

Niagara Region Transportation Master Plan

Public Information Centre 1 Summary



Prepared for Niagara Region
by IBI Group

December 7, 2015

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1 Introduction

This report summarizes the Public Information Centre Number 1 (PIC 1) hosted by Niagara Region as part of the *Transportation Master Plan* study. PIC 1 was held at three locations as noted below.

The purpose of the initial round of PICs was to create an opportunity for area residents and stakeholders to learn about the study, and provide their perspectives on the future transportation vision in Niagara Region – on such issues as auto travel, transit service, active transportation and other potential policies and strategies designed to enhance Regional travel.

The three PICs were held jointly with the Region's Municipal Comprehensive Review and Water/Wastewater Master Servicing Plan studies, and though attendees provided comments for all three studies, only the comments relevant to the TMP study are summarized in this report.

The PICs were held in three locations in the study area:

- **PIC Location No.1: Town of Grimsby Council Chambers**
 - November 17, 2015
 - 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
 - Forty-four (44) individuals signed in at the event
- **PIC Location No. 2: Vale Health & Wellness Centre (Port Colborne)**
 - November 18, 2015
 - 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
 - Eight (8) individuals signed in at the event
- **PIC Location No.3: Kiwanis Aquatics Centre (St. Catharines)**
 - November 19, 2015
 - 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
 - Fifty-four (54) individuals signed in at the event



2 Notification of Public Information Centres

Advance notification of the PICs was provided to potentially interested stakeholders and Niagara Region residents by a variety of mediums:

- Memo to Regional Council and copied to local area municipal councils.
- Notice emailed to identified list of public and business stakeholders.
- Posting on Niagara Region's website
- Newspaper advertisements as follows:
 - *St. Catharines Standard*: November 5, 2015
 - *Fort Erie Times*: November 12, 2015
 - *InPort News*: November 12, 2015
 - *News Now*: November 12, 2015
 - *Niagara Advance*: November 12, 2015
 - *Niagara Falls Review*: November 12, 2015
 - *Pelham News*: November 12, 2015
 - *St. Catharines Standard*: November 12, 2015
 - *Thorold News*: November 12, 2015
 - *Welland Tribune*: November 12, 2015

The notices provided the following general information about the study:

- Purpose, time, and location of the PICs;
- Study background, and overview of the TMP process as well as the other two components of Niagara 2041 parts of the overall Plan;
- Contact information for primary study team members; and
- Information on further opportunities to participate.

Copies of PIC 1 notices are included in **Appendix A**.

3 Arrangement of Public Information Centres

The first round of PICs was arranged in an open house format for all three studies under Niagara 2041 – How We Grow (Municipal Comprehensive Review), How We Flow (Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan) and How We Go (Transportation Master Plan). Staff from Niagara Region and three consultant teams were present to engage attendees and answer questions.

Display panels were arranged in an easy-to-view format, and included information on the following study elements:

- Overview of Niagara 2041 and context for the three component studies;
- Overview of the TMP study process;
- Current transportation statistics and trends relevant to Niagara Region; and,
- Focus areas of the plan.

The display panels included interactive displays for attendees to provide their views/opinions/perspectives on the following transportation issues:

- *Existing Transportation Network – Mark up this map with your issues and ideas for transportation in Niagara Region.*
- *Your Vision for Transportation – Use your stickers to tell us what are your top priorities for the Niagara Transportation Master Plan.*

A copy of PIC display panels are included in **Appendix B**.

4 Attendance

Attendance at each of the three PICs varied from eight to 54. Each attendee was asked to sign in on the provided sign-in sheet, with some attendees opting not to provide their full contact information. Those who did sign in were asked if they would like to stay informed throughout the project via emails and newsletters. All attendees who responded “yes” were added to the project mailing list.

In total, 44 attendees signed in at the PIC in Grimsby, 8 signed in at the PIC in Port Colborne and 54 attendees signed in at the PIC in St. Catharines.

5 Comments and Questions Received

Comments from the public were received through the following:

- Comment forms;
- Interactive display panels;
- Interactive Niagara Region map comments;
- Verbal comments; and,
- Emails to the study contacts.

The questions and comments received at the PIC are summarized in the following sections.

5.1 Summary of Comments Received

The comments received via the comment sheets were broken down into two categories to assist in future analysis. The comments are summarized below.

Specific Project Comments

- Grimsby is being pinched to the point that it’s starting to hurt. Let’s focus on expanding to the south – Mid-Peninsula Corridor, new infrastructure to accommodate future growth.
- The idea of connecting the 406 to the QEW in the south end of Niagara makes a lot of sense, I really like that. I don’t understand expanding the west end of the QEW; this will cause large traffic issues in St. Kitt’s and Glendale by the new outlet mall. Niagara Region Transit needs to absorb St. Catharines, Welland, and Niagara Falls Transit – single, comprehensive system.
- There should be more focus put into research and developing transportation apps.

