

Lord Mayor's Message to NOTL ~ for 12 Feb 09

Two recent events have confirmed for me that the future of NOTL is in good hands!

We should be very proud of the health care system we have in NOTL. Years ago, many people were very upset with the proposed changes for our community. Today, ours is the success story used as the example to other communities where cutbacks are being examined.

Is there any other community in the Region that can boast a full compliment of doctors? The only change the Niagara Health System (NHS) made in NOTL last week was to institute paid parking at the hospital site. That speaks volumes to the work that's being done here.

The NOTL Family Health Team was recognized at the Chamber's Spirit of Niagara night with the Community Leadership Award.

Congratulations and our heartfelt thanks to the many people who make our community health system work every day - and especially when we need it most.

I was pleased to see the results of Tuesday's workshop for young people. This was part of gathering ideas in the Old Town and Dock Area Vision and Secondary Plan process. Our youth brought up some very interesting comments and suggestions. Their insight will be taken under serious consideration as we plan for the future.

Just a reminder to join us for more panel discussions and Q&A at the Court House next week. The Speakers Series topic for Tuesday, February 17, is "Tourism for Tomorrow – Does the Old Town Fit In?" Then on Wednesday, February 18, join us for "NOTL: Future of the Waterfront in the Old Town". Both sessions run from 7 to 9 p.m.

Be sure to pick up a copy of CITIZENS' BULLETIN NO. 2 at the Post Office or go online at www.notl.org. If you'd like more information, please call Stephen Bedford at 905.468.3266.

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Thank you to everyone who has shown an interest in billeting international students coming to NDSS. This is a wonderful opportunity to further enrich NOTL and NDSS.

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Tickets to the Mardi Gras party on March 6 go on sale at Town Hall on Friday, February 13. Please contact Vicki at the Municipal Offices for tickets. The cost is \$95 each and all proceeds from the event go to NDSS (IB Program).

The emphasis this year is on "party". The dinner is being catered and served by the Niagara Culinary Institute at Niagara College and promises to be fabulous.

Please call me if you have something to donate for the raffles or auctions.