

NOTLINEWS

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

Issue # 190 – June 23, 2010

SIGN BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

The Planning Advisory Committee endorsed recommended changes to the Sign By-law with a modification to the suggested fee for a Temporary Sign, changing it from \$50 to \$25. The staff report advised the by-law changes are the result of discussions with the Chamber of Commerce Retail Committee, input from the Heritage Committee, mailings to property owners, and newspaper advertisements requesting comments.

The proposed amendments to the by-law reduce the permitted size of a Temporary Sign from 20% to 10% of the glass area, reduce the display duration from 90 to 30 days, increase the interval time between displays from 7 to 15 days, require a permit before displaying a Temporary Sign, and do not require a Heritage Permit. Previously approved by-law amendments were also incorporated into the document.

Prior to adopting the modified recommendations, Committee received delegations from two residents. The concerns brought forward indicated the proposed by-law was too restrictive to local businesses and should be shelved, and noted potential conflicts with having those who develop the by-laws also enforcing the regulations. It was suggested Council consider an ombudsman-type committee of Councillors and the CAO to oversee enforcement.

PARKING ANALYSIS FOR QUEEN PICTON

The Planning Advisory Committee endorsed a staff recommendation to engage a consortium of consultants comprising of Paradigm Transportation Solutions, Urban Environmental Management Inc., and Ehl Harrison Consulting Inc. to execute a functional parking analysis of the commercial core area of the Queen Picton Heritage Conservation District at an estimated cost of \$58,885.

The goals for the study are to create a parking environment which will support the economic viability of the downtown, encourage visitors and residents to utilize the core area, enable businesses and owners to respond to changing markets, provide regulations which are understood and easily implemented, and include appropriate parking standards.

The consortium will work with a Technical Working Group consisting of a member of Council, staff, business and resident participants, and representation from the Chamber of Commerce.

HST – FACILITY AND PROGRAM RATES

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee modified current facility and program rates, effective July 1, 2010, to reflect the requirements for implementing HST.

The staff report noted when the rental rates were approved in December 2009, it was explained the rates would need to be revisited once the details of HST became available. The report advised all rates are subject to HST except for children's lessons or any admissions of \$1.00 or less. Furthermore, the revised rates will be posted on the Town's website and will appear in the Community Awareness Brochure.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – JUNE 7, 2010

Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs opened the meeting by welcoming Mr. Mike Galloway as the new Chief Administrative Officer for the Town. Lord Mayor Burroughs advised Council he had received a faxed copy of a letter from the Minister of Education in response to the Town's recent submission regarding the closure of NDSS. He explained the letter seemed to imply there will not be a meeting with the Minister. The Lord Mayor expressed great disappointment with the Minister's position, noting the lack of understanding the effect the closure will have on the community. He further noted the Trustees and DSBN must take responsibility for the closure.

The Lord Mayor commented on a number of recent local events in the community, including Niagara College hosting a Chinese delegation of five diamond hotel representatives who received training at the College, a multi-cultural festival held at Parliament Oak school, the re-opening of Riverbrink Museum with a display of original paintings done for Hallmark Cards, a lengthy visit by the new Minister of Tourism to the Niagara area, recent Shaw Festival openings, the Willowbank Jazz Festival, and the Association of Community Colleges' three-day conference with 500 delegates attending from across Canada.

Council received a presentation from Mr. Randy Berg, Supervisor of Municipal Law Enforcement, who provided an outline of processes and procedures relating to the enforcement of a number of Town by-laws.

Mr. Dave Lepp, Regional Councillor, made a presentation to Council regarding the state of a number of Regional initiatives, including a review of the sewage lagoons on Lakeshore Road. He noted the odour issue is being studied by the Region, and a report will be due shortly. He further advised he is proposing a local public meeting, in concert with the Lord Mayor, to provide information regarding Regional initiatives in public transportation and to gather public input regarding the community's needs respecting public transportation.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Monday, June 28, 2010, with regular business starting at **5:00 p.m.** This Newsletter, as well as information on meeting schedules and delegation procedures, is available on the Town's website at www.notl.org. Further questions may also be directed to the Town 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