



MEDIA RELEASE

Council Appoints Andrew Niven to Fill Vacant Council Seat

For Immediate Release

October 17, 2024

During a [Special Council Meeting](#) held on October 16, 2024, Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Council voted in favour of appointing Andrew Niven to fill the vacant Council seat for the remainder of the 2022-2026 term of office. This appointment is pending confirmation of Mr. Niven's acceptance and verification of his legislative eligibility and qualifications, as required under the *Municipal Act*, 2001.

The vacancy arose following the resignation of former Councillor Nick Ruller. In accordance with the *Municipal Act*, when a Council seat becomes vacant, municipalities are required to fill the vacancy within 60 days, either through a by-election or a direct appointment. Council opted for a direct appointment in this case, as permitted by Section 263 of the *Municipal Act*. Under the legislation, Council has the authority to appoint any eligible individual who meets the requirements. The *Municipal Act* is overly prescriptive in this process, therefore providing Council the opportunity to consider a wide range of qualified candidates to serve the remainder of the term.

About Andrew Niven:

Andrew Niven is a respected community member known for his extensive involvement in local initiatives and boards and his dedication to the well-being of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Niven is known for his leadership within the Niagara-on-the-Lake business community, currently serving as Chair of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL. In this role, he has been a strong advocate for local businesses and tourism, helping to shape strategic initiatives aimed at promoting the economic growth of the town. Niven currently serves as Chair of the Town's Tourism Strategy Committee, is a member of the Municipal Accommodation Tax Committee, and is the Governance Chair for Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake. His active involvement in Town initiatives and the local business community, along with his dedication to preserving the character of Niagara-on-the-Lake while supporting strategic growth, will make him a valuable addition to Council.

Council will proceed with the formal confirmation of Mr. Niven's qualifications and, upon completion, will officially welcome him to his new role.

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