- Transportation as part of Complete Streets bioswales should be encouraged. This would make streets easier for cyclists, and reduce storm water effluence by encouraging treatment in what in effect would become linear constructed wetlands.
- Keep old rail right-of-way available for fast electric rail that worked so much better than the highway system that replaced it.
- The long run plan should be to put utilities underground so streets can be shaded by trees to prevent global warming. Technologies to put utilities underground has improved to make the cost more reasonable. The increasing severity and frequency of storms makes overhead wires much less reliable and safe.
- Alternatives to Mid-Peninsula Highway should be used – improve existing highways. GO train to Niagara Falls should be a priority. A Regional transit system should be as well.
- More cycling supportive infrastructure (e.g. bike lanes, paved shoulders). Support for cycle tourism. Support for active living infrastructure and activities (e.g. hiking, walking, etc.).
- Please include consistent signage in all elements of the plan.
- How are impacts to agricultural land (viability) being addressed and what compensation is being included in the plan?
- Hoping you are looking at a seniors-friendly strategy as part of your growth planning.
- Protecting wetlands and biodiversity is most important. Intensification would make it easier to provide transit and services for an aging population. Consider including bus passes as part of property tax so more people would take transit and there would be fewer cars on the road.
- Continue to focus on incentives, transportation, and servicing for lands in Central and South Niagara Region.
- Support policies and programs at both Regional and Local level on Complete Streets. Shift the focus and develop a new paradigm for transportation like the City of Vancouver where pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders are given priority.

Suggestions Regarding Consultation/PIC

- Grimsby Council Chambers were tight – Fleming Centre. Staff were very friendly and helpful.
- I am happy that the Region has a long term priority list – important in good planning.
- There needs to be a more robust development of the “stakeholder groups”, especially for transportation. How do we expect to get real alternatives developed if the only groups contacted are the same ones who have given inputs previously?

5.2 Summary of Display Panels Comments

As mentioned in Section 3, two interactive display panels were developed to obtain attendees’ views on various focus areas of the TMP. One of the panels was a large map of the Region’s existing transportation network where attendees were invited to mark up and provide comments about transportation in Niagara. Comments on received on sticky notes were gathered from multiple information panels as summarized below:

Study Overview panel:

- Include GO train, right through to Niagara Falls, as one of the modes to be studied in the TMP.
- Coordinate roads and planning staff through all levels of government.

Building the Plan panel:

- Please include consistent signage. I need elements of the plan.
- Need good cycling counts and data.
- Include Niagara's Walk + Bike for Life report in the bikeways plan.
- Where is rail in the Plan?
- It's more than just routes – how about matching true Niagara welcome for cyclists (a new culture).

Ways to Participate panel:

- Be heard.

Transportation in Niagara Region panel - Where We Travel:

- Too many separate bus lines.
- Better, more frequent and smaller buses needed.
- Carlton – Grapeview Bridge is needed in St. Catharines.
- Identify for long term: Carlton – Grapeview crossing to relieve pressure on Welland Ave. and QEW crossings.
- People use QEW as a local crossing dangerously, cross too slow for cars to try and get up to speed.
- Car share and share-the-ride cabs.
- What other options were considered for the Mid-Pen? How can the public access that information and provide input? What considerations were given to expanding existing routes through the peninsula?

Transportation in Niagara Region (cont'd) panel - Mode split:

- Large auto split because transit is inefficient to meet the commuters' needs.
- Having bus fares paid for in advance, by everyone through property taxes or a fee would increase ridership and get cars off the road.
- Don't expect people to discard their cars and ride buses – be realistic.
- Share-the-ride cabs.
- Need carpool lot in St. Catharines beside the QEW.

Areas of Focus panel:

- More integration, connection, active transportation, accessibility.

A Complete Streets Approach panel:

- Yes, safer for citizens and assessment values.
- Burying hydro wires would mean trees could grow without being deformed by butchering. Healthier trees = healthier people.
- The streets are not complete without adequate trees.
- Yes please, empower communities to build their own streets too (at least partially).

Existing Transportation Network panel:

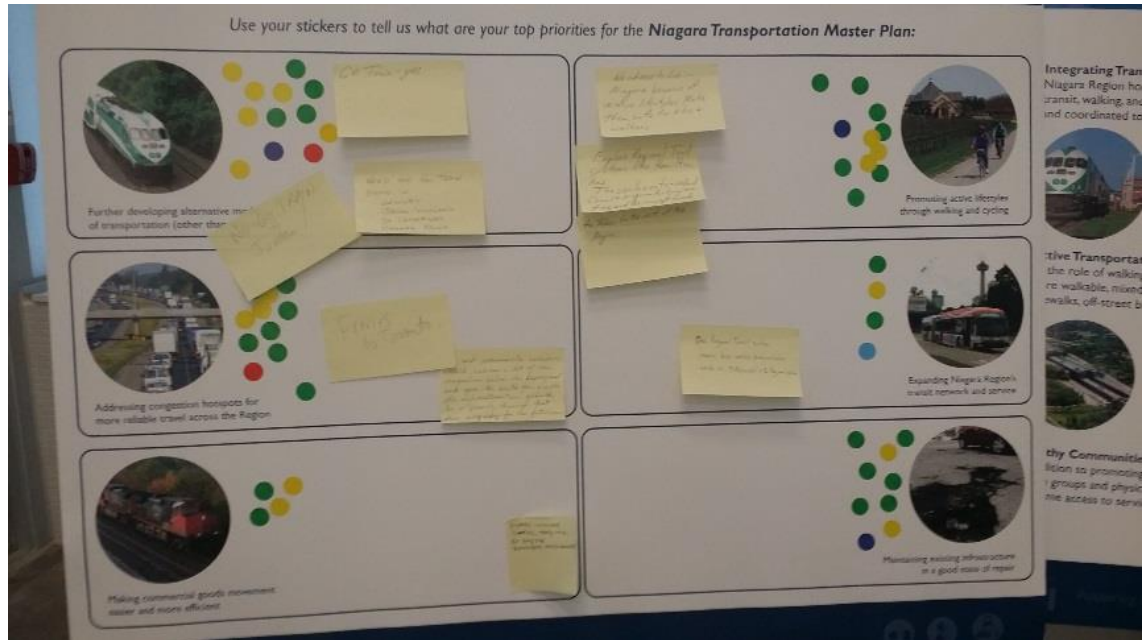
- Thank you for the GO rail plan.
- Save the Port Robinson ferry.
- Stop building and stop expanding roads. Very expensive, very unhealthy, enables more sprawl.
- Medium/high speed train connecting with New York and Burlington, etc.

