



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Council Passes By-law for Trees on Private Property in Urban Areas**

**For Immediate Release**

**December 7, 2018**

**-Niagara-on-the-Lake-** The Inaugural Council Meeting was held at the Shaw Festival Theatre on Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 where the 2018 – 2022 Council members took their declaration of office. On Tuesday December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Lord Mayor Betty Disero called a Special Council Meeting to be convened on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and the associated [agenda](#) was posted on the Town's website shortly thereafter. There were three items on the agenda, one of which pertained to a private tree protection by-law.

Council approved By-law number 5106-18 regulating the destruction or injuring of trees on private property in the urban areas of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The by-law is available on the [Town's website](#) and includes three appendices; Appendix A lists weed trees and nuisance trees that are exempt from the permit process, Appendix B outlines a list of preferred trees for replanting as per the Government of Ontario's Tree Atlas, and Appendix C contains a map outlining the urban boundaries as defined in the Town's Official Plan.

"I felt it was important to enact the private tree by-law as quickly as possible. A budget workshop for all of Council had already been scheduled, so I believed this to be the most appropriate time," stated Betty Disero. "There has already been a lot of community input regarding a private tree by-law during the last term of Council. There is always fear about the unknown and the only way to see if the by-law will be workable, affordable, and practical is to put it in place and monitor the impact. Now that the by-law is passed, Council can move forward and focus on the municipal budget."

In the coming months, further public consultation will take place with residents to discuss the implications of the by-law. Staff will keep Council apprised of the impact of the by-law and will make recommendations if any amendments are needed. A complete update will be provided at the September 9, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting.

**For more information, please contact:**

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