

Lord Mayor's Message to NOTL ~ for 1 Jan 09

2008 was a year of many opportunities tempered with difficult losses.

The number of people dedicated to keeping our community alive and thriving continues to increase. People are coming together with boundless energy and deep convictions to keep NDSS open. Look at the many wonderful ideas that have come from our grass roots: Golf Academy, football, ball hockey, two agriculture courses and International Baccalaureate (IB)!

Neighbours are finally beginning to understand that every single decision to register at NDSS is a crucial vote of confidence in our community.

Council has committed to ensure DSBN does everything possible to keep NDSS open. If it becomes necessary, we will put up the money to keep IB financed for the first five years. There is no other issue more important than our young people, their education, their future and the stability of our community. We will continue to fight for NDSS: Our School Of Choice!

Along with all the good things NOTL had to offer this year, we lost some special lives. We continue to mourn them and feel for their families.

Lost too, is CanGrow. I can tell you quite honestly that it was a particularly difficult experience for me. I learned the bureaucrats played the biggest role in crushing that deal. I am determined that will never happen again, on any project.

This year, we'll say good-bye to Lew Holloway our CAO and welcome a new person to that office. We'll celebrate Southbrook Winery earning a LEED's designation – the second NOTL winery to do that. We'll spend hundreds of hours going over the studies in the next phase of Project Niagara and listening to supporters of both sides of the issue. We'll all have the opportunity to weigh in on what we want for the future of the Old Town and the Dock area.

At the Town, we will continue with our efforts to communicate better with our residents and to make the decisions that continue to value this wonderful quality of life we love so much.

As for the rest of 2009? Your guess is as good as mine. One thing is certain; I am confident that once again, our Council and our Community will stand together to face every challenge that may come our way. Regardless of how big or small it might be.

Best Wishes and Happy New Year!