Transportation/Mobility (MCR panels):

- Don't forget active transportation – plan for wider bridges and roads;
- Make current roads work better. No mid-peninsula route;
- No mid-peninsula expressway – would harm environment;
- NGTA? Seriously folks? Mid-peninsula would be obsolete before it's built;
- Stop building and expanding highways;
- No need for Mid-peninsula corridor;
- No mid-peninsula highway;
- No mid-peninsula highway – ever.

5.3 Summary of “Your Vision for Transportation” Comments

The second interactive panel outlined six priorities for the TMP and invited attendees to place stickers and comments in each box that matched their top priorities. The comments and “votes” received by each priority are identified below.



TMP – TOP PRIORITIES	ATTENDEE SELECTIONS
Further developing alternative modes of transportation (other than the car)	27
Promoting active lifestyles through walking and cycling	16
Addressing congestion hotspots for more reliable travel across the Region	12
Expanding Niagara Region’s transit network and service	10
Making commercial goods movement easier and more efficient	4
Maintaining existing infrastructure in a good state of repair	12

Comments:

Further developing alternative modes of transportation (other than the car)

- Active/regular GO service to the Region;
- GO train service to at least St. Catharines;
- GO train service to Niagara Falls;
- GO train stops in Grimsby, Jordan/Vineland, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls;
- No GO train in Jordan.

Promoting active lifestyles through walking and cycling

- There are tangible savings by investing in healthy active lifestyles of medical officer health roles;
- Have bioswales along roads, complete streets, good cycling;
- We choose to live in Niagara because of active lifestyles. Make them safe for bikes and walkers;
- Explore Regional trail systems like Hamilton has. The circle route – Welland Canal and Niagara Parkway are fine and the concept needs to be taken to the rest of the Region;
- We live in Niagara for the trees.

Addressing congestion hotspots for more reliable travel across the Region

- No new highways, protect our air;
- Ferries to Toronto;
- Regular transit service from the lower Region to GO stations;
- Carlton-Grapeview bridge in St. Catharines;
- The mid-peninsula corridor would relieve a lot of the congestion below the escarpment and open the south for growth. The infrastructure should be a priority through that area anyway for the future.

Expanding Niagara Region's transit network and service

- Sorely needed. In rural areas, owning a car is a necessity right now (even if you'd prefer not to);
- Inter-regional transit is essential;
- More accessible (stations, stops, buses);
- One regional transit system means less overlap/less administrative waste vs. 3 municipal and 1 regional system.

Making commercial goods movement easier and more efficient

- Please include CMHC, they will be key for developer involvement.

Maintaining existing infrastructure in a good state of repair

- None.

5.4 Summary of Verbal Comments

In addition to written comments received via comment sheets and notes on the display panels, many comments were received verbally by team members who were present at one or more of the PIC sessions. These comments are summarized below.

Grimsby Tuesday – Nov. 17

- The GO Rail extension is critical to help relieve the high congestion on the QEW;
- Residents have strong connections with the Greater Toronto Area and the GO extension provides a convenient and environmentally-friendly travel option;
- The extension will promote development growth in Niagara Region;

- The extension will provide mobility to the university students, including those travelling to McMaster University in Hamilton;
- The completion of Barlett Avenue will provide a critical connection and should have been implemented some time ago;
- Truck traffic and safety, particularly for those riding bicycles, is a major concern;
- The NGTA is badly needed traffic on the QEW is very congested;
- Ontario Street has very bad congestion that needs to be addressed;
- Enhanced public transit is needed as there are people that need to get around but do not have access to an automobile such as students;
- Parents must drive their children around;
- Need to address trucks with local businesses and street uses as an attendee had three on-street parking lots removed in front of their business to accommodate trucks and this has had a detrimental impact on the business;
- General support for complete street concept and the move towards enhanced cycling and pedestrians;
- The NGTA is needed and any concern about losing farmland is too late as the best farmland is below the escarpment and much of it has been urbanized;
- People are moving to Niagara to get bigger houses and greater value than they can get in the GTHA so the potential for intensification is limited.

Port Colborne – Wednesday, Nov. 18

- Need to increase regional transit services and connections;
- Transit service is lacking;
- Niagara to GTA corridor would help South Peninsula;
- GO train to Niagara would be beneficial provided people from Port Colborne can get to it by transit;
- Recognizing crossing of the canal may be an issue for extending GO rail, perhaps service could be extended to St. Catharines initially;
- Look at innovative transit services to connect communities;
- Demand for transit will increase as population ages;
- Most people in Port Colborne have cars because there is limited transit – not sure there is a huge demand for active transportation facilities.

St. Catharines – Thursday Nov. 19

- There is need to intensify and develop like in the old days with business over _____ and the ability to walk to places and stores and not need a car;
- The GO train would allow GTHA people to access more affordable housing but will also promote urban sprawl;
- It is very difficult to walk in St. Catharines as there no sidewalks in many areas;
- Cycling is difficult as there is no place for cyclists with the car traffic;

- There is a great need for more public transit that is convenient;
- Complete street concept strategy to active transportation was generally well supported;
- NGTA is needed in the east end connecting Fort Erie to Highway 406 and providing a bypass of the congested parts of the QEW. There is not much between Wellington and Hamilton for the NGTA to serve and international trucks and tourists won't be stopping in Niagara and that is not helping the economy;
- Most of the growth will occur in areas close to Hamilton. Economic growth also related to regional recreation in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls. The southern part of the Region, including Welland and Fort Erie are isolated and do not have much growth potential. Port Colborne was once a large tourist draw but that is no longer the case.

