



Department of Corporate Services  
1593 Four Mile Creek Road  
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[www.notl.org](http://www.notl.org)

**THE CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**  
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

DATE: **NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR: \_\_\_\_\_ Betty Disero

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR: \_\_\_\_\_

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff be directed to submit the attached application on behalf of Council for the nomination of Austin Kirkby for the OMAFRA - Rural Ontario Leaders Award.

## Nomination Form

**NOMINATION DEADLINE: November 15, 2017 by 5:00PM  
EST**

## NOMINEE CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Individual, Youth Individual, Business, Community or Non-Government Organization:

Austin Kirkby

Nomination Type (check one):

- ☒ Individual (25 years of age and older)  
☐ Individual – Youth (24 years of age and younger)

- ☐ Business  
☐ Community  
☐ Non-Government Organization

Mailing Address: 1601 Concession 2, RR6City: Niagara on the Lake Region/County/District: \_\_\_\_\_Province: Ontario Postal Code: L0S 1J0Phone: 905-468-7433 E-mail: austinkirkby@yahoo.caWebsite: NA Social Media Accounts: NA

## NOMINATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

☐ IF THIS IS A SELF-NOMINATION, PLEASE CHECK THIS BOX AND PROCEED TO THE NOMINEE PROFILE SECTION.

Nominator Contact: Peter Todd on behalf of Title: Town Clerk  
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council  
 Relationship to Nominee: Committee Member of Council

Phone: 905-468-3266 ext 228 Alternate/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: ptodd@notl.orgWebsite: www.notl.orgHas the nominee been told that they are being nominated for this award? ☒ Y ☐ N

## NOMINEE PROFILE

### Individual / Youth Individual:

Please attach a brief biography of the nominee. You may include links to web-sites, media stories or other materials that would help describe the individual.

### Business / NGO:

Please attach your organization's mission statement, purpose and objectives. You may include links to web-sites, media stories or other materials that would help describe the organization.

### Community / Region:

Please attach a brief profile of the community or region being nominated including location, size, economic and demographic statistics, etc. You may include links to web-sites, media stories or other materials that would help describe the community or region.

## LEADERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT DESCRIPTION

☒ Provide a Title of the Leadership Achievement. (15 words maximum)

☒ Summarize the Leadership Achievement (50 words maximum)

### Describe the Leadership Achievement. (Maximum 1000 words)

☒ Please provide a detailed description of the reason(s) why the nominee should receive the award. You may use the assessment criteria as sub-headings (Uniqueness and Originality, Community Benefits, Impact, Development and Broader Use) within your document or you may provide an essay-format submission. Content may include:

- A description of the individual or organization as it relates to the leadership achievement and any background or contextual information.
- What made this an outstanding leadership achievement – indicate any extraordinary circumstances or challenges.
- The impact that this achievement has had locally and/or on the rest of the province.
- Best practices in leadership.
- When the leadership achievement was initiated and completed, or if it is ongoing.

### Testimonials / Letters of Support

- ☒ A minimum of two signed testimonials from individuals, other than the nominator, who have direct knowledge of the value and impact of the nominee's achievement and who support the nomination. Please ensure that the contact information of the testimonial writer is included.

### Additional Material (optional)

The following materials are not mandatory but you are encouraged to supplement your nomination in order to improve its overall strength.

- ☒ Additional supporting material such as supplementary testimonials, publications, media stories, evidence of leadership excellence being recognized by other groups or individuals.

*Resolution of Council*

### ELIGIBILITY

- ☒ I certify that the nominee(s) meet the eligibility criteria for the program stream for which they are nominated, as set out in the Rural Ontario Leaders Awards 2017 Guidebook.

### CERTIFICATION

#### Compliance with Terms and Conditions of Participation

- ☒ I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I have read, understood, agreed and complied with the terms and conditions of participation in the Rural Ontario Leaders Awards program, as outlined in the 2017 Program Guidebook and Application Form, and certify that the information provided on all parts pertaining to the program is true, complete to the best of my knowledge and can be substantiated.

#### Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Family Relationship

- ☒ I certify that the nominee(s) are not employees of OMAFRA.

- ☒ I certify that I, the nominator, am not an employee of OMAFRA.

