



The Lake Report

Issue 4

July 1, 2018

Niagara-on-the-Lake

RANDWOOD Pt.3



Bill Bradford, Old Town

"I think it's an absolute disgrace. It's a prime location in town. It should not be taken over by a big commercial operation. I don't think it'll help. We've got enough hotels in town here ... I think it's going to change the whole character of that area up there, that's all ... I like it up there the way it is, overlooking the Commons, with the wall. I don't see any reason for converting it into something that's going to change the whole character of the place."



Dawn Thompson, Old Town

"Where I live it doesn't really affect me, other than just one more hotel that we don't need ... I think it could be better suited as an up-scale retirement facility. There's a general agreement around that people want to move on up when they're finished with their homes and can't cope. Where are we going to go? The only place currently is Royal Henley in St. Catharines. There are so many people, especially in my age bracket. And when we moved here we were in our fifties. We're no longer in our fifties."

Resident voices

Randwood Part 3
Resident Voices
Richard Harley
Editor

For the final piece of the Randwood story, The Lake report talked to 18 residents completely at random in front of the Old Town and Virgil post offices.

Over the course of this story, the paper has talked to many residents to find out what they think about the proposed hotel and what should be the future of the Randwood Estate.

The paper discovered residents of the town of

Niagara-on-the-Lake have varied opinions.

While most residents agree there should be an effort made to make the hotel look and feel like it belongs in Old Town, some are opposed to any form of development on the property, and others support the hotel, believing it will benefit the town and will look nice when it's all said and done.

There are also some people that support the development for a number of reasons, including creating new jobs and the history of other Two Sisters projects.

Continued on page 6.



Sue B, Old Town

"I support it, I support the family behind it because they are providing jobs and opportunities for people. I think there's definitely room for negotiating the aesthetic of it, but in terms of their right to build a commercial business, they're well within their rights. It was zoned commercial long before that family came along. And I have confidence that they will handle it well and with the same kind of finesse and class they did with Two Sisters. I'm very confident about that."



Julia Chishow, Virgil

"To be honest, I don't really know what's happening much ... I don't really think we need another hotel. So to me it's a waste, but that's pretty much it. Because I don't live there, it doesn't bother me too much, but if I did it would bother me. There's already enough. The Pillar and Post is there, and how much more do you need? They could do something totally different with that humongous property — something totally better than that other hotel."

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Town to revise bylaws controlling marijuana facilities



A legally licensed marijuana operation in Niagara-on-the-Lake. (Richard Harley)

Penny Coles
Staff

Niagara-on-the-Lake was one of the first municipalities in the region to grapple with zoning bylaws controlling commercial medical marijuana facilities, although it was somewhat hampered by federal legislation that legalized such operations.

In the summer of 2014, with several inquiries about legal operations and issues with greenhouses growing and selling marijuana illegally, the Town enacted legislation regarding what could be controlled, such as the distance required from

residential neighbourhoods, churches, schools, playgrounds and other "sensitive" areas where an operation would impact residents.

Last fall, facing the possibility of an increase in such production facilities with legalized recreational marijuana on the horizon, Coun. Betty Disero asked council to have another look at issues such as setbacks, to see if the controls in place are sufficient.

She suggested asking the province about regulations relating to land use and specialty products such as marijuana, and council decided to ask the Town's agricultural

committee to take on the project, including holding a symposium to gather information and opinions.

But nothing came of it, said Disero, so she was grateful to see a recent notice from the Town announcing an open house and a public meeting to look at amending the bylaws in place since 2014.

"This is the least we can do. A lot of people are concerned about this. It's going to impact their lives," she said.

"We need to review things like setbacks. I expect there could be more demand and we need to be ready."

She said she's had a few inquiries from people looking for information about bylaws controlling such facilities in NOTL, and refers them to the planning department.

She expects other councillors are doing the same.

One location that has caused concern from neighbours is a greenhouse facility on Larkin Road, with homes nearby.

Residents have seen equipment going into the greenhouses recently, which makes them fear it could be for marijuana production.

In March, 2017, Niagara Regional Police made some arrests at the same location

and seized some marijuana plants.

Disero has been told by Town staff these greenhouses do not meet required setbacks for growing marijuana, and staff have been there several times to check, she said.

There are no marijuana plants there now, and if there were, "it would be an illegal operation," Disero said.

Town staff say there is no application in process for a Larkin Road facility.

The proposed bylaws to be discussed at the open house and public meeting would affect all areas of NOTL, with the purpose of introducing increased setback requirements between cannabis production facilities and sensitive land uses.

The proposed bylaws, which address urban and rural properties, are also intended to provide for clearer interpretation of provisions in regard to cannabis production and processing.

The draft bylaws to be discussed say no land, building or structure used to produce or process marijuana, if

equipped with air treatment control may be closer than 70 metres to residential, institutional or open space land, or closer than 150 metres to sensitive land uses.

The proposed bylaws define air treatment control as an "industrial grade multi-stage carbon filtration system, or similar technology, to reduce and/or treat the emission of pollen, dust and odours expelled from a facility and sized accordingly in comparison to the facility it serves as designed by a qualified person."

Without air treatment control the setback to sensitive land uses must be 300 metres or more.

The urban bylaw addresses similar setbacks in industrial zones.

The proposed bylaws also say all development for the growing of marijuana would be subject to site plan control by the Town.

An open house took place at the end of June. A public meeting at the council chamber will be held Monday, July 9, at 6:30 p.m.

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Council gives nod to urban tree bylaw, residents pleased

Penny Coles
Staff

Niagara-on-the-Lake residents "overwhelmingly" support a tree bylaw that would apply to private property in urban areas, and council supports having one passed before the end of August.

A report from a consulting company hired to gauge residents' interest in a tree bylaw presented to council Monday showed that of 600 people who attended an open house, answered a survey or commented online, 88.5 per cent said the Town should have a bylaw to protect trees in the five urban communities. A regional bylaw already controls cutting of trees in woodlots of rural areas, John Knott of Lura Consulting told councillors.