6 Summary

Overall, residents and stakeholders involved in the first round of PICs were passionate about transportation in Niagara Region. While a variety of issues were mentioned, a few common themes were clear in the comments received.

- The QEW is very congested due to the lack of other available crossing points at the Welland Canal and other waterways.
- Participants generally support the Mid-Peninsula corridor, as it will provide more connectivity in the Region and will take pressure off the QEW.
- Attendees at all PICs supported the need for improved transit service, including merging local transit agencies into one Regional transit system.
- Attendees at all three PIC events generally supported the need for more - and safer - walking and cycling facilities throughout Niagara Region; active and healthy lifestyles are important.
- Extending GO train service into Niagara Region was a very widespread priority in the comments received at the PIC events. Ideally GO train service would go directly to Niagara Falls, however it was accepted that crossing the Welland Canal may be an issue, so offering rail service to St. Catharines is a good place to start.

All of the information gleaned by Regional staff and the consulting team will be used to assess deficiencies, gaps and opportunities in Niagara Region's existing transportation system, and lead to the development of both short-term and long-term infrastructure and policy improvements. A second round of PICs will be held in 2016 to engage residents on those potential improvement measures.

Appendix A – PIC1 Notifications

LOCAL NEWS

■ COUNCIL NOTEBOOK

No more life in the fast lane?



A look at some of the issues at this week's St. Catharines city council meeting.

St. Catharines to look at slowing down

Any speeds on residential roads in St. Catharines too fast? Post-Dalhousie Coun. Bruce Williamson asked for a staff report on what speed limits should be in the city's residential areas and whether 50 km/h really makes sense.

Williamson noted Toronto recently reduced speed limits from 40 km/h to 30 km/h in large sections of the downtown.

He said staff may find speed limits don't have to be uniform across the city.

St. Patrick's Coun. Max Siscoe asked that the report include the feasibility of limited speed limits downtown. He said fellow ward councillor Mark Elliott, absent Monday, had asked previously for the feasibility of lowering speed limits down town to 30 km/h which Siscoe supported.

Staff will prepare a report for council for spring 2016.

Library likes its current chapter

The St. Catharines Library isn't interested in moving into Merriton Town Hall, a staff report to council said.

Staff approached the library board with the idea after recommending to councillors at the Oct. 5 meeting that they declare the town hall property surplus.

Council put off a decision at the time so staff could provide

answers to several questions by Merriton Coun. Jennie Stevens, including whether the library would be interested in using the building.

The Merriton branch is housed in a 4,200-square-foot space in a strip mall on Hartzel Road at an annual cost of \$55,400.

A report to council Monday says the library board said it's "very satisfied" with its current location due to the modern space and availability of parking.

The library used to be located in the old town hall and moved to the bigger space because of lack of parking, cost of modernizing the interior and the high cost of maintenance and utilities.

The issue of what to do with the property was pushed to the Nov. 16 meeting because Stevens was absent Monday.

Council stands on guard for the

City council kicked off its meeting Monday with the playing of O Canada for the first time.

Councillors voted unanimously on Oct. 5 to approve a motion by St. George's Coun. Mike Britton to begin meetings with the anthem to fill a ceremonial void left when the invocation was removed.

St. Catharines stopped reading an invocation to open meetings earlier this year after the Supreme Court ruled prayers cannot be recited before municipal council meetings.

A recording of O Canada played in council chambers while images from across the country played on a video screen.

Taxi availability a fright on Halloween

A lack of taxis in Fort Dalhousie for a Halloween pub crawl was an issue this past weekend.

Fort Dalhousie Coun. Carlos Garcia said the Fort Dalhousie

Business Association was concerned about the lack of taxi availability for its large event. He said some people couldn't find a taxi, even at 3 a.m. Sunday and the association didn't want people drinking and driving.

St. Patrick's Coun. Max Siscoe said people on Twitter were also remarking about a lack of taxi service downtown on Halloween night.

"This is one of those situations where ride-sharing service such as Uber would be a boon for the community," Siscoe said.

Mayor Walter Seditz said in addition to looking at new means of transportation, the city could look at how it can work better with local taxi providers.

He said the issue of availability of taxis can be raised with Coventry Connections, which runs Niagara's Central Taxi. But an event like the pub crawl goes forward, organizers of events can reach out and let the company know about them so they can make more taxis available.

"Those are kinds of things that are unintended consequences of a successful event so we have to do a better job on that," Seditz said.

Concerts come back part of report

Montebello Park concerts, stop signs in Fort Dalhousie and the Emerald Ash Borer are topics city staff will be debating into over the next few months.

Grantham Coun. Bill Phillips said a resident expressed concern the band concerts at Montebello Park were discontinued last year and moved to Market Square. He said the resident told him performers weren't happy with the venue and it was too hot.

He asked staff to report on the chances of bringing the concerts or a concert back to Montebello Park.

Foggy morning



While the south end of St. Catharines was bathed in warm sun and temperatures nearing 20°C, the north end was covered in fog with temperatures around 12°C Wednesday. A couple walks along the west pier in Fort Dalhousie.

