

Adriana **Cater Vizzari**

Q1 - Can you tell me how and why your approach would be different than what the existing council members have been taking in their governing?

I am part of the existing Council and over the past four years I've approached my role by listening to residents and the people directly affected by a decision, asking questions and making sure I understand the facts before making a decision.

I also believe who you are and the life experience you bring to the table matters. As a mom of four with young kids, representing children and families is an important part of what I bring to Council. I understand the day-to-day realities of raising a family here and the importance of having places for kids to play, learn, be active and belong.

If re-elected, I'll continue to use that perspective, along with the information and expertise of staff and the voices of residents, to ask questions, find common ground, work constructively with Council and make progress for our community.

Q2 - I have a question which of you have accepted money whether for performing services or as a gratuity from any developers or their related companies.

N/A as I have never received money or have any stake in development or real estate.

Q3 - Several studies that the Town initiated identified major gaps in planned investment vs actual funds available particularly gaps in infrastructure funding. What steps will you take to find the required funds

We can't expect property taxes to solve every infrastructure need. We need to use the tools available to us, some examples are reserves, government funding, development-related funding, partnerships and, where permitted, tourism revenue.

We've also started looking at other ways to bring revenue into the Town, including community advertising and sponsorships, and reviewing user fees and service charges to make sure they are appropriate.

We need to be creative and disciplined about how we fund infrastructure, while also making sure decisions respect what makes Niagara-on-the-Lake unique, including our heritage and the character of our communities.

Q4 - What does “transparency” mean to you?

To me, transparency means residents can clearly understand what decisions are being considered, why, what information Council is relying on, and how elected representatives arrived at a decision.

Not everyone will agree with every decision, and that’s okay. Residents deserve to understand the reasoning behind them. I am always willing to discuss with residents how I reached a decision and why I voted a particular way.

I know some residents have raised the idea of clearer recorded voting records for Council going forward. I’m not opposed to that, but a voting record alone will never explain the “why” behind a decision. Being a municipal politician also means being accessible and willing to have those conversations with the people you represent.

Transparency gives residents the information they need to hold Council accountable and have confidence in how decisions are made.

Q5 - How would you describe your style of leadership?

I would describe my leadership style as engaged, practical and collaborative. I’m not afraid to ask difficult questions or challenge something when I don’t think it is right, but I also understand that governing means working with people who may not agree with you and finding common ground.

Leadership isn’t about being the loudest person in the room or always getting your way. It’s about doing the work, listening to residents, asking the right questions and finding a way to move the community forward.

Q6 - What are the hallmarks of your personal code of conduct?

For me, it comes down to honesty, respect, accountability and doing the work.

Q7 - How do you remain informed of issues that affect the greater good and wellbeing of our town?

I think this is one of the advantages of having experience on Council. I'm already at the table, understand the issues and have four years of experience seeing how decisions affect our community.

But I don't rely on Council reports alone. I'm out in the community where residents actually are — at the parks, the arena, the pool, the soccer fields and, as a mom, at my kids' schools and activities. Those everyday conversations are often where you hear what is really happening in our town.

Q8 - What measures would you use to consult the voting public in order to reach consensus on major decisions, for example, on the future use of the old hospital site so that it serves the larger community?

I'm open to finding new and better ways to communicate with residents because meaningful public engagement is always a challenge. Different generations, neighbourhoods and groups engage in different ways, so we need to meet people where they are.

I would use a mix of in-person meetings, public consultations, surveys and online opportunities. I also support committees where they can provide meaningful, ongoing community input and expertise. But a small committee should not be the only way we hear from residents. Broader engagement can often reach a much larger and more diverse group of people.

I also think "consensus" is a very ambitious goal for a community as diverse as Niagara-on-the-Lake. On major issues, like the future of the old hospital site, Council needs to listen, ask questions, consider different perspectives and use the best available information before making a decision.

No one councillor can represent every perspective. Our job is to listen to the residents we serve and work together to make decisions that serve the broader community, both today and in the future.

