

SPECIAL EDITION: ELECTION 2022

# The Lake Report

Oct. 13, 2022



## OFF TO THE RACES

This is The Lake Report's comprehensive guide to Niagara-on-the-Lake's candidates in the Oct. 24 election. For this special edition, candidates were invited to purchase advertising space to reach NOTL voters. **Here is who is running:** Lord mayor: Betty Disero, Vaughn Goettler, Gary Zalepa. Council: Tim Balasiuk, Allan Bisback, Gary Burroughs, Adriana Cater Vizzari, Wendy Cheropita, Alistair Harlond, Maria Mavridis, John McCallum, Richard Mell, Sandra O'Connor, Katherine Reid, Nick Ruller and Erwin Wiens. Regional council: Pat Darte, Andrea Kaiser, Paolo Miele and William Roberts. Public school trustee: Kate Baggott, Alex Bradnam, Mike Brousseau, Lora Campbell, Jonathan Fast, Rhona Lindo-Kelly, Donald MacDougall and Kris Vreck. Catholic school trustee: Natalia Benoit, Larry Huibers and Jolanta Pawlak.

ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK.COM

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# A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO YOUR CANDIDATES

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## The Lake Report's Top Issues

It's essential for the next council to look at issues from beyond the view of stakeholders and more from the eyes of residents and what's best for a growing town.

We must also stand bold in the face of Doug Ford and to tell Queen's Park that NOTL is not to be treated like a big city. We are a special, unique, historical community with much that needs to be protected.

Here are some of the top issues we believe council must prioritize before it's too late.

# VOTE



## OCTOBER 24

# TLR

### • Regional tax portion

NOTL residents pay far too much in taxes to the Region of Niagara region and receive far too little in return. This term councillors must ensure NOTL is treated fairly and benefits from services equal to its share of the costs.

### • Overdevelopment

NOTL's historic areas can't afford any more inappropriate residential development. We need a council that will take NOTL's concerns all the way to the province, to ensure this historical enclave is preserved and protected and that new housing fits the context and needs of each NOTL community.

### • Glendale

Councillors must look closely at the development plan for Glendale to ensure it preserves greenspace while also taking the weight of provincial housing targets, so dense developments aren't pushed out into historical areas. Green apartments, rooftop gardens. Think Singapore, but in Canada.

### • Tourism

It's the lifeblood of NOTL. We need a council that will produce a tourism plan for the future, one that deals with parking, traffic, hotel expansions, a long-debated shuttle service and a fully implemented accommodation tax that helps ease the tourism infrastructure burden now shouldered by residents.

### • Short-term rentals

We must elect a council that stops the exploitation of our neighbourhoods for profit and ensures only hosted rentals are allowed in NOTL and that those hosted rentals pay their fair share in taxes.

### • Management

NOTL cannot afford any more knee-jerk reactions from town administrators. The questionable expense of some \$1 million for a voluntary clean-up of what apparently was ditch water is the latest large and troubling expenditure.

Our tax dollars are too valuable to waste.

### • Transparency

For well over a year, the Town of NOTL has ordered staff not to speak with media without going through the communications department. And answers to questions about matters of public interest can take days to obtain and often are not directly answered. Council needs to instruct the CAO and communications teams to be more readily transparent.



# Mayoral stances on development

Disero, Goettler and Zalepa offer their views on protecting NOTL's built heritage



Brian Marshall  
Columnist

Over the past few weeks, I had conversations with each candidate for lord mayor.

As regular readers of the Arch-i-text column might expect, the focus was each candidate's view, position and platform generally related to development in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We began the conversation by asking candidates to share their understanding of the town's people, what comprises its cultural heritage landscapes and what their vision is for the future.

Betty Disero believes NOTL is comprised of five distinct and unique settlement areas and the agricultural community, each of which has evolved from a separate historical context.

It is her sense that the citizens have a common shared vision for the town and she feels St. Davids, Virgil and Glendale should each have a "village centre" similar in function to the park in the heart of Queenston.

Speaking to Old Town, Disero cited her intention to expand the heritage district, conduct character studies to identify "sensitive areas" and the use a negotiated agreement with the region that allows "shifting of density" among the five areas (so higher density in one area allows for lower density in another), while still achieving provincial intensification targets. It is also her intention to address the agricultural irrigation requirements by having irrigation classified as infrastructure.

Vaughn Goettler describes our distinct villages and agricultural sector as the "back-bone" of NOTL. He sees each community as having its "own needs and situation" and infers through examples that he wishes to preserve the integrity of each while providing tailored solutions to their needs.

He said preservation of the existing town form and

context should be the priority, not attempting to find methods to fulfil provincial mandates that are clearly out of keeping with the town's unique character.

While he does not take a position on expanding the heritage district, he supports the maintenance of unique heritage assets and characteristics of NOTL. And he intends to win UNESCO World Heritage Site recognition for the town to provide a federal umbrella in the protection of cultural, natural and historical attributes.

Gary Zalepa also sees the town as a "collection of unique communities," a mix of neighbourhoods, settings, built forms, unique property structures and green space conjoined by agriculture. It is his intention to begin a process of understanding what is important to the entire community and utilize that to inform the development of a vision statement to provide future overarching direction for council decisions.

Zalepa said he wants to expand the existing heritage district, even if those areas are located outside Old Town. On cultural heritage landscapes, he does not believe such should be "stuck in time," feeling that showing evolution over time is vital to offer a window into both the past and present.

**Contextual approach**  
Disero's approach would include the option to shift densities between districts, the institution of contextual zoning and rigorous enforcement of existing bylaws. Further, she would consider the development of a bylaw to limit the maximum square footage of a new build based on the size of the lot.

In addition, the results of the ongoing zoning bylaw review will be used to identify existing gaps that need to be corrected.

Goettler wants to ensure all existing bylaws are consistently followed and enforced while introducing an accountability review process. Further, he would bring in contextual zoning to ensure streetscapes and neighbours are respected. Paramount on this would be to negotiate with the province an agreement that identifies NOTL as a



Incumbent Betty Disero is being challenged by Vaughn Goettler and Gary Zalepa. EVAN LOREE

unique community, thereby underwriting lower density targets and higher levels of local oversight on development.

**"We can't blame the candidates entirely for pandering to this noise — the voters are creating it."**

DAVID ISRAELSON  
COLUMNIST

Zalepa would start by studying why contextual zoning did not work last time, how it can be made to work and subsequently institute it. He would establish clear "goal-posts," expectations for both infill and new developments.

He wants the official plan approved ASAP and intends to use public forums, guided by a town vision statement, to determine the parameters for how to use available or potential available land assets (like the land tracts around the golf course in St. Davids).

Finally, he would augment (or develop) more detailed standard operating procedures in the town.

**Design review guidelines**  
Disero is open to considering a community planning permit system (which encompasses design guidelines) but only after bringing in contextual zoning, closing gaps exposed by the current bylaw review, and expanding the heritage district in order to control "over-building" (essentially attempting to use existing process before considering a global solution).

She also wants to "put more teeth" into the



municipal heritage and urban design committees' decision-making.

Goettler declares he supports design guidelines and a precedent-based system, both of which follow his platform on the requirement to institute clearly defined expectations and accountability in the management of the town's business.

Zalepa supports design guidelines and feels there has been "some dysfunction" in urban design committee decisions in the past few years, noting the differences between early developments in St. Davids compared to those of more recent years.