Almost 80 per cent of those who responded said a permit should be required to cut a tree on private property in urban areas, and 81 per cent said there should be penalties to encourage compliance.

Although the majority also

said a qualified arborist should be hired for site visits before a permit could be issued for tree removal, there were comments that expressed concern about the cost.

There were some exceptions mentioned to allow for tree-cutting, including the health of the tree, hazards to property or safety issues, the tree size and the species.

Knott referred to the public response as a "really, really strong participation rate for a municipality of this size," but said that 90 per cent of the respondents were over the age of 50, "not necessarily reflective of the entire community" as far as demographics, he said, "just something to be cognizant of."

In answer to a question from Coun. Betty Disero, he said he did not compare the ages of survey respondents, which had about 75 per cent between the age of 50 and 69, to the demographics of the town.

The majority of responses were also from the Old Town, he said.

Any bylaw should be clear and easy to understand, according to the public, and the fee for a permit should not be "overly high" and give residents reasons to circumvent it, Knott said.

Residents also agreed there should be a tree replacement process, with one tree planted for each removed, either on private or public property, and that the trees should be of a specified size and approved species.

A tree inventory was also recommended by the majority, a process Coun. John Wiens suggested could be onerous and expensive.

Coun. Jamie King said he was surprised not to see heritage trees come up as part of the discussion, and Knott responded he did hear discussion about cultural heritage throughout the process, although he did not include that in the report.

As a "dabbler" of polls on social media, Coun. Paolo Miele asked about the significance of the majority of answers coming from the

Old Town - he has heard from several residents who don't want a tree bylaw, he said.

The survey and open houses were well-advertised and open to everyone, said Knott. "Everybody did have an opportunity to participate."

"This is a process step," said Coun. Terry Flynn, suggesting the next step is to look at the tree bylaws of other municipalities. "This isn't the be-all and end-all," he cautioned, "there are some other steps. This is just the process of gathering information."

Gracia Janes, representing the NOTL Conservancy, said the group has a tree committee that has reviewed studies over the last three years and looked at tree bylaws in other municipalities. Given the overwhelming support the public showed for an urban tree bylaw, she asked councillors to pass a motion initiating the process. If the town already had a tree bylaw, it would have "helped enormously" to control tree-cutting on the Randwood

Estate, she said. "If we had a bylaw we'd have certainty, less ambiguity if a neighbour is going to cut a tree down."

Coun. Jim Collard's motion to receive the information in the presentation and send it to staff for a report met with some concern the process of getting a tree bylaw passed, already under consideration for more than three years, wouldn't meet a timeline that would allow it to be completed by the current council. He said a staff report was necessary to have a full discussion at council "about what we like and don't like."

"This needs to be done yesterday," said Coun. Martin Mazza, asking for a deadline for a report to be included in the motion.

With all councillors having supported moving forward on the issue when it has come up in the past, Coun. Betty Disero asked that the motion include a tree bylaw be approved in principal, with a report and draft bylaw prepared for the August committee-of-the-whole and council meetings. That will also allow two opportunities for the public to have a say on the draft bylaw before

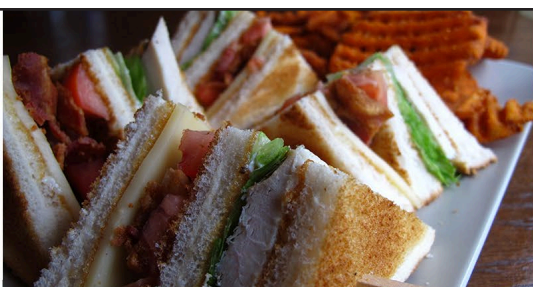
it's finalized.

Flynn agreed that was a realistic target, saying there are other municipalities that have bylaws that could be "massaged" for Niagara-on-the-Lake and approved by the current council.

"It's important we approve an urban tree bylaw in principal," said Coun. Jamie King. "We've been talking about it for three to four years. This is a rather late attempt in council's term to move it forward. Every week, every month, every year we delay this we see more trees going down."

The vote was unanimous to have a draft tree bylaw back to council by August, with answers to questions such as a fees, penalties, enforcement, and the need for a tree inventory.

Tree photo by Richard Harley



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NOTL has “best hydro board going”



NOTL Hydro president Tim Curtis and board member Bob Cheriton. (Penny Coles)

Penny Coles
Staff

A decision made by Niagara-on-the-Lake town council in 2002 has resulted in continuing benefits to the town that are twofold — more efficient hydro service, and \$1 million in annual revenue that doesn't have to come from taxpayers' pockets.

When the provincial government of the day decided to sell off local hydro utilities, many were sold to private companies, but a few municipalities, including NOTL, decided that rather than taking the route to short-term gain, they would form companies that would take on the job.

An annual report presented to council recently by NOTL Hydro president Tim Curtis showed not only does the local utility make money for

the town, it has the lowest rates in the Niagara Region for residential and large business customers, although that figure only represents 17 per cent of hydro bills.

Regarding the rate for smaller businesses, Curtis said, “I gotta be honest, we didn't quite get there.”

Welland can brag they have the lowest rates in that category, but NOTL is second.

While he considers rates the “litmus test” of whether the utility is doing a good job of treating its customers fairly, reliability is also important, he said, and measured by the number of power outages and how long they last, in that respect “we've had a pretty good record over the last few years.”

The local utility also has a good safety record, with nobody injured in 2017.

As for the \$1 million to the town annually, Curtis said although there are factors that could affect the ability to pay those dividends in the future, he's confident it can be maintained, “although it's not guaranteed.”

But what really makes the company different from others in the province, Curtis said, is that it continues to advocate at a provincial level on behalf of its customers, through press releases, appearances at Queen's Park and meetings with energy critics, attempting to increase efficiencies and reduce the remaining portions of the hydro bill over which the local utility has no control.

