

# NOTL

A GUIDE FOR DISTINGUISHED EXPLORERS

WINTER 2023/2024



## CELEBRATE THE SEASON

From the Christmas Parade to the Icewine Village, find the best things to do and see in NOTL.

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## CHEF ICEWINE PAIRINGS

Three NOTL chefs reveal some gourmet icewine pairings that'll leave you wanting more.

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## HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Discover a spectacular annual light display and a map to some of the best and brightest in town.

PAGES 52-55

# NOTL: A GUIDE FOR DISTINGUISHED EXPLORERS

## The Lake Report

NIAGARANOW.COM | LAKEREPORT.CA  
EDITOR@NIAGARANOW.COM  
905-359-2270 | 496 MISSISSAGUA ST.

### PROUD AWARD WINNERS

The Lake Report is proud to say it won a national news award for the winter 2021 version of this guide. The magazine was awarded Best Special Section in the circulation 10,000 and over category by Canadian Community Newspaper Association in its 2022 competition. Filled with information about our town, it also contains some of the paper's best photography and some fascinating stories. Check out the guide to find the best attractions Niagara-on-the-Lake has to offer.

### OUR HOME ON NATIVE LAND

Niagara-on-the-Lake lies within the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Niagara Now Ltd. and The Lake Report acknowledge that our municipality is established on land that has been inhabited by Indigenous Peoples for millennia. As Canadians, we're grateful for the opportunity to live, work and play here and we thank all those who have served and continue to serve as stewards of this special place. Recognition of the important contributions of Indigenous peoples is consistent with our commitment to making the promise of Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities.

Cover photo by **DAVE VAN DE LAAR**



## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Find out why it's important to us to publish this special edition. And why we love the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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## NOTL WINTER MENU

Whether it's gourmet dining or a warm meal at a local pub, NOTL is one of the best places to have a meal, paired with a glass of wine.

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## CELEBRATE THE SEASON IN WINE COUNTRY

Looking for places to visit and things to do? See Tourism NOTL's comprehensive guide to winter activities in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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## ICEWINE FESTIVAL

Each year people flock to Queen Street to get a taste of NOTL icewine. This year the festival returns bigger and better than ever.

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## SANTA'S 'NAUGHTY CAN BE NICE' LIST

The big man's favourite events for the season, with a naughty twist. Don't miss out on Santa's list of things to do.

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## HOT APPLE CIDER

Apple cider is one of those traditional seasonal drinks. Find out about some NOTL apple farmers who help keep it alive.

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## THREE CHEFS, THREE ICEWINE PAIRINGS

We asked three Niagara-on-the-Lake chefs what they have on the menu to pair with a glass of icewine. Read about the indulgent eats.

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## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS UP THE PARKWAY

Discover a spectacular annual light display and a map to some of the best and brightest in town. Take a cozy drive and see the sights.

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## WHAT'S ON AT THE SHAW FESTIVAL

From two Christmas shows, to a brand new lineup for the 2024 season, read about what's happening at the Shaw Festival theatre.

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## THE GHOSTS OF NOTL

Niagara-on-the-Lake is regarded as one of Canada's "most haunted" towns. Read some stories that'll make your hair stand up.

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## HOLIDAY CONTEST!



Be the first to find all **eight** hidden sleigh icons throughout this magazine and we'll include you in the next edition!

Just email us the correct page numbers along with a picture of yourself holding the magazine to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)





## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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**W**inter is here. And we couldn't be more excited about it.

Now, you might think we're crazy. Some people see the season as cold, wet and dark. But if you look around, it's not hard to lift the veil.

We see the brightness of Christmas lights. We feel the warmth of holiday spirits. We sit back and enjoy a dry cider or glass of wine, and we know — there's no better time to let all of your worries fall into the background;

to put your feet up in front of a hot fireplace and sip a mug of warm cocoa; or to cuddle up in a blanket with a loved one.

As a born and raised NOTLER, I've watched people flock to sing songs along Queen Street during the Candlelight Stroll. I've seen the families skating at the outdoor rink at the Pillar & Post. I've witnessed the magic this little town inspires.

With this special Winter Edition, we welcome you and invite you to

experience what we're so fortunate to take for granted.

This is our home. But it's not just ours. We invite you to take part in Niagara-on-the-Lake the best way, like you live here.

There's no reason to be a Scrooge about it, because Niagara-on-the-Lake is simply one of the finest places on the planet to immerse yourself in the winter season.

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EDITOR IN CHIEF

# CONTRIBUTORS

## Richard Harley

Harley is the publisher and editor-in-chief of The Lake Report, Niagara-on-the-Lake's longest standing independent newspaper, as well as a lifelong local. Find him at one of NOTL's parks enjoying some tobogganning with his family.



## Kevin MacLean

MacLean is the managing editor of The Lake Report. He is also a former journalism instructor at Toronto Metropolitan University and retired after a long career as a senior editor at the Toronto Star.



## Jill Troyer

Troyer is a feature writer for The Lake Report. She often covers the wine industry and enjoys cooking and hiking the Bruce Trail.



## Evan Loree

Loree is a staff reporter for The Lake Report, focused on municipal and Indigenous issues. He is sponsored by the Local Journalism Initiative program of Canada.



## Dave Van de Laar

Van de Laar is an award-winning photographer for The Lake Report.



## Julia Sacco

Sacco is a staff reporter for The Lake Report. Find her around town covering community events.



## Tim Taylor

Taylor is a feature writer for The Lake Report. He can be found dressed as Santa Claus, raising money for charities during the holiday season.



## Joanne Young

Young is a gardening expert and columnist for The Lake Report, writing our weekly "Growing Together" column.



## Megan Vanderlee

Vanderlee is the advertising manager for The Lake Report and an active community volunteer for several NOTL organizations.



## Lindsay Le Blanc

Le Blanc is an advertising sales representative for The Lake Report. She enjoys scoping out the wine, culinary and cultural gems of Niagara.



**NOTL: A Guide for Distinguished Explorers** is also supported by a long list of community writers, photographers, historians and all-around great people. A huge thanks to all who have helped us along the way. Special thanks to Tourism NOTL, NOTL Chamber of Commerce, Minerva Ward, Somer Slobodian, Scott Davidson, Conor MacNeill, Cary Frank and many more members of the NOTL community. And an equally enormous thanks to our advertisers. Without you, we wouldn't be able to put out this wonderful free guide to our town.





## CELEBRATE THE SEASON IN NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Welcome to Niagara-on-the-Lake: A Winter Wonderland of Celebration! As the president and CEO of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Niagara-on-the-Lake, it is with a joyous heart that I welcome you to our enchanting town during the most magical season of all.

Tucked in the northeast corner of the Niagara Region, Niagara-on-the-Lake transforms into a winter paradise, alive with festive spirit and sparkling with holiday lights.

As snowflakes gently kiss the historic Heritage District, you'll find yourself amidst a true Christmas village, complete with charming boutiques, cozy bistros and the unmistakable clip-clop of horse-drawn carriages. The holiday spirit is alive in our town, beckoning you to join in our cherished Christmas program, filled with dazzling light shows and heartwarming festivities.

Experience the magic of the season at the Shaw Festival's Christmas shows, where tales of yuletide are brought to life with theatrical brilliance. Meander through the Candlelight Stroll, a beloved tradition, where flickering candles light your path through our winter wonderland.

The Christmas Parade and the unique Tractor Parade in Virgil offer a delightful spectacle for the young and young-at-heart, while the Christmas holiday markets invite you to find artisan treasures and culinary delights perfect for any holiday celebration.

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“Whether you’re seeking a cozy romantic retreat, a family holiday experience or a festive group gathering, Niagara-on-the-Lake is your premier destination.”

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Culinary enthusiasts will revel in the tastes of the season at our wineries, each offering an array of icewines and winter pairings that celebrate the bounty of our region. The Niagara-on-the-Lake Icewine Festival is an ode to our winemaking excellence, where the nectar of winter grapes can be savoured in a toast to the season.

For those who delight in the outdoors, our lakeside trails offer a serene escape, with frosted vistas and quiet beauty, while artisan goods await discovery in our Christmas holiday markets. Every corner of Niagara-on-the-Lake brims with festive joy, inviting you to partake in the many

celebrations that make our town a beacon of holiday spirit.

As history whispers through our streets, Niagara-on-the-Lake stands as a testament to the enduring strength and warmth of its people. Tripadvisor's accolade as the Number 2 “Best of the Best Destinations in Canada” continues to shine through our winter festivities, showcasing the best of our culture and heritage.

Whether you’re seeking a cozy romantic retreat, a family holiday experience or a festive group gathering, Niagara-on-the-Lake is your premier destination. With historic hotels adorned in holiday finery and bed and breakfasts that feel like a home away from home, your stay is guaranteed to be merry and bright.

Join us for a season of joy, culture and celebration. Let Niagara-on-the-Lake be the setting for your winter story, where each moment is wrapped in the splendor of the season.

On behalf of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Niagara-on-the-Lake, we extend a warm, winter welcome. Come and celebrate the wonders of winter with us and experience the best that our captivating town has to offer.

Warmest winter regards,

**Minerva Ward**  
**President & CEO**

**NOTL Chamber of Commerce**  
**Tourism Niagara-on-the-Lake**

# BUDAPEST BAKESHOP

*A Bakery Experience Like No Other!*



We did not invent the Chimney Cake. Its origins go back more than 300 years in Hungary. What we did do, though, is take it to another level of deliciousness!

Every single Chimney Cake is prepared, hand-rolled and baked from scratch every day and throughout the day. When you enter Niagara-on-the-Lake and turn down Queen Street, just follow the smell of freshly baked goodness and you'll find us!

When you walk into our bakeshop, you get to see first-hand the entire process right before your eyes — the mixing, the rolling, the rising, the baking, the toppings and fillings!

It's time you tasted our cakes, that aren't really cakes at all!



[www.budapestbakeshop.com](http://www.budapestbakeshop.com)  
[@budapestbakeshop](https://www.instagram.com/budapestbakeshop)



118 Queen St.  
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON  
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905-468-7778



# NOTL WINTER MENU 2023/24

All items served with a side of local.

Canada doesn't really have a "national dish," unless you count poutine and maple syrup. Luckily, cultures from around the world are represented in Niagara-on-the-Lake cuisine. It's the Canadian way.

*Here are some of the best choices Niagara-on-the-Lake has to offer:*

## ITALIAN

Ruffino's Pasta Bar & Grill  
Twisted Vine  
The Old Winery Restaurant

## MEDITERRANEAN

Fornos Restaurant  
Old Firehall  
Gyros on the Lake

## ASIAN

Ginger Restaurant  
Niagara's Finest Thai  
Masaki Sushi  
Aura on the Lake

## CANADIAN/FUSION

Epicurean Bistro  
The Golf Club  
Corks Winebar & Eatery  
BarBea  
Benchmark Restaurant at Niagara College  
Garrison House  
LIV Restaurant  
Treadwell  
Queenston Heights Restaurant  
Zees Grill  
Bricks and Barley  
Shaw Cafe & Wine Bar  
Bistro Six-One  
The Grist  
Firehouse Flame  
11th POST on Queen

## WINERY RESTAURANTS

Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery  
Kitchen 76 at Two Sisters Vineyards  
The Winery Restaurant at Peller Estates  
The Farmhouse Cafe at Caroline Cellars Winery  
Trius Winery Restaurant  
OLIV Tapas Bar & Restaurant at Strewn Winery  
BarrelHead at Pillitteri Estate Winery

## HOMESTYLE (AND EASY ON THE WALLET)

Silk's Country Kitchen  
Sono's Cafe  
Stage Coach Family Restaurant  
Sunset Grill  
Husky House Restaurant

## HOTEL & RESORT KITCHENS

Churchill Lounge at the The Prince of Wales  
Noble at The Prince of Wales  
The Drawing Room at the Prince of Wales  
Restaurant at the The Oban Inn  
Vintages Wine Bar & Lounge at the Pillar & Post  
Bacchus Lounge & Patio at Queen's Landing  
Tiara Restaurant at Queen's Landing  
Cannery Restaurant at Pillar & Post  
The HobNob Restaurant at the Charles Inn  
Play Bar & Grill at White Oaks Resort & Spa  
The Oaklands at Riverbend Inn  
NOTL! Bar and Lounge at 124 on Queen Hotel & Spa

## WHERE THE LOCALS GO

Royal Canadian Legion for fish and chips on Thursday  
\$5 burgers on Wednesdays at the Prince of Wales

## PUBFARE

The Irish Harp Pub  
Sandtrap Pub & Grill  
The Olde Angel Inn  
Butler's Bar & Grill

## BAKERIES, QUICK STOPS & SANDWICH SHOPS

Budapest Bakery  
Hendriks Independent Grocer  
NOTL Home Bakery  
Teenie Panini  
McFarland House Tea Room  
MJ's Own Munchies  
Willow Cakes & Pastries  
Sweet & Swirls Cafe  
Nina Gelateria & Pastry Shop  
Old Town Goodies  
Plant No. 1  
Soko Bakery Cafe

## PIZZA & MORE

Garage Pizza  
Italian Pizza & Subs  
Bricks and Barley  
BarrelHead  
Nacho Business



## OUR TOP WINTER PICKS:

- Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery
- Barbea Snack Bar & Wine Shop
- Treadwell Cuisine
- The Winery Restaurant at Peller Estates
- The Irish Harp Pub
- Budapest Bakeshop
- Sunset Grill





## *Tis the Season*

*Embrace the holiday spirit at The Irish Harp Pub, where the festive craic is in full swing. Join us for a series of fun-filled events designed for the whole family to enjoy and give the gift of experience, time, and good company.*

*Whether it's a cozy gathering by the fireplace or lively entertainment with friends, The Irish Harp Pub is the perfect destination to create lasting winter memories. Come and experience the "Harp-Beat" of Niagara this holiday season.*



**VISIT [THEIRISHHARPPUB.COM](http://THEIRISHHARPPUB.COM)  
FOR UPCOMING EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

# Niagara HOLIDAY RENTALS



## Where Every Day is a Holiday

Embrace all that Niagara-on-the-Lake has to offer in the winter, and year-round, with Niagara Holiday Rentals. Whether you're planning a romantic getaway, a family vacation, or a fun-filled trip with friends, this winter wonderland offers something for everyone. From rustic cottages to stunning villas, Niagara Holiday Rentals can host one to ten guests.

Start your unforgettable journey by booking your winter escape today at [niagaraholidayrentals.com](http://niagaraholidayrentals.com).

Prepare to be enchanted by the winter magic of Niagara-on-the-Lake, where adventure, comfort, and unforgettable memories await you. Your dream winter escape begins here.