He likes the concept of a precedent-based archival system for staff recommendations and central to decisions arrived at by both the municipal heritage and urban design committees to eliminate a one-off approach while introducing defined prescriptions and higher accountability. He would also initiate a review and update of the existing four-decade-old heritage guidelines.

**The planning process**

There is a widely held perception that the planning process for development is applied differently in different areas of town.

Disero replied that zoning bylaws do vary between each "residential zone" (approved by the OMB in 2012), and said council had issues with that idea and had ordered the review of existing bylaws. The intent of this is to change existing bylaws to better reflect what councillors "want to see in all areas of the town."

Goettler would ensure existing bylaws and guidelines are evenly and equally applied across town. Further,



he wants bylaws/guidelines clearly worded and consistently understood.

Finally, he reinforced the importance of establishing with the province an agreement that NOTL is a unique community and requires greater levels of local control to manage its character.

Zalepa wants more effective use of urban design guidelines and noted each community in town is "somewhat different." To respond to those differences the guidelines need to reflect the variations. He would consult with "experts in the field" to determine the viability of this segregated approach.

**Minor variance limits**

Disero said "minor should be minor," but the rules the committee of adjustment must follow are set by the province. She wants to sit down with the planning department and new committee to develop a clear understanding of how a minor variance is defined in legislation and write a clear statement of what "minor" is. She said it might be necessary for council to handle all variance applications until this is done.

Goettler also wants a clear definition of what constitutes minor expressed in a percentage (he suggests something in the range of 10 to 15 per cent). He stressed this definition should be limited by the requirement for contextual architectural expression relating to the streetscape.

Zalepa said he wants "clear prescriptive guidance" on what constitutes minor. He also pre-consultation with the community prior to staff developing their recommendation for an applica-

tion so the report reflects public sentiment.

St. Davids roundabout  
Disero said a roundabout would have an adverse impact on the centre of the village and an alternative solution is essential to preserve the corner's historical significance. She said implementing the new Transportation Master Plan would discussions on the roundabout (among other things).

Goettler said a roundabout poses a threat to the integrity of the village and will increase the flow of traffic, thereby posing a challenge, particularly to children and seniors, crossing the road. Instead, he suggests using intelligent traffic lights to largely accomplish the same thing.

Zalepa said the process the region followed was thorough and thoughtful, and it should be supported to its conclusion. He said he "is not married to the outcome of the process" and if, at the conclusion, community sentiment is that it will not work for them or it can be proven that the roundabout will damage the sense of village, he will not support it.

**Preserving NOTL's character**

Each candidate was asked how they would approach working with the region and the province to preserve NOTL's unique character.

Disero said "one of my proudest achievements" is the negotiated agreement allowing for shifting density as representative of her work with the region and province. She wants to maintain open lines of communication with both upper levels of government.

Goettler said it is "imperative" to establish a "special relationship" with the province and he says the province's consideration of amalgamation shows this does not yet exist. He also wants an influential relationship with the region that reflects the town's tax contribution.

Zalepa said the lord mayor needs to be the "chief advocate for council's desires" and direction at both the region and the province. And the mayor must be "the bridge to the stakeholders in the region, the other municipalities, the province and the feds."



# Consider the **big picture** when voting in this election



David Israelson  
Special to The Lake Report

In looking at our Oct. 24 municipal election, it's hard not to think of the line in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar": "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves that we are underlings."

OK, the context is different. But Shakespeare's point is relevant to our impending vote. The problem is not necessarily with the candidates who are running — some are good, some not so much, but that always happens.

The real question is about us — are Niagara-on-the-

Lake's voters focusing on the big, long-term questions that face our town or are we deeply stuck in the weeds? It's important to know, because whomever we elect will need direction, not just complaining.

It's not completely easy to determine what NOTL's voters want. Surveys indicate that people want better parking, they want more co-operation among members of town council, Niagara Region and the District School Board of Niagara, and they'd like all the people who get elected to these positions to "get things done."

Some of the leading candidates in this election are actually running on platforms in which they say they want these things, too. They're reflecting what they hear the voters say — and that's exactly the problem.

What do these things mean? A platform to end

bickering, do more stuff and do something about parking is not a political platform — it's an echo, a repetition of the most vague, anodyne things that people say.

**“We can't blame the candidates entirely for pandering to this noise — the voters are creating it.”**

DAVID ISRAELSON  
COLUMNIST

Like all echoes, if you call out in one direction, it comes back to you, goes out and comes back and just gets fainter. But does it really communicate anything?

It's not good enough to say that our governments should be run more like a business either. That's a platitude — a government and a business have

similarities, but they're not the same. It's like saying you should run your kitchen like a bathroom — both use water, but the inputs and outputs are different.

We can't blame the candidates entirely for pandering to this noise — the voters are creating it. Rather than complain and contribute even more to the noise, let's help the candidates focus.

Others will have their own opinions, but I'm happy to start with what I really think our candidates — and we the voters — should be talking about in this election.

**Big Picture** — What kind of town do we want Niagara-on-the-Lake to be? Our economy is based largely on tourism, high-end agriculture (wine and fruit) and services to residents and visitors. Yet we hear many residents complaining about the tourist crowds, our farmland across Niagara Region is threatened by

rapacious provincial planning policies and many of the people who provide the vital services in NOTL can't afford to live here. It's going to take more than parking spaces and more hugs on council to come to terms with these issues.

**Planning** — How is that that we don't have an approved official plan so many years after we were supposed to have one? The holdup seems to have been with the regional government and ultimately with the province, which under Premier Doug Ford seems determined to pave everything and promote urban sprawl. What do the regional candidates — and those who have been on regional government — think we should do about our official plan and do they have a timeline?

**Parking** — This is obviously an issue on many people's minds, particularly in

Old Town, but there needs to be more thinking about it as part of a larger transportation issue. A big ugly garage or parking lot isn't going to fix things. Why is it that a car is so necessary in NOTL in the first place? And why, in an area that's a magnet for cyclists, is the bicycle path network so pathetically inadequate? It's too weak for a tourist area and not safe enough.

**The Future** — Do we want NOTL to be a postcard town, a geriatric Disneyland or more? Looking beautiful is great, but we need a mix of generations and families. That's what keeps a town alive. Too bad the school trustees shut down our Old Town school and our high school. Maybe we should have more schools and do away with school boards.

*David Israelson is a writer and non-practising lawyer who lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake.*

# Instituting a ward system can be a **costly, complicated** process



Ron Fritz  
Special to The Lake Report

In his Sept. 3 letter, Kenn Moody asks for a reasoned discussion about a ward system for Niagara-on-the-Lake. What follows is my attempt to do so.

I have published extensively on constructing electoral boundaries that comply with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. I have advised lawyers in three provinces who brought constitutional challenges against their respective provincial electoral boundaries.

Finally, I served as deputy chair of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Saskatchewan in the mid-1990s.

Mr. Moody seems to believe that the drawing of municipal ward boundaries could possibly be handled by a town employee. Were it only so simple.

Once you move to a ward system you must draw the boundaries in compliance

with the Charter requirements.