Among goals for 2018, Curtis said, are continued focus on safety, burying more wires underground, a new feeder for Tweed Farms, the medical marijuana grower which is becoming NOTL Hydro's largest customer, and continuing a strong financial performance.

Following the hydro president's report, Coun. Jim Collard called the company “forward-thinking,” and said it has served the community well, with a “minuscule” number of outages in relation to other municipalities. He also commended them on their “fabulous” leadership

and their outreach across the province.

NOTL has the “best hydro board going, although it's not because I sit on it,” said Lord Mayor Pat Dart.

“I sit back sometimes and listen in amazement.”

He often hears from other municipalities what a great job NOTL Hydro does, he added. “Having the lowest rates in the region - that speaks for itself.”

The board is made of “out-of-the-box thinkers,” he said. “We're in excellent hands. Thank you for all you do for Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

Coun. Jamie King has been on the board of NOTL Hydro for the last seven years, and has the greatest respect for those in charge of the utility, he says.

“Look at the value they give us. They've created a hydro company that benefits the community, they've been bulldogs at a provincial level, and they've been one of the biggest thorns in the side of the industry. I don't think our residents realize how unique they are.”

The hydro board includes Curtis, Dart, King, town CAO Holly Dowd and residents Bob Cheriton, Jim Huntingdon, Nick Miller, Jim Ryan and Philip Wormwell.

Mazza: Former Virgil school needs protection



The former Virgil Public School. (Richard Harley)

Penny Coles
Staff

Discussions to designate a significant heritage site in Niagara-on-the-Lake are not new, and will resurface at July's council meeting with a request to the Town to initiate heritage designation protection for the former Virgil Public School.

Coun. Martin Mazza will ask that the original one-room school building be protected.

The original building was constructed on a 3.75-acre site on Four Mile Creek Road in 1872.

Despite several additions, the property maintained its

original educational purpose, making it one of the oldest — some documents say the oldest — school still operating as such in the country until its closure in 2011.

The site was traded by the District School Board of Niagara to Lloyd Redekopp and family, in return for the property on Niagara Stone Road where Crossroads Public School was built.

In January, 2011, council approved resolutions that the Municipal Heritage Committee research the potential of designating the former school and develop a recommendation for council's consideration.

But later that year, when a Town staff report recommended designation, council deferred a decision.

A recent staff report again recommends the Town move forward to initiate designation, and notify the property owner of its intention to proceed.

Mazza says he's afraid the property could be the subject of a development proposal, and wants to ensure it's designated before that happens.

Councillors will deal with the report at the two July meetings. The report recommends “If council wishes to pursue designation, staff initiate conversations with

the property owner to express that interest and report back to the MHC and council as appropriate.”

Mazza wants to make sure designation doesn't get deferred again, and so has given notice that he will make a motion for council to move ahead with the designation process, as it has with the Randwood Estate on John Street.


“During the last term of council, there was a very detailed report outlining the school as a very significant heritage property, but it didn't happen. Council wanted to wait and see what the property owner would do, to give him a chance to do it himself. I want to make sure that doesn't happen again.”

Mazza says he wants to see if council will take its responsibility to preserve heritage seriously. “I want to see if it's just about Randwood or if it's about heritage. This property needs to be protected. We know the owner wants to do something with this property in the future. Let's make sure it's designated.”

Designation of the original building won't stop development of the rest of the property, which he “fully supports,” but would encourage the one-room school house be incorporated into any future proposals, said Mazza.

“It's important the timing is right.”

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Time Capsule



The British North America Act came into effect on 1 July 1867, creating the country of Canada with its initial four provinces of Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In June 1868, Governor General Charles Stanley Monck called for a celebration of the anniversary of Confederation on 1 July 1868. While several communities did organize celebrations on this day, the legal status of Dominion Day as a public holiday was uncertain. In May 1869, a bill to make Dominion Day a public holiday was debated in the House of Commons, but it was withdrawn after several members of Parliament voiced objections. A more successful effort, sponsored by Senator Robert Carrall of British Columbia, passed through Parliament in 1879, making Dominion Day a public holiday. It officially became Canada Day in 1982.

Information from the Canadian Encyclopedia.



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The Lake Report

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Editorial: NOTL residents should support neighbourhood designation of Chautauqua



Richard Harley
Editor

Chautauqua — it's one of the oldest neighbourhoods in NOTL, one that nearly every resident knows about.

While you won't find many designated homes — and the population is small — the area has just as much heart and history as the rest of the town, yet surprisingly it isn't designated as a neighbourhood.

Residents from the area are going to try to change that soon, said Victor Tarnoy, a member of the residents' association for Chautauqua.

If you know the history of the cannon battles waged on the banks of Ryerson Park,

and imagine the ships on the lakefront, you can't help appreciate why the area is so important to its residents.

The area was once home to Indigenous peoples as a prime area to make a camp, being perfectly situated on the banks of the lake.

There are still deer in the forest behind the former rifle range, so one can imagine the area must have also been bustling with wildlife and food, wild berries and probably pawpaw trees.

Chautauqua is actually an Iroquois word meaning "two moccasins tied together," or "two lakes connected in the centre."

It's the speculation of many

that the community was a neighbourhood long before Canada was even a notion.

Perhaps one day there will be something there to commemorate those people who once called it their home.

Now it's called home by many residents, many who I know personally from growing up in town.

All the neighbours I've talked to share the same sentiment about the area.

I must admit, the view of the sunset from Ryerson Park is one of the best around.

It would do no justice to try and describe it, but you can check out a video of a bag-piper playing down the sun on Page 19 and explore a new feature the paper has implemented, and if you're a local who has never seen a Ryerson Park sunset, you should head over there and check it out before summer's end.

I might see you there.

Down a metal staircase near the edge of the bank at Ryerson Park is a beautiful (but small) beach, often enjoyed by Chautauquans if the lake level allows.

When the lake is calm, it's one of the best places to skip stones — good luck finding

flat ones though, I've probably skipped them all.

It's become sort of a family of people who you recognize and talk with down there.

