



Lord Mayors Report – January 28, 2025

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa

December 2024

December 12 – My oldest son had the privilege of driving a tractor in the 4th Annual Tractor Parade. The event was well attended, and seeing the streets of Virgil illuminated for the occasion was truly impressive. I extend my thanks to Deputy Lord Mayor Wiens and Dorothy for their efforts in organizing this successful event and to everyone who participated and contributed to its success. I was pleased to have my oldest son attend and drive the tractor graciously supplied by Erwin and Dorothy Wiens.

December 13 - I attended the Bright Nights Winter Festival of Lights opening at Lakeview Wine Co. The winery grounds were beautifully arranged, featuring impressive themed light sculptures. It was a pleasure to be part of this event and see the creativity on display. I was joined by the Chinese Consular General and members of the business community, Reg Cllr Joyce Morocco, Regional Councillor Andrea Kaiser, and our Economic Development Officer, Ashleigh Meyers.

December 14 – My family and I had the privilege of participating in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Christmas Parade. The turnout was exceptional, with thousands of people lining the parade route. I extend my gratitude to the Christmas Parade Committee for their hard work and dedication in making this event a success year after year. Councillor Wiens, Councillor Mavridis, Councillor Cheropita, Councillor Balasiuk, Councillor Niven, NRP Chief Fordy, and spouse.

December 17 – I attended the cheque presentation to the Kazemi Family, this year's recipient of the donations from the annual Candlelight Stroll. Thanks again to Kathy Wiess and the Chamber of Commerce for organizing this meaningful event and supporting our community.

December 18 – I had the pleasure of joining the Cadets, Staff, and Sponsorship Committee of the 809 Newark Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron for their 16th Annual Mess Dinner. It was a well-organized event and a great opportunity to support and celebrate the squadron.

January 2025

January 1 - I attended the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124's New Year's Day Levee and had the opportunity to bring greetings on behalf of the Town. The event began with a new members ceremony followed by a toast.



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January 1 – I attended the New Year's Day Levee at Navy Hall, hosted by The Friends of Fort George and Parks Canada. It was an honour to bring greetings on behalf of the Town, participate in the toast, and witness the cannon firing.

January 1 – I attended the Menorah lighting at Simcoe Park hosted by Chabad Niagara. It was a beautiful and well-organized service. I was joined by MP Tony Baldinelli, Chief of Police Bill Fordy, and my family.

January 4 – I brought a greeting on behalf of the Town at the NOTL Disc Golf Tournament held at the Community Centre. I had the opportunity to meet the players and throw the first disc to kick off the tournament.

January 9 – I hosted an open house in St. Davids at Fire Station 2. Nearly 90 residents attended, and it was an excellent opportunity to connect with them and provide an update at this midpoint in the term.

January 10 – Joined by Councillor Burroughs, we raised the Crime Stoppers flag with Crime Stoppers of Niagara at Town Hall. January has been proclaimed Crime Stoppers Awareness Month.

January 16 - I hosted an open house at Fire Station 5 in Glendale.

January 17 – I visited Queen Street for the Ice Wine Festival kick-off party.

January 19 – 22 - I represented the Town at the 2025 ROMA Conference in Toronto with Deputy Lord Mayor Wiens and Town Staff. A report to follow. Met with 4 Ministers: Tourism, Agriculture, Municipal Affairs & Housing, Infrastructure, and Op Leader staff.