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Q9 - How often and for what reasons do you engage in person with individual unelected residents of the Town of Niagara on the Lake?

Very often. With four active and social kids, we are everywhere!

My family spends a lot of time at the library, parks across the five villages, public pools and on the Electrifying Eels swim team. My kids sail with the NOTL Sail Club, and we spend much of the summer walking the streets of Old Town. We play NOTL softball and soccer, spent years at the arena with NOTL skating club and Wolves hockey, and are regularly at school and community events.

I'm also an avid walker and get most of my daily steps around St. Davids. I shop at the local butcher, drink probably too much coffee at The Junction, visit the ladies at Bloom & Co., take Pilates in St. Davids, and you'll often find me at Phil's Grocery several times a week. We also attend the St. Davids Firehall breakfasts and Lions Club fish fries.

Those everyday interactions are a big part of how I stay connected to residents. People talk to me about what they're seeing, what's working, what isn't and what they want to see in their community.

This is our community too. I'm representing it, I'm raising my family here and living it every day.

Q10 - As a rule, how soon after receiving a message from a NOTL resident do you respond to it?

I do my best to get back to residents as quickly as I can. If I don't have the answer right away, I'll acknowledge the message and let them know I'm looking into it. I think getting back to someone within a day or two is a reasonable expectation.

Q11 - How would you approach deciding how to vote on issues of significance to residents of Niagara on the Lake?

Over the past four years, I've approached my role by listening to residents, understanding the issue and different perspectives, reviewing the facts, asking questions and considering professional advice when appropriate.

I also bring my own perspective and experience to the table. As a mother raising four children and a family who lives, works and participates in this community, I see firsthand how municipal

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decisions affect families and everyday life in NOTL. That perspective is part of how I look at every issue.

I consider the broader impact on our community and make the decision I believe best serves NOTL as a whole, both right now and for the future.

Q11 - What three specific issues that affect the Town do you deem priorities to take action on?

Three priorities for me are:

1. Continuing to prioritize families and children, and ensuring our community has the spaces, programs and amenities they need.
2. Continuing to prioritize infrastructure and making the investments needed to support the community.
3. Fair investment in every community, Every resident should see the benefit of their tax dollars, no matter which village they call home. Fiscal responsibility means making sure Town services and programming are spread across all five villages—from library programs and Play in the Park to seniors' programming and EarlyON. I want every community to feel that their tax dollars are working for them.

Q12 - What action would you be inclined to take on short-term rentals in NOTL?

I have not served on the committee dealing specifically with short-term rentals.

If residents want the issue revisited, I would be open to reopening a committee and taking a fresh look at what was done previously, including what worked, what didn't and what may have been missed.

Q13 - What strategies would you use to ensure that longtime Town of NOTL residents are fairly considered and able to continue living in the area if they wish to do so?

All residents should have the opportunity to stay in Niagara-on-the-Lake as their needs change.

That means creating more housing options, including ways to age in place, attainable rental and ownership options, and housing that fits our villages. We should also look at what other communities are doing, learn from what works and bring those ideas to NOTL. Thoughtful growth can create more choices for the people who call this community home.

Q14 - How often do you shop in a Town of Niagara on the Lake supermarket or small Business?

As often as I can. With four kids, we're constantly moving around this community and spending our money locally.

If my child is playing soccer at Virgil Sports Park, I'm shopping in Virgil. If we're down by the Sail Club or library, we're shopping in Old Town. Ravine Bakery's sourdough and bagels are a family staple.

And honestly, we're lucky. It's not just convenient to shop local in NOTL, we have some of the best bakeries, grocery stores, restaurants and small shops in the Niagara region right here. There's a lot to be proud of, and a lot of reasons to keep our dollars local.

That's also why I believe investing in children and youth programming, and eventually a high school, matters to our local economy. Families bring activity into the community, and that activity supports the businesses that make NOTL what it is.

And thankfully, Elise at Style Canada keeps me looking fashionable through all of it.

Q15 - Have you ever been arrested for any reason, accused of fraud or offered a bribe?

No.