

## **Anne Kurtz-Just**

First, thank you for your commitment to the Randwood Estate, it's neighbouring properties, and it's heritage and cultural value to our community. As a long time resident in Randwood's immediate neighbourhood and a farmer's daughter, I am especially fond of the property, especially it's beautiful green space. I personally have experienced its magnificence from childhood- when Cynthia Rand graciously offered to let me ride horses on the land....to my adulthood -when I was kindly allowed to enjoy the property on my wedding day. For me, Randwood is but three doors down from where I grew up and where my father continues to live today. I dare to say that my father Edward Kurtz probably has more living tales to share about the estate than anyone in our community today.

Understandably, I have taken the time to carefully reflect on your questions. For indeed, Randwood's history has been intertwined with my own family's history for the last 77 years.

In answer to your specific questions, I respectfully submit the following:

1. Yes, I believe that the new Official Plan should be completed within 1 year of the new council's mandate. It is my understanding that this upcoming council will wait until AFTER the election to initialize and lead a Strategic Plan for its own term ( unlike the previous council that chose to have staff direct the majority of this strategic plan process) This Strategic Plan for the next 4 years, led by your new council, should have as a core objective the completion of the New Official Plan within 1 year.

Specific key elements in the new Official Plan that I look forward to include those in the area of my expertise-agriculture land use policy. I have worked for decades to update planning recommendations for farmers at the provincial level (through Ontario Farm Fresh Directorship), at the regional level (Review of Land Use Policy and Related Implementation Measures) and at the municipal level with planning sessions. In fact, some of my recommendations and wording are found in both the current and the upcoming Official Plan. For me personally, the heritage and agricultural updates to the Official Plan will be the most rewarding. I reside in a heritage list home in the centre of an agricultural parcel of 25 acres, exemplifying both my passion for changes to the Official Plan in both the areas of agriculture and heritage.

2. My vision for all of our unique communities is to respect their individual characteristics. Only with the pursuit of excellence in both of the areas of residential and commercial growth will we achieve our goals for each community. Simply put, I will care about the detail of every brick.

3. In my opinion, the current proposal for Randwood, in its most recently revised plan, falls significantly short of my pursuit of excellence for this property. Specifically, it's design falls significantly short in the area of being sensitive to the existing heritage

buildings on the site and their style of architecture. The revised plan falls significantly short in its sensitivity to its neighbours with its excessive height.

4. The previously approved OPA51 is a better reflection of what the community would like to see in the adaptive reuse of this property. Specifically, the height of the current proposal is far in excess of the previous approval. The design... well it does not go to the design detail made by Trish Romance. The previous design was far more sensitive and respectful of the heritage buildings on site.

5. Honestly, I believe that we as a community should explore “innovative and living” initiatives from other communities around the world in order to better serve our heritage community. In agriculture for example, we have found many solutions for sustainability by exploring examples of estate planning in the UK. Historical stables are being preserved, historical barns are being adapted for reuse, large estate homes have been saved and in the process green space is being preserved. I would be supportive of a new innovation committee that has a heritage representative at the table.

6. I believe that each voice in NOTL deserves to be heard. Greater accessibility to speak with staff in person would be a goal of mine. I am still a big believer in person to person communication. Many businesses like mine would be happy to assist with larger meeting spaces. The community centre was built for just such occasions.

7. I don't believe it is in anyone's interest in NOTL to decrease our green space or increase our urban boundary.... at least that's what my NOTL heart tells me.

Sincerely,  
Anne Kurtz-Just