



NEWS RELEASE

Niagara-on-the-Lake Recognized for Accessibility Excellence

For Immediate Release

June 6, 2025

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is proud to be recognized as a recipient of the 2025 Accessibility Matters Here Award, presented by the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (JAAC). The award honours municipalities and businesses across Niagara that demonstrate leadership in creating inclusive, accessible spaces for all.

The following locations were celebrated for their efforts in accessibility:

- **NOTL Community Centre:** Recognized for a well-designed, accessible built environment.
- **Southbrook Winery:** Commended for maintaining a good built environment.
- **Jackson Triggs Winery:** Honoured for their inclusive efforts for individuals with sensory disabilities.
- **Bank of Montreal (BMO), NOTL Branch:** Acknowledged for accessibility in its built environment.

These recognitions align with [Council's Strategic Plan](#) of fostering inclusive, barrier-free environments, identified under the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion lens.

The Accessibility Matters Here initiative celebrates organizations that go beyond compliance to actively advance accessibility and inclusion. Evaluations were based on criteria such as accessible entrances and washrooms, thoughtful design, inclusive parking, and staff awareness.

The Town thanks the Niagara Region's Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (JAAC) for their efforts and congratulates them on this successful initiative!

Quotes:

"This recognition is not just about infrastructure; it's about fostering an inclusive mindset throughout our community. We are proud to work alongside our local businesses and partners to make accessibility a shared priority. On behalf of Council, thank you to the JAAC for this recognition!" – **Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa**

"We are honoured that a Town facility and local businesses were recognized for their accessibility efforts. This recognition highlights Niagara-on-the-Lake's ongoing commitment to building a welcoming and inclusive community for all. Thank you to Town Staff for their continued dedication to upholding and advancing accessibility standards." – **CAO Bruce Zvaniga**

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