

## Lord Mayor's Message to NOTL ~ for 8 Jan 09

NOTL is a surprisingly active place these days.

For our grade 7 and 8's, January 13 is the Open House at Niagara District. This is a very exciting time and an important opportunity for all young students. Town Council and I encourage parents to make every effort to visit your only local high school with your children.

Since September, I have been struck by the positive feeling in the hallways of NDSS. It comes from the students, the teachers and the administration. It's wonderful!

I'm happy to say that every week I am learning about more parents and students making the decision to support NOTL by attending the improved NDSS.

Remember, regardless of what happens with enrolment this year; NDSS will remain open and viable until August 2010. If everything falls into place, NDSS could start September 2011 with grade 11 students having the opportunity of attending the only DSNB school offering a higher level of education excellence.

We know some parents are looking for more than just a Triple A+ school for their children. Along with Academics, Athletics and Arts they want a spiritual environment. The Ontario Public School Boards' Association has submitted to the Ministry that several boards have had success with shared facilities between Public/Catholic, and French/English high schools. Students share the music program, the library and the gym and have opportunities for shared credits.

Our children are neighbours, they date, they hang out together and play hockey together. There's room for a chapel at NDSS. Faith counselling is already available and the interfaith fellowship club has been re-established.

I think it's time we open up a dialogue for a high school that truly reflects our community.

The Town is proud to have produced a brochure showing all the courses at NDSS, it lists some of the many clubs and teams, introduces some of the students and proud grads and gives you an idea of the agriculture and golf courses, and IB.

This brochure will be sent to all grade 7 and 8's and then to the whole community. In the meantime, you can see the complete brochure on the Town's website at [www.notl.org](http://www.notl.org). If you'd like a copy right away, please call me and we'll be sure you get one.

If you need a ride to District for the Open House, or have any questions, please call me at 905.468.3266, and we'll see how we can help you and your student.

Remember: NDSS is "Our School of Choice!"