The little house I live in, which my grandfather bought as a cottage in the 80s, is also special to me.

Longtime residents may remember it as the Howdy Doody house — apparently another staple of the neighbourhood.

The first time I met Coun. Jim Collard — another Chautauqua resident — he brought it up. Apparently the front of the house used to say Howdy Doody in big letters.

Before my time, but I found it fairly humorous.

My grandfather, my father and I all lived here at points — talk about a small town.

Throughout the years I've also lived on the Circle (Chautauqua Amphitheater), Wyckliffe Street and Shakespeare Avenue.

If you're a resident, you'll get a couple letters delivered to your door throughout the year from the residents association letting you know about the annual resident corn roast at Chautauqua Park.

It's a small gathering, family-friendly, and all welcome to come out and celebrate community and friendship with neighbours.

A lot of other places in the world don't have that feel anymore in this day and age.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake in general, you can walk down the street and everyone you run into says hello or offers a wave or nod — you probably know them by name.

It's the kind of town where parents can still let their children take a walk to the local candy store.

I consider myself pretty lucky when I look around.

And in Chautauqua, the community has definitely held onto that vibe — though there don't seem to be many kids left (Halloween isn't what it used to be).

All of this, along with the fact it's a commonly understood when somebody says "I

live in Chautauqua" is just a short bit of why the neighbourhood should be officially designated.

It's uncertain when the plan will be officially presented.

Tarnoy, a longtime Chautauqua resident, couldn't be reached before publication time to give a timeline on when the plan will be officially presented, though when the time comes, I hope more than just residents of Chautauqua will support it and if necessary write to the Town to express that.

There is no denying Chautauqua has a unique character.

I believe it warrants the title of being a recognized neighbourhood.

And probably a tribute to the Iroquois, who once called it their neighbourhood.

editor@niagaranow.com



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150th anniversary of the 1st

Penny Coles
Staff

I wonder, as we celebrate the 151st anniversary of Confederation, if it will seem a bit anti-climactic after last year's hoopla, similar to how it must have felt as a fledgling country celebrated its first birthday 150 years ago.

That first July 1, 1867, the celebration was reported to have started at midnight, and continued throughout the day.

It must have been one heck of a party, with church bells ringing, fireworks, huge bonfires, parades, flags and streamers hanging from businesses and homes across Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. There was drinking, dancing — that part must be in our DNA, or maybe it's just that we feel like partying when the sun shines — and a 101-gun salute in Ottawa recognizing this new country of ours.

By the following year, the partying would likely have been a bit subdued in comparison, although the governor general of the day signed a proclamation that requested "all Her Majesty's subjects across Canada" to celebrate July 1.

More drinking and partying — this time legislated.

In 1879, a federal law made

July 1, a statutory holiday recognizing the anniversary of Confederation, later called Dominion Day, and officially renamed Canada Day in 1982, giving Canadians permission to party on in the name of national pride and patriotism. We owe thanks to our forefathers for having the papers that declared us a country signed at a time of year that is best for celebrating — imagine how different Canada Day would be if it happened to fall on a cold, wintery day in January or February.

We've had several milestone anniversaries, nowhere more celebrated than in Ottawa. The 100th anniversary in 1967, and the 125th both attracted the participation of Queen Elizabeth, with day-long events on Parliament Hill that upped the ante from other years. Last year's 150th went forward without the presence of our matriarch — Prince Charles was in attendance in her place — and festivities were somewhat dampened by drab weather, but nevertheless Canadians celebrated in style across the country, with municipalities large and small doing their utmost to recognize the anniversary not just on July 1,

but with events that continued throughout the summer.

Niagara-on-the-Lake also stepped up to the plate, beginning with Canada 150 events in May that continued through to September, and a Canada Day celebration that was

to top last year's with the best Canada Day celebration yet.

And in some ways we have even more to celebrate.

We can show our pride and gratitude for the events in history that made us who we are, especially given such shameful events south of the border that make so many of us even more grateful for being Canadian. We can party in Simcoe Park and at Fort George, in our backyards or at cottages sur-

rounded by family and friends, maybe by taking in a Jays game, or having a barbecue that involves some drinking and dancing, and ending with the fireworks that became a tradition 151 years ago.

But whatever we decide to do to recognize the day, and whether we do it quietly or shouting from the rooftops, we will celebrate this great country of ours, and our good fortune of being able to call it home.

turned into a weekend-long event.

So this July 1, like that day 150 years ago when the first anniversary was celebrated, we can't expect quite the party of the previous year, although organizers of the NOTL events say they're doing their best



Lake Report seeking to become NOTL's official paper

The Lake Report is trying to become the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's official paper.

This would mean the Town would release certain notices through the paper as mandated by certain laws.

As NOTL's only 100 per cent local news source, the paper encourages residents who support this idea to make their voices known to Town staff and members of

council to help ensure the paper is approved.

As always, The Lake Report pledges to be a voice for the community and the number one spot to turn to for news that hits home.

Thank you from all of us on the team for your continued support, allowing us to bring free local news to a town like no other.

- Lake Report Team

Correction & clarification

Richard Harley
Editor

The Lake Report would like to make the following correction with regards to Randwood Part 2.

It was erroneously reported that an approval for a 2011 proposal for a hotel on the Randwood property was approved, allowing Two Sisters owner Benny Marotta to develop the Randwood property if he were to build the Romance Inn hotel.

Marotta is not able to develop the property as the 2011 proposal was never officially approved and recommendations were put on hold pending approval from the Town.

The paper would also like to clarify a misleading term in last issue's editorial.

The article, which focused on preserving the habitats of birds that nest in the banks at Niagara Shores beach, referred to birds as cliffside swallows.

The article was in fact referring to bank swallows (scientific name: riparia riparia).

The term cliffside is particularly confusing, as there is a species of swallow called a cliff swallow, which also makes its nests on banks, though it does not burrow into the sand and instead builds nests on banksides.