Established 1985

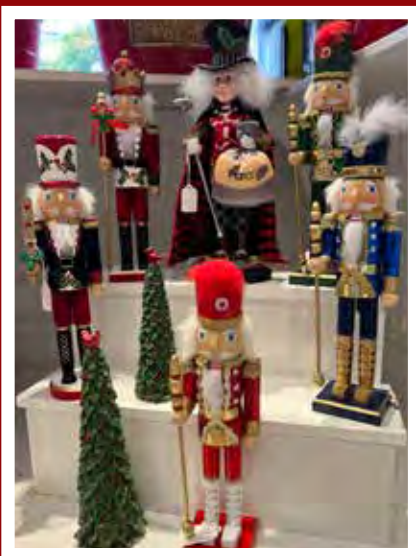
*Just Christmas is Canada's oldest year-round Christmas Emporium.*

*Over the years, we have developed the most enormous selection of ornaments, that we will personalize for free while you wait.*

*As always, we feature our most popular glass nameballs that are hand painted by one of our talented artists.*

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*Just Christmas is located on Queen St. in historical Niagara-on-the-Lake*



34 Queen St, Niagara-on-the-Lake | 905-468-4500 | [www.justchristmas.ca](http://www.justchristmas.ca)



# RAVINE VINEYARD

## ESTATE WINERY

Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery is a timeless Niagara destination for award-winning wines and world class farm-to-table dining which is steeped in history, family legacy and agricultural heritage.

Located in the heart of St. Davids, our charming and historical property offers a unique escape from the everyday hustle and bustle while being conveniently located only minutes from the QEW.

Let us host you on our fifth-generation family farm and share our passion for wine and culinary experiences alongside breathtaking views of our rolling organic vineyards!



tastings & tours



events



dining



# NOTL's Candlelight Stroll

## A magical walk through the streets of historic Old Town

---

Niagara-on-the-Lake's 34th annual Candlelight Stroll is the perfect way to start the holiday season.

On Dec. 1, residents and visitors can gather for an old-timey tradition of walking along Queen Street and through area neighbourhoods with a candle in hand, listening to carollers and bands, perusing the many wonderful merchants in Old Town and enjoying a hot mug of your favourite holiday drink.

The Candlelight Stroll is one of the most popular events in town and typically attracts thousands of people who gather to stroll around Niagara-on-the-Lake's historic downtown centre.

There will be bands and choirs performing along Queen Street. Longtime participants the Bethany Bell Ringers, Sing Niagara and the Salvation Army Band will be returning, along

with the Lincoln and Welland Regimental Band and A Capella Niagara.

Strollers are asked to gather around the Court House on Queen Street at 6:30 p.m. The stroll will commence at 7 p.m.

Candles can be purchased in the days before the stroll at the Chamber of Commerce office at 26 Queen St. Candles are \$5 each. There will also be candles available for purchase during the stroll at Fort George and on Queen Street.

Parking is free in Niagara-on-the-Lake for the month of December, and there will also be free parking at Fort George and a shuttle running to Queen Street and back between 4:30 and 9:30 p.m.

Instead of paying parking fees, visitors might consider donating to one of the many worthy causes the stroll is supporting.

Money will be donated to various causes around NOTL. The main recipients of this year's proceeds will be Dylan Dietsch and Maya Webster.

As well, there is a food drive for Newark Neighbours. Participants are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to drop off in collection boxes scattered throughout the walk.

Newark Neighbours assembles Christmas hampers every season and donates them to more than 50 families in NOTL.

Items needed for the hampers include: boxes of stuffing mix of any flavour, canned applesauce, canned gravy, canned peas, bottles of cranberry juice, canned pineapple, canned corn and canned ham. For a full list, visit the chamber's website and check out the Candlelight Stroll tab.

For the upcoming 2023 Candlelight Stroll, taking place on Dec. 1, we are thrilled to announce that we will be hosting a captivating afternoon showcase. Join us for an enchanting display of talent, featuring multiple musical performances, from 2 to 6 p.m., right in front of the historic Old Court House building on Queen Street, nestled within our charming Heritage District.

*Fa-lala-lala  
lala-la-lah!*

### Showcase Schedule

#### 2 to 2:30 p.m. — Niagara Pumphouse Art Centre

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is infusing the countdown toward the Candlelight Stroll with a touch of holiday magic and creative spirit. A live painting demonstration, featuring the Nutcracker, an iconic holiday symbol that stands guard over the historic Court House, comes to life with each brushstroke. Visitors are encouraged to engage with the artist, providing them with an opportunity to discover the diverse offerings of the art hub of the community, both during this festive season and throughout the year.

#### 2:45 to 3:15 p.m. — Shaw Festival performers

A troupe of skilled performers unites to present beloved holiday classics, carols, and musical melodies, aiming to enchant and kindle the festive spirit.

#### 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. — Niagara Star Singers & Queenston Women's Chorus

Joining together to create a holiday splendor the Queenston Women's Chorus & Niagara Star Singers will perform & sing classic Holiday songs.

#### 5 to 5:30 p.m. — Yellow Door Theatre Project

Young talents unite to display their passion and skill in the performing arts, infusing the streets of Niagara-on-the-Lake with the heartwarming spirit of the holiday season.

#### 6 to 6:30 p.m. — Salvation Army Band

**6:30 to 7 p.m. — Kind holiday words from special guests and introduction of recipients Dylan Dietsch and Maya Webster**

#### 7 p.m. — Stroll starts

**Santa Claus** will be joining in on the festivities and will be available for pictures from 3 to 5 p.m. in front of the Old Court House Building in our Heritage District.

There will be strollers in period clothing walking Queen Street to take pictures with and help answer any questions about the event and direct you where to purchase candles.

The Candlelight Stroll begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, in front of the Old Court House on Queen Street.

### MEET THE CAROLLERS:

- SALVATION ARMY BAND • YELLOW DOOR THEATRE PROJECT • GRACE UNITED CHURCH CHOIR
- LINCOLN AND WELLAND REGIMENT BAND • DR. MARY CROSS HARP • BETHANY BELL RINGERS
- FIFE AND DRUM CORPS & MANY MORE!



GRACE UNITED CHURCH CHOIR  
WITH EVERGREEN SINGERS



# Sentineal Carriages

Special thanks to Haskell Photography

**Providing Private and  
Custom Historical  
Tours of beautiful  
Niagara-on-the-Lake**

**EST. 1999**

Fred Sentineal grew up riding a pony around town. Our business is an extension of his love and respect for his horses, and his love for his home town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Our mission is to share both with the world!

- *Historical Tours*
- *Corporate Events*
- *Weddings*
- *Film & Television*
- *Funerals*
- *Special Occasions*

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[sentinealcarriages.ca](http://sentinealcarriages.ca)

Find us on Facebook  [sentinealcarriages](https://www.facebook.com/sentinealcarriages)

Gift cards available on our website.



# The Niagara-on-the-Lake Santa Claus Parade



## Niagara-on-the-Lake tradition for 53 years

Santa Claus is coming to town – and he’ll be parading through Queen Street so all the girls and boys will be able to let him know if they deserve great gifts.

The Santa Claus Parade is a long-standing tradition in Niagara-on-the-Lake. While it’s not exactly known how long it’s been running, history sleuths have estimated it’s about 53 years old.

The late Bob Cheriton, who spent countless hours helping with the parade in various capacities, including the popular parade buttons, once told *The Lake Report* it was a struggle to find the exact year it all began.

“You can get within a reasonable range, but you can’t get the exact date. But at some particular point, we encountered an advertisement for the parade in one of the

papers in the microfiche, and that got us really close to the 40-year mark,” he said.

At that point, organizers decided they were going to “put a stake in the ground.”

“And that was 40 years. And then we’ve been counting up ever since.”

At many town shops, you can find the parade buttons, which help raise money for the parade for things like big band acts.

Originally the buttons contained work by renowned NOTL artist Trisha Romance.

In a normal year, through community donations, the parade raises about \$20,000, which helps to pay some of the marching bands.

So dress warmly, bring some hot chocolate and get ready for another great Christmas tradition in what is shaping up to be an unforgettable winter in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



### LETTERS FOR SANTA?

Bring your letters for Santa to the NOTL post office to receive a letter back from Santa! Letters can be sent internationally, so don’t hesitate to drop one off even if you’re a Distinguished Explorer from afar. Don’t forget to include your name, and make sure to address it to HOH OHO!

Scan here for a map of the parade route:



ONCE A YEAR, IN A WINTRY WONDERLAND...

# THE *Ice Wine* FESTIVAL



## Sip sweet treats, taste gourmet eats

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Icewine Village festival will take over historic Queen Street on Jan. 21, 22, 27 and 28.

Like so many wonderful winter activities, the Icewine Village is a must-do for people looking for a sweet treat and tasty bites.

Get the new year started off right by attending the Ice Bar at the Niagara Outlet Collection in Glendale on Jan. 13 and 14.

The outdoor mall will be turned into an icewine paradise, with live music and cozy firepits to warm up beside. More than 16 NOTL wineries will be joining and mixing up icewine cocktails.

The next weekend you can head over

to the Icewine Village, which will offer gourmet food pairings along with a selection of icewine from across Niagara.

The historic main street will be transformed into a winter wonderland featuring ice sculptures, a selection of icewine tastings from NOTL's famous wineries and icewine-inspired food pairings from Signature Kitchens and other restaurants around town.

The Icewine Village operates for the whole weekend, starting Jan. 21 at 11 a.m. and noon on Sunday, Jan. 22. It will be operating for the same hours on Jan. 27 and 28.

As it is an adult-only event, ID will be required to enter the Icewine Village.

At 8 p.m. on Jan. 27, the Sparkle and Ice Gala will return to the Icewine Village. This celebration of all things icewine includes a cocktail contest, giving winemakers the chance to present their most inspired icewine cocktails for the enjoyment of attendees and the judgment of panellists — as well as live entertainment and fireworks to end the evening.

More information on the Icewine Festival can be found at [www.niagaraonthelake.com](http://www.niagaraonthelake.com).

# SANTA'S OFFICIAL "SOMETIMES NAUGHTY CAN BE NICE LIST"

BY SANTA CLAUS

Every year, I watch Niagara-on-the-Lake get all gussied up in its best bib and tucker to celebrate all the things that make the holiday season so special. The lights twinkle, the snow-laden trees glimmer and the carols waft along the avenues. And while this holiday season is still a little haunted by the ghost of COVID present, you can be sure the good citizens of Niagara-on-the-Lake will see me popping up in all sorts of places. The elves are working feverishly. The reindeer are pawing the snow anxiously, ready to soar throughout the land. Sadly, I don't have time to attend all the town's holiday celebrations. But I've prepared a Nice-To-Do List (and some things that may be a little naughty) – and checked it twice:

## Festive drinks keep spirits bright

A decadent, seasonal drink is cheeky, but won't land you on the naughty list just like that. So how about a hot toddy or egg nog, sitting quietly in front of a roaring fire in one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's cozy public houses? The elves tell me these bars and lounges have the best indoor holiday settings: NOTL Golf Club, Irish Harp Pub, Pillar and Post, Barbea Wine and Snack Bar, Oban Inn, Charles Hotel and Olde Angel Inn. Happy sipping.

## Naughty and "Ice"

For those looking for a bit of an adventure, check out the annual Penguin Swim on Boxing Day. Starting in the afternoon, a group of daring adventurers take to the shore of Lake Ontario for three dips in the frigid waters of the Niagara River. Santa isn't sure if this is naughty or nice, but it's typically followed by some cheeky drinks at a local pub. Find the swimmers at Ball's Beach on Boxing Day at 1 p.m. Don't be late!

## Fire pit at Riverbend

Warm up with fireside service at Riverbend and enjoy some more decadence in food, wine and spirits. Again, it's not going to land you coal in your stocking, but it's a cheeky treat. Be sure to drink responsibly. And, if you're driving, perhaps a glass of milk or hot chocolate is more suitable.

## Chocolate fever

One of the cheekiest, most decadent things to do during the winter season that won't land you on the naughty list is to find a rich, chocolatey dessert to scarf down. And you're in luck, because NOTL has no shortage of purveyors that can help satisfy your sweet tooth. Since I love cookies, I recommend trying out Willow Cakes & Pastries, Fritters on the Lake, Soko Bakery Cafe or the Niagara Home Bakery. If you're looking for more sweet treats, I hear there's an extensive selection of Christmas candy at the Olde Tyme Candy Shoppe this year.

## And something nice, to top it off

- Visit Santa on Saturday, Dec. 9. The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the NOTL Community Palliative Care Service are joining forces to welcome children of all ages to the NOTL Community Centre from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Voluntary donations will go to support local palliative care services. Music and hot chocolate, too. **Call 905-468-4433 for more information or find [www.notl.org](http://www.notl.org).**
- And if you want a live or virtual visit from Santa this December contact me at [santaforpalliativecare@gmail.com](mailto:santaforpalliativecare@gmail.com). I will visit almost any gathering — family (and family Zoom), office or neighbourhood. It's all in support of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service. For more information and to see Santa in action, find: **[www.vimeo.com/488140798](https://www.vimeo.com/488140798)**.



IT'S TIME FOR THE  
**HOLIDAY**  
**SEASON!**

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VISIT NOTL'S OLDEST PUB. "PROBABLY" THE BEST IN THE WORLD

[WWW.ANGEL-INN.COM](http://WWW.ANGEL-INN.COM)

# New Year IN NOTL

As the clock ticks down to midnight on New Year's Eve, people from all over Niagara-on-the-Lake head to the clock tower cenotaph on Queen Street to count down, sip champagne and connect with friends and loved ones.

When the bell rings, the street is typically filled with people. Those who know NOTL know it's the place to be — it's a smaller, quainter version of Times Square.

If you're in town for the new year, make it your resolution to stop by and see the countdown. Afterward, head over to one of the pubs nearby and enjoy a few drinks, or find a coffee shop to sip a warm latte.

# Ruffino's

PASTA BAR & GRILL

Our cooking is inspired by our farm's bounty and rooted in tradition. A farm is more than land & crops. It is families, heritage, and future. We tend to our farm daily and with help from our restaurant staff, our farm supplies us with fresh vegetables still warm from the sunshine into the kitchen and on to your plate each day. We do things the old fashioned way. We make our pasta fresh daily, use farm fresh eggs, & Ontario "00" and durham semolina flours. The food at Ruffino's is soul satisfying & belly filling like Nona's. It is warm and welcoming like the fires we cook on. We want to welcome you with open arms to come join us in our home. If we slow down, spend time with each other, eat great food and drink great wine, then we will learn what it means to be a family and a community. Ruffino's is the Italian restaurant you wished was just around the corner! The glow of the wood-fired grill & aroma of the brick oven lets guests know that they're not just out for dinner, but rather embarking on a culinary journey of somewhereness.



# BAR BEA

w i n e s h o p a n d s n a c k b a r

**HAPPY HOUR** DAILY 4-6pm

**2 BUCK SHUCK**



**1/2 PRICE BUBBLES**



**DOLLAR CAÑAS**



Our WINE SHOP & SNACK BAR is the kind of destination where you can spend a leisurely afternoon or evening exploring new wines from Niagara's largest selection of VQA & International wines, enjoy a glass or two of wine and some tapas, or stock up for a dinner party at home. Our chic & welcoming atmosphere encourages socializing with friends and fellow wine lovers, and our knowledgeable team allows for a sense of discovery. Think of us as your one stop-shop for wine!

