

Gary Burroughs - Professional Profile

Burroughs' professional background as a **Chartered Accountant** (Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants) significantly influences his political focus on municipal budgets, tax revenue, and fiscal transparency.

- **Business Ownership:** He was the owner-operator of the **Oban Inn** for 30 years, taking over the family business from his parents. This experience provided him with a deep understanding of the local tourism economy and the challenges faced by small businesses.
 - **Corporate Leadership:** More recently, he served as the treasurer for **Genaire Ltd.**, an aerospace manufacturing firm in Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL).
 - **Board Leadership:** He has held prestigious leadership roles outside of elected office, including serving as the **Chair of the Niagara Parks Commission** and the **Shaw Festival** board.
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Political Career & Governance Experience

Burroughs has a rare distinction in Ontario politics: he has served as a Town Councillor, Lord Mayor, Regional Councillor, and Regional Chair.

Niagara-on-the-Lake (Town Council)

- **Early Start (1989–1991):** His first entry into politics was as a town councillor (then called "alderman").
- **Lord Mayor (2000–2010):** He served three terms as Lord Mayor, where he was a vocal advocate for preserving the town's heritage and balancing growth with the needs of residents.
- **Return to Council (2018–Present):** After years at the regional level, he returned to the local NOTL council table to focus on "common sense" issues, heritage preservation, and streetscape protection. He was re-elected in 2022 and has expressed intent to continue serving in the 2026 election cycle.

Niagara Region (Regional Council)

- **Regional Chair (2010–2014):** Burroughs served as the **6th Regional Chair of Niagara**, overseeing the entire region's operations. During this time, he focused on regional infrastructure and emergency systems.

- **Regional Councillor (2014–2018):** He represented NOTL at the regional level, sitting on committees for public works, waste management, and the audit committee.
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Personal Profile

- **Family:** A resident of NOTL for over 50 years, Gary and his wife Sarah raised two daughters in the community and now have four grandchildren.
- **Community Roots:** His commitment to the town is personal;
- **Reputation:** He is frequently described as resilient and candid—sometimes to the point of being "prickly" during heated council debates when he feels the town's interests are at stake. His philosophy is summed up by his own words: *"I love this town too much to stop."*

Committees:

- Municipal Heritage Committee – current term
- Numerous committees during the 2018-2022 term as well as at the region.