Steven P. Hardaker, CD

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Retired Federal Government Manager | Environmental and Conservation Advocate | Community Volunteer

Steven P. Hardaker brings 35 years of federal government experience, extensive public-sector management and governance expertise, and a longstanding commitment to community service. Following a distinguished career with Environment Canada and the Department of National Defence, from which he retired in 2010, Steven relocated to Niagara-on-the-Lake, where he has continued to dedicate considerable time and effort to community involvement, environmental stewardship and public service.

During his 21 years with the Department of National Defence, Steven served as Manager of Meteorological Information Systems within the Directorate of Meteorology and Oceanography, Chief of Defence Intelligence, in Ottawa. In this capacity, he managed national Canadian Forces Weather and Oceanographic Service information technology and information management support programs. His responsibilities included managing classified and unclassified meteorological information systems, providing technical and data support to Canadian military operations at home and abroad, and representing Canada on NATO, Canadian-United States, allied and interdepartmental committees addressing meteorological information systems.

His earlier 14 years with Environment Canada included progressively responsible positions in meteorological operations, contract and climatological station supervision, and the implementation of automated environmental data acquisition systems. This combination of operational, technical and management experience provided him with a solid foundation in environmental information, organizational leadership, and intergovernmental cooperation.

Steven's community involvement in Niagara-on-the-Lake has been extensive. He was appointed to the Town's Glendale Task Force in 2019 and subsequently participated in the Regional Municipality of Niagara's Glendale Niagara District Plan Community Focus Group (2019–2020) and the Town's Glendale Secondary Plan Community Focus Group (2023–2025). These appointments provided opportunities to contribute resident perspectives to important planning and development initiatives affecting the community.

He has also been actively involved with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Residents Association since 2024, serving on the organizing committee responsible for establishing a town-wide residents association. Elected to the Board of Directors at the October 2025 AGM, he served as Vice-Chair and participated in the Environment, Climate Resilience, and Infrastructure Committee. He is also a resident representative on Walker Industries' South Landfill Phase 2 Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee, a position he has held since December 2024.

Prior to relocating to Niagara, Steven developed considerable experience in conservation governance through his appointment to the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority by the former Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton. Between 1996 and 2010, he held several senior leadership positions, including Chair of the Board of Directors from 2002 to 2006 and Vice-Chair during two separate terms. He also served on the Regulations Committee and several finance, administration and policy advisory committees, as well as the Mississippi-Rideau Source Water Protection Authority. In Niagara, he was subsequently appointed to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's Governance and Accountability Working Group (2014–2015).

Steven's commitment to community service extends well beyond municipal and environmental matters. He served for ten years as Congregational and Official Board Chair at St. Davids-Queenston United Church. He volunteered with Niagara Falls Community Outreach, soup kitchen, and served on its Board of Directors as Property Manager. Since 2014, he has also participated in the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, assisting low-income individuals and families through several local community organizations.

His public service also includes 12 years with the Canadian Forces Reserve Cadet Instructors List, where he attained the rank of Captain. During this period, he held several administrative and training leadership positions and served as Commanding Officer of 188 Squadron from 1984 to 1987.

Steven's contributions have been recognized through numerous military and departmental awards, including a Chief of Defence Intelligence Certificate of Appreciation (2010), a Director Geospatial Intelligence Certificate of Recognition (2009), a J2/DG Intelligence Special Award (2001), a Base Commander's Commendation (1992), and a Canadian Forces Weather Services Citation for Excellence.

Steven's Commitment to NOTLRA

Steven brings to NOTLRA a valuable combination of public-sector management experience, environmental and conservation knowledge, governance expertise and practical community involvement. His background in working with government agencies, advisory committees and conservation authorities has given him an appreciation for the importance of transparency, accountability, informed decision-making, and meaningful public consultation.

He believes in ensuring that residents have an effective voice in decisions affecting Niagara-on-the-Lake's future, particularly in areas involving environmental protection, infrastructure, climate resilience, and responsible community development. Through his continued involvement with NOTLRA, Steven seeks to help strengthen resident representation and encourage constructive, informed engagement between residents, municipal government, and other public institutions.