

Lord Mayor's Message to NOTL ~ 3 Sept 09

It's that time of year again – bicycles and Bird Bangers.

Please take extra care this month as children walk and ride their bikes back and forth to school. In a split second of excitement, they can forget to be careful and set up a possible tragedy.

Regardless how old your students may be, check to make sure their bike is the right size, the bells work, reflectors are in place, their helmet fits and that they know how to wear it probably. Take them through their route a couple of times and look for any changes. There may be a new sidewalk or signage they should know about. Watch them practice their hand signals and remind them that no matter how late they may be, it is more important to arrive alive.

And please, no earplugs, no MP3's, and no I-pods when they're riding.

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There's a full moon on Saturday. That's the occasion for the Harvest Moon Ball fundraiser at Willowbank. Big band, fabulous food, wonderful company, great cause and a charitable tax receipt.

Get your tickets at www.willowbank.ca 905.262.1239

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This Town Council has taken on the enormous task of doing whatever is necessary to help the school board keep NDSS open. We've done that because we know having an open and thriving high school in Niagara-on-the-Lake is an important part of the future of this community.

Over the past year, I've had a lot of people say to me, "Keep up the good work on NDSS. We're watching."

Frankly, watching this yeoman effort while your teen or grandchild enrolls in a St. Catharines high school is not giving the support to this community that it needs at this time.

Can NOTL be a better place to live without a high school?

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With grapes, come birds and bird bangers. Some farmers have already started their Bird Bangers – cannon-like sounds to scare away the birds from feeding on the crop. Others will soon join in. Grapes are of great economic value to this community and for a short period of time each year, both growers and neighbours need tolerance.

Here are a few reminders:

1. Bird Bangers should only operate during daylight hours, between 30 minutes before local sunrise and 30 minutes after local sunset.
2. The Town of NOTL has no enforcement jurisdiction over Bird Bangers or their operation.
3. For more information on the use of Bird Bangers, or to lodge a complaint against a farmer you believe is not operating a Bird Banger correctly, contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) at 1.877.424.1300.