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Protesters hoof it to NOTL



JC, Dayna, Megan and Liz protest horse-drawn carriages outside of the Prince of Wales on Queen Street. (Photos by Richard Harley)

Richard Harley
Editor

A group of protesters gathered with posters in front of the Prince of Wales in Old Town in June to protest the horse-drawn carriages.

The gathering was arranged by a group called At War For Animals Niagara and supported by members of Niagara Action For Animals.

Both groups wish to see the end of animals being used for profit.

"We're here opposed to the property status of these animals," said Adam Stirr, co-founder of AWFAN.

He said the group believes animals should be "free to live in a sanctuary setting or at least in a way where they're not forced to work for their human masters."

Stirr said the group hasn't named any particular company which it is protesting, and is not opposed to any individual business or person, but to "the act of exploiting sentient beings for financial gain."

"These horses have been claimed to have been rescued, but I would debate that heavily because of the fact that they're used — we've been out here for seven months, we've been out here through snow storms, ice storms, -30 C weather, the hot pavement last weekend — all different temperatures they're out here."

"We have no problem with people rescuing animals, but when you rescue an animal from use, you don't put them back into use again. If you have a pet like a cat or dog, you don't expect them to work for you on a rescue basis."

The carriages — not affiliated with the Prince of Wales — are run by Sentineal Carriages, which operate carriages in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls.

Laura and Fred Sentineal, who have owned and operated the Sentineal family carriage business for 30 years, said the protesters, while passionate, are ignoring the truth



Laura and Fred Sentineal with one of their horses.

about horses and the people who care for them.

"I think they are very passionate people with very passionate beliefs and opinions, but the things they put out there, nothing is based on fact or science or the reality of what we're doing," said Laura.

She said she's tried to have conversations with the protesters about the reality of her business, but they're "just not interested."

"They keep talking about this magical sanctuary."

"Here's our perspective, from people in the horse industry on animal sanctuaries — There are a handful of completely legitimate ones. More often they're not, and they're more of a fundraising scheme. Now with that, there are a few rescue or sanctuary places in Ontario, and when they end up with draft horses, they call us — because they know two things: they know that draft horses are happiest mentally and physically, when they're working."

A draft horse is a word for a heavy, muscular horse, Fred said.

He said the work Sentineal horses are doing is fairly light.

"The carriages roll very easily, we can pull them in and out of the buildings ourselves. It's very light work compared to ploughing a farmer's field or discing or something like that."

"We've been doing this for 30 years or so — we did start out with standards and stuff, the English use to go along the roads, they were around 1,000 pounds, and we found at the end of the day they were completely spent ... And we moved up to a bigger horse, commercial, so a combination of drafts and warm bloods, and they could work comfortably all day and at the end of the day still had lots of energy and were in good shape."

Both Sentineals said they don't force horses to work if they aren't suited for it, and that they've had plenty of horses that didn't work out.

"Not every horse can adapt to this. It takes a very level-headed trusting horse to do this kind of work," Fred said.

He said a lot of the horses they use are bought from slaughter auctions through the Ontario Livestock Exchange.

Although horse isn't popular on the menu in North America, there is a market in some Asian and European countries where horse meat is a delicacy, Fred said.

"A lot of times we will go to these slaughter auctions and we'll buy potential horses that we think are suitable for our kind of work," he said.

From there, they introduce the horses to the work and see if they're a good fit.

"Horse people are very passionate about their horses, they develop a trust bond."

"The driver acts as the lead horse," Laura said.

Even when the horses don't work out he said, they don't often have trouble finding people to take them. Often they can still operate well on voice commands, and may just be a tad too skittish to be on the road.

"We've got about 25 employees and the first thing we look for in an employee is someone that loves animals," Fred said.

"Each horse has a unique personality, a lot like people, and they understand that, and they have training techniques to motivate a horse in a certain direction," he said.

"We're basically working with their natural instincts," Laura added. "We're not drugging them, we're not beating them, we're not forcing them," said Laura.

"A lot of people don't understand that," Fred said.

It's not true the horses are whipped either, they said.

Fred said the crack of the whip breaks the sound barrier, and that's enough to startle the horses.

"It's a sound thing."

He said they care for the horses better than themselves a lot of times.

Last fall, one of the horses contracted potomac horse fever.

"Our veterinarian of 28 years had never dealt with this before — it's something that happens in the lower states. The horse got an extremely high fever, and our staff had to ice the horses hooves every two hours for seven days, 24-hours-a-day," Fred said.

"That is so much work and so much dedication, and they did it flawlessly ... It was all documented, the medications, the icing, everything. When the horse got to Guelph University, they were in awe of what we had done — and this is from people who would stay up all night to help a sick horse."

He continued: "And then these people, who have nothing to do with animals, come and criticize people that love them and will work day and night for them. I wonder where they think they have the right to speak for a horse."

"You know, they claim the horse is a slave to people, and I think they have no right to talk for a horse, because they weren't there when the horse went for slaughter, they're not there in the morning when you feed the horse or water it or take care of any health needs it has. They're never there to pay the vet bill or the farrier bill, and they're not involved in the training and don't even know the personality of the horse, yet they feel entitled to criticize all

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the people that do that. And that irritates me."

"If I could speak for the horse, I'm sure they would say, "we appreciate the day that Fred came and saved us from slaughter, took us home and loved us and taught us that everything isn't scary."

"And when they fit into society, they lose their fears. They work hard. We work hard, but we're proud of what we do. We provide a wonderful service to the public. Everyone loves them."

Laura said she thinks not having the horses in town would be a sad world.

"Horses have a relationship working with man, probably as long as dogs have. I mean there are police horses ... all throughout society. It's a co-dependent situation really, where there's just certain people they just love horses and want to be with horses ... and the horses need us. I mean, there are times we forget to close the gates on the field. The horses don't run away," Laura said.

Fred said some of the arguments protesters are using are also based on a lack of knowledge about horses.

