

NOTL NEWS

A NEWS UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF *Niagara-On-The-Lake*

Issue # 174 – June 16, 2009

EVENT SUPPORT

The Corporate Services Advisory Committee endorsed staff recommendations for support of two upcoming events. Firstly, the Committee granted an exemption to the Town's Noise By-law to the Shaw Festival for a special live concert at the bus overflow lot at Fort George for Sunday, July 12, 2009. The concert is titled 'An Enchanted Evening' and is to be filmed by CTV's BRAVO! for an early September broadcast. The staff report notes the concert is planned to commence around 8:30 p.m. and extend to 11:00 p.m., although sound levels should not be excessive in any way.

Secondly, permission was granted to the Chamber of Commerce to hold the 22nd Annual 'Artistry by the Lake' on Wednesday, July 1, and Thursday, July 2, 2009, in Queen's Royal Park. The permission includes operation of a food concession by a non-profit group.

CONTRACT RENEWAL – WINERY SIGNS

The Public Works Advisory Committee endorsed a staff recommendation to act as an agent between Canadian TODS and the NOTL Winery Signs Group in order to provide destination signs on the QEW and wayfinding fingerboards within the Town.

TENDER FOR PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE REPAIR

The Public Works Advisory Committee endorsed a staff recommendation to accept the low tender from Serianni Construction Limited for the rehabilitation of the two pedestrian bridges on Niagara Stone Road across Four Mile Creek.

JOHNSON STREET OPEN HOUSE

The Public Works Advisory Committee received the comments gathered at a public open house held May 28, 2009, and endorsed a recommendation for the budgeting of funds in the draft 2010 Budget for further traffic volume, speed, and 'all way' stop warrant investigations on Johnson Street.

Staff's response to the comments indicated the following: a traffic speed and volume count on Johnson Street to take place within the next few weeks with a follow up after construction in 2010, a proposal to carry out a traffic flow study and intersection control warrant review in 2010, and the design consultant to provide road cross sections for review by the residents who requested the information.

FIORUCCI ESTATES – DRAFT PLAN OF SUBDIVISION

The Planning Advisory Committee endorsed a staff recommendation providing Draft Plan of Subdivision approval for Fiorucci Estates Subdivision located at York, Tanbark, and Warner Roads in the Village of St. Davids.

The application was originally submitted in April 2005 and proposed 32 single-detached lots. The Planning Advisory Committee recommended the development should more appropriately reflect the density criteria of the Official Plan and provide for lots fronting on York Road as provided for in the Village of St. Davids Urban Design Guidelines.

The next steps for approval of the 37 lot subdivision include a 20-day appeal period after Council's approval and the developer moving to satisfy the draft conditions of approval, including a zoning amendment.

COMPREHENSIVE ZONING BY-LAW UPDATE

The Planning Advisory Committee endorsed a staff report which included recommendations to move forward with an approval of the Comprehensive Zoning By-law.

Following the public meeting held on April 7, 2009, staff summarized the comments received at the time and provided individual recommendations for Committee's consideration.

Committee provided for an 'Institutional' zoning for the existing NDSS lands to permit a campus school use and provide future flexibility for the site. Committee also provided for a 'Residential Development' zoning on a potential school site in Virgil. In response to Committee's questions, staff advised a future school use would require a zoning amendment.

Staff recommendations also included placing certain Town-owned lands in the Dock Area in a 'Holding Zone' with the final zoning to be determined once the Secondary Plan for the Dock Area is complete.

The report provides that staff will now finalize the Zoning By-law in accordance with Council's direction and present it to Council for adoption in July.

ENFORCEMENT POLICY – VACANT LAND/ABANDONED BUILDINGS

The Planning Advisory Committee endorsed a revised enforcement policy to be more proactive in addressing the status of vacant lands associated with former commercial/industrial/institutional sites.