# Celebrate the Season in *Wine Country*



**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE IS TRULY A WINTER WONDERLAND AND THE PERFECT PLACE TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN CANADA'S BEAUTIFUL WINE COUNTRY.**

Stay in one of our luxurious hotels or charming bed and breakfasts, sip Icewine in one of our 38 wineries, enjoy the Shaw Festival's two Christmas shows, shop in our authentic Christmas village, get pampered in one of our five spas, experience the magic of our Candlelight Stroll and Santa Claus Parade, and shop our holiday market for handcrafted artisan-made gifts.

# November 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
					✦ ✦ ☕ 🍷	✦ ✦ ☕ 🍷
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
🎭 🍷			🎭	🎭	✦ ✦ ☕ 🍷 🎭	✦ ✦ ☕ 🍷 🎭
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
🎭 🍷			🎭	🎭	✦ ✦ ☕ 🍷 🎭	✦ ✦ ☕ 🍷 🏠 🎭
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
🎭 🍷	🎵	🎭	🎭	🎭	✦ ✦ ☕ 🍷 🍴 🎭 🌊	✦ ✦ ☕ 🍷 🍏 🎭 🔑
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
🍏 🎭 🍷		🎭	🎭	🎭		

- 🍷 Taste the Season
- 🏠 Holiday Open House
- 🎭 Shaw Festival Brigadoon & A Christmas Carol
- 🍴 Dickensian Feast
- ✦ ✦ Illumination Nights
- 🔑 When Worlds Collide
- ☕ Highland Candlelight Tea
- 🍏 Shiny Apple Cider Tasting
- 🎵 Twilight Jazz & Blues Series
- 🌊 Taste at the Lake





# November 2023

- 03 **5pm:** Inniskillin's Illumination Nights  
**7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Taste The Season
- 
- 04 **5pm:** Inniskillin's Illumination Nights  
**7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Taste The Season
- 
- 05 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
Taste The Season
- 
- 08 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol
- 
- 09 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol
- 
- 10 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**5pm:** Inniskillin's Illumination Nights  
**7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Taste The Season
- 
- 11 **5pm:** Inniskillin's Illumination Nights  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Taste The Season
- 
- 12 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
Taste The Season
- 
- 15 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol
- 
- 16 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol
- 
- 17 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**5pm:** Inniskillin's Illumination Nights  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Taste The Season
- 
- 18 **11am:** Lakeview Wine Co. Holiday Open House  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**5pm:** Inniskillin's Illumination Nights  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Taste The Season
- 
- 19 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
Taste The Season
- 
- 20 **7pm:** Twilight Jazz & Blues Series - George Koller
- 
- 21 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol
- 
- 22 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon
- 
- 23 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol
- 
- 24 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**5pm:** Inniskillin's Illumination Nights  
**5pm:** Dickensian Feast At Prince Of Wales  
**6pm:** Lakeview Wine Co. - Taste At The Lake  
**7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Taste The Season
- 
- 25 **11am:** Shiny Apple Cider Tasting  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**5pm:** Inniskillin's Illumination Nights  
**6pm:** Wayne Gretzky Estates -  
When Worlds Collide  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Taste The Season
- 
- 26 **11am:** Shiny Apple Cider Tasting  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
Taste The Season
- 
- 28 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol
- 
- 29 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol
- 
- 30 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon

# December 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

-  Shaw Festival Brigadoon & A Christmas Carol
-  Illumination Nights
-  Highland Candlelight Tea
-  Twilight Jazz & Blues Series
-  Christmas Wonderland
-  Holiday Market
-  Holiday House Tour
-  Dickensian Feast
-  Candlelight Stroll
-  A Candlelight Christmas
-  Santa 5K Run
-  NYE Dining Celebration
-  Christmas Market
-  Breakfast With Santa
-  Christmas Parade
-  A Garrison Christmas
-  Christmas Tractor Parade

# December 2023

- 01** **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**5pm:** Dickensian Feast At Prince Of Wales  
**5pm:** A Candlelight Christmas (Kid-Friendly)  
**6:30pm:** Niagara-On-The-Lake Candlelight Stroll  
**7pm:** A Candlelight Christmas (Adults Only)  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Christmas Wonderland  
Holiday Market  
Holiday House Tour
- 
- 02** **11am:** Christmas Market - Reif Estate Winery  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**5pm:** A Candlelight Christmas (Kid-Friendly)  
**7pm:** A Candlelight Christmas (Adults Only)  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Christmas Wonderland  
Holiday Market  
Holiday House Tour
- 
- 03** **11am:** Christmas Market - Reif Estate Winery  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**5pm:** Inniskillin's Illumination Nights  
Christmas Wonderland  
Holiday Market
- 
- 04** **5pm:** Inniskillin's Illumination Nights  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 05** **1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
Christmas Wonderland  
Holiday Market
- 
- 06** **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
Christmas Wonderland  
Holiday Market
- 
- 07** **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
Christmas Wonderland  
Holiday Market
- 
- 08** **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**5pm:** Dickensian Feast At Prince Of Wales  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Christmas Wonderland  
Holiday Market
- 
- 09** **7am:** Breakfast With Santa  
**11am:** The Christmas Parade  
**12pm:** A Garrison Christmas  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Christmas Wonderland  
Holiday Market
- 
- 10** **12pm:** A Garrison Christmas  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**5pm:** Inniskillin's Illumination Nights  
**7pm:** Twilight Jazz & Blues Series - Charlie Brown Christmas  
Christmas Wonderland  
Holiday Market
- 
- 11** **5pm:** Inniskillin's Illumination Nights  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 12** **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 13** **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
Christmas Wonderland

# December 2023

- 14 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**6pm:** Christmas Tractor Parade  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 15 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**5pm:** Dickensian Feast At Prince Of Wales  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 16 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 17 **10am:** Santa 5k Run  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**5pm:** Inniskillin's Illumination Nights  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 18 **5pm:** Inniskillin's Illumination Nights  
**7pm:** Twilight Jazz & Blues Series -  
Shirantha Beddage Quartet  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 19 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 20 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 21 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 22 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 23 **1pm:** Shaw Festival - Brigadoon  
**1pm:** Shaw Festival - A Christmas Carol  
**7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 24 **5pm:** Inniskillin's Illumination Nights  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 25 **5pm:** Inniskillin's Illumination Nights  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 26 Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 27 Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 28 Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 29 **7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 30 **7pm:** Highland Candlelight Tea  
Christmas Wonderland
- 
- 31 **7pm:** NYE Dining Celebration  
- Peller Estates Winery  
Christmas Wonderland



# Event Details

[NIAGARAONTHELAKE.COM/CELEBRATETHESEASON](https://niagaraonthelake.com/celebratetheseason)

## Taste the Season

**MORE INFO & TICKETS:** [wineriesofniagaraonthelake.com/experiences/detail/taste-the-season](https://wineriesofniagaraonthelake.com/experiences/detail/taste-the-season)

It's time to Taste the Season with the touring pass program! Enjoy holiday inspired food and wine pairings at each of NOTL's 21 wineries. Guests may choose from an Individual Tasting Pass (\$75 plus tax and service fee) or a Couple's Pass (\$75 plus tax and service fee). These passes give you access to 21 properties with a maximum of eight tastings available in one day. Both passes are for a maximum of 16 tastings.

## Inniskillin's Illumination Nights

**MORE INFO:** [inniskillin.com](https://inniskillin.com)

Ready, set, GLOW! Canada's Original Estate Winery is transformed into an unforgettable light experience from November to February. Get cozy, sip Icewine, and bask in Inniskillin's glittering lights. Fridays & Saturdays 5 - 9 p.m., Nov. 4 - Feb. 25.

## Shaw Festival - *A Christmas Carol*

**MORE INFO & TICKETS:**  
[shawfest.com/playbill/a-christmas-carol-2023](https://shawfest.com/playbill/a-christmas-carol-2023)

Ebenezer Scrooge is back! Nestled in the heart of the ultimate Christmas village, the charming holiday favourite *A Christmas Carol* returns to the Shaw Festival's Royal George Theatre. It's the perfect annual reminder of what Christmas is all about. Arrive feeling "Bah, humbug!" and leave full of warm, fuzzy Christmas spirit.

## Shaw Festival - *Lerner and Loewe's Brigadoon*

**MORE INFO & TICKETS:** [shawfest.com/playbill/brigadoon](https://shawfest.com/playbill/brigadoon)

Celebrate the holiday season with the return of one of the most romantic and magical musicals! Stumbling upon a magical village that appears out of the Scottish mist for one day every century, Tommy, a modern boy, meets Fiona, a girl from the past. Should he stay with her in Brigadoon, or return to the world he knows and never see her again? This feast of song and dance has been entrancing audiences for more than seven decades.



Kristi Frank in *Brigadoon* (2019)  
Photo by David Cooper

## Highland Candlelight Tea at the Prince of Wales

### **MORE INFO & RESERVATIONS:**

[vintage-hotels.com/prince-of-wales/the-drawing-room-menu](http://vintage-hotels.com/prince-of-wales/the-drawing-room-menu)

In honour of the Shaw Festival's production of Brigadoon, you're invited to a Highland Candlelight Tea every Friday and Saturday evening, Nov. 3, 2023 to Jan. 6, 2024. Indulge in one of the finest Scottish traditions with a menu of Sloane premium teas, housemade finger sandwiches, sweet cakes & pastries, signature scones, and savory steak pie. Cheers to a wonderful evening of theatre with a Rob Roy or Penicillin Scotch Cocktail. Wine by the glass and the region's best Scotch list also available. Tickets: \$65 per person.

## Lakeview Wine Co. Holiday Open House

**MORE INFO & RESERVATIONS:** [fareharbor.com/embeds/book/lakeviewwineco/items/492865/calendar/2023](http://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/lakeviewwineco/items/492865/calendar/2023)

This holiday season, taste your way through award winning VQA wines & nosh on delicious holiday treats courtesy of chef Josh Burse. During your visit, don't forget to stock up on holiday goodies and take advantage of the best sales of the year! Reservations Required.

## Twilight Jazz and Blues Series

**MORE INFO & TICKETS:** [niagarajazzfestival.com](http://niagarajazzfestival.com)

The TD Niagara Jazz Festival presents an intimate live jazz experience in the heart of wine country. This series features high-caliber jazz artists performing at the Hare Wine Co.: The George Koller Trio (Nov. 20), the Music of a Charlie Brown Christmas at FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre (Dec 10) \$35+ HST and fees. Holiday Jazz Show, Shirantha Beddage Quartet (Dec. 18).

Tickets: \$39+ HST / 3-Show Pass: \$99 + HST.

## Lakeview Wine Co. Taste at the Lake: *Bordeaux Varietals in Niagara*

### **MORE INFO & RESERVATIONS:**

[fareharbor.com/embeds/book/lakeviewwineco](http://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/lakeviewwineco)

Join Lakeview for an in-depth exploration of some of Niagara's most sought-after varietals. Taste your way through Bourdeaux's grape by way of Niagara vineyards. Ticket includes cheese and charcuterie prepared for chef and tasting seminar. It's a can't miss night!

Tickets: \$50 per person | \$30 per wine club member

## Dickensian Feast at Prince of Wales

### **MORE INFO & RESERVATIONS:**

[vintage-hotels.com/promotion/dickensian-feast](http://vintage-hotels.com/promotion/dickensian-feast)

Enjoy a post-show dinner in honour of the Shaw Festival's A Christmas Carol. Prince of Wales' grand Dickensian Feast includes festive fare, beautiful holiday décor, a large communal table, and a costumed master of ceremony and servers. Join Ebenezer Scrooge as he hosts this holiday dinner, playing carols of years gone yonder. Tickets: \$75 per person, includes dinner, tea, and coffee.

## Wayne Gretzky Estates - *When Worlds Collide: A Culinary, Cocktail, and Wine Fusion Dinner Series*

**MORE INFO & TICKETS:** [mywinecountry.com/on/when-worlds-collide-dinner-series.html](http://mywinecountry.com/on/when-worlds-collide-dinner-series.html)

Indulge in a captivating holiday-themed evening of culinary artistry, cocktail craftsmanship, and the world of wine at the dinner series, When Worlds Collide. Experience the magic that unfolds when flavors collide with a welcome reception, including a welcome cocktail experience followed by a five-course tasting menu with wine and cocktail pairings and a friendly competition. Cast your vote for the ultimate pairing champion in each course.

Tickets: \$175 per person | \$131.25 wine club members.

## Shiny Apple Cider Tasting

**MORE INFO & RESERVATIONS:**

[shinyapplecider.com/visit-us](http://shinyapplecider.com/visit-us)

Join Shiny Apple Cider to celebrate the upcoming holiday season! Taste a variety of ciders, browse through seasonal gifts, and let the Shiny team help you find the perfect cider to suit all your holiday plans! Reservations highly recommended. Complimentary tasting for Cider Club Members, along with a preview tasting of upcoming Cider club craft ciders and a holiday treat from chef Josh!  
Prices depend on tasting reservation.

## Niagara-on-the-Lake Candlelight Stroll

**MORE INFO:** [niagaraonthelake.com](http://niagaraonthelake.com)

Celebrate the beginning of a magical holiday season. Stroll through Niagara-on-the-Lake with your candle in hand and feel transported to a Victorian Christmas Village. Enjoy carollers, lights, and decorations during this much-loved annual tradition. Event is free to attend, candles can be purchased: one for \$5. Candle proceeds go to a local charity in need.

## Christmas Wonderland Garden at Pillar & Post

**MORE INFO:** [vintage-hotels.com/vintage-hotels-christmas-wonderland-garden](http://vintage-hotels.com/vintage-hotels-christmas-wonderland-garden)

The Gardens at Pillar & Post turn into a true seasonal Christmas wonderland complete with sparkling lights, holiday music, festive snacks, an ice rink, warming fire pits, and holiday movies under the stars.  
Open daily 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

## Holiday Market at Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre

**MORE INFO:** [niagarapumphouse.ca/events/holiday-market](http://niagarapumphouse.ca/events/holiday-market)

Experience the magic of the season at the Holiday Market. Featuring a wide array of handmade holiday gifts, ornaments, and decor created by over 25 talented artisans, this event promises to make your holiday shopping extra special. As you explore the Holiday Market, indulge in festive treats on Dec. 1 and 2. In the spacious Walker Room gallery, you'll find Christmas trees adorned with one-of-a-kind ornaments and products available for purchase. Friendly holiday helpers will be there to assist you in selecting and setting aside your treasures.

Free admission — open Dec. 1 - 2, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Dec. 3 - 10, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. (closed Monday).