**Applicant:** *Peter Todd on behalf of*  
*Town of Niagara-on-the Lake Council*

**Title:** *Town Clerk*

**Signature**  **Date** *Nov 13 2017*

## **PART D - CERTIFICATION**

*The information you supply on this form is being collected by the OMAFRA Economic Development Division and will be used and disclosed for the purpose of administering and promoting the Rural Ontario Leaders Awards Program. This includes processing this form, confirming any eligibility requirements and contacting you in the event that you or the nominee is an award recipient. The information you provide in this form may be subject to audit and also be shared with external review panels. In the event that you are an award recipient, your name, contact information and photographs may also be disclosed in print and/or electronic form to promote the objectives of the Rural Ontario Leaders Awards Program as set out in the 2017 Program Guidebook and Application Form. Recipients of this award will be recognized at an awards event in 2018.*

*Questions about the collection of personal information on this form can be directed to the Program Analyst, Regional Economic Development Branch, OMAFRA, 1 Stone Road West, 3rd Floor SW, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 4Y2, or by phone at 1-519-826-3278.*

### ***Mailing address and contact information.***

**Submit your application postmarked by 5 p.m. EST on**

**November 15, 2017 to:**

**Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs**

**Attn: Rural Ontario Leaders Awards**

**1 Stone Road West, 3rd Floor SW**

**Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2**

**Online at: [www.ontario.ca/ruralleaders](http://www.ontario.ca/ruralleaders)**

**E-mail: [ruralleaders@ontario.ca](mailto:ruralleaders@ontario.ca)**

**Fax : 519-826-3442**

**For more information, contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300.**

### Biography of Austin Kirkby

Austin Kirkby, a Niagara-on-the-Lake resident, actively and tirelessly advocates for the Niagara farming community. She was a Town Councillor for 15 years and has served, and continues to serve, on Town advisory committees, Regional committees, and other agencies and boards. She is a voice for farmers and hopes that Niagara-on-the-Lake will be recognized for its uniqueness, particularly when agricultural policies are being developed and revised.

### Title of Leadership Achievement

Active Advocate for Niagara's Farming Community

### Summarize the Leadership Achievement:

For over 25 years Austin Kirkby has researched, advocated, and been a voice for the Niagara farming community at various levels of government. She deserves to be recognized for the outstanding work she has done to help her local farming community.

## Leadership Achievements

Austin Kirkby has spent all of her adult life, living and working on a farm in Niagara on the Lake. Born in Toronto, her family arrived in Niagara on the Lake in the 1950's. Austin attended school here and married her high school sweetheart, John Kirkby.

John's family were tender fruit and grape farmers and after their marriage, Austin moved to the farm and settled into a large family home that was shared by two other generations of John's family. She soon came to love the farm and to appreciate the family history.

After the birth of their daughters she remembers fondly 4 generations of family members sharing life in the family farm home. It was a wonderful experience for their daughters to be so close to a great grandparent and two grandparents. Working on the farm from a young age instilled in the girls a strong work ethic that still exists today.

In 1991 Austin Kirkby began a 15-year tenure as a Councillor for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. During those years she served on about 20 Town advisory and special event committees. She retired from Council in 2006.

Austin has been a tireless advocate for our area farmers while on Council and after retiring, serving 15 years on the Town's Irrigation Committee, the last 8 of those years as Chair, stepping down in 2010. From 1995 to 2014, Austin served on the Town's Agricultural Advisory Committee, the last couple of years as Chair.

After leaving Council, she also continued to represent the farming community on a number of Regional committees and bodies including the Greenbelt Review Committee, the Waterfront Enhancement Committee, and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's Strategic Plan Committee.

Austin's motivation comes from the great respect she has for the farming community. She recalls sadly the hail storm in 1986, which devastated some of the farms in NOTL but also remembers the optimism to prevail. She remembers the severe drought in 1988 and the strong effort by members of the farming community to establish a farm irrigation system for NOTL, utilizing open agricultural drains as conduits.

Her hope for the future is that the agricultural industry in NOTL is recognized for its uniqueness, including the farm parcels sizes, the environmental contributions of the farmed lands, including the permanency of orchards and vineyards, and the best management practices utilized by the farmers.

She also hopes that when future agricultural policies are developed by all levels of government that uniqueness will not be forgotten and the economic viability of the farms will not be impacted.

"Farmers voices must be heard. They are the backbone of one of the most important industries in the Niagara Region."

Most recently Austin was appointed again to both the Irrigation Committee and Agricultural Committee for the Town of Niagara on the Lake in October of 2016. She has been preparing responses to Upper Tier Governments and Agencies on Policy Statements with respect to specialty crop areas. She has also been working with Town staff on the Irrigation mapping. Both of these tasks have saved the Town and the farming community a lot of money.



**Ontario  
Tender Fruit  
Growers**

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

OMAFRA  
Attn: Rural Ontario Leaders Awards

**Re: Nomination from Town of Niagara on the Lake Ontario Leader Award- Austin Kirkby**

On behalf of our organization, I am pleased to provide this support letter for the nomination of Austin Kirkby for an Ontario Leader Award.

