

# Official Plan Review Special Public Meeting July 22, 2013



# What is an Official Plan?



- An Official Plan is a long range planning policy document which guides and shapes growth and manages development over a 20 – 30 year period. Official Plans contain goals, objectives and policies to guide future physical development of a community through the land use planning process while taking into consideration important social, economic and environmental matters and goals.
- It also serves as a basis for a wide range of municipal activities. These include the:
  - Planning and approval of public works (such as roads and parks)
  - Comprehensive zoning by-law
  - Creation of community design plans
  - Review and approval of development applications

*Miller 2006*



# Why is an Official Plan Important to you?



- Whether you live or work in the Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Official Plan affects just about every aspect of your everyday life. The Plan determines where new houses, stores, industries, schools, cultural facilities, social services, parks, trails, and other land uses will be built; it protects our natural and agricultural environment; and it directs the construction of new infrastructure such as sewers, water mains, transit and roads. It sets out the community's vision for its future.

*Miller 2009*



# Community Vision







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 makes us a world-class destination. Although we dream big, we stay true to our small town roots.



# Issues Reports – 8 Strategic Pillars



## A Prosperous and Diverse Economy

- Employment policies and Employment Lands
- Value added for agriculture
- Growth Plan
- Economic Development (Study/Report in fall of 2013)
- Special Events



# Issues Reports cont'd



## Strong Environmental Stewardship

- Wetlands
- Tree Preservation
- Species at Risk
- Niagara Escarpment
- Environmental Assessments
- Alternative Energy
- Wetland Mapping
- Floodplain and Natural Hazards
- Significant Woodlands



# Issues Reports cont'd



- An Inclusive, Integrated, Healthy Town
- Affordable Housing
- Second Units
- Group Homes
- Sustainability
- Metis & First Nations
- Accessibility





# Issues Reports cont'd



## A Centre for Culture, Heritage and Recreation

- Heritage (Ontario Heritage Act)
- Archaeology – Marine and First Nations
- Culture
- Public Art
- Estate Lots in Old Town



# Issues Reports cont'd

- Mobility Choices
- Public Transportation
- Roads
- Trails
- Bicycle Routes
- Connections Between Urban Areas
- Lakefront Connections





# Issues Reports cont'd



- A Well Planned Built Environment
- Urban Design Guidelines – Old Town, Virgil
- Density
- Growth Plan Policy Update
- Community Improvement Areas
- Affordable Housing
- Development Permit System
- Special Study Areas – Virgil, the airport
- Site Plan policies
- Nodes and Corridors
- Servicing Plan



# Issues Reports cont'd



## A Prosperous and Sustainable Agricultural Sector

- Value added for agriculture
- Greenbelt Plan





# Strategic Plan



## Well Managed Municipal Finances

- This Strategic Pillar will be addressed in the Strategic Plan. Work will commence on this plan in the summer of 2014.



# Public Consultation



- Community Announcements
- Web Communications
- Stateholder Consultation
- Open Houses
- Publication of Issues Papers





# Have your say.



This is the first of many chances for you to have your say.

Where do you want Niagara-on-the-Lake to be 15-20 years from now?

What changes to the Official Plan do you think are needed to achieve our vision?

What policies do you think should be included in the Official Plan to meet and achieve our strategic pillars and goals ?

Are there any other policies that should be addressed/added/amended during the review process?