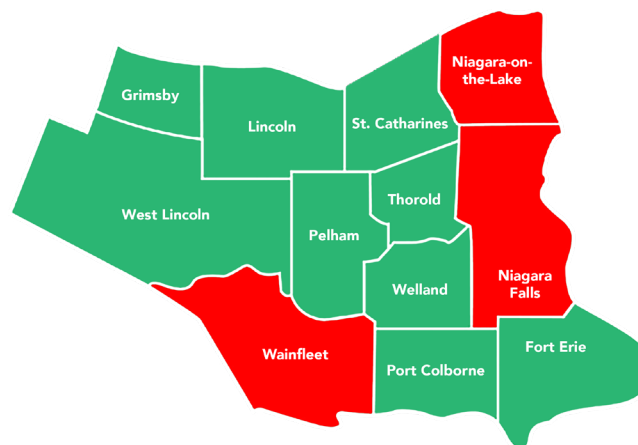
Federal electoral commissions consist of three commissioners. The chair is a judge who gives the process the patina of non-partisanship and chairs public hearings on the commission's proposed electoral boundaries.

He or she may or may not be knowledgeable about the Charter requirements. The other two members are individuals with knowledge of the requirements of the Charter and perhaps knowledge of political theories of representation.

These three have the responsibility of doing conceptual designs for the constituencies. They do this work without knowing other than in a vague way what the number of residents is in each. The number crunching is done by a technician.

Each commission is assigned a technician who is employed full-time for three or more months. The basic census data is arranged around census tracts (or areas).

Where the conceptual boundaries encompass the boundaries of the census tracts the job of calculating the number of residents is straightforward. Unfortunately that does not usually



This map of the Niagara region shows the three of 12 municipalities that don't have ward systems — Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and Wainfleet. But implementing wards isn't so simple, says Ron Fritz. ILLUSTRATION

occur.

Often the conceptual boundaries cut through census tracts, producing what are called "splits." Calculating the number of residents in a split is both time-consuming and costly.

It may turn out that the conceptual designs do not comply with the requirements of the Charter, with the result that the conceptual design must be altered and the work of the technician starts all over again.

Eventually, the proposal of the commission is produced and published. Then follows hearings to get public input. Changes may follow.

There are further steps in the federal process which would not apply to the creating of ward boundaries. It is likely that ward boundaries for NOTL could be created by one commissioner and one technician. The process would be both time-consuming and costly.

Because I don't have the new census numbers for the census tracts for NOTL, I propose to deal with St. Davids as a hypothetical.

Assume that we go forward with eight wards and a municipal quotient (average) of 2,500. Assume that Mr. Moody is correct that there are 3,000 residents in St. Davids.

To put all 3,000 into one ward producing a deviation of plus-20% could not likely be justified under the Charter.

There are two ways a commissioner might resolve this. The first would be to carve out 500 residents of St. Davids and produce a ward consisting of those residents, the residents of Queenston and a large number of rural residents in between.

A second would be to divide St. Davids along Creek Road with the eastern portion being combined with the residents of Queenston and a less large number of rural residents in between and the western portion being combined with a large number of rural residents.

In either scenario the residents of the smaller block(s) would likely feel that the votes of the dominant block will prevail and that their interests will not be shared by the person elected.

What happens if we stay with the present at-large electoral system?

Strategic voting can potentially produce the results that Mr. Moody is seeking. When voting I can cast votes for a maximum of eight candidates.

There is nothing, however, that requires a voter to

vote for eight candidates. I seldom vote for more than five or six candidates at any municipal election. These are those who I feel are the strongest candidates.

If I cast votes for additional candidates I am potentially creating unnecessary competition for my preferred candidates. In determining which candidates to vote for I also take into account whether they live in St. Davids, Glendale, Queenston or Virgil.

I also try to vote for one candidate who resides in a rural area of NOTL. This type of strategic voting would also provide more positive results for rural residents since their votes would not be carved up and allocated to various "urban" wards.

Because our population in NOTL is so small and our land mass is larger than a number of major Canadian cities where voting on a ward basis is feasible, it is not feasible for us today.

In 20 or 30 years when Glendale, St. Davids and Virgil reach their maximum development allowed under the Greenbelt legislation, this can be revisited.

*Queenston resident Ron Fritz is the former dean of the University of Saskatchewan's law school.*

# BETTY DISERO

“Continue on this journey with me, we are on a good path.  
I ask for your support as your full-time lord mayor on Oct. 24.”



## BIO

I have been involved in municipal volunteerism and leadership since 1985 and am proud to bring a wealth of experience in both the municipal government and the private sector. I served as a Niagara-on-the-Lake town councillor (2014-2018) and then as the full-time lord mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake (2018-2022). I was very proud to be the first female lord mayor. I was an active Toronto councillor (1985-2003) and ran a successful business, Boomer Consulting (2003-2014). I moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2009. Dan and I live on Butler Street and my mother Lena lives just around the corner from us. I enjoy my life in beautiful and historic Niagara-on-the-Lake through staying active in many ways, along with walks throughout the different parts of town. I am a member of the NOTL Rotary Club, Historical Society, Friends of Fort George, Horticultural Society, Shaw Guild and the Town Ambassador program. I also enjoy volunteering for numerous clubs and organizations in town by assisting and participating with the many year-round festivals and events. Throughout my career, I have demonstrated hard-working, proven leadership through an inclusive, pragmatic and conciliatory approach to planning and solving problems of managing our municipal government. As your lord mayor, I navigated the town through COVID while working with council, town staff, residents and businesses to maintain our cultural, heritage and economic integrity. I am committed to continue this full-time dedication.

## Top 3 Priorities

- Financial accountability.
- Finalizing our vision.
- Services for the community.

## PLAN OF ATTACK

**Financial accountability:** Building the town administration with the new CAO and team to better serve the public, while modernizing and continuing to make the budget expenditures more efficient. Completing implementation of new revenue streams (establishing the municipal accommodation tax (MAT) to help build tourism infrastructure without placing the burden on residents).

**Finalizing our vision:** Understanding and reviewing what changes need to be made to existing bylaws to preserve our neighbourhoods, culture, heritage and institutional properties. Concentrating on the integration of the official plan, zoning bylaw and a new tourism strategy to minimize impact to the community. They cannot be approved in isolation.

**Services for the community:** Building and supporting new infrastructure to meet community needs (eight new major parks improvements this term across all our communities, the Niagara Nursery School expansion, the new doctors' offices, the work scheduled to revitalize the Virgil commercial district) are just a few of our initiatives and accomplishments. We need to increase space and activities for our youth, increase medical services for all and establish seniors assisted living.

## A MESSAGE FROM BETTY

We are in a much better place than we were four years ago. Even with the global pandemic, in partnership with you, we were able to:

1. Improve our financial position by increasing the capital reserve, finding new sources of revenue and stricter spending controls.
2. Get to near-completion on our planning objectives to protect both our natural and built form heritage, encourage maintaining village feel in all of our settlement areas and protect our vibrant farm lands.
3. Build good infrastructure projects in parks, increase road improvements and enhance community services.





# VAUGHN GOETTLER

**“Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all love of what you are doing – or learning to do. Value your team.”**

– Pelé Brazilian, greatest international footballer



## BIO

I am a proud husband, father, grandfather and businessman. I grew up in Hamilton and have three university degrees, including my MBA from McMaster. After completing my education, I entered the business world and held progressive management positions in various industries. Eventually, I became an entrepreneur in the residential heating and air conditioning world and built a small business into the largest privately held HVAC residential contractor in Canada with locations in five provinces and over 1,000 employees. This did not happen by chance or good luck, but rather by building a team, creating a vision and executing plans on a daily basis.

