



## NEWS RELEASE

# Niagara-on-the-Lake's Temporary Patio Program to Conclude in 2025

For Immediate Release

March 7, 2025

At its February 25, 2025, meeting, Council directed Staff to conclude the Temporary Patio Program on December 31, 2025, discontinue work on the proposed Seasonal Patio Program, and report back on the development of a potential Queen Street Secondary Plan.

The Program remains in effect until December 31, 2025. Eligible businesses in the urban area can continue to apply for patio permits for the 2025 spring and summer seasons as of March 1, 2025.

The Temporary Patio Program was introduced in 2020 to support local businesses recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Since its inception, Council has extended the program annually, allowing Staff to evaluate its long-term viability and explore a permanent Seasonal Patio Program. Following deliberations, Council has decided to end the Temporary Patio Program across the municipality. Therefore, after December 31, 2025, the Town will no longer have a Patio Program.

"The Temporary Patio Program has been a valuable tool in supporting our local business community and driving post-pandemic economic recovery, and will continue to be in place for the remainder of 2025," stated Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa. "As we transition away from the program, I look forward to Staff providing insights into what would be required to develop a comprehensive vision for the Queen Street area."

"Moving forward, our team will gather insights and report back to Council on what a Secondary Plan might entail and how it could shape the character of Old Town and the Queen Street Heritage Conservation District," stated CAO Bruce Zvaniga.

The Town thanks all participating patio operators for their collaboration, adaptability, and commitment to enhancing Niagara-on-the-Lake's dining experience, supporting our local economy and fostering a welcoming atmosphere for all.

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