PUBLIC MEETING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING PROPOSED REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT 9 (ROPA 9) Employment Land Policies

PROPOSED CHANGE

An amendment to the Regional Official Plan is being undertaken to provide employment land policies for the seven municipalities located outside of the Gateway Economic Zone and Centre. These policies will outline a land use strategy to support economic development and job creation in existing employment areas in the municipalities of St. Catharines, Lincoln, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Pelham, Grimsby, West Lincoln and Wainfleet. When paired with existing Gateway Economic Zone and Centre employment policies contained in the Regional Official Plan, ROPA 9 will represent Niagara's first comprehensive, Region wide, employment lands strategy.

Niagara Region has prepared draft policies and mapping for ROPA 9 which can be viewed at www.niagararegion.ca. Niagara Region would like to obtain your views on this important policy initiative.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Public input on this proposed amendment is welcomed and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Region. If you do not express your views through these avenues, you may be forfeiting your right to appeal Council's decision to the Ontario Municipal Board.

PUBLIC MEETING

This public meeting is being held under the provisions of Section 17 of the Planning Act at the following time and place:

DATE: Wednesday, November 15, 2015
TIME: 1 p.m.
LOCATION: Niagara Region Headquarters
Campbell West
Council Chambers
2201 St. David's Road
Thorold, ON

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

To provide input in writing or to request personal notice if the proposed change is adopted, please send a letter c/o Regional Clerk, Niagara Region, 2201 St. David's Road, P.O. Box 1042, Thorold, Ontario L2V 4T7, or email ralph.walton@niagararegion.ca.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the proposed amendment please contact Brian Dick, MCP, RPP, Senior Planner, by phone at 905-685-4225 ext. 3355 or email brian.dick@niagararegion.ca.

A copy of the proposed amendment and information and materials related to the amendment are available for inspection in the Planning and Development Services Department at the above address Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and at www.niagararegion.ca.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Special accessibility accommodations and materials in alternate formats can be arranged by contacting the Niagara Region's Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-685-4225 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

LEGAL NOTICE

Section 17 of the Planning Act
If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Regional Municipality of Niagara before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Regional Municipality of Niagara before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

If you wish to be notified of the adoption of the proposed Regional Official Plan amendment, you must make a written request to the Regional Clerk and such request must include the name and address to which such notice should be sent.



niagararegion.ca

www.niagararegion.ca

@niagararegion

NIAGARA 2041

Fostering an Environment for Economic Prosperity

Get Involved in Niagara's Futures Attend a Public Information Centre

In the next 25 years, Niagara is expected to grow, bringing a possible 168,000 new residents and 80,000 new jobs to the region.

Niagara Region is making sure we're prepared for this growth through three projects that will help us plan where and how that growth will occur, and how it will be accommodated.

HOW WE GROW:

The Municipal Comprehensive Review will look at the land we have available across Niagara, and will ensure we have enough to sustain our expected growth to the year 2041. It will also examine how that land is distributed throughout Niagara.



HOW WE FLOW:

The Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan will ensure Niagara has the infrastructure to provide critical water and wastewater services to our growing region in a sustainable and financially responsible way.



HOW WE GO:

The Transportation Master Plan will look at how we currently travel in and around Niagara and how we can improve our transportation systems, including options for walking, cycling and public transit, to better serve Niagara's future needs.

GET INVOLVED:

Residents are invited to attend a Public Information Centre to learn how each of these projects contribute to Niagara's overall growth plan for the next 25 years, and how you can have your voice heard.

Nov. 17, 2015

Town of Grimsby
Council Chambers
160 Livingston Ave.
4 - 8 p.m.

Nov. 18, 2015

City of Port Colborne
Vale Health & Wellness Centre
550 Elizabeth St.
4 - 8 p.m.

Nov. 19, 2015

City of St. Catharines
Kiwans Aquatic Centre
425 Carlton St.
4 - 8 p.m.

There is an opportunity at any time during this process for interested persons to bring comments and concerns to the attention of the project managers, and to review outstanding issues. If you have any questions or comments or wish to be added to the study mailing list, please contact us:

HOW WE GROW

Greg Bowie
Planner
Greg.Bowie@niagararegion.ca
905-980-6000 ext. 3375

HOW WE FLOW

David Shen
Planning Engineer
David.Shen@niagararegion.ca
905-980-6000 ext. 3777

HOW WE GO

Loy Cheah
Transportation Strategic
Projects Lead
Loy.Cheah@niagararegion.ca
905-980-6000 ext. 3482

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The Transportation and Water and Wastewater studies follow the Master Plan process as outlined in Section A.2.7 of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Oct. 2000, as amended in 2007 and 2011). The Master Plan will be filed under Approach #2 of the MEA Class EA Approach for Master Planning. The Master Servicing Plan will satisfy the planning requirements for Schedule A, A+ and select Schedule B projects and provide the basis for future investigations of identified Schedule B and C projects.


forterietimes.ca

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<p>Nov. 17, 2015 Town of Grimsby Council Chambers 160 Livingston Ave. 4 – 8 p.m.</p>	<p>Nov. 18, 2015 City of Port Colborne Vale Health & Wellness Centre 550 Elizabeth St. 4 - 8 p.m.</p>	<p>Nov. 19, 2015 City of St. Catharines Kiwanis Aquatic Centre 425 Carlton St. 4 – 8 p.m.</p>
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<p>HOW WE GROW Greg Bowie Planner Greg.Bowie@niagararegion.ca 905-980-6000 ext. 3375</p>	<p>HOW WE FLOW David Shen Planning Engineer David.Shen@niagararegion.ca 905-980-6000 ext. 3777</p>	<p>HOW WE GO Loy Cheah Transportation Strategic Projects Lead Loy.Cheah@niagararegion.ca 905-980-6000 ext. 3482</p>
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- 11:30 am - Dr. Marita Schauch - Stress and the Disease Connection
- 1:00 pm - Brenda Watson - Cleansing - Be Your Best!
- 2:30 pm - Dr. Zoltan Rona - Supplements for Longevity

Plus there will be demos, discounts, **FREE samples**, health info and gifts from the numerous exhibitors - including local natural health practitioners and natural health suppliers. This is the natural health event of the year! For more information about this event, visit **Rosemary's Natural Choices** or call us at 905-714-0586. Last year's expo was standing room only!