My wife and I were married in Niagara on the Lake and later moved into our heritage home here in 2015. We chose to live in this community and have made NOTL our forever home. The people, the geography and the heritage of NOTL inspired us to establish the Goettler Family Foundation, which is involved in various local philanthropic commitments, including the arts, both amateur and professional, education, history and environment.

This year, I have retired from the active management of my company, leaving me with the time and opportunity to tackle the very real and serious challenges facing Niagara-on-the-Lake.

## Top 3 Priorities

- Save NOTL from amalgamation and becoming a suburb of Niagara Falls.
- Tourism strategy addressing traffic, parking and related issues; promoting agriculture and safe bicycle tourism.
- Community development including senior and youth amenities, housing and local school solutions.

## PLAN OF ATTACK

Create and lead a functional council and qualified town staff team who work together and achieve agreed-upon goals within allotted time-frames. Address provincial densification requirements, achieve UNESCO designation for NOTL, establish a sustainable and transparent budget that is communicated to all constituents in layman’s language, so that it is understood by all. Set committed targets with firm completion dates and respective budget, for all initiatives and introduce a “watch-dog role” to hold council and staff accountable to their mandates. Meet with all constituents and stakeholders to develop effective strategies to solve issues and maximize opportunities: Negotiating with the region, Parks Canada and the province to find effective traffic, parking and noise solutions, as well as having effective transit solutions, including safe and proper bicycle lanes on our roads. Business stakeholders must be engaged to develop new tourist target market approaches such as the introduction of Relais & Chateau hotels and Michelin star restaurants. Agricultural stakeholders must be key members of the process to develop agri-tourism and bicycle tourism strategies, as they tend to complement each other. Develop an official plan with clear policies and bylaws and ensure that these are understood, followed and enforced consistently as required, thereby eliminating the ambiguity that leads to conflict and legal action. Ensure there are adequate and well-trained enforcement resources in place to achieve this mandate. Engage with the community and its developers in order to ensure that they understand the town’s official plan and bylaws and that development meets the needs of constituents and protects the town’s heritage.

## A MESSAGE FROM VAUGHN

There are times in our lives when we are on the cusp of something great, either in terms of success or failure. NOTL is facing serious challenges to its very existence as a unique entity with the pressures of Niagara amalgamation looming. In the absence of a plan to control our destiny, we are inviting failure. “Plan or be planned for” has never been more relevant than it is today in our town — whether that be in our households, our businesses, our schools or our government. The choice each day is with us to determine who we want to be and how we want to get there.





# GARY ZALEPA

**“Common sense leadership – for council, the town and our community.”**



## BIO

I have been a lifelong resident of Niagara and moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in my teens. I have been in politics for over 15 years, as NOTL town councillor from 2008-2014 and our town's regional councillor for the past four years. During this time, I served on many committees: chair, NOTL urban design committee; chair, Region of Niagara budget committee of the whole; chair, Niagara Regional Housing; municipal heritage committee member and chair of town planning and community services. Following high school, I studied business and political science at Brock University. My wife Tammy and I live in Old Town with our two sons, Nathan and Benjamin. I have over 30 years business and volunteer experience. I have owned a local real estate brokerage, managed a large brokerage firm in Toronto and now work from my home office for a national real estate company as vice-president of brand expansion. I have enjoyed volunteering in our community as a referee and coach for NOTL minor hockey, coach for minor soccer, board member of Red Roof Retreat, Music Niagara, RiverBrink Art Museum, chair 809 Newark Squadron sponsor committee, Royal Canadian Air Cadets and warden at St. Mark's Church. I have always found ways to get involved, work with others and make things better. My business experience and time on town council and regional council, including the various committees and boards, allows me to positively serve our community. I am experienced in leading functional meetings and ensuring healthy conversations. I am a leader and excited to lead our town into the future.

## A MESSAGE FROM GARY

Over 10 years in elected positions, I have demonstrated that I do my homework, that I am always prepared, I engage meaningfully with residents, and I work respectfully with staff and colleagues. As a result, I make timely decisions and I do not ask for more study and delay. My strength is in leading organizations and people. Through collaboration and listening we will build trust and set a sustainable future for Niagara-on-the-Lake.



## Top 3 Priorities

- Improved tone and functionality of council.
- Restoring the town's capacity to service residents.
- Heritage protection and restoration balanced with managing growth.

## PLAN OF ATTACK

Long, ineffective meetings characterize our council meetings and this is damaging the town's effectiveness and reputation. I bring a strong background in governance expertise and a proven track record running effective meetings, providing leadership to council. I want to lead the newly elected council into a robust strategic planning process that will establish community vision and prioritized action items to focus efforts. The lack of clear direction must be rectified and overloading staff with issues not related to top priorities must stop.

Contact the town and receive timely communication: that must be the service expectation. Today, this is not the case. A strong healthy culture of support is needed, with council adhering to its role in policy and supporting staff in delivering the day-to-day operations. We need to deal with staff retention issues and ensure that we can recruit the necessary talent to deliver council's direction.

We are fortunate to have unique heritage assets, landscapes, built structures and historically significant places. With that comes pressure, including visitors and growth. This is our opportunity not our demise. Our planning and growth policies must align more closely with the community expectations. We need community validation of the vision for growth in each of our unique villages. This validation will inform growth policies and bring greater clarity and satisfaction to all stakeholders.

# 13 FOR TOWN COUNCILLOR.



**ELECTION  
 2022**

## TIM BALASIUK



### BIO

Having the privilege of growing up in the hospitality and tourism industry, I have had the fortunate opportunity of being raised in a community that has seen tremendous growth in all sectors. Having worked myself in hospitality, including the Pillar and Post, founded by my grandfather in the 1970s, seeing the value of future tourism in our community is something that is in my blood. Founding Paddle Niagara 10 years ago has allowed me to connect with my community. Teaching water safety on the river and lake is my passion. I love this town and strongly feel a responsibility for preserving it, both in recognition of my family’s role in its history, but also my desire to make it the best it can be for future generations.

**“Community-minded at the roots.”**

### Top 3 Priorities

- Community planning/traffic plan.
- Tourism strategy.
- Create a recreational plan.

### PLAN OF ATTACK

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a beautiful town that has been facing some growth challenges. Each village of NOTL – Old Town, Virgil, Queenston, St. Davids and Glendale – has its own unique needs. This a wonderful opportunity to put contextual zoning in place and address the proposed traffic plan.

Our tourism industry is our lifeline. Many of our residents work in either our agricultural or hospitality industries. These industries in return rely on our visitors. We need to create a tourism strategy for responsible and viable growth to balance both our residents and visitors alike.

There is no doubt with a growing community our recreational needs are evolving. Niagara is alive and well with active retirement and young families who are seeking recreational services. We need a long-term vision for our recreational plan and how it will serve the community as a whole.