The new policy will provide for staff to advise owners of the subject lands of violations to the Property Standards By-law without a formal complaint. Once a process is commenced, the lands will be subject to monitoring on a regular basis.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – JUNE 8, 2009

Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs opened the meeting and introduced Mr. Don Smith as the Town's new Chief Administrative Officer. The Lord Mayor provided a brief history of Mr. Smith's education background and employment history and welcomed him to the position. Mr. Smith stated he is pleased to be with the Town and looks forward to working with Council and staff. Lord Mayor Burroughs also thanked Mr. Clive Buist, Director of Parks and Recreation, for all his efforts as interim CAO during the six-month search to fill the position.

The Lord Mayor reported the Federal and Provincial Governments have contributed \$3.8 million for renovations to the Niagara District Airport. He noted the Airport is in need of runway repairs and security upgrades, and funds are certainly needed.

The Lord Mayor extended congratulations to the organizers of the Willowbank's Jazz Festival noting this was a success in support of Willowbank's School of Restoration Arts.

Mr. John Knox of Chamberlain Architects provided Council with a presentation regarding the current design status of the new community centre. He noted there had been two public input sessions and some of the suggestions have been incorporated into the design. Mr. Knox provided a brief overview of the design indicating the centre is to be located southwest of the existing library and connected via a café link. Mr. Knox noted they are working through the final site and construction drawings, anticipating to tender this September with ground breaking in October. Occupancy is scheduled for March 2011.

Penny Coles of the Niagara Advance and Lord Mayor Burroughs presented the 2009 Volunteer Recognition Awards to citizens of the Town acknowledging their contributions in various areas. Award winners are Doug Hunter – Work with Seniors, Ken Hendriks – Work with Youth, Dr. Richard Merritt – Historical Contribution, Peter Gill – Cultural, Shirley Madsen – Environment, Debbie Redekop – Education, Allen Snider – Service Clubs, Howard Bogusat – Work with Needy or Disabled, Taylor Hulley – Volunteer Under 25, Mary Snider and Dave Dick – Community Events. Also, Dr. Richard Merritt received the Peggy Anderson Memorial Award for his continuing commitment to preserving the community's heritage.

Barbara Wiens, Principal Planner, provided an overview of the Boundary Waters Treaty and its 100th anniversary celebrations. She noted the international significance of the Treaty and the establishment of the International Joint Commission to prevent and resolve issues related to water disputes and to provide advice to both governments. Several events are scheduled to commemorate the Treaty, including a special signing on the Rainbow Bridge on June 13, 2009, which will involve approximately 1,400 invited delegates.

In review of the Committee of the Whole recommendations, Council modified a Public Works Advisory Committee motion to place a speed minder on Johnson Street between Nassau and Palatine to measure the speed of vehicles in the area. The balance of the Committee recommendations were adopted without change.

Council adopted staff recommendations regarding the direction provided from the Corporate Services Advisory Committee related to providing a maximum of \$15,000 toward the purchase of football equipment for NDSS.

Council also discussed correspondence related to Niagara Classic Cabs and the Town's contribution to the operation of assisted transportation in the community. Staff advised money had been set aside in the 2009 budget, although prior to release of the funds, certain information is to be submitted by the company to the Town. In a related matter, Council noted the ongoing discussions regarding a Regional transit service and the potential involvement of the Town. Costs are a concern to the community and a process to determine the extent of the Town's requirements will be necessary.

Council endorsed a motion to establish an Energy Management Committee comprised of Councillors, community members, and NOTL Hydro representatives to be tasked with creating a vision for sustainability for the Town and an energy management plan to apply to all Town assets.

Council also endorsed a motion approving participation in the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's 'Simply Tree-mendous' Challenge to achieve the planting of 50,000 trees and shrubs throughout the Authority's watershed area and to encourage residents, groups, service clubs, and businesses to take up the challenge (NOTL News, Issue # 173).

The next Council meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. Additional information on meeting schedules and deputation procedures may be obtained by contacting the Clerk's Department or by visiting the Town's website at www.notl.org.

**Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs, Councillors: Jim Collard, Dennis Dick, Terry Flynn,
Andrea Kaiser, Jack Lowrey, Martin Mazza, Art Viola, Gary Zalepa**