## 24th Annual Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Holiday House Tour

**MORE INFO & TICKETS:** [eventbrite.ca/e/niagara-on-the-lake-holiday-house-tour-a-candlelight-christmas-tour-tickets-481688732967](http://eventbrite.ca/e/niagara-on-the-lake-holiday-house-tour-a-candlelight-christmas-tour-tickets-481688732967)

If you like interior design, architecture, and seasonal decorations, the annual Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Holiday House Tour is for you. Tour six gorgeous, beautifully decorated homes; visit local historic and cultural sites; sample complimentary tastings from three featured wineries and a winery/distillery; and enjoy specially priced luncheons for attendees as well! All profits go to charitable causes. Tickets: \$45 early bird | \$50 after Nov. 17





## A Candlelight Christmas at the McArthur Estate

**MORE INFO & TICKETS:** [eventbrite.ca/e/niagara-on-the-lake-holiday-house-tour-a-candlelight-christmas-tour-tickets-481688732967](https://eventbrite.ca/e/niagara-on-the-lake-holiday-house-tour-a-candlelight-christmas-tour-tickets-481688732967)

Like a dreamy snow globe, the enchanting 1829 McArthur Estate radiates a special magic in the moonlit glow of winter. Guests will be offered a glass of bubbly as they wander through fairy tale rooms, bathed in the light of hundreds of candles. Santa and friends will be waiting en route as melodies provide the perfect musical accompaniment. Outside, the mood continues with samples of wine and nips of whiskey in a whiskey lounge. Hors d'oeuvres and a cheese bar await, while live guitar music enhances the seasonal ambience and Santa's reindeer lounge in their luxury suites. Finally, with hot apple cider and gingerbread in hand, guests will be invited to stroll down candlelit pathways, past snow-topped statuary and ice-capped ponds, to cozy up around crackling fires and savour the beauty of this magical candlelit night. Tickets: Adults - \$75 | Youth 11-18 years - \$15 | Children 10 and under - Free. Adult combined day & evening tour ticket: \$110 (save \$10).

## Reif Estate Winery Twelve Days of Klausmas & Christmas Market

**MORE INFO:** [reifwinery.com/events](https://reifwinery.com/events)

To round out its holiday festivities, Twelve Days of Klausmas will return from Dec. 1-12. Each day visitors will have the chance to enjoy great savings on Reif wines — an event not to be missed! Additionally, on Dec. 2 and 3 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Reif will be hosting 25+ artisan local vendors for its Christmas Market — full of cheer, amazing wine, amazing food, live music, art classes and more! Whether you're looking for a unique gift or wanting to get into the Christmas spirit, Reif Estate Winery will be the place to be this holiday season.

## Fort George: A Garrison Christmas

**MORE INFO:** [parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/activ/calendrier-calendar](https://parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/activ/calendrier-calendar)

Come and experience Christmas traditions from the early 19th century! Fort George will be decorated for the holiday season with traditional decorations of garland and natural greenery, roaring fires in the Officer's Quarters, hot beverages, yummy treats and more! Enjoy a fun filled afternoon of history, crafts, games, and music! Learn about Christmas traditions from the early 19th century, while touring the various buildings at Fort George. No visit to Fort George is complete without musket demonstrations, which will be happening throughout the afternoon.

## 3rd Annual Niagara-on-the-Lake Christmas Tractor Parade

**MORE INFO:**

[erwinanddorothywiens@gmail.com](mailto:erwinanddorothywiens@gmail.com)

Enjoy a twinkling display of lights that starts at the Virgil Arena and meanders from there! Dec. 14 at 6 p.m.

## Breakfast With Santa at the Prince of Wales

**MORE INFO & TICKETS:** [vintage-hotels.com/promotion/breakfast-with-santa](https://vintage-hotels.com/promotion/breakfast-with-santa)

Head to Noble at the Prince of Wales for a festive breakfast before stopping by the Churchill Lounge to take your holiday picture with Santa Claus! Following your special visit with jolly old Saint Nicholas, head out to Queen Street to enjoy Niagara-on-the-Lake and the annual Christmas parade. Santa will be visiting the Churchill Lounge from 9 - 10:30 a.m. Please bring your own camera for photos. Cost: \$28 breakfast buffet — \$16 for kids 12 & under, free for kids 3 and under.



## The Christmas Parade in Niagara-on-the-Lake

**MORE INFO:** [notl.com/recreation-community/community-events/christmas-parade](https://notl.com/recreation-community/community-events/christmas-parade)

The Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 9, beginning at 11 a.m. The parade will start at the intersection of King and Center streets in Old Town and travel throughout its traditional route down Castlereagh, Wellington, Byron/Prideaux, Simcoe and Queen streets.

## Winemakers' Selection Tasting Pass

**MORE INFO:** [wineriesofniagaraonthelake.com/experiences/detail/2023-winemakers-selections-tasting-pass](https://wineriesofniagaraonthelake.com/experiences/detail/2023-winemakers-selections-tasting-pass)

Buy your Winemakers' Selection Tasting Passes for \$40 per person plus applicable taxes and service fee. Your tasting pass allows you to enjoy one tasting of a Winemaker's Selection wine at each winery any Monday through Friday for the rest of the year.

## Santa 5k Run in Niagara-on-the-Lake

**MORE INFO:** [raceroster.com/events/2023/71914/notl-santa-and-elf-run](https://raceroster.com/events/2023/71914/notl-santa-and-elf-run)

Gather your loved ones, don your Santa attire, and participate in a Live 5KM race amidst the breathtaking beauty of Niagara-on-the-Lake! After the race, visit the pub for a celebratory breakfast sandwich, coffee, or tea and an awards ceremony, featuring prizes for the fastest racers and keepsake medals for all participants. Virtual, No-Suit, and 1K Elf Races are also available. All proceeds from this event will support the NOTL Youth Collective. Group rates are available.

## NYE Dining Celebration at Peller Estates Winery

**MORE INFO & TICKETS:** [mywinecountry.com/on/sunday-night-fever-nye.html](https://mywinecountry.com/on/sunday-night-fever-nye.html)

Enjoy a scrumptious five-course dinner prepared by executive chef Jason Parsons, paired perfectly with our Peller Estates VQA wines. Your evening begins with a stylish welcome reception in the grand lobby before being seated in our elegant barrel cellar for dinner. The festivities don't end there. Enjoy a post-dinner reception in the lobby, where guests will usher in the New Year with an Ice Cuvee countdown and signature Icewine Marshmallows.

## NYE Package at Riverbend Inn & Vineyard

**MORE INFO & TICKETS:** [mywinecountry.com/on/nye-at-riverbend-inn-vineyard.html](https://mywinecountry.com/on/nye-at-riverbend-inn-vineyard.html)

Bid farewell to the year in style at Riverbend Inn & Vineyard. Delight in a four-course choice menu expertly crafted by head chef Andrew MacNeil and paired with exceptional wines by in-house wine experts. After indulging in delectable dishes, retreat to your cozy room and welcome 2024 in comfort. With limited availability, ring in the New Year with the elegance and charm of wine country.



# January 2024



## The Niagara-on-the-Lake Icewine Festival presents 'Ice Bar' at Niagara Outlet Collection

Over a wintry January weekend the Outlet collection will be transformed into an Icewine Festival experience. Delight in live music, cozy fire pits, and the exquisite highlight of the event: Icewine. A dedicated tasting bar featuring Icewine from over 16 Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake and indulge in the elevated flavors of an exclusive Icewine cocktail. Visit Jan. 13 & 14.

## Icewine Village on Queen Street

There will be free admission to the Icewine Village and new experiences this year! Gather in front of an outdoor stage with live music entertainment, enjoy a guest speaker on the history of Niagara icewine, as well as cooking and mixology demonstrations to highlight the diversity of icewine.

## The Sparkle and Ice Celebration

Culinary delights will be paired with Niagara-on-the-Lake premium wines during the Sparkle and Ice Celebration. A cocktail competition and live entertainment will keep you dancing to the end of the evening's festivities. To end the night there will be a toast outside as you watch the skyline dazzle with fireworks!



- 13 **11am:** Icewine Festival Presents 'Ice Bar' at Niagara Outlet Collection
- 14 **12pm:** Icewine Festival Presents 'Ice Bar' at Niagara Outlet Collection
- 21 **11am:** Icewine Village on Queen Street
- 22 **12pm:** Icewine Village on Queen Street
- 27 **11am:** Icewine Village on Queen Street  
**8pm:** The Sparkle And Ice Celebration
- 28 **12pm:** Icewine Village on Queen Street

[NIAGARAONTHELAKE.COM/ICEWINEFESTIVAL2024](https://niagaraonthelake.com/icewinefestival2024)



- LET'S GO -

# Tobogganing

Whether you're lugging your sled to Old Town to zip down the small hills at Simcoe Park on Picton Street, or you're braving the elements to slide down the hill near Fort George, tobogganing will always remain one of the most anticipated winter activities for kids of all ages. In true Canadian fashion, when the cold weather dictates it, dress in your warmest winter attire, grab your toque, prepare your toboggan and

head out for an afternoon of whipping down local hills.

And if you're hill-bound this winter – just remember to keep safety in mind. Wherever you decide to slide around town, steer clear of hills running down into roads and be well aware of your surroundings before rocketing down those hills: use a sled you can steer, avoid sledding on crowded slopes and stick to daylight hours.

## COOL SPOTS

**SIMCOE PARK**  
**QUEENSTON HEIGHTS**  
**QUEEN'S ROYAL PARK**  
**FORT GEORGE HILL**

**PICTON STREET**  
**NIAGARA PARKWAY**  
**FRONT STREET**  
**RICARDO STREET**





# Sweet apple cider

Apple cider is one of those classic winter traditions.

It can be mulled like wine with cinnamon and cloves, or enjoyed cold. A bit of spiced rum or whiskey brings it all to life.

Cider is available all around Niagara, at restaurants and food retailers, so take the opportunity to enjoy.

This story is about how one NOTL farm produces this traditional winter drink:

Just along Niagara Stone Road on the route in and out of Niagara-on-the-Lake, there's a small stand called The Purple Wagon that sells apples, garlic and more than 50 flavours of jams and jellies.

But one thing that's an extra special treat is their apple cider.

On a fall day in November, farmers Mike and Sandra Perreault are keeping

warm in their truck while manning the stand, near Concession 6.

The couple have operated there for more than 25 years and the location has become a staple in town.

Mike says they have more than 1,000 apple trees on their combined 20 acres of land and each year they bring their apples to be pressed into cider without any additives whatsoever.

"Every year I'm going to count them. And every year I don't. But I think we got about 1,100 apple trees," Mike jokes, adding that they also grow pears, plums and concord grapes.

The couple typically begins selling apple cider in early September.

Mike says cider is also a Christmas treat for some people. Like eggnog, often it's served with a splash of spiced liquor.

The couple don't press their own

apples and instead drive them about an hour north to a place called Bennett's Apples & Cider in Ancaster, Ont.

Once they've arrived it takes about 45 minutes to press a tonne of apples and then they're on their way back home.

Mike says about 15 varieties of apples go into the cider, and they grow about 25 varieties.

"Now as we get closer to the end, we'll only have maybe 10 types, but they're way sweeter," he says, noting apples are like grapes – when it gets colder, the fruits get sweeter.

Their cider is so fresh, it must be shaken before drinking to mix up the natural fibres from the apples that settle to the bottom — a sign of good cider, Mike says.

"The one with the fibre is the good one for you."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37



# 'Nothin' but apples'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

"It's pasteurized. All you do is you take an apple, do this (he pretends to crush an apple in his hands) and what comes out is cider. No water, no sugar," he says.

"It's a pretty simple process. I drive it up there, they dump it into a wash bin. Then it goes up the conveyor and gets pulverized, then it gets through the press," Sandra adds.

Everything on the farm is naturally grown. Mike says it's been 30 years

or so since they used fertilizer. Other than that, it's all just done with manure, which is another sustainable byproduct of their farm.

Cruising around in Mike's farm vehicle through his apple orchard, it's clear he loves what he does. A retired teacher, he now spends his time on the farm and knows pretty much all of his neighbours.

"I just gave a couple (of jugs of cider) to my neighbour. He's harvesting and he's got a big smile."



