

Lord Mayor's Message to NOTL ~ 22 Apr 09

On the home page of the Town's website, www.notl.org, you'll find all sorts of projects that add to the value of our community.

- Four Daffodil Gardens of Hope are in bloom,
- the Earth Day "20-Minute Makeover" is this Saturday,
- there's the Celebration of Heritage on April 29th at Navy Hall,
- this week Council and Business will meet to discuss how to work together through tough economic times,
- we're looking for nominations for the Sports Wall of Fame,
- the Community Awareness Guide shows you the many things to do in Town,
- Road Watch is your chance to report aggressive driving,
- the Old Town & Dock Area: Vision & Secondary Plan, and Draft Zoning By-law are two more planning and development projects that really want your feedback,
- reminders for parking permits and dog licenses,
- the "2010 & Beyond" brochure about NDSS.

All these focus on doing something to benefit our community and volunteers are doing the majority of work. Volunteers like you. Volunteers like Billy Morrison Jr.

On Monday, Lieutenant-Governor David Onley presented Billy with The Ontario Medal for Youth. Billy was one of only eight recipients from over 450 applicants. The medal is in recognition of "exemplary achievements and personal commitment of Youth Volunteers to the quality of life in their communities and the province."

I was there and it got me thinking.

In NOTL, we have volunteers of all ages and abilities. Whenever a cry for help goes out, NOTL residents roll up their sleeves and get to work. The job gets done and we all benefit. One of the strengths of our community is that it's not always the same volunteers either; everyone does something at some point.

It is all about doing it for the community.

Just ask Billy Morrison. For him it's not about keeping NDSS open, it is about the future of the community of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Big Picture. Forward thinking.

These days, our young people attend almost 10 different high schools. Regardless, they are still an important part of our community both today and in the future. That's why so much time, energy, resources and volunteer efforts are being dedicated to doing whatever it takes to keep NDSS open.

For the community.