

# Agenda Tonight – Ron Simkus

## Director/Administrator

- The NOTLRA today
- Thanks to Committee Members
- Why are we here?
- What are our goals?
- How are we going to achieve them?

# From Ratepayers to Residents

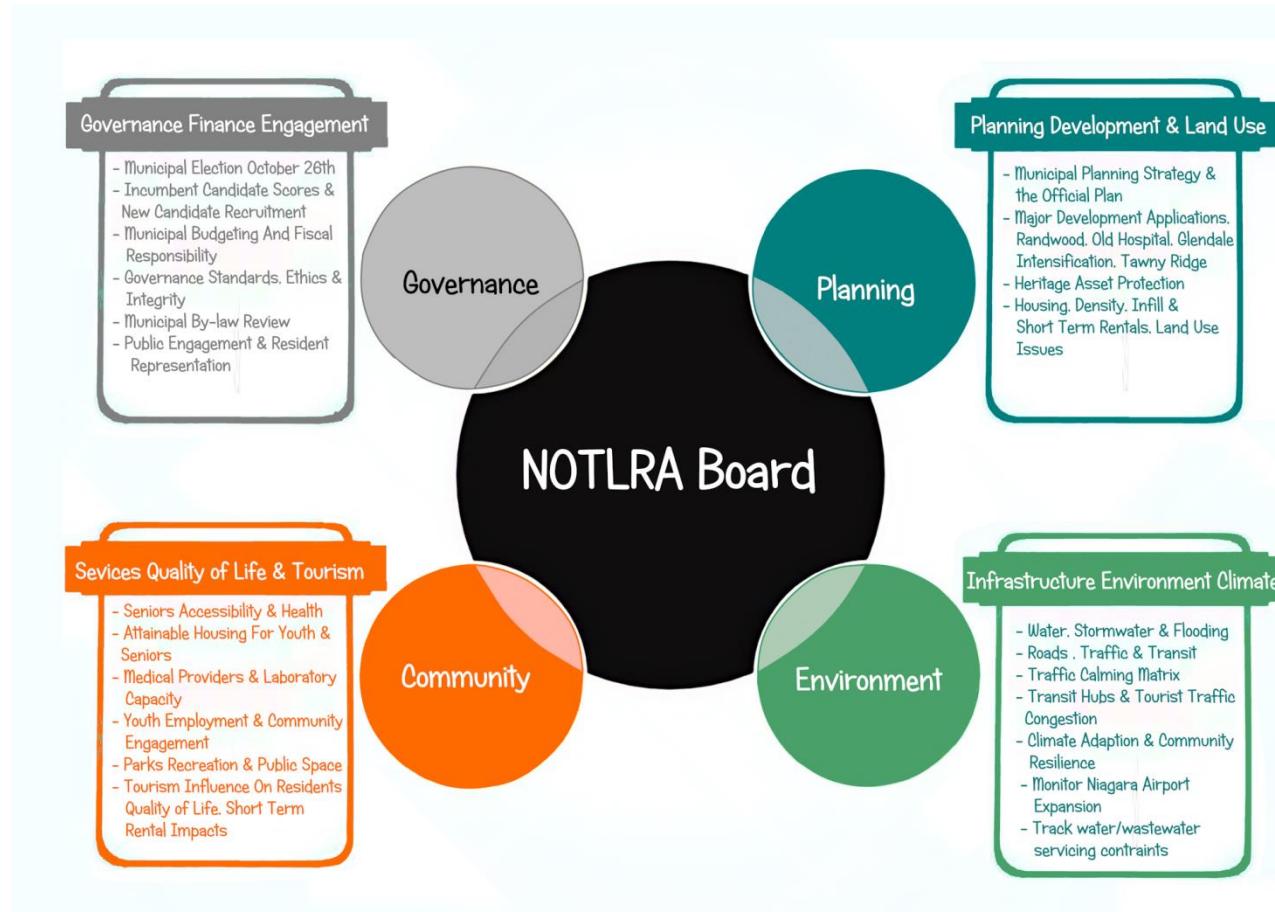
- Our initiative originally was to be a ratepayers group to advocate for the interests of residential taxpayers first
- After our first public meeting the board of directors pivoted to become a residents association



# Committee Structure – Why?

**Diverse  
Resident  
Concerns  
Raised**

**Common  
Thread of  
Concerns  
Raised**

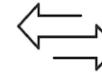


**Board needed to delegate to those most knowledgeable to understand them!**

# Committees & Board Liaison

## 1. Governance, Finance and Civic Engagement|

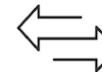
- Bob Bader - [bader.robert@gmail.com](mailto:bader.robert@gmail.com)
- Steve McGuinness - [steve.mcguinness94@gmail.com](mailto:steve.mcguinness94@gmail.com)
- Alan Young - [alan.young333@gmail.com](mailto:alan.young333@gmail.com)
- Judy Thornton - [midnightbug@hotmail.com](mailto:midnightbug@hotmail.com)
- Terry Davis - [tdavis3011@gmail.com](mailto:tdavis3011@gmail.com)
- Caroline Polgravia - [caroline.polgravia@yahoo.ca](mailto:caroline.polgravia@yahoo.ca)
- Lauren Davidson - [laurendavidson0217@gmail.com](mailto:laurendavidson0217@gmail.com)



