

# NOTL NEWS

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

Issue # 187 – April 21, 2010

## **REVIEW OF APPEALS FROM THE BED & BREAKFAST ASSOCIATION**

The Planning Advisory Committee determined to form a committee to review the appeals for an Official Plan Amendment relating to Country Inns and the Comprehensive Zoning By-law, and report back to Committee of the Whole by May 31, 2010.

Committee received two deputations prior to discussing the matter. Mr. Rick Jorgensen of the Bed & Breakfast Association advised Committee they have been working with staff and have made progress in identifying the issues. Mr. Jorgensen believes they are not far from resolving some of the issues and would like to see further discussions. He requested Council's representation during the review, which could result in narrowing the issues leading to reduced hearing time and costs.

Committee also heard from Ms. Gracia Janes of the NOTL Conservancy who reminded Committee that some of the amendments were based on input from the Town's Solicitor regarding an OMB hearing and decision of a Country Inn application, in which the revisions had gone through a public review process. She urged Committee to support the previous decision of Council in adopting the Official Plan and by-law amendments.

Committee set aside the staff report recommending a consultant be engaged to review the small scale tourist accommodation industry in the Town.

## **SIDEWALK ON WARNER ROAD**

The Public Works Advisory Committee received a deputation from Mr. Bob Ungaro, representing residents on Warner Road, who expressed concern relating to the installation of a sidewalk on the north side of a proposed reconstructed Warner Road.

Following a recent public open house to review the proposed road work, it was noted residents are concerned about locating the sidewalk on the north side of the road due to detrimental effects on the aesthetics, potential disruption of existing sump pump discharge and drainage, and the location of the sidewalk in relation to the front property line.

Committee questioned staff on the design and location of the sidewalk and requested staff to review the pros and cons applicable to installing the sidewalk on the north or south sides of the road. It was also requested to have comments provided on the location of the sidewalk relative to the property line.

## **WATER & WASTEWATER RATES**

The Corporate Services Advisory Committee endorsed a staff recommendation to adjust the water and wastewater rates effective May 1, 2010.

The staff report provided extensive background relating to the state of the water and wastewater systems and an analysis of the 2010 budget proposals. The report noted the combined impact of an increase in the 2010 fixed charge and uniform rate for the average water customer using 312 m<sup>3</sup> of water per year is an extra \$3.27 per month. The impact of no change on the 2010 fixed charge and a slight increase in the uniform rate for an average wastewater customer is \$1.03 per month.

The overall combined water and wastewater increase on the average homeowner for 2010 is \$4.30 per month or 4.99%.

## **COUNCIL SUMMARY – APRIL 7, 2010**

Council received a presentation from Hugh Fraser from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs regarding best practices to minimize the use of wind machines for the benefit of both the grower and neighbours. The report is the result of a co-operative effort of studying wind machine operations for over four years.

Council received a presentation regarding the proposed changes to Niagara District Airport, including improvements to the runway and taxi areas, and the construction of a new terminal building. The work is to commence soon and be completed by March 2011.

Council also received a presentation from the Chair of the NDSS Strategy Committee outlining recent discussions and subsequent revisions to the Petition to the Minister of Education on keeping NDSS open. Council received deputations for and against the Petition in its current proposed state and, after review of the submissions and modifications to wording, endorsed the document.

In review of a previously deferred site plan control agreement for the proposed new elementary school in Virgil, Council determined to continue the deferral pending the results of an upcoming Ontario Municipal Board hearing.

In review of the Committee of the Whole recommendations, Council set aside a recommendation to ask NOTL Hydro for a dividend policy by August 31, 2010, and moved to set up a workshop with Hydro prior to May 31, 2010, to discuss the matter. The balance of the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole were adopted without change.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2010, with regular business starting at 7:00 p.m. This newsletter, as well as information on meeting schedules and deputation procedures, is available on the Town's website at [www.notl.org](http://www.notl.org). Further questions may also be directed to the Town's Clerk's Department at 905-468-3266.

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