"They had a guy with a temperature gun, doing the temperature of the road, saying 'oh it's hotter than 23 degrees, they're burning the hooves off these horses — horses don't feel temperature through their hooves," he said.

"When they're hot-shod, they take a red hot steel shoe and they burn it onto the bottom of their hoof so it fits perfectly. I've been there when they do it. The horse does not flinch — it does not feel it."

"There are horses that are

designed to cross glacial rivers, and there's horses that live on an island which is a sand dune," he said.

"I'm sure the sand gets much hotter than asphalt, but they make an issue out of it, saying how cruel we are, when it's not even an issue ... The hoof is like our fingernail that grows out its dead material and it keeps growing and the end of it wears off. When they put shoes on they actually put nails through it and horses don't feel that."

"But they've made an issue of it, and they pick things, and they mislead the public for their own ideals, or want them to believe certain things. And that's where I have a problem with it."

"You know, we live in a democratic society ... they are entitled to their opinion. I would like to give our opinion to the public so they can view both sides. And they should have the opportunity to decide what's right for themselves — or if they don't want to get involved and not even pick a side."

While Stirr said the protesters have been peaceful and Laura agreed they were "on good behaviour" Saturday, Laura said they haven't been so calm before.

She said it was likely because there were two police officers at the scene.

Stirr said he phoned the police himself today to ensure protesters and the public were calm in their demonstrations and not interfering with businesses.


Continued on Page 7

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NEWS 

Cont'd: Randwood Part 3: Resident voices



Sally W, Old Town

"I don't really have an opinion about Randwood, but I wish the Town and folks would focus on getting our new medical centre up and running."



Christine E, Old Town

"I'd like to see a more sensitive development than has been proposed. Six storeys is too big. I'm pleased the town is moving forward with designation."



Sheila Laird, Old Town

"I don't like what Mr. Marotta is doing at Randwood, and I hope we can find some way to make it less obtrusive. He's probably going to get something, but I don't want a six-storey hotel. I think it would be out of place in the town. It would be a first and that's not a good thing."




Debbie P., Old Town

"I just moved here. I just know what I've read in the newspaper. One of the reasons we moved down here was because it's so quaint, so to hear there's another hotel possibly coming, we have some concerns because we don't know as newcomers how high it's going to be, how much traffic it's going to bring, how it's going to affect the environment. So we have a lot to learn before we can really have an informed opinion."



Patrick Collins, Virgil

"I'm not a good one on that. I find the people down there get their nose up in the air and they're all fighting. It wouldn't matter if it was perfect, they'd still be fighting about something ... It seems to me they just try create things ... It's the only place in the world that make McDonald's back down with that little sign ... I live in Virgil. I don't go down there. I used to go down to the Rooster and then it folded ... So I just ignore it. The closest I get is to the drug store."



Amanda Terry, Old Town

"It does bother me, because I think they had approval for a smaller scale and they want to go bigger and not keep the heritage, which is important. I think it's just going to change the landscape (of NOTL) if we keep bringing in bigger and bigger hotels into town. I have a bed and breakfast — I don't see it as competition, I'm not against it in that way, I just think it changes the feel of the whole area ... the grander scale of things doesn't fit into what NOTL has been about."



Vlad Wojcik, Virgil

"Randwood development? ... I have not been following this issue closely." Reporter: "You know the old property in NOTL with the stone walls around it, in Old Town?" Wojcik: "Yes. Close to Charlotte Street?" Reporter: "Yeah. They want to build a six-storey hotel there." "No no no no, please don't do that. It should not be more than one storey above the ground. So, all the rest should be bulldozed or artillery should be called." "Let Niagara-on-the-Lake keep its own character" "All Americans are coming here to spend their money, please do not disturb the process."



Jane McClure, Old Town

"I don't want something huge built in NOTL. It's bad enough with everything that's happening already — with everyone moving into town, everything sky-rocketing and us locals getting — well, basically you can't live here. My children won't be able to live in the town they grew up in, because it's unaffordable. It's sad for the next generation."




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Leanna Eymann, Virgil

"I think it should just stay the way it is ... I think six storeys is too high for there ... maybe a smaller scale, something like maybe three floors. I think it should look like an old Victorian look, just to keep with the town, just so it stays the same. Cause if you go with that new contemporary or whatever, it's not going to fit."



Harry Penner, Virgil

"I think it's a monster of a building that's going into a very beautiful place. I don't think it belongs there. That's probably the short of it I'd say ... I'd like to see it stay as it is, but I don't have the money invested in it like other people might have, so it's hard for me to say that, but it just seems to me that a six storey hotel in that area would just bastardize the whole Rand Estate."



Bob Gervis, Virgil

"I don't care one way or the other. I've been here nine years ... and I notice a lot of time when developments go up, people from Old Town or the tree-huggers get together and they want to beat to death everything that is progressive around here ... even over behind my place there's a new subdivision going in there ... You just move ahead. It's progress ... I think it's a lot of the old timers of Old Town with old money maybe ... I can see both ends of the stick but I have nothing against the building whatsoever."



Eric Janeiro, Virgil

"I've read a little bit about it in the paper, and I still don't understand what the big beef is. This place is going to grow regardless of what people want or don't want — I don't even know what that is, or what people are complaining about." Reporter: "They want to build a six storey hotel." Janeiro: "What's the problem with that?"



Kim S, Old Town

"I have no interest in Randwood. It doesn't affect me. Whenever I see stuff about it, I ignore it." All silhouettes are of the real residents interviewed. Many did not want their faces shown.

Continued from front page.

The most common answer we got from people is they don't really know much about it and aren't too bothered by the whole ordeal.

While many residents are non-vocal because they aren't invested on a personal level, the paper found many don't really mind a hotel at Randwood, for one reason or another — especially those living outside of Old Town.

Many said they are generally more concerned about other issues, such as securing a medical centre, safety for cyclists and a growing need for senior care facilities in the town with such a high population of aging citizens.

One consistency is that most people talked to believe if a hotel is built, it should be sensitive to the established historical feel of the town,

though some said they do believe the hotel will fit in with the town and be much like Two Sisters Winery.

