

Katherine Reid

Below is a list of questions on which SORE is requesting your response. We intend to post all responses on our website and possibly to refer to them in our ongoing communications with NOTL residents. We ask for your response no later than September 15, 2018.

1. 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?

I believe it can be possible if the Town map, Region map and Provincial map of the area are done correctly. With the changing policies, especially within the Greenbelt, all features must be the same. As Niagara-on-the-Lake is one of two areas with specialty crops it has smaller lot sizes for farming. The other major hurdle I see is the Town planning staff. There has been a high turnover in the senior planners and trying to understand our unique heritage and ecosystem is imperative. We must preserve our natural and historical treasures.

2. 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?

I do believe that Queenston will stay as it is, with the strong leadership of the Queenston Residents Association. I think that Virgil will expand and there will be more rezoning applications as with the Line 2 site. Once it is rezoned, anyone else can buy that property and the Town has set a precedent. St. Davids is growing rapidly and will continue to grow. The population of St Davids has increased rapidly and more farming area has been rezoned residential. Glendale will be the area that I believe will change the most in the next ten years. Listening to the Phase One plans for the area will result in the possibility of a twenty story hotel and many other commercial and residential areas being developed. I am concerned with Old-Town as zoning changes occur. Larger plots of lands are being divided into the smallest plots legally possible. I do not know if the current infrastructure can handle all of the changes without creating problems for the current residents.

3. 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?

I do not believe that the newest proposal for the Randwood site is appropriate. I do think that when Council approved the zoning application this in 2011, they would have envisioned this scenario. The Randwood Estate is prime example of what makes this area so rich in heritage and natural beauty. Once the trees are removed, we will not experience their majestic beauty, nor will the next few generations to come. It is the same with the beautiful buildings and the wall. If they are removed, the historic value is lost forever. I would not travel to London to see a Holiday Inn when I expected to see Westminster Abbey or Buckingham Palace. I lived in the area for four years and I would be concerned about the infrastructure, traffic congestion and the parking.

4. 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?

I do believe that the original plan was intended to blend in with the property and the surrounding neighbourhood. It would have had an impact on traffic, infrastructure such as water and sewers, but the natural beauty of the property would have maintained the uniqueness of special charm of the area as portrayed in Trisha Romance's beautiful pieces of art.

Now, that has all changed. The respect for the heritage building and the landscape will be lost. The Boxwood hedges are in danger of being lost forever. I would be concerned about One Mile Creek and the biosphere. I am concerned about the peer review of the historic value of the property.

5. 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?

I would encourage more associations like the Queenston Residents Association. Any planning changes are looked at very closely, and the ideas are brought to the attention of the residents. Changes are brought to the attention of all members who attend, and the entire community stands behind the decision. The QRA representations have a delegation at the Council meeting speak on behalf of the community. The united voice has a bigger impact to council, at least as far as I have seen in the many meetings I have attended.

6. 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)?

I was one of the residents that emailed council to move the meeting to a larger facility for the April council meeting. I was there at the meeting sitting in the back listening to the residents. I would encourage more public meeting and more open houses. An informed resident can ask more questions. I read the Council agendas and minutes regularly and attend many open houses to stay informed. I know I see many people show up for the meeting which have been filled to capacity.

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

As a candidate who is strongly in favour of preserving agriculture land, as well as the unique heritage and natural beauty of the area, I would be hard pressed to allow any expansion into agricultural areas, I can only see this happening if the Town makes it more and more difficult for farmers to be productive and profitable. If the growers cannot financially maintain their farms, they will have to be sold. Then, I fear the developers will put pressure on rezoning the land.