**WARM UP WITH A HOT APPLE CIDER AT ONE OF NOTL'S RESTAURANTS!**

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# ANTIQUES ON CREEK

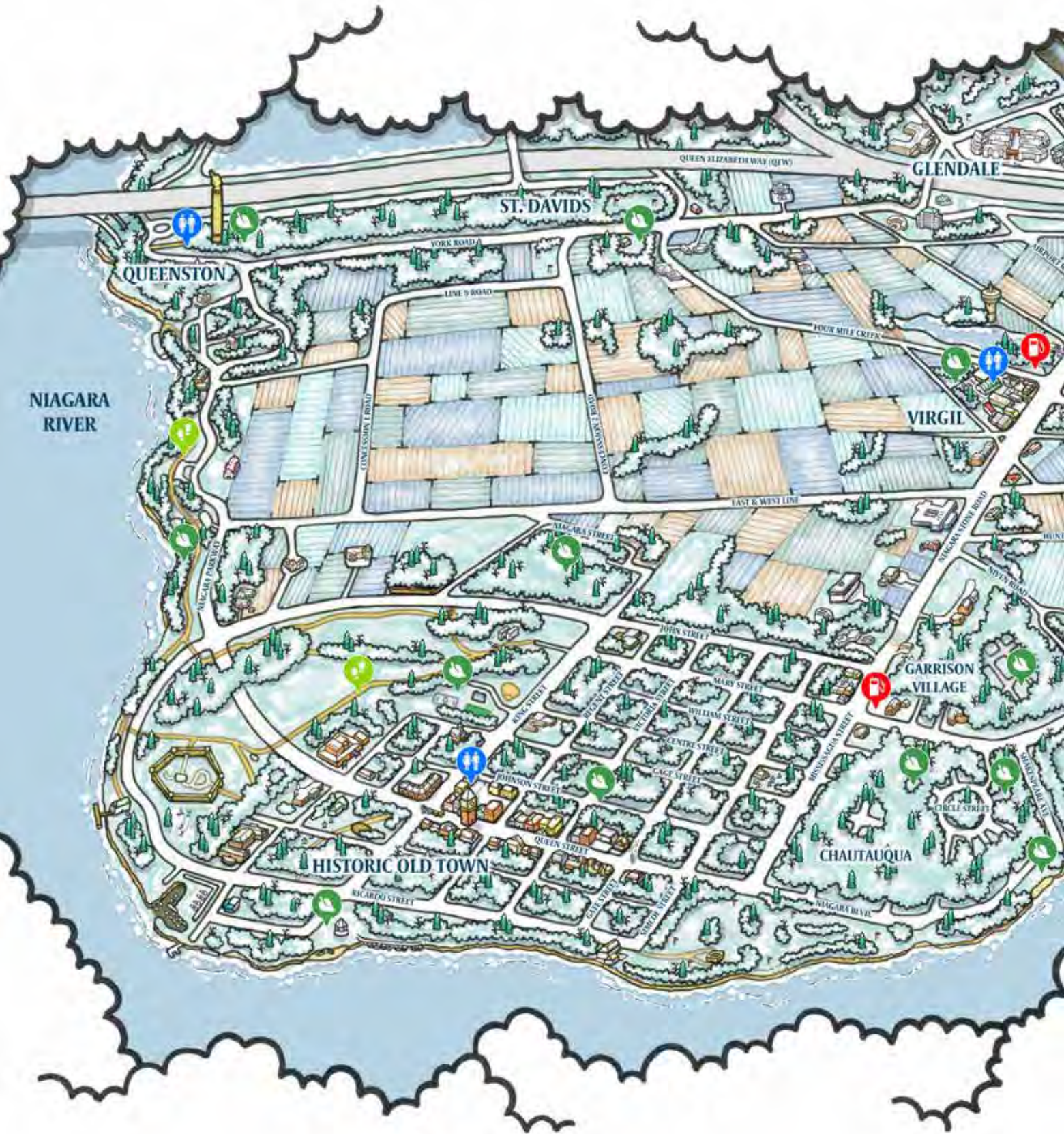
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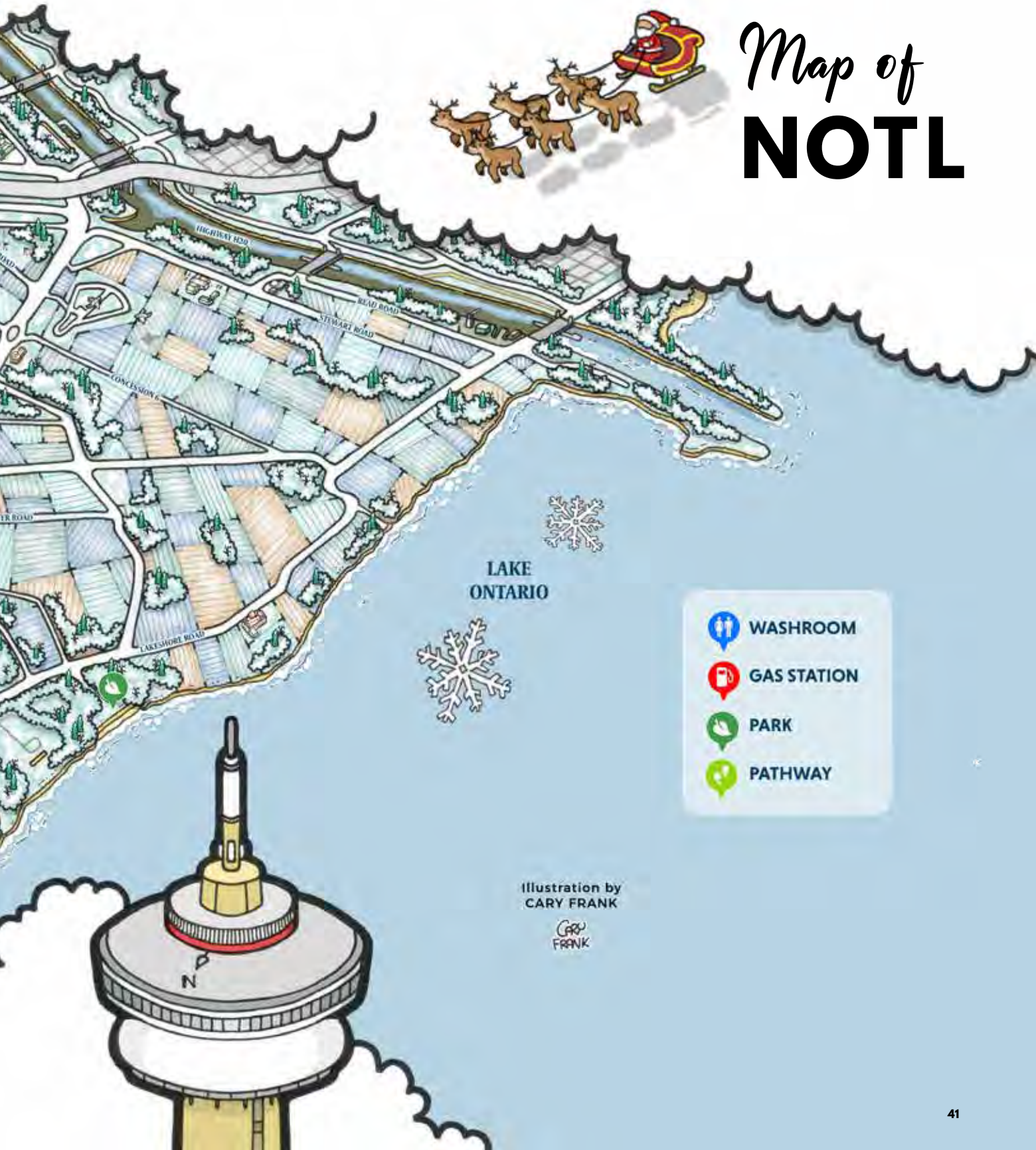
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We've imagined NOTL from a new angle.  
Our map looks southeast toward Niagara-on-the-Lake so you can get a better view than ever.  
Although the map is not to scale, it is a (fairly!) accurate representation of many of the major routes in town.





# The Lake Report



## Map of **NOTL**

-  WASHROOM
-  GAS STATION
-  PARK
-  PATHWAY

Illustration by  
CARY FRANK

  
CARY  
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YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

# ***BEGINS ABOVE***

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# IT'S A NORTHERN THING

**Ice skating is a perfect fit in a picturesque town like Niagara-on-the-Lake and there's no shortage of locations to lace up those skates.**

The sun slowly rises on the front porch, casting its soft orange glow across the freshly minted snow. You breathe in the cold, refreshing air and turn to see your children putting on their scarves, boots and mitts before standing at-the-ready with their skates in hand.

It's going to be another great winter's day in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Skating is part of the Canadian way of life. We don't just survive winter, we embrace it — with the help of hot chocolate, sharp skates and belly-fulls of cheer.

This winter in Niagara-on-the-Lake there are several great spots to skate for free.

Vintage Hotels has a 120 by 60-foot rink at its "Monet Gardens" on John Street. Opened in 2020, the gardens are filled with trees, ponds, a waterfall that were meticulously designed to reflect the style of French painter Claude Monet.

The rink should be usable even when it's 10C, thanks to the state-of-the-art chillers that Vintage Hotel has installed, says vice-president Paul MacIntyre.

And we ask: Is there anything better

than gliding across a solid rink when it's so warm outside you only have to wear a sweater? The answer: Of course not.

The rink is in the back of the gardens and will be open seven days a week from 1 to 8 p.m. You can also purchase skate rentals for \$5, plus food and beverages at the Outpost snack shack.

And in Virgil, there will be free public skating inside the Meridian Credit Union Arena all winter long on Saturdays and Sundays between 1:30 and 3 p.m.

Get out there and skate!

## OTHER RINKS

### WAYNE GRETZKY RINK

In true Canadian fashion, hockey icon Wayne Gretzky's winery on Niagara Stone Road in Virgil features a seasonal ice rink. The rink is open from December and boasts a heated whiskey bar and skate rentals on a first come, first served basis. Cost is \$10/adult and \$5/child. All ages are welcome. Reservation required.

# SHAW FESTIVAL



Sanjay Talwar as Ebenezer Scrooge and the Ghost of Marley in *A Christmas Carol*.  
PHOTO BY DAVID COOPER

## Shaw brings 'Brigadoon' and 'A Christmas Carol' to life

Two timeless holiday season tales that aim to bring comfort and joy to all are onstage now at the Shaw Festival.

Christmas spirits of the Dickensian variety once again inhabit the Royal George Theatre as the classic "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens continues its run until Dec. 23.

And Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's "Brigadoon," one of the most enchanting and beloved musicals, has returned to the Festival Theatre. It also closes Dec. 23.

In keeping with the spirit of the season, non-perishable food items will be collected for the Newark Neighbours food bank at all performances.

Brendan McMurtry-Howlett directs the Shaw's 2023 version of "A Christmas Carol," with

Sanjay Talwar taking on the role of everyone's favourite miser, Ebenezer Scrooge.

He is joined by Shawn Wright as Christmas Present and Élodie Gillett as Christmas Past, with Jason Cadieux as Mr. Hubble, Patty Jamieson as Mrs. Dilber, Andrew Lawrie as Bob Cratchit, Kiana Woo as Emily, Marlene Ginader as Belle, Jacqueline Thair as Mrs. Cratchit, Jonathan Tan as Fred, and swings Gryphyn Karimloo and Allison McCaughey.

Selfie alert: following each performance, audience members can take a photo with the cast of "A Christmas Carol."

At the Festival Theatre, "Brigadoon" adds musical magic to the most wonderful time of the year.

Directed by Glynis Leyshon, this romantic celebration of song and

dance features classic tunes like "Almost Like Being in Love" and "I'll Go Home with Bonnie Jean."

While hunting in the Highlands of Scotland, New Yorkers Tommy Albright (Stewart Adam McKensy) and Jeff Douglas (Kevin McLachlan), stumble upon Brigadoon – a village that appears out of the mist for one day every century.

After falling for villager Fiona MacLaren (Alexis Gordon), Tommy realizes the bewitched hamlet will once again vanish at sunset.

As the day draws to a close, he must decide whether to return to the world he knows or stay forever in Brigadoon with the woman he loves.

Tickets are available through the box office at 1-800-511-SHAW (7429) and online at [shawfest.com](http://shawfest.com).

# SHAW FESTIVAL

## 'My Fair Lady' highlights Shaw playbill for 2024

The Shaw Festival's 2024 season gives top billing to the timeless musical "My Fair Lady," alongside plays inspired by the stories of Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle, among several other productions.

This upcoming season, the 62nd in the festival's history, is kicking off on April 6 and runs until Dec. 22.

This past season, "we brought you an astonishing range of live performances in all our theatres – from new works, hidden gems and reimaged classics," says the Shaw's artistic director Tim Carroll.

Next year, the Shaw will host a production of Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's "My Fair Lady," "one of the few perfect musicals," Carroll says.

"My Fair Lady," the tale of Cockney girl Eliza Doolittle's transformation into a woman of Edwardian London society, makes its return to the Shaw stage on May 4. It will run at the Festival Theatre until the season's close on Dec. 22.

This particular adaptation of "My

Fair Lady" borrows from both the original George Bernard Shaw stage play of 1913 and Gabriel Pascal's 1938 film "Pygmalion." Carroll is set to co-direct the show with Kimberley Rampersad.

Also set to hit the stage at the Festival Theatre are "One Man, Two Guvnors," "the funniest show on the planet," says Carroll, and "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart," based on characters by Arthur Conan Doyle.

"One Man, Two Guvnors," will preview on June 6 and close on Oct. 13, while "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart" will preview July 24 and also close on Oct. 13.

"Gunners," a comedy in the style of 16th to 18th century Italian stage comedies, is the story of an out-of-work former musician in 1960s Brighton who works for two different bosses – and does everything he can to keep the two from meeting.

The Holmes play, which marks the third time the master of deduction

has appeared on the Shaw's stage, sees Sherlock meeting his match in a compelling and lethal villain, in a new work by Reginald Candy.

Over at the Royal George Theatre on Queen Street, "Witness for the Prosecution" will debut on April 6. It is an adaptation of Agatha Christie's short story "Traitor's Hands" directed by Alistair Newton.

Other works Shaw Festival fans can check out starting in the spring and summer of 2024 are "The Secret Garden," previewing May 31, Bernard Shaw's "Candida," previewing July 13, Michael Man's adaptation of "The Orphan of Chao," a lunchtime one-act production, previewing June 13. All of these works will be presented at the Royal George Theatre.

Two Canadian works premiering at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre are Marcus Gardley's "The House That Will Not Stand," on June 12, and Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig's "Snow in Midsummer," on Aug. 8.

For more information about the Shaw Festival, visit [shawfest.com](http://shawfest.com).



Photo by David Cooper

"The best part of my job is cooking up a season full of delightful surprises. The Shaw's 62nd Season is full of delight and surprise: great plays brought to life in unexpected ways and plays you have never seen but which you will never forget. It's all happening at The Shaw – don't miss out."

Tim Carroll  
Artistic Director



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# The Lake Report



## THE VOICE OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a special town — one that deserves a special newspaper.

That's why we created The Lake Report five years ago – to bring NOTL the best community newspaper one can find.

Since its first issue 2018, The Lake Report has established itself as the most-read newspaper in town, dedicated to producing hyperlocal news about our wonderful community.

A small-town paper with a big city attitude, we're proud that our readers continually tell us we provide a way for them to feel more connected to their neighbours than ever before.

It has been our honour to serve the community, and to receive support and encouragement daily from readers.

Since 2021, The Lake Report has earned an incredible 69 national and provincial awards in recognition of the newspaper's journalism, photography, graphic design, advertising and community service.

In national and provincial newspaper competitions since then, The Lake Report has garnered more awards than any other publication in the entire country.

Niagara-on-the-Lake native Richard Harley, founder and editor-in-chief of The Lake Report, said, "It's humbling and an honour to be recognized and singled out by your peers in the media industry."

He added that "it wouldn't be possible without our dedicated staff, readers and advertisers who help us to produce Canada's highest-quality community newspaper."

Nationally in 2022, the paper won first place for best local editorial (for a hard stance against a "pod" school that promoted anti-vax rhetoric), first place for best local civic journalism (for a piece that exposed poor living conditions for seasonal migrant workers).

Nationally in 2021, the publication won first place for best local editorial

(for a piece exposing influence by the short-term rental industry), first place for best historical story (about a Victoria Cross soldier) and first place for best news feature photo, again. As well The Lake Report earned several other awards in a number of categories.

Provincially in 2021, the paper won best front page and first for best rural story, best news photo, best feature/unit pages, best in-house promotion and third place for general excellence.

In Ontario in 2022, The Lake Report won best front page again, as well as first place prizes for best feature/unit pages, best creative ad, best in-house promotion, best breaking news video,

And the 2021 winter issue of this magazine, "NOTL: A Guide for Distinguished Explorers," won a silver medal nationally in the best special section category.

Pick up a paper today.



FOLLOW THE LAKE REPORT!



@NIAGARAONTHETHELAKEREPORT



NIAGARANOWMEDIA

# THREE NOTL CHEFS, THREE TAKES ON PERFECT PAIRINGS FOR NIAGARA ICEWINE

STORY BY JILL TROYER, PHOTOGRAPHY BY DON REYNOLDS

We asked three Niagara-on-the-Lake chefs to share their favourite icewine pairings and the results were mouthwatering. Start with sweet icewine, add seasonal fare and the flavours are sensational. Each chef had their own twist on showcasing Niagara's award-winning icewines with the best of farm-to-table cuisine.