Austin has been an integral part of the tender fruit and grape farming community in Niagara for more than 50 years. In addition to being on Niagara on the Lake council for 15 years, Austin was involved in numerous committees ensuring the voice of agriculture was heard across the region.

Austin's tenacity and ability to bring together regulators and growers to resolve issues and elevate the importance of agriculture, makes her a true leader in her community.

Sincerely,

Phil Tregunno, Chair Ontario Tender Fruit Growers  
[ptregun@gmail.com](mailto:ptregun@gmail.com)





**Operations Department**  
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November 4, 2017

OMAFRA  
Attn: Rural Ontario Leaders Awards

Re: Nomination- Austin Kirkby

John and Austin Kirkby raised three daughters on a 120 acre fruit farm in Niagara-on-the-Lake comprised of wine grapes and peaches.

Austin spent her summers supervising the peach packing crew and spent her winters attending meetings that involved contentious issues between the urban and rural communities.

In 1991, she made the decision to run for municipal council, championing the rights for the farming community and won. She was re-elected for four consecutive terms and was held in high esteem by both the rural and urban communities of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In 1988, a provincial members bill was passed, allowing drainage ditches in Niagara-on-the-Lake to be used for irrigation purposes. In dry years, water was pumped to these ditches and growers could access this water to irrigate their crops. Unfortunately, not enough water could be pumped into these ditches for every grower to use, so a rationing system had to be devised. Austin took on this task by contacting every grower, determining usage and amount of water needed and policing to make sure no one was abusing the system. She walked every drainage ditch and photographed most of them. While she may have taken some abuse from desperate growers, everyone said she was fair and considerate.

Austin has continued to represent the specialty crop areas in meetings with government representatives in the recent 10 year Greenbelt revisions adding addendums for specialty crops areas needed by growers.

She is sought out by the Region of Niagara for her knowledge of agricultural issues and updates for drainage ditch considerations. In negotiations with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, she is updating the drainage mapping for Niagara-on-the-Lake to determine fish habitat ratings for drainage ditches and creeks which have impacts for growers using these for irrigation purposes.

Her ongoing involvement with the new Official Plan for Niagara-on-the-Lake in regards to the Agricultural component and making sure it represents the views of growers, takes up much of her time.

Austin is tenacious and well read and without her dedicated time and energy, the growing community would not be well represented and recognized in the Niagara Peninsula and the Province of Ontario.

Sincerely,

Dennis Dick  
Chair of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Agricultural Committee

*First Capital of Upper Canada - 1792*



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**THE CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**  
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

DATE: **NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

RESOLUTION NO. 130

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR: Betty Disero

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR: \_\_\_\_\_

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff be directed to submit the attached application on behalf of Council for the nomination of Austin Kirkby for the OMAFRA - Rural Ontario Leaders Award.

# Rural Ontario Leaders Awards 2017

## Program and Application Guide

***Deadline: November 15, 2017 is the due date for applications. Electronic applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. EST and hard copy applications must be postmarked by the deadline date to be accepted.***

### Introduction

Rural communities are an essential part of our cultural and economic fabric and the Ontario government is committed to ensuring they remain vibrant places where our children can learn, grow, work and play.

Strong rural communities help create good jobs, attract investment and promote new economic opportunities for their residents and businesses.

Celebrating innovative leadership that keeps rural communities economically, socially and environmentally vibrant is a priority for the government of Ontario.

That is why the Ontario government created the **Rural Ontario Leaders Awards**.

Every two years, this program will recognize outstanding leadership in the area of rural economic development that supports one or more of the following outcomes:

- Training and skills development
- Entrepreneurship and local employment
- Strong social infrastructure
- Civic engagement

The Rural Ontario Leaders Awards has five streams with up to one winner in each of the following categories:

- Individual (25 years of age and older)
- Individual -Youth (24 years of age and younger)
- Community (lower-tier municipality, Indigenous community)
- Business
- Not-for-profit/non-government organization

Recipients in their award category receive:

- A Rural Ontario Leaders Awards plaque
- An invitation to attend the awards reception at the Rural Ontario Summit in February 2018
- Award recipients will also receive a media kit detailing recipient achievements in multiple formats and the use of the Rural Ontario Leaders Awards wordmark to support their marketing and promotional efforts

The recipients of the 2017 awards will be announced at The Rural Ontario Summit in February 2018.

