



The Town of Niagara-On-The-Lake

Lord Mayor's Message

On January 19, I attended the *Spirit of Niagara Awards*, presented each year by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce. It is one of the best organized and most enjoyable award celebrations in the Region. Those honoured for their outstanding community contributions included Dan Patterson, President of Niagara College, representatives from Balance Fitness Studio, Meridian Credit Union, and Irish Design and our own Niagara-on-the-Lake Volunteer Firefighters.

During the ceremony, I was struck by how many truly committed individuals we have in this community and it reminded me of a few things.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is known throughout the country and internationally as one of the more popular and attractive tourism destinations. We have a charming historic downtown, quaint shops, top-notch theatre, and world-class wineries and restaurants. Each year, we open our doors to millions of visitors who come back year after year because they love our area.

But, what is it that we – as residents – love about our community?

In my mind, our Town is special because of the people who live here, who raise their families here, and who contribute day in and day out trying to making it an even better place to live. It's the residents who sit on our many Town Committees; it's the parents and students who are fighting valiantly to keep our high school; it's the volunteers at our churches, service clubs, sports groups and community organizations who give tirelessly to help those in need. It's the staff at places like Niagara College, who strive to make their institution among the best in the country.

I'm glad that I participated in the Spirit Awards. It was a privilege to recognize the award winners that evening. But it was even more rewarding to be reminded of how special our community is to me.