Taste for yourself, anytime at NOTL's fine restaurants, or explore multiple pairings at local wineries with a Discovery Pass on weekends in January. Or perhaps let these pairings inspire you to take some icewine home and create your own perfect pairings.

## Ryan Crawford

**Executive chef, sommelier, farmer & proprietor of Ruffino's Restaurant and Barbea Wine Bar**

Barbea Wine Bar has its own vibe, chic and sophisticated, and executive chef and owner Ryan Crawford matches his pairing perfectly to the savvy ambiance. Crawford opts to create an icewine cocktail alongside farm-fresh food. He has a long affinity for icewine, recalling his first taste, at age 13. "My grandparents had given my mom a bottle of icewine, so she opened it and we all got to have a taste. It was so, so delicious!! My parents had to stop me from draining

everyone else's glass," he chuckles.

Crawford takes farm-to-table literally, using fresh produce from his own farm, just two kilometres away. The savoury appetizer is an icewine-glazed tetra squash, plated on housemade romesco sauce with ground almonds in it, with morsels of gorgonzola cheese and crisp sage leaves to finish the dish.

The cocktail is made with dry vermouth, Gentian liqueur and bitters from Niagara's

own Dillon's Small Batch Distillers, and icewine from Big Head winery in NOTL. "In cocktails," explains Crawford, "icewine is a substitute for simple syrup, and by using it in a cocktail, the drink becomes less sweet."

"The flavours work together here, the salty gorgonzola contrasts the sweet wine, the natural sweetness of the squash complements it, and the savoury nuttiness in the romesco sauce plays on the nuttiness in the icewine."



Left: Icewine cocktail paired with glazed squash, romesco sauce, gorgonzola and sage. Above: Ryan Crawford, executive chef & owner, Barbea Wine Shop & Snack Bar and Ruffino's Pasta Bar & Grill.



# THE WINERY RESTAURANT AT PELLER ESTATES

**Jason Parsons**  
Executive chef, the Winery Restaurant at Peller Estates

“I am passionate about pairing food and wine,” declares Jason Parsons, executive chef at the Winery Restaurant at Peller Estates, and his enthusiasm is evident, even contagious.

“I first started working with icewine and food pairings when I was at then-Hillebrand, in 1999 and 2000,” he recalls. “I had some recipes then that called for Madeira and brandy, so I started using icewine instead and it was great.” He’s been creating new combinations ever since. Parsons says that most of the time, he starts with the wine and explores what food will showcase a particular wine best.

His first pairing is salmon tartare and oysters, with chili and creme fraiche, matched with Reisling icewine. “Reisling

icewine has the most acidity, so it cuts through the rich salmon, and the creme fraiche, which are fatty. Then for balance, the oyster is fresh and tastes of the ocean, and the chili brings the sweetness of the wine down,” he explains.

Next up, duck breast on spaghetti squash with snap peas and blackberry gastrique, paired with Cabernet Franc icewine. “It’s all about balance,” says Parsons. “The Cabernet Franc icewine with notes of rhubarb and strawberry has enough flavour to stand up to the duck, which is also very flavourful. The blackberry gastrique is macerated in vinegar, which builds the flavour, but it’s not too sweet,” he says.

“We are so fortunate being part of a winery, because when it’s harvest time for

the icewine grapes, they save some of that pure juice for us, and in this dish we use that icewine juice to finish the duck. After we sear it, we finish it in a warm bath of that juice.”

The dessert dish has been created to showcase Oak Aged Vidal, which has rich creme brulee notes. “We could either pair it with something that’s a contrast, or a complement. Here we chose to complement it with labneh, which is a very creamy pressed yogurt. We bring in some Niagara fruit macerated in icewine, add some granola for texture and bee pollen to play off the honey notes in the wine.”

It’s a harmony of sweetness, creaminess, and crunch, with bright fruit flavours to delight your palate.



Above: Salmon tartare, pickled chili, lemon black pepper crème fraiche with Reisling icewine. Top right: Jason Parsons, executive chef, the Winery Restaurant at Peller Estates. Bottom right: Muscovy duck breast, roasted spaghetti squash, snap peas and blackberry gastrique, paired with Cabernet Franc icewine.

# TREADWELL CUISINE

## Jason Williams

Executive chef at Treadwell Cuisine

“Simplicity is best, it doesn’t have to be too complicated to let the flavour shine,” according to Jason Williams, executive chef at Treadwell Cuisine. “When you put food and icewine together, you should still be able to taste the wine, so the food should not overpower it.”

He’s been a fan since the first time he tasted icewine in 1998. “I was working at Queen’s Landing then, and we tasted an Inniskillin Cab Franc. It blew me away. It’s unique, and today the winemakers are doing an even better job making it. There’s nothing the same as icewine, nothing like what we do here in Niagara,” he asserts proudly.

Williams hand-picked grapes for the icewine harvest on a couple of occasions, when the temperature plunged to the requisite minus-8C. He recalls the cold with a shiver, but also the exquisite flavour of the juice from the grapes when they’re picked in the deep of winter. He says it tasted like honey and pear.

Williams created a kind of smorgasbord of his favourite foods to mix and match with icewine. “It’s a dessert wine and I love cheese as dessert,” he said. “The Delice de Bourgogne Triple Cream Brie from France is creamy and rich, with just a hint of bitterness, so the sweetness and acidity of the Reising icewine cuts right through.”

He also featured Bosc pears from NOTL’s Thwaites Farms, noting that the pears are sweet and acidic, so they complement the pear notes in the Riesling icewine. The nuts, he notes, pair well with the Cabernet Franc icewine, which is a bit nutty itself.

But if Williams he had to pick just one, the winner would be “the roquefort blue cheese with honeycomb on a crostini. Roquefort is salty, creamy, tangy and sharp, so it’s a beautiful contrast to the sweetness of the wine and the honeycomb complements the honey notes in the wine.” Williams says his menu at Treadwell changes seasonally, but he always has icewine pairings on offer.



Top left: Labneh, icewine macerated Niagara fruit, honey Granola and bee pollen, paired with oak-aged Vidal icewine. Above: Jason Williams, executive chef, Treadwell Cuisine. Left: A medley of cheese, nuts, pear and honeycomb to pair with icewine.

# NOTHING BEATS A COZY SPOT



## SIX PLACES TO WARM UP

Whether warming up with a quick drink amid scenic strolls through town or planning a festive night out during the holiday season, Niagara-on-the-Lake has an abundance of cozy hideaways for dinner, drinks and entertainment.



### 1) THE OLDE ANGEL INN

Often the talk of the town, the Olde Angel Inn at 224 Regent St. is open every day except Christmas. The “haunted” pub features live music, cozy fireplaces, old world décor and, of course, the resident ghost Captain Swayze. Five guestrooms available for rental allow guests to test their nerve for chance ghost encounters. While steeped in local history and lore, the pub offers a modern night out with live music and a lively atmosphere.



### 4) THE IRISH HARP PUB

Arguably the best spot for an Irish stout in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Irish Harp Pub sits just off the main strip downtown at 245 King St. Serving authentic, homestyle Irish fare, the extensive menu offers selections to warm you up heartily. Above the bar are three guest rooms furnished with handcrafted pieces imported from Ireland. Stay for dinner and drinks or stay the night.



### 2) BRICKS AND BARLEY

Bricks and Barley, at 1573 Four Mile Creek Rd. in Virgil, is one of NOTL’s newest restaurants. It’s a warm haven on a cold night. With live music, wood-fired pizza and an open-concept dining room, the pub has a welcoming and casual atmosphere. The establishment’s opening was the shared dream of three families, the Spiones, Eymanns and Frendos, to create a central community restaurant offering a menu of locally sourced ingredients, and beer and wine from local breweries and wineries.



### 5) SANDTRAP PUB AND GRILL

The Sandtrap at 358 Mary St. aims to “keep it local” by sourcing produce, wine and beer from local suppliers whenever possible. The local hangout is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. for food, drinks and friendly conversation. A mix of locals and visitors to Niagara-on-the-Lake will be found huddled around tables to share pizza and wings, and jugs of one of the 18 beers on tap.



### 3) BUTLER’S BAR AND GRILL

One of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s family watering holes, Butler’s Bar & Grill at 284 Mary St. is a casual sports bar located just a few blocks from Old Town. Open year-round, the eatery serves pizza and wings to hungry tourists and locals – for both dine-in or delivery.



### 6) THE GRIST

The Grist is a restaurant and brewery located at 78 Four Mile Creek Rd. in St. Davids. It’s located where the first Sleeman’s brewery was founded in 1836. The restaurant serves up seasonal beers and a variety of food from pizzas and pup favourites to housemade chuck burgers, blackened salmon and mac n’ cheese. Open until 9 p.m.



## Christmas lights up the Parkway

Story and photography by Somer Slobodian

Driving the Niagara Parkway in the winter is pretty dark – no street lamps, only lights from distant homes or an oncoming vehicle.

Then, in the weeks before Christmas, as you approach Line 2 Road, a bright glow is visible high in the sky.

As you get closer, it grows brighter until you realize it isn't from a single source, but literally thousands of multi-colored lights that create a spectacular winter wonderland.

Drivers slow to look, some park nearby and, young or old, walk over to stand on the shoulder of the road, drawn to the display that can only be described as magical.

People are mesmerized by hundreds of radiant balls dangling from trees, a beautiful life-sized horse and sleigh on the front lawn and bushes wrapped in strings of lights.

"It's all about bringing joy to people," says Wanda Nord, the woman behind the famous Niagara-on-the-Lake light show.

There are lights in every direction you look – blue, red, purple, yellow and green – all coming together to create something beautiful along the otherwise dark, eerie parkway.

Nord and her husband, Terry, first flicked the switch on the winter oasis more than 13 years ago, after being inspired by the famous, long-running annual light display at a home on York Road.

The Nord's light show grows bigger every year.

"I started with four balls," Nord says.

It's a vision she has created as she custom-designs each shining ball of light and sparkling tree.

The lights take about seven full days

to hang, but come down much more quickly, she says.

How do they get the lights up so high in the trees? "The little fairies put them up there," she says with a laugh.

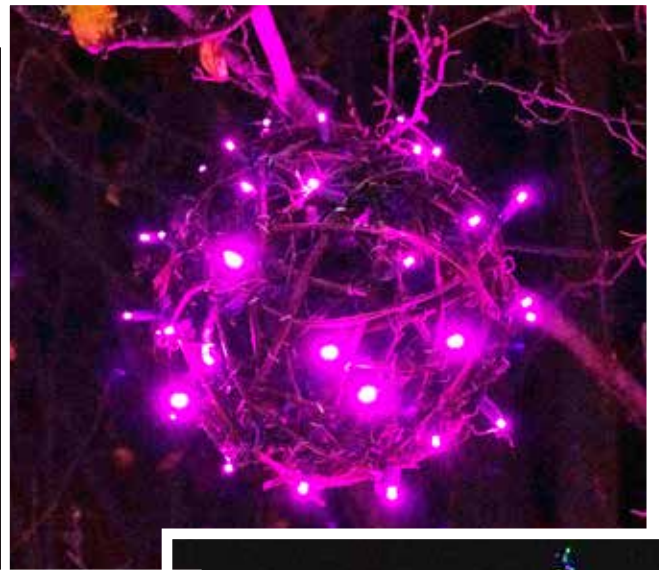
It's not about the publicity or notoriety for Nord (she was reluctant to even be interviewed) – it's about the magic, peace and love it brings not only to herself, but the entire community.

"You're standing here. It's calm. It's peaceful. Everybody has their own interpretation of it and their own feelings," she says.

"And so to keep this ambiance is very important to me."

She recalls a time when, as she was plugging in some of the lights, a family pulled up. Their windows were down and she could hear a child singing "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star."

"The child had seen the stars that are



## Decorations are all about the smiles

on this star tree,” she says, pointing to the large yellow stars dangling high in one of the trees.

After the child finished his song, everyone in the car cheered and clapped. Then she heard something she’ll never forget.

“A male voice said, ‘Well, that was worth it,’” she says.

And Nord thought, “That is exactly what we want.”

“We want people to come and kind of peek through the gates and the

hedge and look up high and have this feeling of wonder,” she says.

It’s about the little, and big, faces that light up in awe when they see the collection of lit up reindeer, trees and bushes. Or when they see her house illuminated by a variety of lights and shapes.

And it truly is magical. Every direction you look, you can find something that makes you stop and smile.

“We want to bring people joy and

this is why we go higher and higher every year,” says Nord.

She often comes out at night to marvel at the display and take a peaceful walk, but steers clear of being seen by those looking from the street. She doesn’t want to spoil the magic.

It’s the couple’s way of saying Merry Christmas to the community, she says.

The lights are on every night, from 5 to 10 p.m., until the new year, at 15630 Niagara Parkway near Line 2 Road.

# HOLIDAY LIGHTS

- 1791 York Rd.
- 137 Queenston St.
- 69 Prideaux St. - Demeath House
- 200 Four Mile Creek Rd.
- 15630 Niagara Pkwy.
- 285 Victoria St.
- 1621 York Rd.
- 78 Prideaux St. - Biscott House
- 210 John St. East



**Deck the house with bells and lights!  
How we love those Christmas sights!**

It isn't just the Historic Old Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake that offers stunning Christmas attractions, you'll find displays like the one above (1791 York Rd.) sprinkled all over town in the holiday season. Here we've listed a few houses that decked out last year – and some that do it every year.

# AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

- 805 Charlotte St.
- 827 Charlotte St.
- 375 Butler St.
- 3 Wilberforce Ave.
- 64 Shakespeare Ave.
- 48 Colonel Butler Cr.
- 688 Penner St.
- 650 Penner St.
- 13 Autumn Cr.
- 1585 Concession 6 Rd.
- 58 Wright Cr.
- 39 Niagara-on-the-Green Blvd.





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# PLACES FOR THE PUPS



NOTL is filled with furry friends who enjoy the winter season just as much as we humans do. Here's a list of a few places you can visit with your pups.

- **Off-leash dog park at The Commons**
- **Patio at The Angel Inn**
- **Hiking at Niagara Shores Park**
- **A stroll down the Niagara Parkway**



**Please be respectful and take your dog's waste with you.**

# INTERESTING facts ABOUT notl

## **NOTL was home to Ontario's first newspaper**

NOTL, when it was called Newark, was home to the first editorialized newspaper in Ontario, led by William Lyon Mackenzie, who also served as mayor of York (now Toronto).

## **Trivial Pursuit was started in NOTL**

The hit trivia game "Trivial Pursuit" was created here in NOTL in 1981. Since then, the game has sold more than 100 million copies.

## **Little Hollywood**

According to a popular movie database IMDb, Niagara-on-the-Lake has been a filming location for more than 30 movies, including RED (2010), The Dead Zone (1983), The Ref (1994), The Recruit (2003) and Amelia (2009). It's also a popular spot for filming Hallmark movies.

## **NOTL once burned down The White House**

Well, not us, but in 1814, in retaliation of the American soldiers burning our town during the War of 1812, Canadian (British then) soldiers marched to Washington and burned down the White House.

