



Lord Mayors Report – March 25, 2025

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa

March 2025

March 1 - Together with the Town's United Way Committee, we bowled in the Big Brothers Big Sister Bowl for Kids Sake. Our team reached our fundraising goal and had a wonderful afternoon of bowling at Parkway Social in St. Catharines. Thank you to the Town's United Way Committee and Big Brothers and Sisters of Niagara for all they do for our community. Over \$70k raised in total.

March 6 – I attended the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce annual Spirit Awards at White Oaks. I had the honour of presenting the Lord Mayors Award to the Citizen of the Year. Congratulations to Dorothy Soo-Wiens, who received this award, and all the other recipients for all your hard work and dedication to our Town. I was joined by Councillor Mavridis, Councillor Niven, Deputy Lord Mayor Wiens, and a few members of the Town Staff. Thank you to the Chamber of Commerce for hosting this community event.

March 10 – I met with the Niagara 8, a group of Niagara area municipal leaders from both sides of the border, including representatives from Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, (Canada) and Buffalo, Erie and Niagara Counties (USA), and the Niagara Region. We reached a universal agreement on the problem with tariffs, and the need to raise awareness with non-border states and cities of the relationships and business integration on both sides of the border. The group showed a willingness to make a joint statement to our National governments, and a joint event showing our cooperation.

March 13 - Together with Deputy Lord Mayor Wiens, we attended the Pizza with Politicians event at Brock University. This event is an opportunity for students to speak with politicians from across the region.

March 13 – I attended the Great Lakes St Lawrence Cities Initiative roundtable with Canada Water Agency; brought forward concerns about source water protection, and CA funding; and discussed the need for the Province and others to review the infrastructure requirements for stormwater management as we experience climate change impacts;

March 19 – I was invited by the Province and had the honour of attending the Swearing-In Ceremony for Members of the Executive Council of the Province of Ontario at the Royal Canadian Museum.

March 19 – Along with Ashleigh Myers, I attended the GNCC Niagara Business Leadership series featuring Patrick O'Brien of Andrew Peller Limited. It was an opportunity to discover the insights driving Patrick in his leadership position and an



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opportunity to share key innovations and information on the growing success of Andrew Peller Limited.

March 19- I attended the Swearing-In Ceremony for Members of the Executive Council of the Province of Ontario Committee, by invitation by the Premier. Her Edith Dumont, Honour Lt. Governor of Ontario over saw the ceremony.

Border Mayors Alliance – Since the uncertainty looming with the new President of the United States and his new and proposed tariffs, I have been meeting weekly with the Border Mayor Alliance group. A group of over 40 municipalities across Canada, which has been a great resource in targeting how to support our business during these uncertain times. Ashleigh Myers, Government Relations, Economic Development and Tourism Officer, has also been in attendance. We receive a daily media update as well as briefing papers as necessary on current, related events.