



Contents

Official Plan Review	1
What is an Official Plan?	1
Community Vision Statement	2
Why Should I Get Involved?	2
Why Are We Doing This?	2
8 Strategic Priorities	3
What's Next?	3
Consultation Schedule	3

Town Launches Official Plan Review

It has been almost 20 years since the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake revised its Official Plan. Many things have changed since then and we want you to be a part of deciding how our community will look 20 years from now.

Many of you have already helped kick-start this process by participating in last year's *Community Vision* project. Following several open houses, workshops and focus

group sessions, we took all of your ideas and directions and developed a Community Vision Statement, eight key priorities and corresponding strategies to reach them.

But this is just a start. Beginning February 2014, we will release a series of issue papers outlining ways we can make our community even more prosperous, healthy, and integrated.

Whether at work, at home or on vacation, planning is something we all do. It helps us set out our goals and how to reach them. The Official Plan is no different.

What Is An Official Plan?

An Official Plan is a blueprint for how our community will grow. That's why we want to hear from you as this process unfolds over the next two years. You are Niagara-on-the-Lake and this is YOUR plan, YOUR future.



Community Vision Statement

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a fiercely independent, economically empowered town offering a rich tapestry of recreational, historical, cultural, and educational opportunities, public green spaces and a uniquely valuable agricultural area. Our stunning landscape offers a rich experience where the journey equals the destination.

We are a community for everyone. We are a resilient, distinctive and dynamic town in which to live, work and learn. Through responsible stewardship, we preserve the balance of values that make us a world-class destination. Although we dream big, we stay true to our small town roots.

Why Should I Get Involved?

The Official Plan will map out where to put new housing, how to protect our environment, preserve our heritage, enhance our cultural assets, add value to our agricultural lands and ensure our residents can travel with ease through our town.

In short, it will touch on most aspects of everyday life. Over the next two years, you will have an opportunity to give us your thoughts through information meetings, social media interaction, public surveys and via a special e-mail address: myplan@notl.org.

Why Are We Doing This?

Whether at work, at home or on vacation, planning is something we all do. It helps us set out our goals and how to reach them. The Official Plan is no different.

Using input you provided during the *Community Vision* project, we are proposing a game plan of how to design our community that meets the needs of our residents and provides a structure for sustainable growth.

So, why do this now?

The *Ontario Planning Act* sets out review requirements for every municipality to follow. While we have undertaken a number of secondary plan amendments over the years, we must conduct a full review to comply with update provisions under the Act.

More importantly, the Act requires that all municipal by-laws and projects relating to land-use planning be consistent with the Official Plan.





8 Strategic Priorities

- Prosperous & Diverse Economy
- Strong Environmental Stewardship
- Inclusive, Integrated & Healthy Town
- Centre for Culture, Heritage & Recreation
- Mobility
- Well-Planned Built Environment
- Prosperous & Sustainable Agricultural Sector
- Well-Managed Municipal Finances

What's Next?

The eight strategic priorities identified from last year's *Community Vision* project will now be incorporated into a series of issue papers. The first paper was released for comment in February 2014.

The remaining papers will be released throughout 2014 and 2015, accompanied by a public open house for each.

We have created a special page on the Town's website specifically for discussion of the Official Plan, including ways in which you can provide your feedback to us.

Also, we hope to engage you through the marvels of social media, by keeping you informed of each step of this progression.

By the Fall of 2015, we should have a draft Official Plan to present to you, followed by a request for formal approval through Niagara Region.

Official Plan Consultation Schedule

Stakeholder Consultations	September 2013 - January 2014
Report #1 – Background Report	February 2014
Public Open Houses:	
Community Centre	March 13, 2014
Glendale Fire Hall	March 20, 2014
Report #2 – Arts, Culture, Heritage & Archaeology	TBD
Public Open House	TBD
Report #3 – Natural Heritage & Hazards	TBD
Public Open House	TBD
Report #4 – Rural & Agricultural Issues	TBD
Public Open House	TBD
Report #5 – Built Environment	TBD
Public Open House	TBD
Draft Final Plan/Public Meeting	October 2015
Submission to Region	December 2015

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