Stuart McCormack  
President/Chair  
[senotl2013@gmail.com](mailto:senotl2013@gmail.com)

## 2. Community Services, Quality of Life and Tourism

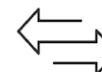
- Brenda Tipper - [btipper@gmail.com](mailto:btipper@gmail.com)
- Kim Friesen - [kfriesen3@cogeco.ca](mailto:kfriesen3@cogeco.ca)
- Peter Jamieson - [1pcjamieson@gmail.com](mailto:1pcjamieson@gmail.com)
- Pat Jeselon - [patjeselon@gmail.com](mailto:patjeselon@gmail.com)
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- Nathalie Carrasco-Krentzien - [carrasco.nathalie@gmail.com](mailto:carrasco.nathalie@gmail.com)



Andrea Leja  
Director & Board Secretary  
[andrea.leja@icloud.com](mailto:andrea.leja@icloud.com)

## 3. Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Resilience

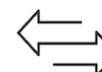
- Frances Stocker - [stockerfrances@yahoo.ca](mailto:stockerfrances@yahoo.ca)
- Phil Bergen - [bergen.phil@gmail.com](mailto:bergen.phil@gmail.com)
- Richard Connelly - [richardwconnelly@gmail.com](mailto:richardwconnelly@gmail.com)
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- Kip Vooge - [ksvooge@gmail.com](mailto:ksvooge@gmail.com)
- Dr. Rod Tennyson - [rctennyson@aol.com](mailto:rctennyson@aol.com)



Steve Hardaker  
Director & Vice-Chair  
[hardaker.sp@sympatico.ca](mailto:hardaker.sp@sympatico.ca)

## 4. Planning, Development and Land Use

- Gordon Stratford - [gstratford@gmail.com](mailto:gstratford@gmail.com)
- Brian Marshall - [homeguide.ca@gmail.com](mailto:homeguide.ca@gmail.com)
- David Jones - [davidj@124queen.com](mailto:davidj@124queen.com)
- Lidija Biro - [lbiro@mac.com](mailto:lbiro@mac.com)
- Vince Peca - [vince.peca@rogers.com](mailto:vince.peca@rogers.com)



Peter Neame  
Director  
[ppneame@gmail.com](mailto:ppneame@gmail.com)

# Why are we here?

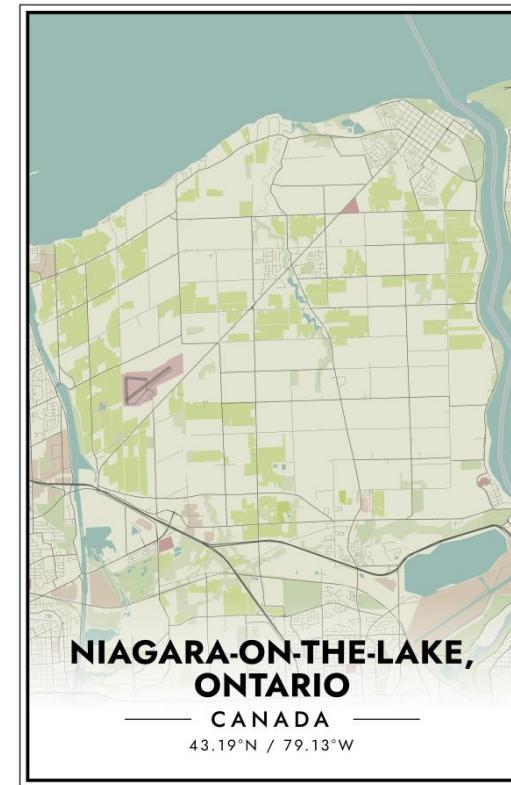


Dating back to 2024 there was a watershed of frustration with staff and council looking for direction