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Do you know the expression - you are what you eat? It's because your digestive system plays such a vital role in helping you stay healthy. Or in many cases - not. Poor digestion adversely affects your health in so many different and unhealthy ways.

Over 80 million people in North America suffer from poor digestive health. It is one of the most common and 'preventable' health concerns.

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Information is provided for reference only. For specific health issues consult your local natural health practitioner.



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Reader has bone to pick

Dear Editor,

Once again the dark clouds of contempt are hovering over our beloved Dog Park on Lake Street in Grimsby.

After two years of it providing hours of enjoyment for dozens, if not hundreds of dogs and their dog parents, the town received complaints by "one or two" individuals from the neighbouring homes.

Of course, the town being duly diligent, investigated the complaints thoroughly and..... Oh oh, no they didn't!

What a surprise. As of Oct. 29, a sign went up in total Eastern Bloc style, and notified the users that the park would be locked a half-hour before dusk as of Nov. 2.

But, the town had the park locked before 5 pm on Oct. 29. Ooops. Is that a faux pas? After a few calls from we dog park users, the sign was changed to 9:30 p.m. by the following Wednesday.

Unfortunately, it only read 9:30 as the park was being locked well before that.

Does anyone working for the town know how to read a calendar or tell time? One night, a worker came by at 8:50 p.m. to lock up. I was lucky to be standing by the fence. Had I not been, it would have been "nobody gets in..... nobody

Letter

gets out".

Hmmm, 911 please. I also circulated a petition that collected 35 names in a half hour hour, wanting the park left as is. The idea that the town would make unreasonable changes without notice due to the rantings of the neighbourhood bullies is beyond me.

However, I do give kudos to the town for seeing the error of its ways by acting swiftly to address the concerns of the dog park users, but a brick still goes out to the locking of a public park.

Can I say Eastern Bloc again?

Town of Grimsby - for shame. You succumbed to the whims of a couple individuals who seem to think they are the only ones paying property taxes in Grimsby.

To those of you who complained - you know who you are (and so do we), get a grip, get a life and move on.

Majority rules and the dog park is here to stay.

"The good of the many outweighs the good of the few". I think I heard that somewhere before.

Ruth Prosser (again)

Station 1 Beamsville set for Turkey Raffle

Beamsville Firefighters Association hosts its annual Turkey Raffle Friday, Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free but you must be 19 to attend. 50/50, cash bar will be available.



Marc L. Seguin
Financial Advisor
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Calling all kilts

The St. Andrew's Ball will be held Friday, Nov. 27 at the community centre.


Dance to live music supplied by The Juke Box Junkies, and enjoy entertainment by the St. Catharines Scottish Country Dancers.

Cocktails are served at 6 p.m., and dinner at 7 p.m., with the Grand March at 8:45 p.m. before dancing starts at 9 p.m.

Formal dress or suits are required - kilts are encouraged.

The cost to members is \$75, and \$85 for non-members, with a cash bar.

For reservations, call Margaret or Neil Middleton at 905-468-1539 or 905-468-0802, or email mwmiddleton@cogeco.ca or nmiddleton@cogeco.ca.



Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club will be presenting their annual pesticide report as required by Ontario regulation 63/09 under the pesticides act. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 17th, 2015 at 6:00pm in the clubhouse. Please email mike.magwood@notlgolf.com or call 905-468-5161 by Friday Nov. 13th if you plan to attend.

Michael S. Magwood
Course Superintendent
Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club



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IN BRIEF

Leaf collection delay possible

Niagarans who have tackled their outdoor fall cleanup may experience delays in curbside collection this week, Niagara Region said Tuesday.

High winds may be experienced due to high volumes of leaf and yard waste being picked out for collection this week of year, the Region said in a news release. Delays may last until Friday.

If residents do not have their leaf and yard waste picked up on their regular collection day, the Region is asking them to leave the materials at the curb.

There are no changes to regular garbage, recycling and green bin collections.

For updates on collection delays, visit www.niagararegion.ca or call 905-368-4343.

NPCA union reach deal
The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and OPSEU local 20, which represents 31 employees at the authority, have reached a tentative four-year collective agreement.

The contract, formed in 2014, represents a variety of employees including technicians, planners, conservation zone field workers and administrative support staff.

Time to get gifting.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015 ■ PELHAM NEWS

■ QUEEN VICTORIA PARK

Falls New Year's Eve concert needs a new TV deal

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

With no commitment from Global TV to televise next month's New Year's Eve show at Niagara Falls' Queen Victoria Park, one of the event's tourism partners confirms "other alternatives" are being looked at.

With eight weeks to go until the annual free concert, Global has still not announced whether it will be televising the show for the seventh straight year. In early September, website Pop Goes The News reported Global's parent company Shaw Media had "scrapped" the show because of the high cost of producing it. Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati disputed the report, and said talks with Global were continuing.

