A Message from Interim CAO Sheldon Randall
And Lord Mayor Betty Disero
Regarding Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Niagara

-March 31, 2020- As the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to increase in the Niagara Region, it is understandable that residents' levels of anxiety surrounding this pandemic may also increase. Town Council, Staff and the Emergency Control Group (ECG) would like to reassure that our community’s health and safety is at the forefront of every decision we make.

As outlined by Canada’s Deputy Chief Public Health Officer, the country’s struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to last many months. As of 9:45 AM today, the Niagara Health System (NHS) reports 1,514 total patients tested, 67 total cases tested positive, 18 COVID-19 patients admitted to date, 13 patients being treated for COVID-19 and 4 deaths. NHS runs the two assessment centres in the region.

This information may differ from COVID-19 cases reported by Niagara Region Public Health or the Ontario Ministry of Public Health due to timing of collection of data.

Let’s not forget that each of these numbers represents a life. There is no time for hesitation or wavering. Niagara-on-the-Lake has taken a firm stance by declaring a State of Emergency and it is vital that we all work together, doing whatever possible to flatten the curve and control the potential spread of COVID-19. We cannot stress enough the importance of self-isolation, physical distancing and staying home whenever possible.

Our ECG is working night and day, communicating with the Region and Public Health officials, monitoring and responding to information from Provincial and Federal governments and sharing resources and communications to support the public through this rapidly changing situation.

In an effort to assist with enforcing emergency orders, a ministerial designation under the Provincial Offences Act was made to authorize Municipal By-law enforcement officers to enforce Emergency Management and Civil Protections Act orders. This better positions the Town to ensure that the orders set out by the Provincial government are adhered to.

Regrettably, three more COVID-19 related deaths have been reported in Niagara, bringing the total to 4. On behalf of the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Town Council, and Staff, we would like to express our sincerest condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones as they deal with this tragic loss.

To those first responders and health professionals on the frontline, making personal sacrifices to help deal with the impacts of COVID-19, we express our deepest gratitude and respect.
To our residents, we will continue providing regular updates through social media and the Town's website to ensure you are well informed. To accommodate those residents who don't operate online, important messaging from the Town will continue to be displayed at all local post offices.

Town facilities, including the Administration Buildings, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library, Queenston Library, Meridian Credit Union and Centennial Arenas, Niagara-on-the-Lake Courthouse and all public washrooms, will remain closed until further notice. In-person meetings will continue to be cancelled or conducted via teleconference. In accordance with the Provincial Government's emergency orders, the Town’s communal or shared public or private outdoor recreational amenities are also closed.

To review all Town updates related to COVID-19 and to see up-to-date information on the status of Town services, please visit www.notl.com/COVID-19, or call 905-468-3266. Phones are being answered between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday to Friday, and online service requests remain available at www.notl.com. Town staff will continue to assist and serve citizens online and over the phone.

Sheldon Randall
Interim CAO

Betty Disero
Lord Mayor