

Lord Mayor, Councillors

The purpose of my presentation is to advocate for the residents of the Niagara on the Green neighbourhood. It is a well-known fact that our neighbourhood has residential parking challenges. As new phases were added, there were more and more townhouses and less single-family dwellings. All the streets in the neighbourhood have a sidewalk on one side which limits parking space in driveways. Because of our close proximity to Niagara College, a lot of the homes are investment properties where landlords rent out rooms to students rather than the whole house to a family. Many of the homes in the neighbourhood have more than two vehicles, which presents a challenge for parking regardless of whether the garage is available or not.

Town bylaws are traditionally enforced on a complaint basis. For our neighbourhood, this is not the case when it comes to parking enforcement. It was once stated to me by Town staff that NOTL Bylaw Enforcement is under an agreement with Niagara College to enforce parking in their paid parking lots so when they complete their rounds at the college, they will come into Niagara on the Green to proactively patrol and enforce the bylaw. This leaves residents with the impression that our neighbourhood is being unfairly targeted, compared to other neighbourhoods like Garrison Village, Chautauqua and Cannery Park.

There was relief among residents a couple of years ago when the Town rescinded the overnight parking ban from the Parking Bylaw. However, the 12-hour limit restriction remains, which has become more problematic during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Which brings me to my point. During the pre-pandemic time, many residents left the neighbourhood during the day for work. However, many are now working from home and have done so for the past year, so there is no longer an exodus of vehicles at the start of the workday. Add to this the Stay-at-Home Order, and you can see how some vehicles remain in the same spot for hours, even days. Recently Bylaw Enforcement have been handing out parking tickets to the residents that have no choice but to park at least one vehicle on the street. Some residents have received multiple ticket and are becoming very frustrated.

I would like to formally request that the Town consider pausing enforcement of the 12-hour parking restriction while we are still in a pandemic. It would be for no other reason than to show some compassion and kindness towards residents who are already struggling financially and emotionally through these unprecedented times.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request. I look forward to hearing your response to this challenging situation in Niagara on the Green.

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