# Mississauga vs. Mississagua

“Mississagua” is an Anglicized version of “Misi-zaagiing,” the name of the tribe of Anishinaabe First Nations people who temporarily made their home (“Second Stopping Place”) at the mouth of the Niagara River.

Misi-zaagiing is only one of a number of phonetic renderings of their name, which means “people of the great river mouth.”

The tribe migrated from Niagara to several successive stopping places and are now acknowledged to reside mainly on Manitoulin Island. There are a number of different English and French renderings of “Misi-zaagiing” including Mississagua, Mississauga, Mississagi, Massassauga, Massassagua, Mississaugua and Mississaga.

Mississauga is actually the French version

of Misi-zaagiin, used by fur-traders who had a trading post at the mouth of the Credit River near Toronto. The Port Credit area was a point on the migration route of the Misi-zaagiing people after they left Niagara.

This version of the name was adopted when the City of Mississauga was incorporated in 1974 because Mississauga encompasses both the lands of the former trading post and an interim territory of the “Misi-zaagiing” people. You’d have to ask the City of Mississauga about the exact origin of name and spelling, but their use of the name is considerably more recent than the street name in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

There is a road called Mississagua Street in town, which is the correct spelling of that particular street name.

## Many names

What is now the historic town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has had several names in its history: West Niagara, Butlersburg, Lenox, Newark, the Town of Niagara and Niagara-on-the-Lake. The names Niagara, Ontario and Canada all come from Iroquoian words. Lawrenceville was the original name of Virgil.

## Burning of NOTL

The town was captured by American forces on May 27, 1813, and occupied by them until Dec. 10, 1813. The entire town was burned by them on their retreat.

## All walks of life

Famous visitors to Niagara include Queen Elizabeth (and the Queen Mother), Winston Churchill, future President William Henry Harrison, ex-President of the Confederate States of America Jefferson Davis, Underground Railroad hero Harriet Tubman, heroine Laura Secord and Joseph Brant.

## The Dockyard

Some of the largest passenger steamers on the Great Lakes were built in the Niagara dockyard in the 1840s and 1850s, including the ice-breaking passenger ship “Chief Justice Robinson.”

## Town of firsts

NOTL is a town of firsts: First Capital of Upper Canada (Ontario), the first newspaper published in Upper Canada, first lending library in Upper Canada, first agricultural fair in Upper Canada, place where the first anti-slavery legislation in the British Empire was passed, place of the founding of the Law Society of Upper Canada, headquarters of the British Indian Department and the British Army in Upper Canada at the beginning of the War of 1812, first golf course in Ontario, first public school in Upper Canada (honour shared with two other towns).

**More facts on Page 71.**







# Winter Walks

## IN NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

There's magic in the air along Niagara-on-the-Lake's streets. In the winter, a leisurely stroll unveils a serene charm. The historic town, nestled along the shores of Lake Ontario, transforms into a winter wonderland adorned with glistening snowflakes. As you meander through the picturesque streets, the quaint architecture of heritage buildings takes on a new allure against the snowy backdrop.

Strolling along Queen Street in winter, you'll hear Christmas carols playing and see holiday displays put up by the local shops. The air is crisp, and the occasional waft of gourmet foods from charming restaurants and boutique shops adds a cozy touch. It's perfect for a date night, family night or a holiday getaway with friends.

We recommend stopping by the Olde Angel Inn restaurant for a pint in NOTL's oldest bar or hopping over to the Irish Harp for a Guinness and meat pie. Other wonderful places to visit include art galleries like King St. Gallery, the year-round Christmas store Just Christmas, Maple Leaf Fudge for some homemade fudge and brittles, Rocky Mtn for chocolatey sweets, and the Scottish Loft for some fine imported candy and Scottish apparel. Need a coffee? Stop by Starbucks, Balzac's or the Victoria Gallery. The aroma alone will make you feel you've found coffee heaven.

## EXPLORE THESE WALKING SPOTS

- HISTORIC QUEEN STREET
  - NIAGARA PARKWAY
  - THE COMMONS
- QUEEN'S ROYAL PARK
- QUEENSTON HEIGHTS

# History and Lore of CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Mistletoe, poinsettias, holly and wassailing were not always part of our Christmas traditions. Here is a bit of history.



## Mistletoe

The whole idea of mistletoe started in the days of the ancient Druids (around 3rd century BC). So, even before the era of Hallmark Christmas movies.

Druids believed mistletoe, especially a rare species that grew on oak trees, to have sacred powers, including the ability to heal illnesses, protect against nightmares and even predict the future.

The romantic act of kissing under the mistletoe is rooted in Norse mythology and the plant itself has had cultural significance for far longer. The berries were used to create an elixir that was believed to cure all poisons and make any person or animal fertile.

During the Roman era,

enemies at war would reconcile their differences under the mistletoe, which to them represented peace. Romans also decorated their houses and temples with mistletoe in midwinter to please their gods.

In Victorian England, kissing under the mistletoe was serious business. If a girl refused a kiss, she shouldn't expect any marriage proposals for at least the next year.

Today, we take a much more lighthearted approach to the tradition.

It should be mentioned, however, that the plant contains toxic amines – and eating its berries can cause vomiting and stomach pain. So, best to stick to kissing under it.



## Holly

Long been used as a symbol of Christmas, holly was considered sacred by the ancient Romans. It was used to honour Saturn, god of agriculture, during their Saturnalia festival around the winter solstice.

The Romans gave each other holly wreaths and they would carry them in parades, decorating the images of Saturn with them. During the early years of the Christian religion in Rome, many Christians continued to deck their homes with holly to avoid detection and persecution by Roman authorities.

Gradually, holly became a symbol of Christmas as Christianity became the dominant religion of the empire.

Wassailing: Most of us are familiar with the Christmas song, “Here we go a wassailing among the leaves so green ...”

If asked what “wassailing” is, we would most likely say that it is the tradition of going from house to house carolling, eating,

drinking and visiting with friends.

But wassailing was originally an important part of a horticultural tradition in England, with a focus on apple orchards.

A group would gather around the biggest and best apple trees in the orchard. The wassailing, or blessing of the fruit trees, involved drinking and singing to the health of the trees in the hope that they would provide a bountiful harvest the next year.

People would then travel from orchard to orchard, carolling as they went. In each orchard, trees were selected, and cider or liquor was sprinkled over their root systems.

Along with singing, shouting, banging pots and pans, and even firing shotguns could be heard, making as much noise as possible to both waken the sleeping tree spirits and to frighten off any evil demons that might be lurking in the branches.

Whatever traditions you observe, make sure you take time to enjoy the season.



## Poinsettia

How did a tall, gangly weed get to be the accepted official Christmas plant?

The poinsettia, a native of southern Mexico and Central America, is considered to be a tall, weedy plant in that climate. Definitely not the compact bushy plants that we have come to know.

So how did it become associated with Christmas? As the old Mexican legend goes, a young girl named Pepita was sad that she didn't have a gift to leave for the baby Jesus at Christmas Eve services.

Her cousin tried to comfort her by saying Jesus would love anything that she brought for him even if she had no money to buy a real gift. Pepita picked a bouquet of weeds that she was walking past on the way to church.

When she got there, she set the weeds down at the bottom of the nativity scene. As the story goes, the weeds suddenly transformed into beautiful red flowers. From that day on, they became known as “Flores de Noche Buena” or “Flowers of the Holy Night.”

Poinsettias owe their common name to Joel R. Poinsett, who introduced them to the United States when he was the first American ambassador to Mexico, from 1825 to 1829.

Poinsett, who was an amateur botanist, noticed the euphorbias with red bracts growing wild in the hills of southern Mexico. He sent a few of the plants home to South Carolina for his personal collection, where he began

propagating them in his greenhouses and giving them to friends and botanical gardens.

It still took about another 100 years before the poinsettia became a traditional holiday decoration when the Ecke family started promoting them. Paul Ecke Jr. sent free poinsettia plants to TV studios across the country, including “The Tonight Show” and Bob Hope’s holiday specials.

Eventually, the trend caught on, making them the familiar live Christmas decoration that they are today. Over many years, breeders have developed the plants so that they are much fuller, shorter growing varieties that come in array of different coloured bracts.

*Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at [joanneyoung.ca](http://joanneyoung.ca).*



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# Holiday Cheer Lives Here



Everyone in Niagara knows that for an extra-large helping of holiday cheer, all you need to do is step inside a Vintage Hotel! It has been a long-standing tradition for the Prince of Wales, Queen's Landing and Pillar and Post to go all out for Christmas every year.

## Deck the Halls

With every nook and cranny draped in holiday décor, fresh flowers and greenery set amongst beautiful holiday decorations, twinkle lights and candles and exquisitely decorated trees around every corner, you will be delighted by the incredible feeling you get when visiting a Vintage Hotel during the holidays. It is something very special!

Vintage Hotels offers many different getaway packages during December, whether you are looking for a little pre-festivities pick me up, or a unique way to celebrate the season with your loved ones, anytime is a wonderful time to stay with Vintage Hotels.

## A Moveable Feast

Vintage Hotels is well known for their expertly prepared and beautifully arranged cuisine, and their holiday season offerings take it one step further. With something delectable and delicious to tempt every palette, bring your family and friends in for a relaxed holiday

lunch or an indulgent evening meal, complete with decadent desserts and expert wine pairings. Book your private party or event soon to ensure that, this year, the meal is the easiest and most memorable part of your celebrations.

## We All Need a Little Christmas

Let Vintage Hotels bring some magic into your holiday season this year in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Old Town transforms into a Victorian Christmas Village and The Gardens at Pillar and Post are a true winter wonderland.

Complete with a stunning light display, an outdoor skating rink, warm drinks and snacks at The OutPost concession, and outdoor fire pits, The Gardens are the place to be this season.

If celebrating indoors is more your speed, head to the Prince of Wales for a festive Breakfast with Santa or dramatic Dickensian Feast. Plus The Drawing Room is featuring a special Highland Candlelight Tea every Friday and Saturday evening.

## Christmas Wonderland Package

For even more Christmas, guests booking the Christmas Wonderland Package can enjoy luxurious overnight accommodations, access to The Gardens, complimentary festive hot drink and snack, holiday movies under the stars and a keepsake blanket!

## Gifts That Last All Year!

A Vintage Hotels' gift card is a simple yet sophisticated choice for everyone on your 'good list' this year. Redeemable all year at any Vintage Hotels property, spa or restaurant, their choose-your-own-adventure gift can go towards delicious dining, relaxing spa treatments or overnight accommodations. You can order online at [vintage-hotels.com/gift-cards](http://vintage-hotels.com/gift-cards).

Get into the festive spirit this year with Vintage Hotels!

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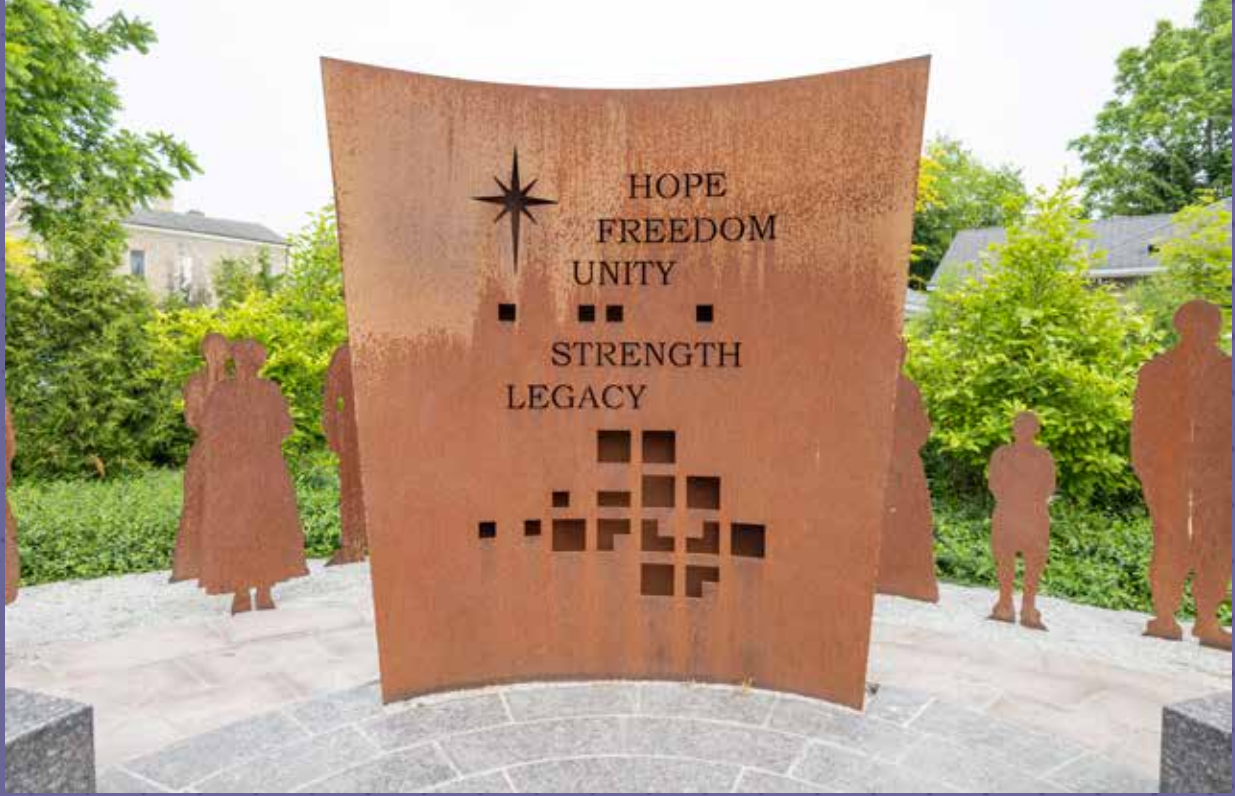
# STAY THE NIGHT in Niagara-on-the-Lake

## TRY THESE COZY SPOTS:

The Prince of Wales	Niagara Holiday Rentals
The Pillar & Post	The Irish Harp Pub
124 on Queen	The Angel Inn







# VOICES OF FREEDOM PARK

## A CELEBRATION OF NOTL'S RICH BLACK HISTORY

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has set aside a significant site in the heart of the Old Town to understand, celebrate and honour its Black history. Voices of Freedom is an experiential art installation designed to engage, educate and challenge visitors about this most important aspect of our history. Voices from the past will tell their stories, enriching visitors' understanding of how they shaped our town and nation.

### CHLOE COOLEY TAKES CANADIAN SPOTLIGHT

Staff at the NOTL Museum were happy to consult on the development of Canada Post's latest stamp, which features a local historical figure, drawing attention to her harrowing story.

