the inner workings of public and private services. I can read, craft and understand budgets. I fully understand and respect the use of tax dollars to get the best value for resident's money. The town should review the bylaws pertaining to Airbnb, cottage rentals and short term rents in regards to density and the impact on the quality of life for residents. Further, as traffic increases the council should address the concerns of the residents.

JORDON WILLIAMS

1. What has motivated you to run for council/mayor? What specific impacts do you believe that you personally can have as a member of council/mayor and how would you propose ensuring your and council's effectiveness?

I am motivated to run because I feel this election is one of great importance. It does not take much to see what is taking place in our town and I feel we must act. I feel also that there needs to be a voice representing a new way of thinking. What I can bring to council is my mediation skills and conflict resolution, and a keen sense of working as a team for one common goal. Also, I feel I bring a fresh perspective that may be needed going forward, coupled with my ability to use contacts with all levels of government when needed to achieve real goals for NOTL.

2. The Niagara Foundation sees the balance between natural and cultural heritage preservation and development/intensification as needing critical focus from council in the next term. How would you ensure that this balance is respected by Council? What specific issues within each (heritage preservation and development) would you propose to address and progress in the next term?

Of course we need to balance development with heritage. This is one of the reasons I am running, as I feel we are losing our balance. If we are not careful we will lose the entire essence of why we have millions of visitors and those who decided to make NOTL home. This goes into the OP, and as I toured many communities in the USA that are similar to NOTL I was struck at their strict guidelines and variances. Working with all, I feel we can come up with real solutions that will preserve our past and create a better future in all our distinct communities that make up NOTL.

As for the natural, again this goes into what kind of community we want for generations to come. I want one with a strong agricultural mix. We are blessed to live in a community that can produce world-class produce, wine and so much more. It is our duty to make sure it is preserved for generations to come. We also have wet lands, parks and green space world class — this must be protected. Again there is no reason working with all that we cannot pull together without one sector losing out.

3. The Niagara Foundation believes that resolution of the following initiatives are crucial to Niagara-on-the-Lake's future. Please indicate whether you agree with our characterization of the necessary initiatives and if so, why. If you do not agree, what alternative approaches do you favour:

- The Official Plan should be Council's first priority and it, including the Secondary Plans, should be fully reviewed and enacted by June, 2019.

I firmly believe we need an OP that reflects our historical roots with the needs of the future. This election is one of great importance as we have the opportunity to create a road map of the community WE want and the means to get there. As such, this is why it is paramount that we do this in the timely manner it deserves.

- Council should adopt a comprehensive Official Plan for the Agricultural and Urban areas in NOTL including a detailed Secondary Plan for each distinct community.

I do not believe we need separate OPs for each community or sector. This can be achieved in an overall OP. In developing a new OP we need to include outside stake holders in the new plan. I feel in the past that the bureaucrats and the voices of the few have dictated our direction with very little consequence. WE have a chance to have real community input in all levels, from each distinct community to business leaders, government and industry. This is a heavy task but one we can achieve, I know, due to the need and the urgency.

- The Secondary Plans should include community specific design and planning guidelines (e.g, lot size/coverage/height and design features) and include a heritage component that details preservation/maintenance targets for public heritage resources such as the Heritage Trail, Hospital Lands and the Dock Area.

As mentioned before, I have seen how other communities work to make a more uniformed town that reflects their historical nature. I feel this would work well, but we have to be careful that it reflects the diversity of each region within our town. Again, this goes to engaging in public output and thinking carefully what kind of town we want for the present and future.

- Council should obtain confirmation from the Region that the intensification targets set by the Region to date have been met or exceeded and this position should be made public and used to guide future planning decisions.

We need to voice our concerns and take control of our planning with the region. WE know what is best for us — I do not feel

comfortable with region setting our guidelines. This needs further investigation and consultation so that we can set achievable goals that meet our needs.

- Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak School should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height.

This goes to the above in setting standards for each community and highlighting their characteristics. As for Parliament Oak, I feel we have a real opportunity to do something of importance with that property and we need to take a pause and think about what is best suited for such a cherished property.

- Council should formally adopt support for the preservation of the Green Belt with its existing boundaries.

Greenbelt, this is a complicated issue. A family member was one of the architects of the belt and I understood why he felt passionately about creating this. But with time, I feel we can look at legislation and see if it is as effective as it was intended to be. Of course, the premise is a good one and we need strong preservation of lands that are prime agriculture and environmentally sensitive. But we can always review the lands and make sure that they are indeed protected or unprotected for the right reasons.

- There should be broader inclusion of community members in key advisory committees to council and the process whereby the committees interact with council should be transparent.

I feel I have answered this many times, I want more voices heard not less.

4. How can we ensure a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector in NOTL, where the continued highest and best use of our unique micro-climate lands is farming and other rural activities that are currently an important fabric of our community and heritage?

I have to be frank, I am not a farmer nor come from a farming family, but it does not take one to see how blessed we are to live in this part of Canada. We must work and listen to our farmers to address their needs, make it easier for them to be prosperous. I look forward to working with them and to councilors who have the background and knowledge to make this happen. NOTL is agriculture – we would not be here if that was not true.

5. Are there other issues that you believe it is critical that council address in ensuring that the next term of council is a success?