

Lord Mayor's Message to NOTL ~ for 13 May 09

The Virgil Stampede is yet another example of volunteers adding so much to our community. The big event is this Saturday and holiday Monday and takes place next to the Centennial Arena. Hopefully we'll see everybody out there having a good time and supporting our volunteers. Thank you all!

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Over the next few weeks, I'll be sharing with you the analysis of the Town's "com·mú·ni·cá·tion Report Card".

We'll probably do one question a week to start with. As we make our way through the analysis, you will be able to study the actual numbers on the Town's website www.notl.org. I will also be announcing the winners of the draws.

In June 2008, the Town's Communications Committee prepared and distributed a questionnaire called the "com·mú·ni·cá·tion Report Card". This was an opportunity for NOTL residents to tell us how we were doing on communications.

The Communication Committee was looking for general results and trends, not hard figures. I'll be discussing not so much the hard number results, but rather the areas of greater or lesser satisfaction, preference, and agreement or disagreement.

Question #1: "I am satisfied with the information I receive from the Town of NOTL regarding:"

In general terms, the respondents were split pretty much evenly between those who were satisfied and those who were unsatisfied with the information received from, or about the Town.

Respondents were more satisfied with information about municipal services and how municipal tax dollars were spent. They were less satisfied with information about future planning and broader issues that impact the Town and information about the Regional Municipality.

A number of people took the time to add their comments. The most frequently mentioned issues were the availability of information on long term planning and the frequency of *in-camera* meetings. Some of the personal opinions were:

"Town disseminates most facts & information reasonably well but only on a need to know basis, therefore many things are not relayed to taxpayers overtly."

"It is not easy to find out what upcoming projects are in the pipeline e.g. road works – when and where they will occur. There is no routine mechanism for gaining views on priorities for road works etc"

“How can this council attempt to be trying to communicate when at the drop of a hat they go *in camera*? The voters have a right to see issues being dealt with.”

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The winners of the \$50 gift certificate to the new de luca's wine country restaurant are Phil and Elaine Landray. Thank you and congratulations!