Last week, Diodati said the show was "not dead," and further talks were planned when he returned from his week-long trip to China — he departed last Thursday morning. He did not respond when asked if Global/Shaw Media was officially out of the picture.

When contacted last week, Shaw Media director of publicity Jaclyn Atwood-Powell said "we don't have an update at this time."

But Niagara Parks Commission chairwoman Janice Thomson said there are ongoing discussions to keep the show alive, likely with another broadcaster.

"We have made a full commitment to having a concert on New Year's Eve," she said. "There will definitely be something. We won't know until later in November the scale of it."

Niagara Parks Commission contributed about \$100,000 to last year's broadcast, which ended up costing Shaw Media, the city and its assorted partners about \$3 million to produce.

Global show ET Canada has produced the New Year's Eve broadcast for six years, following a long run by Hamilton's CHCH. Last year's show was the biggest yet, headlined by country singer Keith Urban. Ratings were up more than 30% over the 2013 broadcast, spiking at midnight when about 4.2 million viewers tuned in.

To do a similar-sized show this year,

Diodati said Global required the Niagara partners pay a bigger chunk of the bill. "Every year the budget gets bigger and the talent more high-profile," he said in September.

It appears the math didn't add up. Thomson added Global could still be involved with this year's show, but won't be broadcasting it.

"At this point, I'm confident it will be a concert that will still draw people," she said. "So much work has been put in by in so many stakeholders and people in the region to bring it to the level that it's at. There's certainly no interest in slipping backward."

With Global out, another Canadian broadcaster could step in. CTV, owned by Bell Media, is a possibility.

Asked if there were any discussions to broadcast the event, CTV spokeswoman Sara McLean said "at this time we will be providing no comment."

Niagara Falls Tourism chairman Wayne Thomson said there were "many meetings" about whether to cancel the show this year, but the assorted partners had contributed enough to keep it going.

Whether it will be televised is still up in the air.

"Last year ... was the best we ever had," he said. "To not be able to have that televised (this year) is extremely disappointing."

"The real benefit from the New Year's Eve show — other than providing entertainment for people — is having this live across Canada. The marketing and advertising opportunities with television across Canada, you just can't buy that."

Niagara Casinos spokesman Greg Medulin said the city's two casinos remain committed to the event. There has been a \$50,000 investment every year since Casino Niagara opened 19 years ago.

"We've seen it grow from a small civic festival feel to a national broadcast," he said. "Niagara Falls can count on our commitment to supporting what matters to tourists and locals alike."

john.law@shawmedia.ca

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■ EDUCATION: Niagara Catholic District School Board

Pilgrimage 2015 raises \$170,000 for international projects

WAVE CAMPBELL
St. Catharines
Niagara Catholic school students and staff have raised a whopping \$170,000 for developing projects by passing their love for...
The annual pilgrimage walk supported by the eight Niagara Catholic District School Board high schools (not about 4,000 students, staff, alumni and administrators on across across Niagara Sunday, Oct. 25.
Students, two from each high school, Tuesday night outlined their skills to board members with short reports, projects and a highlight video.
At Notre Dame College School, where the pilgrimage originated, it was the 10th anniversary of the Welland walk.
It drew 1,200 walkers from the school and feeder schools. They



WAVE CAMPBELL
St. Catharines
Shown are some of the 26 students from Niagara's Catholic high schools who highlighted Pilgrimage 2015 for students with short reports and projects. Students were held across the region last month.

\$14,000 for the work of the Holy Cross Brothers and Sisters in the West Indian nation.
In Niagara Falls, Saint Michael and Saint Paul stepped out together.
Saint Michael collected \$20,000 for Hope for Rwanda's Children Fund and Maintenance of the Precious Blood. Saint Paul helped Emmanuel Conversion School in Malawi, Haiti, walk off with \$17,000.
Lakewood Catholic in Port Colborne responded to a recent disaster in Port-au-Prince, Dominica. The school's annual Gator walk raised \$10,000 to help this community hit by tropical storm Trina earlier this fall.

raised \$40,000 for Development and Peace; Yvonne Hickey in Lima, Peru; and the Dominican Canadian Community Development Group.
A letter from Sister Doreen Cloutier, who works in Haiti, opened on more than 320 walkers

from St. Francis Catholic Secondary School in St. Catharines. They raised \$30,000 for an orphanage and school in Cap-Haitien, Haiti.
St. Francis, Denis Morris and Holy Cross continued a tradition of meeting in St. Catharines' market square for a pilgrimage mass.

Denis Morris, in addition to raising \$14,000 for Wells of Hope in Guatemala and a school in Haiti, collected canned goods for local food banks.
Holy Cross students heard about life in Haiti from Davon (son Angelle) as they raised

Monday, 320 Howard Treaty students and staff on the streets of Grimsby took in \$20,000 for La Paz in the Dominican Republic.
Board chairman Joe Paul MacNeil passed the students from Pilgrimage 2015 for the connections they are making with the people they are helping.

Annual TURKEY ROLL **FRIDAY NOV. 27 7PM**

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ST. CATHARINES

Welland store workers, customer uninjured in crash

Welland Supermarket owner Mari Ramundo said she, a full-on vinyl eye and a customer escaped injury when a truck drove into the store at the intersection of Southworth and Lincoln streets at 4:44 p.m. Wednesday. Ramundo said the incident left her shocked.

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Fostering an Environment for Economic Prosperity

Get Involved in Niagara's Future: Attend a Public Information Centre
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Niagara Region is making sure we're prepared for this growth through three projects that will help us plan where and how that growth will occur, and how it will be accommodated.