# GARY BURROUGHS

## BIO

I have lived and worked in Niagara-on-the-Lake for most of my life and I am passionate about this town. I'm running for re-election because the town is changing and I want to ensure it changes for the better. A chartered accountant by trade, I spent 30 years running the Oban Inn with my wife, Sarah, whose family has been in NOTL for generations. Throughout the years I have seen the challenges facing our town and that inspired me into service as NOTL lord mayor (2000-2010), regional chair (2010-2014) and regional councillor (2014-2018), as well as town councillor (2018-2022). I have also been honoured to be named NOTL Citizen of the Year (2010) and Niagara Foundation Living Landmark recipient (2015).

**“Let’s work together to support all of our thriving communities.”**

## Top 3 Priorities

- Upgrade the town’s zoning bylaw to protect streetscapes and complete the official plan.
- Create a tourism strategy to better address the needs of residents and the tourism sector.
- Improve communication so each community is empowered to contribute to its own critical decisions.

## PLAN OF ATTACK

To begin with, I will use my considerable experience to get our town to the table on decisions involving upper-tier governments, including the region, province and the feds. Our town must be “at the table” when any decision is made on issues that will affect local properties, especially when they are owned by outsiders. Examples include Upper Canada Lodge, the intersection in St. Davids, Glendale, Highway 55 through Virgil and more. Development in Niagara-on-the-Lake should be considered carefully and with duty to future generations to keep what is unique and important to our heritage, while allowing our communities and businesses to grow and prosper. I have the knowledge, integrity and experience to do what is best for the residents of NOTL.

PAID FOR BY GARY BURROUGHS

# WENDY CHEROPITA



## BIO

Born and raised in Niagara, I have a business degree, with post-graduate studies in strategic planning and finance. I spent 20 years in leadership roles with top global wine companies, including roles in education, brand management and strategy. The experience helped me build valuable business skills and shaped my personal integrity. In six years leading the branding and marketing strategy for the Ontario wine industry I successfully drove growth and negotiated over \$5 million in annual marketing funding. I am a retired strategic planning consultant, adept at driving growth and efficiencies for small businesses. I am committed to preserving the rich history, heritage, charming neighbourhoods, farmland and cultural resources that make NOTL a wonderful place to live, retire or raise a family.

## Top 3 Priorities

- Plans to guide the future: Create a clear and documented vision for our community.
- Prioritize the big issues: Those that matter most to residents.
- Financial sustainability: Keep tax increases low, ensure funding for major projects.

## PLAN OF ATTACK

Community vision: Identify what we want built and where we want to build it, including services, hospitals and schools. Fix planning policies, implement a community permit planning system, return to contextual zoning and design guidelines to preserve heritage character and streetscape compatibility in all villages. Expand heritage district. Obtain funding for crumbling infrastructure. Complete an economic impact study, including economic impact of tourism in NOTL. Use data to build compelling case for infrastructure investment from the province, including bicycle lanes and shuttles. Get what the community needs built by influencing developers before applications are submitted. Seniors residences, rental apartments. Recreational facilities and services for young families. Guide Glendale expansion. Short-term rental bylaw – protect neighbourhoods from offenders. Tourism strategy: Create a sustainable economic future, tackle traffic safety, congestion and protect quality of life. Streamline simple building permits for farmers, small businesses. Complete work in the docklands. Financial sustainability: Address shortfalls in capital and reserve funding, avoid large tax increases.

**“Together, we can shape the future of our town and keep it a wonderful place to live, work and visit.”**

PAID FOR BY WENDY CHEROPITA





## ALISTAIR (AJ) HARLOND

### BIO

I grew up in a small town in England and moved to Canada in my late teens. I discovered NOTL when I landed a job at the Shaw Festival not too long after. This beautiful, quaint town drew me in and I was determined to make this place my permanent home one day. Meeting my wife Irene, a farm girl in town, helped make that happen. Fast-forward 22 years and we are married with two teenaged children, living in Virgil. I have run our family-owned small business for the past 18 years and proudly serve our town as a firefighter in Glendale, which for me is a small way to give back to my community.

**“Honesty brings clarity and clarity gives us a good opportunity to make great decisions.”**

### Top 3 Priorities

- An open and transparent government.
- Reinvigorate active community engagement at all levels.
- Balanced and responsible growth while preserving our great history.

### PLAN OF ATTACK

As an elected leader of our community, I will be a good listener to everyone, keep you informed on what we are doing and why we are doing it, while making some tough decisions on issues so they do not drag on with no resolution. NOTL is a thriving town with so much potential to grow this great community for all to live in. Although tourists are a big focus and much-needed, I would like to see residents come together as a community by having events like the Supper Market, which supports so many of our local small businesses and brings us together on a weekly basis. It is inevitable that NOTL will grow as we see development and tourism rise. A well-balanced growth plan is important to maintain our heritage, while making sure the best decisions are being made for the well-being of our community, long-term.

PAID FOR BY ALISTAIR HARLOND

## MARIA MAVRIDIS



### BIO

My family moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake 30 years ago and we have owned and operated businesses on Queen Street for just as long. After graduating from Niagara District Secondary School, I studied business marketing. I have lived in Old Town, Glendale and presently in Virgil, where my daughter Hope attends Crossroads Public School. I have volunteered in the community through the Niagara Nursery School board, NOTL Museum fundraising committee and as an advisor on the Lord Mayor's youth advisory committee. Partnering with local businesses for events, I have been able to honour a promise made to my mother about giving back to our community and raising funds for Niagara charities with Anchor Niagara. In 2021, I was presented with the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce's Community Impact Award for Anchor Niagara.

### Top 3 Priorities

- Tourism strategy plan.
- Culture and heritage.
- Young families.

### PLAN OF ATTACK

I believe that we are one community and all decisions at council should be made collaboratively with input from residents, business owners and tourism partners. My priorities for this town are a balanced tourism sector, young families, and preserving our culture and heritage — which includes our agricultural community. Tourism is an important part of this community as we are a world cultural and heritage destination. As our town is discovered and enjoyed by visitors, we need to ensure that it does not negatively impact us as residents. In order to achieve this harmony, a tourism strategy should be our first priority as a new council. This strategy will guide the master transportation plan, address noise bylaws and allow for us to finalize the short-term rental policies. Finalizing and implementing these plans will manage many issues that we have been addressing for decades.

**“Preserve our past, while creating our future.”**

PAID FOR BY MARIA MAVRIDIS



# JOHN MCCALLUM

## BIO

I was born in Ottawa and had a nomadic accounting career working in New Zealand, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and London. This came to an abrupt end on a ski vacation in Austria where I met a red-haired Irish businesswoman who stole my heart while learning to ski. Three children later, back in Ottawa, I accepted a position as senior internal auditor with McKinsey & Co., the world's leading management consulting firm. To be successful, McKinsey had to do three things consistently for every client: Solve problems with innovative but practical ideas, be financially responsible (build a budget and stick to it) and make tough decisions. That's what I did every day for 12 years. I want to do the same here.

**“If you see a problem, fix it or tell someone who can.”**

## Top 3 Priorities

- Develop guidelines that protect the character of our neighbourhoods while facilitating growth.
- Complete a transportation plan that reduces vehicular use.
- Create more supported living environments for seniors.

## PLAN OF ATTACK

We need input from NOTL and the development community to establish clear rules related to development. This includes contextual zoning, heritage designation, setbacks, height restrictions, etc. Then we need to create and communicate a clear set of rules that everyone must follow. We need to bring visitors, not cars, into our town. I want to build a plan that includes links to mass transit and remote parking with shuttles, which can also be used by local residents for getting about town. Our region depends on the health of our environment and transportation is irrevocably linked to climate change. We are all getting older and we must plan for it. The town has assets it can use to promote aging-in-place as well as creating modern health care facilities. We need to use innovative thinking around ownership and cost-sharing to create a plan and execute it.

