

# NOTL NEWS

A NEWS UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF *Niagara-On-The-Lake*

Issue # 176 – August 25, 2009

## **SIGN VARIANCES**

Mr. Peter Hicks made a deputation to Committee from the Kinsmen Club regarding their sign on King Street. The current sign by-law does not permit signs on municipal road allowances. Committee discussed various options to assist the Kinsmen Club in providing adequate signage and directed staff to work with the Club.

Committee also reviewed a report regarding a proposed sign variance for Hilton Garden Inn in the Glendale Area to provide for a pole sign with a 'readograph' component with display restrictions. The removal of the existing electronically animated sign would be required. Committee was advised representatives from the Hilton Garden Inn have requested an opportunity to make a submission to the Corporate Services Committee, and therefore, the matter was deferred to the next COTW meeting.

## **MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGES**

The Corporate Services Advisory Committee endorsed a staff recommendation to adjust the current Committee of the Whole and Council meeting schedule to provide for a three week rotation system. This schedule would commence on a trial basis from September to December, and consist of the following rotation: COTW, Council, break.

The staff report also discussed adjustments to information packages for Councillors, which will include information reports from staff, miscellaneous correspondence, emails, and resolutions from other municipalities. The report further discussed the procedure for addressing new business items, including notices of motion and, as an alternative, referral of the items to the Senior Management Team for developing an appropriate response.

## **COMMUNITY CENTRE GROUND BREAKING**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee endorsed a recommendation to hold the Community Centre Ground Breaking Ceremony and Fund Raising Kick Off on October 3, 2009, at 11:30 a.m. The event will be situated on the future site of the community centre beside the library on Anderson Lane, with the Fire Hall reserved for use in case of inclement weather.

Refreshments will be provided at a minimal cost and all community groups and residents are encouraged to attend the ceremony.

## **CROSSING GUARD STUDY**

The Public Works Advisory Committee endorsed a staff report to engage iTRANS to evaluate five intersections in the Old Town area related to crossing guard warrants to determine if they qualify for the installation of school crossing guards.

Due to changes in the DSBN bussing policy, there is a potential of more students walking to Parliament Oak School. The report notes the Highway Traffic Act makes municipalities responsible for the provision of guards and the Ontario Traffic Conference has developed a uniform method for evaluating and operating guard locations.

The Town does not have the resources to conduct the evaluation, and therefore, the company iTRANS is recommended to conduct the review at a cost of \$5,400. The study will be conducted during the week of September 14-18, 2009, with a report to be submitted prior to September 28.

### **STATUS OF HERITAGE DISTRICT**

The Planning Advisory Committee endorsed a staff recommendation to initiate a process for adopting the Queen-Picton Streets Heritage District. This includes a public consultation process and, in consultation with the Municipal Heritage Committee, developing a list of alterations that should not require a Heritage Permit.

The staff report advised a conformity exercise has been undertaken regarding the Town's current plan, and although written over 20 years ago, it contains all the required information with the exception of minor alterations not requiring a Heritage Permit. The report further advised the current plan is important to the community and provides excellent guidance to MHC and Council in dealing with the District. In order to clarify the status of the current plan and to prevent the possible challenges to the status of the plan, staff recommended the process of adopting the plan under the new Ontario Heritage Act.

### **QUESTIONNAIRE TABLED**

The Planning Advisory Committee tabled a recommended public consultation process, including a proposed questionnaire requested by the NDSS Planning Committee, until the next Council meeting in order to provide time to meet with the NDSS Committee to gather further information.

The staff report advised the NDSS Planning Committee wishes to present information on various school options to a public meeting scheduled for September 15, 2009, with an objective to receive community feedback on the options for a presentation to DSBN at their October meeting. The Committee requested assistance in making the questionnaire available to the public through the Town's website and for the use of the Community Centre for the public meeting. The NDSS Planning Committee also requested the Town to assume the costs for advertising the public meeting.

Committee debated the questionnaire's format and content. Members expressed concern with respect to the science of the survey, and subsequently, the potential validity of the results. In light of the concerns, Committee determined to table the report until next week in order to provide time for further discussions with the NDSS Planning Committee.

### **COMPREHENSIVE ZONING BY-LAW – AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY**

The Planning Advisory Committee endorsed a staff recommendation to adopt Section 12 – Agricultural Community Zoning District to be incorporated into the new Comprehensive Zoning By-law.

The staff report advised the matter was referred for further discussion with the Agricultural Sub-Committee subsequent to the public meeting held July 20, 2009. These discussions took place earlier in August, which included an extensive review of the provisions of Section 12, as well as the applicable definitions and general provisions of the By-law.

With the adoption of Section 12, the new Comprehensive Zoning By-law is considered complete, except for the Glendale Community which will be addressed following the adoption of the Glendale Secondary Plan in the fall of 2009.

The Zoning By-law is subject to a 20-day appeal period from the date of the notice of adoption.

### **COUNCIL SUMMARY – JULY 27, 2009**

Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs opened the meeting and announced the passing of Harold Clement. He noted Mr. Clement served the Town in a number of capacities, including 22 years as an Alderman and 12 years as Regional Councillor. The Lord Mayor further noted Mr. Clement was very much a caring individual, a strong advocate for veteran's issues, and a dedicated community supporter. He will be missed.