HOW WE GROW:
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HOW WE FLOW:
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GET INVOLVED:
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HOW WE GROW Greg Bowie Planner Greg.Bowie@niagararegion.ca 905-980-6000 ext. 3375	HOW WE FLOW David Shen Planning Engineer David.Shen@niagararegion.ca 905-980-6000 ext. 3777	HOW WE GO Loy Cheah Transportation Strategic Projects Lead Loy.Cheah@niagararegion.ca 905-980-6000 ext. 3462
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The Transportation and Water and Wastewater studies follow the Master Plan process as outlined in Section A2.7 of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Oct 2000, as amended in 2007 and 2011). The Master Plan will be filed under Approach #1 of the MEA Class EA Approach for Master Planning. The Master Servicing Plan will satisfy the planning requirements for Schedule A, A-1 and select Schedule B projects and provide the basis for future investigations of identified Schedule B and C projects.

13th Annual Santa Claus Parade

Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.

Free, post-parade activities in Market Square, including a visit from Santa. Please bring a non-perishable food item, hats or mittens for Community Care St. Catharines & Thorold.

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► POLICE BRIEFS

Dispatch merger up for consideration

Thorold city council has requested a staff report on possibly merging of emergency dispatch services.

Niagara Regional Police board chair Bob Gale, Acting Insp. Jim Lee and Deputy Chief Bryan MacCulloch appeared before councillors last week to ask about endorsement of a motion and talked briefly about a long-term plan.

Gale said the merging of police, fire and emergency medical services in Niagara would save the City of Thorold time and money.

"Police and fire could never be on the same channel, but they could be in the same building," he said.

Traffic-calming measures for Merrittville

Traffic-calming measures will be installed on Merrittville Highway following the approval of a motion by Thorold city council.

A yellow centre line will be painted on the road to

create a visual narrowing of the road and therefore slow traffic down, and a Safe Pace 100 radar sign will be installed mid-block on Merritt Road between Cataract Road and Merrittville Highway. The signs will also act as data collectors to ensure the traffic-calming measures are working.

New roof for old Thorold arena

Thorold's old arena, the Whyte Arena at 70 Front St. N., will receive a new roof after extreme weather in past weeks caused leaks. Council approved a motion to repair the entire roof with money left over from repairs done at the new arena. Coun. Sergio Paone spoke out against the motion, saying even though council was reallocating money from a different project, it would not be fair for tax-

payers. The money spent on the new roof could have been a surplus. Paone said the issue of repairing the roof is especially tricky, because the City of Thorold hasn't come to a decision about what is going to happen to the old arena.

Going once, going twice ...

Thorold's Community Activity Group is holding its 20th annual auction on Saturday starting at 6 p.m.

A silent auction will take place for the first hour of the event, followed by the live auction at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$5. The event will feature light refreshments and will have a cash bar available.

The auction will feature items such as winery tours and tastings, NHL and Ice-Dogs game tickets, golf passes and jewelry.

CORRECTION

A news brief in the Oct. 29 edition referred to solar street lights installed at Mel Swart - Lake Gibson Conservation Park that should have stated they were manufactured by Thorold-based Global Energies, not Global Technology as was reported. More can be learned by e-mailing jamie@globalenergies.net.

www.thoroldedition.ca

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160 Livingston Ave.
4 - 8 p.m.

Nov. 18, 2015

City of Port Colborne
Vale Health & Wellness Centre
550 Elizabeth St.
4 - 8 p.m.

Nov. 19, 2015

City of St. Catharines
Kiwanis Aquatic Centre
425 Carlton St.
4 - 8 p.m.

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HOW WE GO

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THOROLD

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

Welland hospital's ECU pays its respects

FRANK IERMAN
Times Staff

Bob Gires was 17 years old when he deployed overseas to Iraq. "I joined up on the 25th of August. The war hadn't even started, but the year was an even seven everybody was just getting to the Army or Navy," Gires recalled Wednesday.

Gires said he remembers being happy to be able to do his part. "We're not a bunch of heroes or anything, we just know that there was something that had to be done and we did it."

The 54-year-old is a resident of Welland hospital's extended care unit, where 303 Niagara Sea Cadets hold a special Remembrance Day ceremony for the residents of this



home.

Lt. Col. Kathy Powell, commanding officer of the cadets, said the opportunity for the group to come to the ECU and meet Gires and other residents and to give them an opportunity to attend a ceremony was important.

"Most of the time you go to a Remembrance Day parade and you don't talk to any people and you don't meet a veteran in person, and it gives the cadets an opportunity

to meet someone who may have lived at that point," Powell said.

ECU program manager Linda Laska said that it's not possible for the home to get all of its residents to local ceremonies because of mobility issues.

"The fact that the sea cadets are willing to come helps us with that in an awesome way for the residents," Laska said.

Gires said he wouldn't discourage youth today from joining the army, but he certainly doesn't want to go back.

"It was a hard racket, a hard life and you had to be on your toes all the time because you never know when the next one was going to go. I just got a few of my friends that way."



PHOTO BY FRANK IERMAN/NIAGARA TIMES
Second World War veteran Bob Gires, center, takes a photo with 303 Niagara Sea Cadets at a Remembrance Day ceremony at Welland hosp. It's extended care unit.



Alex Robinson, a 303 Niagara Sea Cadet, rolls Bob Gires into the Remembrance Day ceremony.

Eastdale Secondary School presents an evening with

Anna Olson

Tickets: \$10.00 available at the school or at the event

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2015

Time: 7:00 p.m. at Eastdale (905) 734-7458

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Appendix B – Display Boards