PAID FOR BY JOHN MCCALLUM

# RICHARD MELL



## BIO

I moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake 12 years ago from the U.K., after completing my degree in criminology and psychology at the University of Hull. I am proud to be co-owner of Grape Escape Wine Tours and also a licensed real estate broker with Sotheby's International Realty Canada. I know from experience what motivation, hard work and dedication can achieve and I am not afraid of any challenge. I am extremely passionate about becoming one of your next town councillors and want nothing more than to represent our residents, community and small businesses in the very best way I possibly can. I will bring a reasoned, rational and common sense approach to the future sustainability of our town.

## Top 3 Priorities

- Protecting history and heritage with a sustainable, strategic growth vision.
- Building a “resident first” comprehensive tourism strategy.
- Advocating for our municipality at the regional level.

## PLAN OF ATTACK

Having just 150 words is simply not enough to outline my skill set to be able to represent our community, residents and small businesses. I welcome the opportunity to chat with anyone who has questions for me and would love the opportunity to speak with you. Please feel free to reach out any time by emailing me at richardmellnotl@gmail.com with your questions directly, or to set up a time to meet and discuss further. This is your opportunity to learn about who you would like to represent you over the next four years. One thing I can promise you, is that I am committed to be a strong advocate for you. I will listen to your concerns and amplify your voices. I will work tirelessly to be the very best representative for our community as a whole. I kindly ask for your support on Oct. 24.

**“I will be a dedicated and strong voice for our entire community.”**





## SANDRA O'CONNOR

### BIO

I was raised in the Niagara region and completed my bachelor's degree in geography and urban planning at Brock University. Over my 30-year career, I acquired experience in management and consultancy for multiple scientific organizations in the government, private sector, professional associations and academia. In particular, my experience running my own geomatics consulting company gave me experience in developing, growing and maintaining a successful business. I have always been at the service of my community, from neighbourhood community association president, member of professional organizations, to various municipal committees. I believe in giving back and supporting people, as I have served you on council this term. My family is very supportive: daughter Kelly, son-in-law Christian, step-daughter Claire and stepson Neil.

**“Vote for Sandra. Vote for NOTL’s future while respecting the past.”**

### Top 3 Priorities

- Sustainable community: Balance growth needs with environmental health and heritage.
- Health care: A walk-in clinic for all. The town needs health care infrastructure to thrive.
- Sustainable tourism: A balance of socio-cultural, economic and environmental elements.

### PLAN OF ATTACK

**Sustainable community:** Finalize the official plan, complete secondary plans and zoning bylaws to implement the official plan’s objectives. Include contextual zoning and variable density, ensure that all plans are complementary, explore extending the heritage district and designations, protect agricultural land, consider low-impact development and green infrastructure, increase our tree canopy and ensure adequate green spaces in the urban environment, implement the NOTL Climate Change Adaptation Plan, ensure new infrastructure projects use engineering standards for increased climate parameters, create environmental policy based on evidence. **Health care:** Finalize transition plan for nurse practitioner and walk-in clinic, advocate for future infrastructure needs. **Sustainable tourism:** Complete NOTL’s tourism strategy, addressing the needs of residents, visitors, industry and environment, fully implement the accommodation tax, explore a hop-on, hop-off shuttle for tourists with parking outside of Old Town, implement traffic calming features to increase safety, strengthen bylaw enforcement, examine short-term rental density and increase enforcement.

PAID FOR BY SANDRA O'CONNOR

## KATHERINE REID



### BIO

I started working in the wine industry immediately after graduation from McMaster University. I started as a research assistant for Chateau des Charmes on the project “Clonal Selection for Winter Hardiness,” applying my statistical background. I also worked for Sunnybrook Farm Estate Wines, which started after tons of peaches were damaged or undersized. I have worked for the Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corp. as a database programmer. They lent my services to the region to develop the database for the casino that was built in Niagara Falls. I am currently the winemaker at Joseph’s Estate Wines and have been there since the winery opened in September 1996.

### Top 3 Priorities

- Be the voice of the small players.
- Use my skills in community service fundraising, geography, planning, statistics and committee co-operation.
- Use my experience in working with youth to bring in activities for the town’s young families.

### PLAN OF ATTACK

I am a person who looks at the numbers and applies the appropriate measures. Manipulated data is not done in research. I have studied statistics at McMaster. That could be applied to the way to do business. Teams always need the star and the leader. They also need the people who will work as team players. I have known of several people who have sold their home in the area to move east as it is more affordable. I want seniors to be able to stay here, as not all longtime residents have big pensions that grow beyond inflation. Hannah Schmitz of Red Bull is the Formula 1 racing team strategist. She recommends the split-second changes to make during a race, behind the scenes. I want to be Hannah for the town.

**“A mind needs books like a sword needs a whetstone, if it is to keep its edge. That is why I read so much.”**

- George R.R. Martin, “Game of Thrones”





## NICK RULLER

### BIO

Raised in Virgil, I have lived a life of community service. I began serving as a volunteer firefighter in Old Town, before being hired as a career firefighter in Toronto. In 2017, I returned as the deputy fire chief and was appointed fire chief in 2019. Earlier this year, I accepted a management position as a platoon chief with a large GTA fire service. A lifelong learner, I have completed a master of arts in leadership through the University of Guelph, a graduate certificate from UNC-Chapel Hill in community preparedness and disaster management, and am a graduate of Ryerson University's politics and public administration program. Recently, I completed a certificate program in diversity and inclusion through Cornell University.

**“Niagara-on-the-Lake’s success hinges on establishing an empathic, cohesive, outcome-focused council for 2022-2026.”**

### Top 3 Priorities

- Need to be more strategic, anticipatory, proactive and outcome-focused.
- Improve relationships between staff and council to address organizational culture.
- Better representation of the distinct communities and stakeholders.

### PLAN OF ATTACK

The 2018-2022 term of council has seen significant investment in various comprehensive studies to set long-term strategic direction for the town. Consequently, the incoming council must prepare to be decisive and expeditious to ensure that these studies are capitalized on. The finalization of the transportation master plan, official plan and the tourism strategy must be prioritized to ensure that the shift to implementation is not unnecessarily delayed. Organizational culture is created by default or design. Council must work with the CAO to identify strategies to address staff turnover, recruitment, retention and, ultimately, productivity. By creating a strong organizational culture aligned with council's objectives, we can expect an increase in employee productivity and, therefore, increase council's overall effectiveness. We each live in various distinct communities with their own unique needs. The demographic diversity of our communities warrants a renewed focus on ensuring council sets policy and provides direction that will lead to the development of a community for all. Simply put, a one-solution-for-all approach no longer works.

PAID FOR BY NICK RULLER

## ADRIANA CATER VIZZARI



### BIO

I was born and raised in Niagara and after attending the University of Waterloo for business and human resources management I moved to NOTL with my husband Cory. We live in St. Davids, where we are raising our four children. I love being active in the community and you can often find me at any of our town parks and facilities. I spent my career to date working in a family business as well as in residential and commercial property management. While I have extensive experience in human resources and accounting, working with people is what I enjoy most. I take great pride in my communication and relationship-building skills. I have been the chair of the St. Davids Pool Committee for the past four years, where I advocated for a provincially supported, fully accessible community facility. This experience, combined with the lack of St. Davids representation on council and my passion for community service, are what drove me to run in this election.

