

## Betty Disero

**Do you think it possible to finalize a new Official Plan within the first year of the new Council's term? What in your view should be the key elements of a new Official Plan that differ from the existing Official Plan?**

**Answer:** Yes, we are on draft number 5, with a final on its way to council at the beginning of the year. We just need to read it, understand it, make sure or confirm the public have seen it and had an opportunity to comment and most importantly raise our hands to approve it. There will always need to be adjustments as we go, but this should not be a reason to delay.

**What is your ten-year vision for the communities that comprise NOTL (Glendale, Old Town, Queenston, St. David's and Virgil) with respect to residential and commercial development?**

**Answer:** Glendale – there are changes happening in Glendale. Glendale will need some extra population to be able to encourage services. (right now, they go to St. Catharine's for milk) Glendale is our future. But we have to get it right. We have to maintain green space; the escarpment and all the other natural features first and then sort out what it should look like and what is compatible and best for that area. We need to keep our eye on what the Region is recommending.

**Old Town** - more aggressively provide leadership in heritage preservation. Major tree plantings. Trying to keep the old town a livable place with full time residents and services required to support them.

**Queenston** - a quiet village, complete their park, eliminate the "waft" and find a solution to constant bus traffic, plant more trees, maintain the historic character.

**St. Davids** - the downtown recognition of the historic values with appropriate design guidelines as new businesses move in to serve the community, traffic control completed (community safety zone), a pool and other community facilities that the community feels is appropriate, the completion of the Mewburn bridge so large transport trucks are not going through the middle of St David's.

**Virgil** – I believe is where a lot of NOTL residents will do local shopping. We have to make the main street in Virgil a little more pedestrian friendly and livable as new developments and renovations are proposed. A place where residents want to stop, shop and visit friends. This will take cooperation with the region to get this done. I also believe that this is a good area to celebrate our farming heritage in public spaces and seating areas. We need to keep an eye on commercial development so that it does not over power the quaintness of the community.

**The Rural Area** – come up with a valid plan and mapping to stop the spread of phragmites, finalize the water course mapping, finalize and go after funding for the irrigation system.

**Is the current proposal for Randwood (the most recent revised plan submitted by the Marotta group) appropriate for this site and neighborhood given its significant cultural heritage value and its location in an established residential neighborhood? Why or why not?**

**Answer:** There are two issues that are of equal and major concern to me that need thoughtful consideration by both the planning department and council – sensitive impact on the designated historic built form and landscape and the sensitive impact on the surrounding community and historic sites. This is a precedent setting decision and community input is key.

**What consideration should be given in your view to the various matters specified in OPA51 (the Official Plan amendment in 2011 that permitted Randwood to be changed from residential to commercial for the Romance Inn- see attached) when deciding whether the Marotta group proposal should be approved?**

**Answer:** Same as above. Plus, the surrounding tree line, the architectural compatibility of the proposed building next to the heritage buildings and natural landscape that is designated, sewer and road capacity, impact to surrounding neighborhood.

**What would you do to ensure the preservation and sensitive use of other heritage buildings and lands within each of the communities that comprise NOTL?**

**Answer:** more proactive Council and MHC, work with the property owner to see what the appropriate reuse or restoration could be for a designated building, if any. Stronger enforcement for those that leave their buildings to ruin because they have been designated. When a property is designated there is an obligation to the province to maintain it and not let it go to ruin.

**How will you ensure appropriate public input into planning decisions affecting high-profile sites such as Randwood (e.g. encouraging staff to accommodate delegations, location of Council and committee meetings on matters of great public interest such as Randwood)?**

**Answer:** Your suggestions are great - encouraging staff to accommodate delegations, location of council and committee meetings on matters of great public interest. All of the above and I believe an email chain for anyone who has expressed an interest on a certain subject. I have done this for certain issues over the last 4 years. If I have an email list of concerned residents I send out email updates.

**Under what circumstances if any would you support the expansion of the current NOTL urban boundaries into agricultural land or the Greenbelt?**

**Answer:** When it comes to just allowing urban expansion for uncontrolled growth, under no circumstances. Once the greenbelt is reopened, It could open a flood-gate from other jurisdictions like the region. I am not in favour of the regions “rationalizing” argument for urban areas. It is a slow expansion of urban sprawl into our specialty crop areas. Should the province choose to open up discussion on the greenbelt, we have to be ready with our arguments on the importance of the green belt and farming community to our town. Once good agricultural land is gone, you can never get it back. It is our brand, our lifestyle and our economic driver. We must preserve and support our farmers.