The Lord Mayor advised he and Councillor Collard have been involved with an association of municipalities known as the Community Schools Alliance Group. The Alliance Group is concerned with the process used by school boards in Ontario for making decisions about school accommodation, including the accommodation review process. The group meets weekly via video conference and with a goal to work with the Ministry of Education to address related issues. Later in the meeting, Council endorsed a resolution asking for a 'smart moratorium' on disputed school closings to provide an opportunity to generate solutions to a number of issues, including planning for declining enrolment, school funding, the ARC process, accountability, and transparency.

Lord Mayor Burroughs commented on the recent historical events at Fort George, the re-enactment of the battle at Fort Niagara, and the parade of the Fife and Drum band along Queen Street, all of which generated strong visions of how it must have appeared decades ago. He urged residents to take the time to view and appreciate these events.

Ms. G. Brindle, a Field Unit Superintendent with Parks Canada, made a presentation to Council relating to options being considered for the development of the former DND lands along Lakeshore Road. She presented four concept plans and stressed these were preliminary concepts only and are presented for discussion and comment. She noted Project Niagara's presence provides an opportunity for this type of discussion and explores potential uses for the 268-acre site. She presented four potential concepts to Council, which included different potential uses, such as provision for wildlife corridors, interpretative areas, and a possible sewage treatment facility. Council discussed the submission and indicated the potential to discuss the matter at the next Council meeting and to provide an opportunity for the Region to provide updated information.

Mr. Mike Aitken made a deputation on behalf of the school council for Parliament Oak School relating to the need for an identified school crossing at King and John Streets. Council considered the timing to receive information and data on the crossing, and endorsed the Public Works Committee recommendation to initiate the warrants study to determine the need. It was noted this will commence in the third week of September due to bussing adjustments.

Mr. Ian McEwan of Rotary International made a deputation to Council regarding a fundraising event on August 22, 2009, to be hosted on the Commons near the extension of Mary Street. The event is a celebration of wine, food, art, and music originating from the community.

Ms. J. Gordon of the NOTL Sailing Club attended and updated Council on events associated with the 2009 Shark World Championships to be held from August 22-28, 2009. After providing background to the event, she requested that Council provide parking passes for participants to park on Ricardo, Melville, and Nelson Streets during the event with the Sailing Club administering the passes.

Ms. Gordon also requested input for erecting directional signage. Later in the meeting, Council directed staff to work with the Club to provide parking passes and two locations for signage.

Mr. Michael Djurdjevic of 10 Front Street made a deputation regarding the implementation of metered parking on the west side of King Street. He spoke regarding the residential parking permits that are designed to be available to residential property owners who have metered parking in front of their properties. Mr. Djurdjevic claimed there were exceptions for some residents who did not qualify, yet received the permits anyway. Later in the meeting, staff was asked to review who was in receipt of the residential parking permits and to report back. It was noted the matter of metered parking will be a topic of discussion at a proposed fall meeting of the Parking Committee.

Mrs. Austin Kirkby made a deputation and expressed concern regarding the 'Vision for Old Town' document that was presented to Committee last week and contained in the evening's agenda for discussion. She referred to a number of suggestions incorporated into the document and questioned the funding for various studies should Council endorse the program. During discussion on the document later in the meeting, Council expressed concern for the contents of the Vision, the lack of direction towards certain anticipated design elements, the use of the document as a 'guide' should it be endorsed by Council, and the process for moving forward in the Dock Area. In consideration of the previously deferred report and a subsequent memo from Planning staff, Council determined to receive the recommendations of the study, directed staff to start the Dock Area review process, and directed budget items for consideration at the appropriate 2010 Capital and Operating Budget reviews. A further modification was made indicating Council is not endorsing every strategy of the Vision, but will prioritize items accordingly.

In review of the Corporate Services Advisory Committee recommendations, Council deferred the sign variance approvals for the Kinsmen Club, at their request, and for a pole sign to be used as a 'readograph' sign at 500 York Road. These variance requests will be considered at the next COTW meeting.

Reports deferred from the COTW meeting regarding Pump #1 Replacement Old Town, at a cost of \$395,500, and Rescue 1 Replacement Old Town, at a cost of \$29,945, were approved by Council.

Council considered the recommendations and summary of comments from the Planning Advisory Committee relating to the new Comprehensive Zoning By-law and determined to defer the mapping issues relating to submissions from the Agricultural Sub-Committee until the next COTW meeting. Council endorsed the balance of the recommendations evolving from the June and July public meetings. In response to Council's questions, it was noted the process for having the By-law ratified provides for further negotiations, if required, with the possibility of further amendments. If all else fails, appeals may be heard by the Ontario Municipal Board.

The balance of the recommendations from the COTW meeting were adopted without change.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 31, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. Additional information on meeting schedules and deputation procedures may be obtained by contacting the Clerk's Department or visiting the Town's website at [www.notl.org](http://www.notl.org).

**Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs, Councillors: Jim Collard, Dennis Dick, Terry Flynn,  
Andrea Kaiser, Jack Lowrey, Martin Mazza, Art Viola, Gary Zalepa**