### Top 3 Priorities

- Address the needs of young families both today and in the future.
- Ensure transparent and equitable budgeting that accounts for all of NOTL.
- Provide representation for the currently unrepresented residents of St. Davids.

### PLAN OF ATTACK

Young families are choosing NOTL and their interests need representation. I often hear and share in parents' frustration when it comes to accessibility of child care, recreational facilities and programming, and even green spaces. You can count on me to advocate this perspective. A proper growth management strategy is essential and in doing so, we need to balance spending. I have a background in finance and accounting and I plan to push for a process that is open and equitable when it comes to allocating funds. Families, and all residents, want to understand where their tax dollars are going and how they're benefiting. It's important to me that residents feel welcome to bring their concerns forward. I am approachable and authentic — I want to hear about your frustrations because I genuinely care. Assisting with the issues that affect your everyday life and making the “customer experience” a positive one matters to me. You can count on me to be highly responsive and get you an answer when you reach out. I have the time, energy and skill set to be your representative and it would be an honour to do so.

**“Young families need strong representation on council.”**

FOR TOWN COUNCILLOR

S15  
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Special Edition  
Lakereport.ca

**ELECTION**  
**2022**



# ERWIN WIENS

## BIO

Born and raised in Niagara-on-the-Lake, I attended elementary and high school in town before going to Carleton University where I met Dorothy. We have four daughters and a son-in-law. I grew up in a farming family and now farm 90 acres of grapes. In 2020, I retired from the Hamilton Police Service with 31 years service including five years at Peel Regional Police. I have been on town council since 2018, a board member of the Grape Growers of Ontario since 2015 and also serving on the board of the Grape & Wine Festival until 2021. Dorothy and I are members of the Niagara Lions Club, where I serve as the president and we are members of Cornerstone Community Church.

**“A proven voice, at all government levels, that is straightforward and steady.”**

## Top 3 Priorities

- Agriculture sustainability and the Greenbelt’s conservation.
- Responsible investment, accountable budgeting and collaborative town planning.
- Improve tourism through dialogue and action.

## PLAN OF ATTACK

Niagara-on-the-Lake is 75 per cent Greenbelt. As the only rural candidate and a second-generation Niagara farmer, I will continue to represent the Greenbelt, farmers and the rural community. I have been a proven voice municipally, provincially and federally, and will continue to leverage those relationships for the benefit of the town. “Every day is budget day” and every decision rests on fiscal responsibility and the accountable use of residents’ money. A strong, responsible and sustainable budget with true collaboration and communication to avoid litigation will ensure the success of the town into the future. The town requires a strong tourism strategy that encompasses resident, business and tourist needs. This is only accomplished through proper engagement of residents, businesses, the Chamber of Commerce and agriculture.

PAID FOR BY ERWIN WIENS

# 4

# FOR REGIONAL COUNCILLOR







# PAT DARTE

## BIO

My work as lord mayor, regional councillor, a regional business owner, my involvement with many boards and foundations and work directly with families in need through my former funeral home and work with Family and Children's Services, hospitals and many community groups has opened my eyes, allowed me to meet with influencers and people in strategic areas that will allow me to reach people who know and trust me. I know how to get things done and I have the tools.

**“I have the foresight, desire, background and passion to get it done.”**

## Top 3 Priorities

- Regional taxation, especially NOTL's policing portion.
- Glendale plan — opportunity for new taxes, jobs and housing.
- Regional transportation – for health care and education workers, and employees of area businesses.

## PLAN OF ATTACK

In order to accomplish these items, and more, it comes down to having the historical background that I received from being on regional council already. In fact, I already started on each of them while I was a regional councillor. It will take a lot of forethought and outside thinking and not taking the conventional route to move forward. People are tired of the same old thing with nothing accomplished. We need a new, combined effort with government, business and residents to make things happen. I have worked on the Glendale plan from the beginning. Now it is time to make sure it works best for NOTL. In 2014, I got our transportation system back up and running after it shut down. Communication is going to be one of the key components to it all. In all of my former positions in the community, government and business, I have made many friends who we will need to call upon.

PAID FOR BY PAT DARTE

# ANDREA KAISER



## BIO

I am a local mother of two adult children, businesswoman, community leader, and former three-term NOTL town councillor (2003-2014). I am a lifelong resident of our community, having grown up on Line 3 with my siblings and parents Silvia and Karl Kaiser. After completing my honours BA in history and politics at the University of Guelph, I returned home to run one of our family's businesses in Old Town. Since this time, I have owned and/or operated several small businesses in town including Drea's Wine Co., which produces award-winning wines of international acclaim. Most importantly, however, I am a steadfast champion of Niagara-on-the-Lake and all that makes it such a special place to live.

## Top 3 Priorities

- Fair regional tax with focus on transportation and police services.
- Recognition of Niagara-on-the-Lake's unique character and heritage assets.
- Sustainable planning for economic prosperity, environmental stewardship and social inclusion.

## PLAN OF ATTACK

In addition to my business experience, I have served NOTL in many capacities over the past 20 years. First and foremost, during my tenure on council, I chaired the town's standing committees on public works, planning, corporate services, small scale accommodation review and fair taxation. I have also served on the municipal heritage Committee, NOTL Public Library board. Beyond council, I have served as a board member of the Chamber of Commerce, chaired the Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake marketing collaborative, have been a board member of Ontario Craft Wineries and presently serve as the chair of the Ontario Sustainable Winegrowing Certification Program. I plan to use the breadth and depth of my experience in leadership and collaboration to work with other regional councillors to deliver tangible results for the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake. I have earned a reputation as someone who can bring people together to find common ground while tackling difficult issues.

**“I will provide authentic local leadership, with a focus on long-term sustainability.”**





## PAOLO MIELE

### BIO

I have been a lifelong resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake. I was a town councillor from 2014 to 2018 and I have served on several committees: vice-chair, of NOTL's community policing committee, chair of the town's budget committee, and member of NOTL's agriculture committee and the irrigation committee. I am a longtime member of the Virgil Business Association, helping with the Virgil Stampede. Last winter, I was responsible for the creation of our outdoor ice rink at the Virgil arena. My wife Adriana and I live in rural St. Davids with our three children. Sophia and Felicia attend university in Ottawa and Toronto, and Michael is in Grade 6 at St. Davids Public School. I have 25 years in business. We own the Good Eats Diner and we are grape growers.

**“Niagara-on-the-Lake and its needs are my commitment to you.”**

## Top 3 Priorities

- Property taxes and economic stability.
- Road safety, transit and traffic.
- Long-term care, medical services.

## PLAN OF ATTACK

Niagara-on-the-Lake regional issues people have been talking to me about property taxes, economic stability, jobs, road safety and traffic, more police officers in town, transit, long-term care, more medical services, agriculture, and expansion of our irrigation system.

My experience on town council and my years of business experience are what is needed in the region and together we will do it. I get things done. Let's make it happen. I will work with other rural mayors and regional councillors to get our fair share of regional tax dollars reinvested in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

My promise is to put Niagara-on-the-Lake first. My business experience and time on the town council and various committees allow me to positively get the job done. Residents want and need to be engaged, feeling that they contribute and make a difference. I believe that public engagement shapes our future I am available by phone, email and social media.