## Objectives

The objectives of the Rural Ontario Leaders Awards are to:

- Recognize rural Ontario's contributions to the economy
- Promote initiatives that contribute to the quality of life and economic well-being of rural Ontario
- Support knowledge and technology transfer to inspire the adoption of best practices and initiatives that enable rural economic development
- Raise awareness about rural Ontario's ability to foster a competitive and innovative business environment, and strong leadership

## Eligibility Criteria

**Nominees must meet the criteria for a category (a, b, c, d or e):**

### **a) Individual Award (25 years of age and older)**

- Be a resident of Ontario
- Must be 25 years of age or older
- Individual applicants need not be rural residents but their leadership achievement must result in a significant benefit to rural Ontario.

### **b) Youth Award (Individual - 24 years of age and younger)**

- Be a resident of Ontario
- Individual youth applicants must be 24 years of age and younger Individual youth applicants need not be rural residents but their leadership achievement must result in a significant benefit to rural Ontario.

### **c) Community (Municipality, Town, Village, Hamlet)**

- Only communities classified as rural (a population of less than 100 000) may be eligible for this award
- A group of communities or a region is eligible to apply if they are collaborating for the purposes of regional planning and managing common services such as counties or former counties
- Indigenous communities and remote northern communities are encouraged to apply for the award.

### **d) Business**

- Must be Ontario based with a direct relationship to rural Ontario
- All types of businesses are eligible including:
  - Sole proprietorship
  - Corporation duly incorporated pursuant to the laws of Canada or the laws of Ontario
  - partnership
  - Unincorporated association
- Nominees must be in compliance with all applicable federal, provincial and municipal legislation that apply to the operation of the business.

#### **e) Not-For-Profit/Non-Governmental Organization**

- Not-For-Profit/Non-Governmental Organization that do not operate on a sole for-profit basis and may include:
  - Registered charities
  - Religious organizations
  - Social entrepreneurships
  - Cooperatives
  - Community development agencies or organizations
  - Economic development agencies or organizations
  - Individuals affiliated with any of the above organizations

#### **Ineligibility Criteria**

##### **Nominees are ineligible for the program if:**

- They are an employee of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
- Individuals employed by OMAFRA who are owners of, members of, or have a controlling and/or financial interest in a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation and any combination of business or organization.

#### **NOTE:**

Nominators can nominate more than one nominee under each stream, provided that the nominee meets the eligibility criteria. A separate application form will be required for each nomination.

Nominees and nominators must be willing to participate in interviews, site visits, photographs and video recordings at the discretion of OMAFRA or selection committees.

OMAFRA has the right to refuse an application for any reason, including but not limited to concerns with compliance, undue influence, false or misleading information.

#### **Areas of Leadership**

Leadership may include demonstrated excellence in the following:

- Local and or regional rural economic development
- Fostering an innovative rural economy
- Rural community development
- Cultural development
- Attracting tourism
- Environmental stewardship
- Promoting the value of Ontario's agri-food sector
- Working to attract Human capital
- Youth retention

## Application Process

Applications must be received either electronically or be postmarked by 5 p.m. EST on November 15, 2017. The application form can be downloaded from: [www.ontario.ca/ruralleaders](http://www.ontario.ca/ruralleaders)

**Please refer to the last page of the Application Form for options to submit your completed application.**

Please ensure that you answer all questions in the application form.

Applicants and nominators are strongly encouraged to include photos (300 dpi - dots per inch) supporting the application in electronic format, if available. Print copies will be accepted. Letters of support are also encouraged.

Nominees must consent to the collection of personal, business or organizational information in relation to the administration of the Rural Ontario Leaders Awards.

Nominees must consent to the disclosure of any personal information (name, job, title, etc.) collected in relation to the administration of the Rural Ontario Leaders Awards, including the publication of personal information used for the purpose of providing information about the Rural Ontario Leaders Awards.

## Selection Process

The selection process for the Rural Ontario Leaders Awards recipients is as follows:

- An acknowledgement e-mail will be sent to each nominee.
- Applications will be reviewed for eligibility and considered by two independent review panels: (1) an internal OMAFRA panel with staff and; (2) an external panel of recognized leaders in the field of rural economic development.
- The internal review panel will evaluate all applications and provide a short list to the external review panel.
- The external panel will assess the selected award applications and make recommendations to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Minister).
- The Minister will review the recommended applications and approve award winners in each of the five leadership categories.

## Assessment Criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess applications:

- **Uniqueness and Originality** - where and how the leadership initiative originated and the uniqueness of design or style used to produce positive change in rural Ontario.
- **Community Benefits** - The extent to which the leadership achievement is leading to, or has led to, demonstrable positive change in rural Ontario.
- **Impact** - the positive economic and/or social benefit to rural Ontario communities, businesses and development organizations.
- **Development** - the extent to which the leadership initiative has been thought through to implementation.
- **Broader Use** - the potential for use on a broader basis and be able to demonstrate the potential for having a positive effect if applied elsewhere in rural Ontario.