Chloe Cooley was enslaved by Queenston farmer Adam Vrooman in 1793. At his farm, Cooley was likely responsible for domestic tasks such as household chores, child-rearing, laundry, food prep or harvesting crops. She had previously protested her enslavement by acting in "an unruly manner," refusing to work, stealing property entrusted to her and leaving for periods of time. When Vrooman, a member of the Legislative Assembly, heard that Lt.-Gov. John Graves Simcoe was determined to pass anti-slavery legislation, he bound and forcibly transported Cooley across the river to a U.S. buyer. This is the scene portrayed in the stamp's imagery.

The man standing at Vrooman's Point on the right portrays Peter Martin, a Black loyalist and former Butler's Ranger, who provided one of two witness statements about the incident. William Grisley, a local resident who worked on the Vrooman farm and who was on the boat, was the second.

Unfortunately, Vrooman had not broken any laws. However, the incident and the eyewitness accounts led to the Act to Limit Slavery being passed on July 9, 1793. It was the first step towards the abolition of slavery here in Canada.

Chloe Cooley was never heard from again and quite possibly had no idea of the effect her experience had on the lives of many enslaved in Upper Canada. In honour of the 230th anniversary of this historical event, the NOTL Museum will host an exhibition on Cooley and enslavement in Upper Canada.



# INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT NOTL



## **Famous gazebo was built for Christopher Walken film**

The gazebo at Queen’s Royal Park was built for a Christopher Walken movie, *The Dead Zone*, in 1983 and was donated to the town after filming. Now, the park and gazebo offer picturesque views and the structure is a coveted location for small wedding ceremonies of up to 12 people.

## **Capital of Upper Canada**

The town of Niagara was once one of the largest towns in Upper Canada and for several years had a bigger population than York (now Toronto).

## **The “on-the-Lake” bit**

In the 1890s the Post Office added “on-the-Lake” to “Niagara” to distinguish it from Niagara Falls and the Township of Niagara. The name caught on and the town was known as Niagara-on-the Lake, although it was not officially named that until 1969.

## **First museum**

The Niagara Historical Society Museum was the first building constructed in Ontario as a museum. While there were a couple of earlier museums in the province, they were established in existing buildings that had been built for other purposes.



## **Place to gather**

At the Indian Council House on the Commons, hundreds of Indigenous people met from time to time with British officials to renew alliances and discuss mutual concerns.

## **Mennonite arrival**

Mennonites started to arrive in 1934 and just before the immigration the population of Virgil was 200.

Read about the ghosts of NOTL on Page 73.



# Music

## FOR THE WINTER

### NIAGARA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ALL SHOWS AT PARTRIDGE HALL, ST. CATHARINES

Dec. 16 and Sunday Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. - Brad's Home for the Holidays  
Tickets at [www.niagarasymphony.com/concerts](http://www.niagarasymphony.com/concerts)

### BRAVO NIAGARA!

ALL SHOWS AT THE FIRST ONTARIO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Recital Hall, Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m. - Ehnes Quartet  
Partridge Hall, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. - The Manhattan Transfer

Tickets at: [www.bravoniagara.org/live](http://www.bravoniagara.org/live)

### THE IRISH HARP PUB

Nov. 16 at 7:30 p.m. - Moonlight Co.  
Nov. 17 at 8:30 p.m. - Right Proper Lads  
Nov. 18 at 8:30 p.m. - Paddyman  
Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. - The Shalalas 2  
Nov. 23 at 7:30 p.m. - The O'Deadlys  
Nov. 24 at 8:30 p.m. - The Postmen  
Nov. 25 at 8:30 p.m. - Patsy & The Muscle  
Nov. 26 at 2 p.m. - Ryan Thomas Smelle  
Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m. - The Other Band  
Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. - Ryan Thomas Smelle  
Dec. 1 at 8:30 p.m. - The O'Deadlys  
Dec. 2 at 8:30 p.m. - New Rising Sun  
Dec. 3 at 2:00 p.m. - Matt Vnadersluys  
Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. - Moonlight Co.  
Dec. 8 at 8:30 p.m. - The Postmen  
Dec. 9 at 8:30 p.m. - Paddyman  
Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. - Fiddlin' Around  
Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. - Mel Monaco  
Dec. 15 at 8:30 p.m. - Jack Van Ginger  
Dec. 16 at 8:30 p.m. - Patsy & The Muscle  
Dec. 17 2 p.m. - The Shalalas  
Dec. 20 7:30 p.m. - The Black Sheep  
Dec. 21 7:30 p.m. - The Feverish Lemons  
Dec. 22 at 8:30 p.m. - The Danny Boys  
Dec. 23 at 8:30 p.m. - Right Proper Lads  
Dec. 27 at 7:30 p.m. - Grass Mud Horse  
Dec. 28 at 7:30 p.m. - The O'Deadlys  
Dec. 29 at 8:30 p.m. - Ryan Thomas Smelle  
Dec. 30 at 8:30 p.m. - Patsy & The Muscle  
Dec. 31 at 4 p.m. - Daryl Gray, 9:30 p.m. - Jack Van Ginger

MORE INFO: [www.theirishharppub.com/entertainment](http://www.theirishharppub.com/entertainment)

### THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS

For those of you craving the music and voices of Christmas, this holiday season will be a little quieter than most, but never fear, at least some carols will accent the season:

Friday and Saturday Dec. 8 & 9 at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. -  
A Niagara Christmas / A Christmas Concert for Friends and Family  
At Central Community Church

### THE OLDE ANGEL INN

Nov. 17 at 9:30 p.m. - The Black Stones  
Nov. 18 at 9:30 p.m. - Whisky Rattlers  
Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. - Ron McEwan  
Nov. 24 at 9:30 p.m. - Stuck in the 90's  
Nov. 25 at 9:30 p.m. - Undercover  
Nov. 26 at 2 p.m. - Ron McEwan  
Nov. 30 at 9 p.m. - Moonlight  
Dec. 1 at 9 p.m. - Arythmix  
Dec. 2 at 9:30 p.m. - Cottage Brew  
Dec. 8 at 9:30 p.m. - Ryan Thomas Band  
Dec. 9 at 9:30 p.m. - Whisky Rattlers  
Dec. 15 at 9:30 p.m. - A Simple Gesture  
Dec. 16 at 9:30 p.m. - Riley Michaels  
Dec. 22 at 9:30 p.m. - Bryce Moore  
Dec. 23 at 9:30 p.m. - Undercover  
Dec. 29 at 9:30 p.m. - Perry Quinn  
Dec. 30 at 9:30 p.m. - Taylor Brown Band  
Dec. 31 at 9:30 p.m. - TBD

MORE INFO: [www.oldeangelinn.com](http://www.oldeangelinn.com)

PLUS CATCH LIVE MUSIC EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
FROM JANUARY ON.





# THE GHOSTS OF NOTL

*It was a dark and stormy night ... the windows rattled ... a door slammed from the other side of the house ... a mournful howl from a dog could be heard ... time for some tales from beyond the grave. Welcome to Niagara-on-the-Lake, a place that may just be one of the most haunted towns in Canada ...*

## SARAH ANN

At Fort George, the ghost tours are run by Kyle Upton, who started them almost three decades ago.

One story Upton tells is of his own personal experience. He claims to have seen a young girl while he was conducting part of the Fort George tour know as the “tunnel.”

It was a warm summer night, he recalls.

He was leading a small tour group into one of the tunnels. It was a small group, so he could see the tunnel entrance. Every time he looked up the tunnel, he says he could see a small girl in the doorway watching. At first he thought it was someone from the group who was nervous about entering the tunnel, so he asked if everyone was accounted for, and they were.

But the little girl was still there.

When the lightning lit up the sky outside of the tunnel, the little girl was not there, though Upton noticed something peculiar — he could see her shadow.

Upton is positive he was seeing Sarah Ann Tracy, who died in 1840 at the age of seven and was buried at St. Mark’s Anglican Church.

Sarah Ann lived with her parents Hannah and Thomas Tracy. Thomas was the troop sergeant major of the king’s dragoon guards. It was not unusual at that time for the fort children to live and play about the grounds.

No one knows how Sarah Ann died, but we do know that she is alone in St. Mark’s graveyard. Maybe this is why she comes to the Fort, where she once lived, to enjoy the company of all the visitors. Many guests claim to have seen her playing inside the barracks or just outside the officers’ quarters. She has also been seen skipping along side of tour guides in a white gown with curly hair, always cheerful with a big smile.



## CAPTAIN SWAYZE

At the Angel Inn, there is the legend of Captain Swayze, who haunts the basement. Servers and patrons alike have their stories, and glasses have been known to slide across the tables without anyone touching them at all. You can read more about Captain Swayze at the Inn.



## THE GENTLEMAN

Legend has it on a spring day in 1998, when the Niagara Apothecary was filled with tourists, one couple noticed a pleasant looking gentleman dressed in period costume, possibly from the 1860s. The gentleman was very interested in the display cases and would occasionally look up and smile at other visitors. One group of tourists took pictures of this gentleman thinking he was part of the museum display. Of course, this was at a time when you had to wait for pictures to be developed. When the visitors finally looked through their photos, the couple claimed the gentleman was nowhere to be found. Only one picture gave a possible explanation of what they had seen — a vague misty shape. Who might have been this ghostly visitor to the museum? The Apothecary was the oldest continuously running drug store in Ontario, operating from 1865 until it was purchased by Henry Paffard in 1964. Prior to that, it was the customs house and also the office of a judge. Staff and visitors also say they’ve heard footsteps on the second floor or from the stairs, complained of cold spots in the building, flashing lights from the back of the store and reported an odour of belladonna — a poison sometimes called nightshade. Several psychics have visited the apothecary and have “confirmed a presence,” but one that is “warm and welcoming.” Just maybe this friendly spirit is Henry Paffard himself, or possibly the judge.



## Ghost Tours of Fort George

Step inside Fort George after dark and learn about its history and hauntings during this 1.5- to two-hour candlelight ghost walk. The ghost tours gather in the parking lot of Fort George, just off the Niagara Parkway. Just look for black capes and lanterns!

Tickets: \$20

Tickets must be purchased in advance.  
[www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca/ghost-tours](http://www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca/ghost-tours)

## NOTL Ghost Walks

Niagara-on-the-Lake tours are a traditional Ghost Walk of “Canada’s Most Haunted Town.” Featuring stories at the Olde Angel Inn, iconic Court House and Prince of Wales Hotel. With North America’s oldest legend, a mystery at the Apothecary, the theatre ghost scaring audiences and a mansion that makes cameras go crazy. Many secrets and dark history are at the centre of the only war fought in Canada.  
[www.ghostwalks.com/niagara-on-the-lake](http://www.ghostwalks.com/niagara-on-the-lake)





Visit The

# MUSEUM

about us

- Preserves the history of ALL of NOTL's communities
- Over 53,000 items in the collection
- Two temporary exhibits per year
- 80+ programs/events per year
- Gift shop features unique gifts and local history books
- The Tiny Museum takes our exhibits into the community



Owned & operated by the  
Niagara Historical Society  
since 1895

## WINTER HIGHLIGHTS:

**Strike a Pose: The Art of Self-Obsession**

Dec 1, 2023 - April 28, 2024

Visit for free on Dec 1 & 2 during the Rotary Holiday House Tour and on Family Day.  
Free virtual lectures in Jan/Feb.

## CONTACT INFO:

**43 Castlereagh St.**

contact@nhsm.ca

905.468.3912

## Open Every Day:

Nov to April 1pm-5pm  
(Closed Dec 18 - Jan 1)

May to Oct 10am-5pm



**NOTLMUSEUM.CA**

# King St. Gallery

*'Just Around the Corner & Out of this World'*



Christmas Feature

## *"Tiny Treasures"*

December 1-24, 2023

*Open year round in the heart of the historic  
district of Niagara-on-the-Lake*

153 King St.  
Niagara-on-the-Lake

[kingstgallery.com](http://kingstgallery.com)

905-321-6516

# A STONE'S THROW

FROM THE BIG CITY

Just across Lake Ontario you can see the Toronto skyline on a clear day. It's a juxtaposition from the quiet, quaintness of NOTL, and if you're in Canada for the first time, it's worth a day trip to explore Canada's bustling metropolis.

Explore transit options at  
[gotransit.com/en/plan-your-trip](https://gotransit.com/en/plan-your-trip)

The logo for Niagara-on-the-Lake, featuring the text "Niagara on the Lake" in a white serif font, with a stylized wave graphic above the word "Lake".

Niagara  
on the  
Lake

A photograph of a white wooden gazebo with a dark, conical roof and a weather vane on top. The gazebo is situated on a snow-covered shore next to a large, leafless tree. In the background, a blue lake stretches to the horizon under a pale sky.

# Winter Wonders Await: Experience the *MAGIC* of Niagara-on-the-Lake



[www.notl.com](http://www.notl.com)

Ethan Raine Photography

# R<sup>^</sup>PM BAKEHOUSE



3839 Main Street, Jordan Station, ON

Restaurant Pearl Morissette Bakery & Café | Bottle Shop

Join us in Jordan Village for bread, pastries & coffee throughout the day, enjoy casual fare for breakfast & lunch with our kitchen's seasonal and ever-changing menu.

Open all seasons | We use flavourful heritage grains from Ontario millers that are stone-ground, making nutritious organic whole wheat flour. Our ingredients & retail offerings are a reflection of working with regional purveyors & local farmers, sourcing from our own regenerative farm & garden on Jordan Road and serving wine from our estate.

Bakery | Pre-Order ~ [exploretock.com/rpm-bakehouse](https://exploretock.com/rpm-bakehouse)

Catering | Pastry platters & large format coffee, canapés, lunch boxes and family style meals ~ email [info@rpmbakehouse.com](mailto:info@rpmbakehouse.com)

[rpmbakehouse.com](https://rpmbakehouse.com) | [@rpm\\_bakehouse](https://www.instagram.com/rpm_bakehouse)

FREE Baguette! Offered to the first 50 guests who present this page when visiting our shop ~ valid until Feb. 1, 2024





## EVERY DAY IS A LOVELY DAY IN RIDGEWAY

Just down the road from Niagara-on-the-Lake is the little town of Ridgeway. Much like NOTL, this town is quaint and authentic — but it also has a world-class general store at its centre: **LOVELY DAY GIFT & HOME**

Owners Stephanie and William share a lifelong passion for design, art and all things handmade. They invite you to visit and explore a beautiful selection of home goods, fashion and giftware including local artisanal works, jewellery, vintage treasures, clothing, gourmet treats, bath and body, toys ... It is a perfect destination store with something for everyone, including the kids. An easy drive with great dining and attractions next door.

**LOVELY DAY GIFT & HOME**  
**283 RIDGE RD NORTH,**  
**RIDGEWAY ON, CANADA, L0S 1N0**  
**416-318-1995**  
**instagram.com/lovelydaygiftandhome**





# winter

## IN WINE COUNTRY

Warm up at Konzelmann with special tastings,  
unique Icewine experiences and much more.

  
**konzelmann**  
estate winery

1096 Lakeshore Road | [konzelmann.ca](http://konzelmann.ca) | 905-935-2866