# What are our goals?

To balance between a “pretty town”  
façade marketed for hire

And a diverse, growing & resilient  
community for families



# **Different Approach (External)**

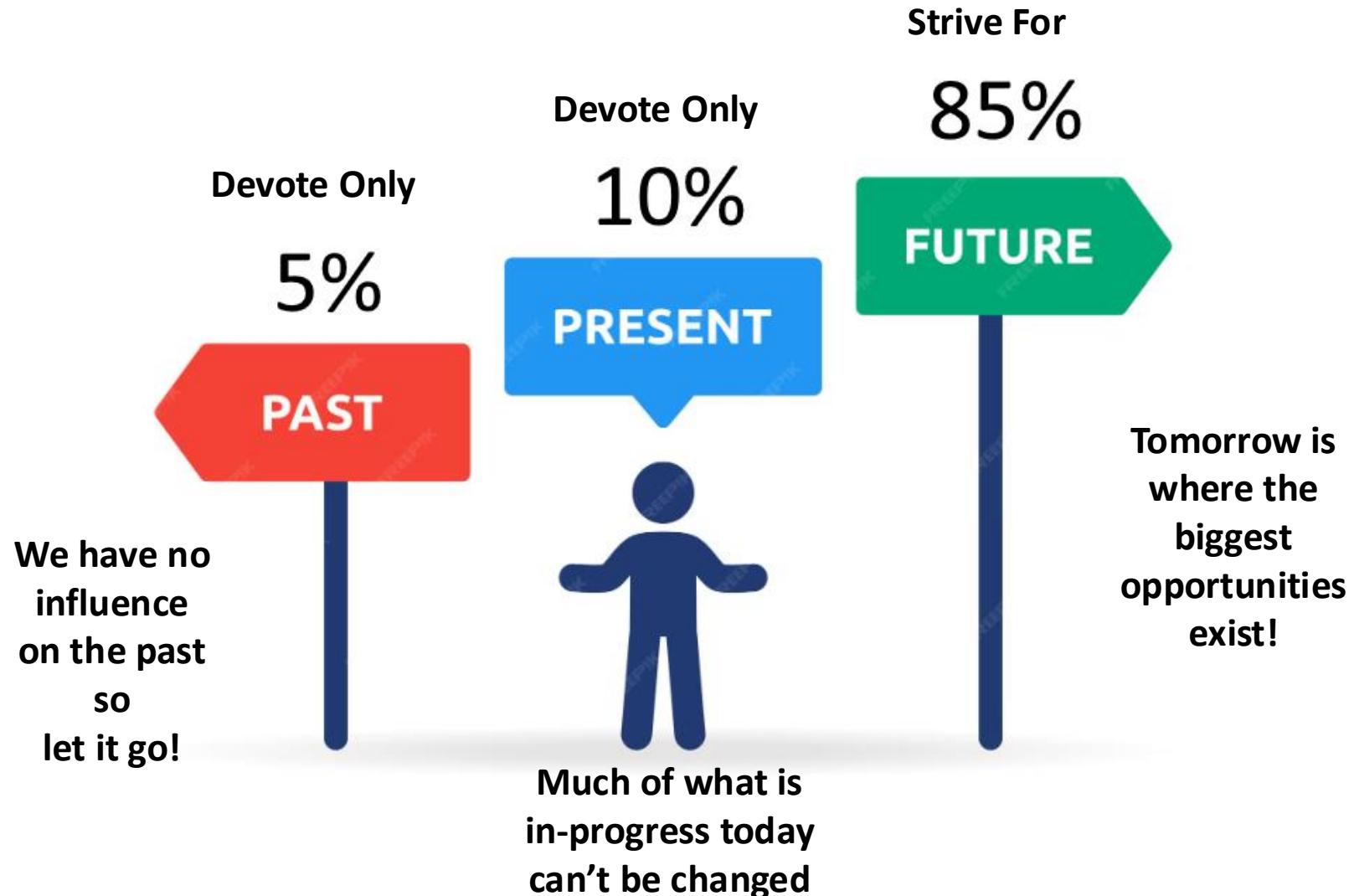
- Focus on staff's recommendations to council
- Watch how 'Strong Mayor' powers influence staff
- Remove subjectivity, bias and rumour
- Adopt a 'what' versus 'why' vocabulary
- Stop branding people 'stupid', 'evil' and 'malicious'

# Different Approach (Internal)

***'If it's not a problem for me it's not a problem at all?'***

- NOTLRA is not just another Old Town Association
- We need to understand how our issues are all connected
- The committees have to 'cross-pollinate' to be effective
- We need to be consistent in our public communication
- We have to be highly, respectful and ethical

# Managing Our Time With A Forward Looking Focus



# Getting The Message Out



**Sometimes we have to ask ourselves whether doing a good job  
communicating**

# A Focus On Communication

- 1. Meetings Have A Purpose** – The Committee packages describe the appointment and role of committee chairs, efficient adherence to agendas, taking of minutes and some elements of Rob's Rules.
- 2. Email Traffic** – Setting up smaller committee networks and avoiding 'reply all'
- 3. Meetings by Remote** – Zoom and Microsoft Teams are available for meetings without destinations, I believe most members are familiar with one or both of the apps available, Saves travel time and money.
- 4. Delegations – Delegations to Council** are supposed to be only 10 minutes long and almost nobody succeeds in getting their message across in that short window. We will focus on a PowerPoint methodology of 5 slides max and 5 lines of text per slide. Sounds tough to do and it is!
- 5. External Communication** - We are a transparent association and try to communicate openly through the press, to town staff and elected councillors but the Board of Directors needs to manage the message. The NOTLRA Board of Directors is accountable to be accurate, respectful and consistent so the directors need to be the members who do the talking externally.

# Thank you for embracing a new approach!



Rock Ridge 1974

**NOTL  
Residents  
Association**

*Our Town! Our Future!*