Those who live in the direct area of the development oppose it for a number of reasons already outlined. These interviews show the wide range of opinions people have towards the proposed development.

It remains to be seen if the hotel will be approved for six storeys or not. The Lake Report will continue to follow this story in separate articles.

As of now, the next steps to the process are finding out when designation will happen and if Two Sisters Corp. (proposing the hotel) will take the proposal to a local appeal tribunal.

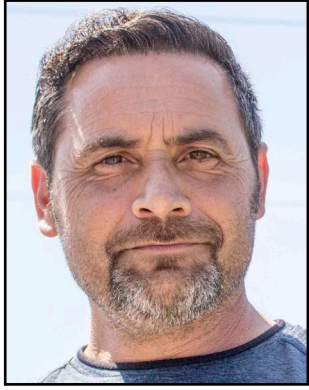
Two Sisters owner Benny Marotta seems likely to do so and has said in the past he feels he has "no other choice."



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Miele makes \$100 offer to identify "fake poster"



NOTL Town Coun. Paolo Miele. **(Richard Harley)**

Richard Harley
Editor

In a chapter of Niagara-on-the-Lake's social media wars, Coun. Paolo Miele made and deleted an offer to make a \$100 donation to Newark Neighbours if somebody can identify what he called a "fake poster" on social media.

The bounty-of-sorts was posted to his councillor Facebook page, sparked by an illustration that began circulating on Facebook on June 20 — posted to a group called NOTL 4U by administrator "Bjaren Hansen."

The caption reads: "Listen up my 2 favourite councillors! It's time 4 your M&M's game."

Underneath, there is an illustration of a clown popping out of a box, with the captions "NOTL 4 All" (with the L slanted down) and "Blair in the Box."

The illustration does not specifically identify who the two councillors are, but Miele said he thinks "M&M" is in reference to himself and fel-

low councillor Martin Mazza.

"Whoever it is is obviously thinking it's funny and it's not," said Miele.

He said he believes Bjaren Hansen is a fake profile created by a NOTL resident.

As recently as Monday, Miele tagged the profile in a post that said: "Can Bjarn Hansen call me I have some exciting and good news."

Miele has since taken that down too and did not say what that news was.

He said he's reached out to try and find out what the "real issue" Hansen has with him.

"You know, I can deal with it but I figure this guy lives in Old Town ... whether he's anti-Miele/Mazza or anti-council I don't know."

"I reached out, I said here's my phone number, here's my email, here's my cell number, you know, if you want to meet for a coffee and tell me what your real issues are with me, then maybe I can help out."

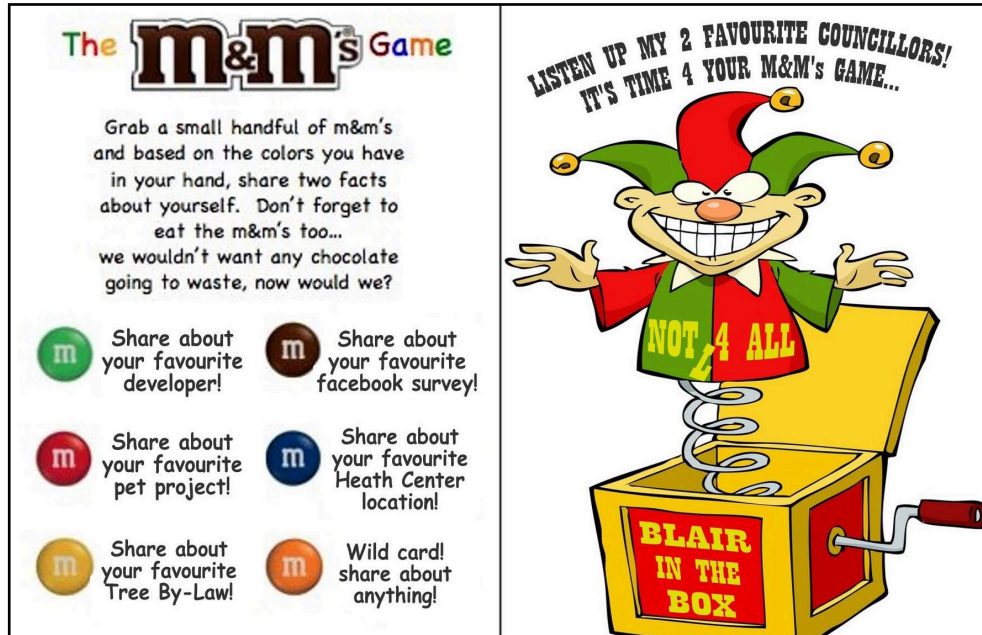
The Lake Report contacted Hansen and met with him in person to confirm his identity. His profile is in fact a pseudonym of sorts, though he is a real NOTL resident living in Old Town. He said his middle name is Bjarn and his father's last name was Hansen.

His first name, he said, is "known by people that matter these days."

He said he has no interest "whatsoever" in contact with Miele due to previous engagements, in which Miele was "hot headed."

Hansen claims to have 12 screen shots saved of "attacks" on him.

No direct messages were



A photo uploaded to Facebook by user Bjarn Hansen. Town councillor Paolo Miele believes the profile is a fake, created by a resident who wishes to anonymously take "jabs" at him. **(Facebook)**

sent to the paper, and other posts were not found to be directly threatening in nature.

Hansen said he has no malicious intent towards Miele, and when asked what the intention of the illustration was, he said he just likes to stir the pot, and he thought it was funny.

"If you look at it, it's pretty funny," Hansen said.

"And what does it really say? Share about your favourite political issue."

He notes the illustration did NOT mention any councillors by name.

"But obviously somebody got his nose out of joint. Funny enough he was the only councillor who reacted," said Hansen.

The name Blair is in

reference to Blair Cowanetti, administrator of a Facebook group called NOTL 4 All.

Hansen said likewise to claims he is not real, he thinks Cowanetti is not a real person.

