



A Message From
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Campaign Launch

My campaign launch was September 3, 2026. For those who could not be there, my presentation regarding my accomplishments on Council and my future commitment to you, can be seen below.

Hi everyone. Thank you for coming to the official launch of my campaign.

Some of you may not know my background so to begin with I will tell you a little bit about myself.

I was born and raised in Niagara, where my grandparents farmed in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

I attended Brock University, specializing in physical geography and urban planning. After graduation I moved away from Niagara to work in research for a variety of scientific organizations (eg government, university) and also starting my own business. There is more detailed information on my website. So, I have the skills to do the job of representing you. I understand urban planning, detailed reports; analyze budgets; dealing with Government bureaucracies

After finishing that stage of my life I able to be a full time Councillor for you. I have no personal business agenda; I am seeking office solely for the betterment of the community.

I have served for 6 years on Council. I have been listening to community members and acting upon what I have heard. You may ask – what have I accomplished. Key accomplishments:

Planning: some things

- Promoted community character sustainability when dealing with plans and amendment eg motioned to uphold the St. Davids design guidelines to re-establish the Village Centre as the Commercial - which means no roundabout
- Highlighted the need to increase capacities for stormwater and waste water infrastructure. My heart goes out to those impacted by flooding.
- Motioned the need to increase the criteria for these capacities. The 1:100 yr criteria is no longer adequate.
- Motioned to create a new community benefits charge for 5 stories or greater to ensure adequate infrastructure – growth should fund new infrastructure needs

Heritage:

- Motioned to consider options for fast-tracking the process of municipal heritage registration.
- Supported the increase the Queen St. heritage area,

Environment and Infrastructure:

- Spearheaded the Climate Change Adaptation Plan.
- Promoted planning for parks in new subdivisions vs cash-in-lieu of parkland.

Agriculture:

- Objected to commercialization of agricultural lands (eg minimum cultivation, no hotels),
- Motioned to support provincial Bill 21 Protect Our Food Act 2025,

Healthcare:

- Successfully procured a Nurse Practitioner from the Niagara Health System for a walk-in clinic for those who do not have a local family doctor and for visitors.

Tourism:

- Advocated to balance tourism with residential, agricultural and business communities.

Budget:

- Motioned the creation of an audit committee
- Advocated for planning fees to be at cost recovery
- Proposed many motions to reduce expenditures and increase revenues

Governance:

- Motioned to challenge the strong Mayor's powers because of its impact on the balance of power between the lord mayor, council, and staff.
- Fought provincial Bill 100 on Regional Governance at the provinces legislative review committee, based on democratic grounds; I argued that stripping power from elected officials and consolidating it into fewer hands diminishes fair community representation.

I have worked to ensure that the concerns and priorities of residents in every community across Niagara-on-the-Lake are heard and addressed.

I've made tough decisions and I'm not afraid to do the right things for the community. I have had positive feedback on my accomplishments.

I have A RECORD OF SERVICE, EXPERIENCE YOU CAN COUNT ON**THIS IS MY PLATFORM and MY COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY FOR THE FUTURE****1. RESPONSIBLE GROWTH**

Support development with infrastructure that protects neighbourhood character, and strengthens our community.

2. PROTECT WHAT MATTERS

Safeguard our natural spaces, cultural heritage, and community character for generations to come.

3. TRANSPARENT. ACCOUNTABLE. COMMUNITY FOCUS.

Put residents first with open decision-making, meaningful engagement, and responsible leadership.

TRUST has been eroded and needs to be rebuilt with the community.

4. SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN THE RURAL COMMUNITY.

Protect agricultural land, support local farmers and promote the strengthening of our rural economy

5. RESPECT THE TAXPAYER.

Promote fiscal discipline, responsible budgets, and investments that deliver real value for our community.

6. TOURISM. PROTECT WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL.

Build a sustainable tourism economy that benefits local businesses while respecting residents, our environment, and our heritage.

7. SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A STRONG COMMUNITY.

Advocate for improved healthcare, accessible services, schools and seniors housing.

This election is very important in choosing the path forward for NOTL. Vote carefully. Demand better!

Thank you for listening and I look forward to talking to you individually.

This community is strong! Let us build a brighter future together! Vote for Sandra O'Connor.