PAID FOR BY PAOLO MIELE

## WILLIAM ROBERTS



### BIO

William Roberts brings a wealth of experience locally and globally from his work in legislatures and boards, health care consulting, community leadership development, ministry in churches, including St. Mark's in Old Town. He has an M.Div and an MBA from American universities. He welcomes our American visitors back across the border. William first came to NOTL when his mother wanted dinner out with her four sons and Mennonite son-in-law before she died in 1976. She chose the Pillar and Post. He played his first game of Trivial Pursuit here, his first time at Shaw was a prophetic performance of Chekhov's "A Cherry Orchard." With his beloved wife Eileen, they have six children and seven grandchildren, and care deeply for future generations.

## Top 3 Priorities

- Fiscal accountability for the \$35 million a year NOTL taxpayers send to the region.
- Improving access to health care services with a healthy environment.
- Opening a community office that is accessible and responsive to residents' concerns.

## PLAN OF ATTACK

To examine the value for \$35 million annually that we send to Niagara Region I will work to have an audit review of our share of regional spending. The province has an auditor general scrutinizing government spending. We need a similar review at the region. Working with locals who have financial expertise, such as Gary Burroughs and John McCallum, I will provide an annual financial report of the findings to residents. Working with local groups such as the Niagara North Family Health Team, Community Wellness Committee, Palliative Care and others, together with our MPP Wayne Gates, I will clearly identify and advocate for the urgent unmet needs, especially for seniors. I will open a community office and work full-time to hear from residents about issues and concerns, and provide more timely and informative reports on what the region is planning and doing that affects us.

**“I am value-driven and data-driven, collaborating to champion NOTL's best interests.”**

PAID FOR BY WILLIAM ROBERTS





## KATE BAGGOT

### BIO

I am one of four trustees currently representing the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the city of St. Catharines. In March 2022 I was the only trustee to vote against preserving the status quo in electoral boundaries. “We have students in Niagara-on-the-Lake who attend high school in Niagara Falls, and that has often raised the issue that they don’t get to select their representation,” I said at the board meeting. “I’m not sure protecting the status quo is very comfortable.” I am an anti-racist who believes love is love. I advocate for compliance with the Safe Schools Act to work against sexual violence in schools and support those who have experienced it.

**“Public education is a right for everyone. Trustees must protect it.”**

## Top 3 Priorities

- Examining policies to ensure compliance with the Safe Schools Act.
- Advocating to protect the enshrined human rights of all students.
- Supporting policies that encourage diversity, equity and inclusion.

## PLAN OF ATTACK

Make no mistake. I am a passionate parent who has raised her children to play fair, work hard and think critically. I believe that their generation and their younger counterparts are fundamentally excellent people because they respect others and let them be themselves. In a country where adults have failed to correct profound threats to their environment, to their food system, and their very futures, educational policies that respect and encourage fairness, equality and safety are the very least we can provide for them.

PAID FOR BY KATE BAGGOT

## ALEX BRADNAM



### BIO

During his last 40-plus years in education, Alex Bradnam has been involved in all aspects of education as a teacher, teacher federation president, then as an administrator, and now as a public school trustee for St. Catharines and NOTL. He also is vice-chair of the District School Board of Niagara. Alex has sat on all sides of the education table and spent countless hours sitting on all DSBN committees, advocating for students with special needs, workplace health and safety issues, and as part of the DSBN’s diversity, equity and inclusion committee. He is widely respected by his former students, parents, staff and senior administration. Alex is always active, accessible and authentic. He is not afraid to ask the tough questions but with respect and appreciation for those with whom he works.

## Top 3 Priorities

- Learning recovery supports — to catch up students from COVID losses.
- Providing safe schools — to protect our students and staff at all times.
- Mental health well-being — supporting students and staff who need this help.

## PLAN OF ATTACK

Our students have missed approximately two and a half years of consistent classroom learning and extracurricular activities. With the help of the Ministry of Education we are providing enhanced funding for student learning recovery resulting in the hiring of the equivalent of 40 elementary renewal support teachers, both full and part-time, to support learning renewal in our classrooms. In secondary schools, we are adding 10 renewal support teachers who are primarily focused on recovery for Grade 9 and 10 students and destreamed classes. We are also providing funding to access classroom tutors in all grades for the entire 2022-2023 school year to help our students catch up. It is the duty of the DSBN to provide all students and staff with a safe and caring environment in all of our sites so they know they are protected, respected and valued on their educational journey. Regardless of race, creed, gender and orientation, all of our students and staff will have the supports inside and outside of the classroom to thrive.

**“Always active, always accessible, always authentic. Re-elect vice-chair Alex Bradnam, DSBN trustee.”**

PAID FOR BY ALEX BRADNAM



# OUR HERITAGE IS AN ELECTION ISSUE

From Old Town to St. Davids and Virgil, from Queenston to Glendale and everywhere in between, the heritage of Niagara-on-the-Lake is at risk.

The Niagara Foundation posed several questions to the candidates for Lord Mayor, Town Councillor and Regional Councillor to get their views on heritage, planning and development matters. Here's how the mayoral candidates responded to one of the Foundation's questions:

Many residents are angry and frustrated over the type of building that has been going on recently. How do you view the issue of contextual architecture, and do you think the Town should adopt and enforce policies around it?

## BETTY DISERO

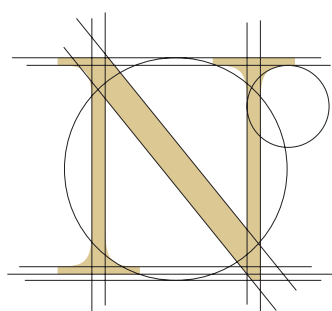
"I know this is an issue that is very important to the town. I support contextual zoning. It was in place until 2009 and then removed. Since then, we have seen homes being built that are out of context with our heritage environment. It is starting to escalate and we must return to contextual zoning."

## VAUGHN GOETTLER

"I absolutely support contextual architecture, respect for sufficient lot size, protection of our urban forest and wildlife corridors, with cautious and wise development programs moving forward. I totally share our residents' anger with inappropriate architectural designs and over building."

## GARY ZALEPA

"In principle contextual architecture and related policies appear to be a good process for managing the concerns mentioned. Having seen the use of such policies not be effective in the past causes me to wish to investigate how the previous issues can be resolved so that a contextual framework can be successful."



THE NIAGARA  
FOUNDATION

In the upcoming election, be informed. Find all the candidates' answers to other questions we asked on our website: [theniagarafoundation.com](http://theniagarafoundation.com)

[info@theniagarafoundation.com](mailto:info@theniagarafoundation.com)





ELECT TO BE  
THE BEST WE CAN BE.

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## WE ARE ENGEL & VÖLKERS

This year I've elected to help our community by sponsoring events like Niagara Polo, the NOTL Chamber of Commerce golf tournament and Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club's Icewine Cocktail Party. When voting in this election, choose candidates who will bring the best of themselves to NOTL, in every aspect of what they do.

That's the Nancy Bailey way.

Learn more at [nancybailey.evrealstate.com](https://nancybailey.evrealstate.com)



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**NANCY BAILEY**