

# The Village

Four-season living in Niagara-on-the-Lake

**W**alking the intimate tree-lined streets of The Village – a new community in Niagara-on-the-Lake – with John Hawley and his wife Elizabeth, its original founders and long time residents, one forgets that the pedestrian-friendly streets, lanes and squares have existed for little over a decade. These last 15 years have been transformational in this small Ontario town's history, redefining the historic community and its fertile farmland as the place for four-season living.

Niagara-on-the-Lake was central to the network of Loyalist settlements that dotted the shores of Lake Ontario in the 19th century, but was left to the sidelines in the 20th century when it was circumvented by the highway that rushed people to Niagara Falls. This saved the town from the sprawling growth that had left so many other historic towns in Southern Ontario unrecognizable.

Hawley recognized the magic of Niagara-on-the-Lake and chose to work with the world's pre-eminent New Urbanist community designer, Andres Duany. "I challenged Andres to design a vibrant new community which captured the essence of this area's rich history."

Niagara-on-the-Lake is becoming much more than a destination for summer tourism with its world-class wineries, first-rate theatre, dining and



golf. This is a place that you can call home. With the first phases of The Village completed, it has now become a must-see destination.

Spring in Niagara, with its Strawberry Festival and Peach Celebration, is its most glorious season. As the trees of The Village and surrounding landscape bloom in robust colour, a walk down the main street, Garrison Village

Drive, is defined by an elegant row of red brick townhouses as well as two perfectly proportioned Model Homes on the park. The Model Homes illustrate the mixture of styles, sizes and types of homes, critical in DPZ's design.

This is arguably one of Canada's best examples of New Urbanism. Brookfield Homes, the 2009 Builder of the Year and now a major stakeholder, ensures excellence in the houses' design and construction.

The public gardens and squares of The Village are framed by Neo-Georgian and Victorian homes. Getting people out in the community and onto the sidewalks is one of the tenets of New Urbanism. Garages are cleverly situated in rear lanes, leaving the front of the house for porches and gardens. "Everyone knows their neighbours here and the master plan creates wonderful spaces to enjoy life together," says Hawley.

Neighbourly community spirit is reflected in a summer farmers' market in the Village Centre. As Hawley explains, "We set up a tent, talked to the local farmers and now it's the place to hang out on Saturday morning." Community spirit continues well into the fall and winter with the numerous festivals celebrating the region's specialty ice wine, which have given the area a burst of energy in its cooler months.

The Village of Niagara-on-the-Lake celebrates this region's spirit. With Duany's master plan in place, Hawley and Brookfield Homes are embarking upon the quest to build the best new community in Canada, and you are invited to stroll The Village yourself and become enchanted with its charm. ■



Located on the north side of Niagara Stone Rd., just East of Niven Rd. in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Sales Office is open from noon to 6 pm Thursday; 10 am to 6 pm Friday and Saturday; 11 am to 5 pm Sunday; Monday to Wednesday by appointment only.

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notthevillage.ca

