

Lord Mayor's Message to NOTL ~ for 3 Jun 09

Someone I know says they're allergic to the sound of a lawnmower. In NOTL, that's not an acceptable excuse for letting grass or weeds get out of control.

By-law No. 4114-07 says grass and weeds over 8 inches tall must be cut. If the Town receives a complaint and on inspection finds a problem, then the owner or occupant will be advised that they have to cut. If they don't, then an Order will be sent to the owner who will have a minimum of 3 days to cut before a re-inspection. Extensions might be given. If it still doesn't get done, then the Town will do the work and bill the owner.

By the way, inspections are only made when complainants provide their own name and contact information, and Dandelions and Goldenrod are NOT Noxious Weeds.

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This week I'd like to review the last three questions of the "com-mú-ni-cá-tion Report Card". For the actual numbers, please go to www.notl.org

Question #4:

"Please rate each of the following ways of sharing your views with Council."

It seems a telephone call or an e-mail to town staff, attending public forums, and an e-mail to the Lord Mayor or Councillors are the preferred ways of getting your personal views to Town Council.

The least preferred methods are letters to the editor and deputations at Council meetings. A letter to the Lord Mayor or Councillor, commenting via the Town web site, attending an Open House, and on-line or paper surveys are somewhere in-between in terms of preferred methods.

Your personal comments suggest two general trends. Town staff is perceived to be more accurate and more timely in communications, particularly in returning e-mails and telephone calls. At the same time, there seems to be an undercurrent of mistrust in communications coming directly from the Town.

There also seems to be a perception that deputations are not effective ways of communicating. The comments suggest respondents feel Council only seems to hear what they want to hear.

Some of the personal opinions were:

“There is basically no good information on how to actually approach Mayor/Councillor/Town on a problem.”

“I would like to see a casual coffee and networking with the mayor and councilors offered quarterly... nothing structured.”

“I have had exceptional communication experiences via phone, email & in person with Randy Berg, Ken Mitchell and Susan Dunsmore. They were all prompt, courteous and a pleasure to deal with.”

Question #5:

“You and the internet.”

The majority of people with internet, access the internet at least once a week.

Slightly more than half of the respondents said they would like to receive emailed information from the Town. Interestingly, only about 20% of them gave an e-mail address.

Question #6:

All respondents were invited enter a draw. Fewer than 12% of respondents entered.

The winner of the last draw, a gift certificate for an Artisan Wine and Cheese Tasting for 2 from Reif Estate Winery; a \$50 value, has asked to remain anonymous. Thank you and congratulations!

Next week we'll review the recommendations that have come out of these results.