

ANDREW NIVEN

RESPONSES TO NOTLRA / RESIDENT QUESTIONS

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'll continue to listen and engage with residents, ask questions and make informed decisions. I believe councillors need to be vocal, stand by their positions and clearly explain to residents why they vote the way they do. Residents deserve to understand not just the decision, but the reasoning behind it.

Q2 : Which of you have accepted money, whether for performing services or as a gratuity, from any developers or their related companies?

I have not accepted money, gratuities or personal payments from developers or their related companies.

Q3 : Several Town studies have identified major gaps between planned infrastructure investments and available funding. What steps will you take to find the required funds?

That's a good question. I would focus on maximizing available infrastructure grants, improving long-term financial forecasting, reviewing development charges and ensuring growth contributes its appropriate share toward the infrastructure it requires.

Q4 : What does "transparency" mean to you?

Transparency means residents should be able to understand how and why decisions are made, what information Council relied on and what the implications are for the community. It also means meaningful public consultation, accessible information and accountability for the decisions we make.

Q5 : How would you describe your style of leadership?

I would describe my leadership style as collaborative, approachable and balanced. I believe in listening to different perspectives, asking questions and working toward practical solutions. Leadership doesn't mean agreeing with everyone. It means being willing to respectfully challenge ideas, make difficult decisions and explain the reasoning behind them.

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

Integrity, honesty, accountability, respect and fairness. I believe residents deserve a councillor who acts in the community's best interests and is willing to stand behind their decisions.

Q7 : How do you remain informed of issues that affect the greater good and well-being of our Town?

I stay informed through Council and committee meetings, staff reports and regular conversations with residents, local businesses and community stakeholders. I believe hearing directly from people who are affected by decisions is an important part of understanding the issues facing 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 believe consultation needs to happen early, be accessible and give residents meaningful opportunities to shape the outcome. That could include public meetings, surveys, stakeholder discussions and opportunities to review and comment on potential options. We should also look at new and innovative ways to connect with residents and ensure a fuller range of community voices is heard.

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

I regularly engage with residents in person through community events, Council-related activities, neighbourhood conversations and individual meetings. I've always believed in being accessible, and hearing directly from residents is an important part of representing them effectively.

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

I make every effort to respond as promptly as possible. Some matters can be addressed right away, while others require research or follow-up with staff. Either way, I believe residents deserve a response and should never be left wondering whether their concerns have been received.

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

I consider staff recommendations, applicable policies, financial implications, feedback from residents and how a proposal fits within the community. I'm willing to support proposals that benefit NOTL, but I also believe in asking questions, challenging assumptions and voting against proposals when I don't believe they're in the Town's best interests. My voting record reflects that approach.

Q12 : What three specific issues affecting the Town do you consider priorities for action?

- a) **Responsible Growth** : Ensuring development aligns with our Official Plan and planning policies, respects community character, considers infrastructure capacity and serves the long-term interests of residents.
- b) **Infrastructure and Stormwater** : Addressing aging infrastructure, improving stormwater management and ensuring our roads, water, wastewater and other services can meet both current and future needs.
- c) **Fiscal Responsibility** : Focusing on long-term financial planning, the responsible use of taxpayer dollars and ensuring growth contributes appropriately to the infrastructure and services it requires.

Q13 : What action would you be inclined to take on short-term rentals in NOTL?

I support a balanced approach that recognizes the role of hosted bed and breakfasts while addressing the impacts of unhosted short-term rentals. I believe the Town should explore stronger licensing and enforcement measures, including the possibility of licensing limits by settlement area. The concentration of unhosted rentals in areas like Old Town and Chautauqua raises legitimate concerns about neighbourhood character, housing availability and quality of life.

Q14 : What strategies would you use to ensure longtime NOTL residents are fairly considered and able to continue living in the area if they wish to do so?

Maintaining a community where longtime residents can afford to live, work and retire is important to NOTL's future. I support exploring a broader range of housing options that meet the needs of residents at different stages of life, including seniors, young families and local workers.

Q15 : How often do you shop at a Niagara-on-the-Lake supermarket or small business?

Very regularly. Having worked in the wine industry and served as past Chair of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, supporting local business is important to me, both personally and professionally. Independent businesses are a big part of what makes NOTL unique, and supporting them helps keep our communities vibrant and sustainable.

Q16 : Have you ever been arrested for any reason, accused of fraud or offered a bribe?

No, I have not.