The Lake Report also contacted Cowanetti, who is a real person living in Virgil, though he also uses a pseudonym of sorts.

The two groups — NOTL 4U and NOTL 4 All — and the administrators of both appear to be pitted against each other.

Cowanetti said he too has questioned why Hansen has stayed anonymous, and thinks Hansen does have malicious intent if he is making such illustrations.

Hansen, who said he moved

to NOTL just last fall, said he has always liked to stir the pot, and it's nothing new for him. He said he started the NOTL 4U group as a response to Niagara 4 All, which he sees as a political campaign for Miele and Mazza.

Hansen identified his first name to the paper, but requested it not be released as he feels it is his right to use his middle name, which he has used since grade school.

It is not against the law to create a fake Facebook profile in Canada.

Miele said he will be making a \$100 donation to Newark Neighbours either way.

He admitted he may have overreacted to the post, though he wishes Hansen would contact him to talk.

"I'm just that kinda guy. I'm old school, and if you want to talk, let's do it face to face. People have their games they want to play on social media. Look, I've had fun too but in a joking way, and sometimes people construe things as not a joke and so it's gotta be taken with a grain of salt."

"I don't think it's defamatory," he said of the illustration, "I just think it's childish."

"And I understand that I'm on council, and people want to take pot-shots and councillors and that's fine, but sometimes I take it personally ... then I start playing their game too and that's where I've got to figure it out and say stop."

"I've told these turkeys to lay off because I've got family too right? I've got kids that are both in high school and one's in Grade 2 — they live here locally and you know, the last thing you want to see is people taking pot-shots at your father."

"And my kids are the first ones to say 'dad, just don't respond.'"

"I'm just a human being sometimes. I've just got to get the thick skin going again."

Coun. Mazza, who said he isn't bothered by the illustration, and "couldn't care less," said he thinks the best way to combat trolls on social media is to ignore it and focus on council business.

They're just putting out bait, said Mazza.

"And (Miele) fell for it hook, line and sinker."

Meanwhile, Hansen said he's drumming up some new cartoons for the future.

Cont'd: Sentinel Carriages responds to protesters

Continued from Page 5.

The Sentineals said the week prior protestors made it so the carriages couldn't get to the side of the road, and forced them to unload at the clock tower.

A video of the incident is online and Stirr said it sparked more people to get involved in the movement. He said up until last weekend it had been a relatively small group of people.

Stirr said the response from people has been "way beyond what we ever expected."

"There's people honking, giving thumbs up. A bunch of locals have come by and said they're going to join the protest."

He said the Prince of Wales originally complained that they were blocking customers to the hotel, but group members were not approaching anybody Saturday, and were leaving room for people to line up at the door of the hotel.

"Nobody's bothering (the public)," Stirr said. "If they want ignore us, they're free to ignore us ... We're always open to conversation with

anybody to fully explain why we're here and the reasons behind what we believe."

He said more than 65 per cent of group members are locals from the Niagara region, and a lot of people came from further out of town in response to online threats from carriage supporters.

"There were people saying they were going to come and throw eggs and tomatoes at us and stuff like that, and run us out of town ... It's like, OK guys, this is 2018, this is Canada, this is a constitutionally protected freedom of expression. This is public property. That's not really appropriate."

Laura said the Sentineal family has also gotten a lot of support since protests began in NOTL.

She said she spent most of the afternoon around the carriages, and thinks "more people were just frustrated and disgusted."

Police on scene said the group was peaceful and there is nothing they can do to stop them from expressing their beliefs. They noted the signs were not too explicit

and said even if they were, it's not against the law to express an opinion.

A representative from the Prince of Wales who did not want to be identified — though his name tag read Bill — said the hotel had no comment as it is not affiliated with "either group" in any way.

Jason King, one of the protestors who travelled all the way from London Ontario to be at the protest, said tourists from "around the world" were coming up to express support.

"I have to wonder how long are the council members of this quaint little town going to put up with pictures from tourists representing their town as a place where animal exploitation is happening," he said.

"We can see already that Montreal, which is a huge tourism place, has made the decision that it's not something the world to see Montreal as representing."

Montreal set forward to ban horse-drawn carriages by 2020 on June 14.

Laura and Fred said part of the problem in Montreal was accidents were frequent due



Liz holds a sign protesting horse-drawn carriages.

to a bad system, and owners that wouldn't cooperate.

They said to operate legally in NOTL, Sentineal Carriages is given permission from the Town and acquires a license from the Niagara Police Services Board.

She said on annual basis the company has to provide a letter from a veterinarian proving the horses are in good health as well as proof of insurance.

"We just provided that when we first got licensed and they just adopted it afterwards," Fred said.

"We have a pretty impeccable spotless record," Laura



Fred Sentineal pets a horse on his farm.

also added.

"I guess the thing I take issue with, is they've told me at the end of the day that our horses would be better off dead. And that horses shouldn't be bred, and I don't know, I can only draw from that is they'll be happy once all horses are extinct. And to me, that is so incredibly sad and tragic. And for anybody that's ever worked with a horse and developed a relationship with a horse, I mean they're as individual as you and I are, and they all have their own personalities, their own quirks, their own like and dislikes. A world without

horses would be a very sad place."

She couldn't recall which protestor had said this to her. The company does not claim to have rescued all of its horses, and said it does its best to ensure all of the horses have a good life.

Fred and Laura encourage anyone to stop by and see the horses on the farm for themselves.

Stirr said the protestors would continue and hope to see the carriages close.

He said if they did, the group would be willing to fundraiser to allow the horses to have a work-free life.

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'One woman's voice' on Lyme disease and trusting your gut



Shelley Huson. (Richard Harley)

Richard Harley
Editor

Four years ago Shelly Huson left an abusive workplace, opened her own digital design company and started to advocate for women's rights.

She felt liberated. Four years ago she also got a really bad bug bite.

And while the bite looked bad, she really didn't think much of it. It was probably a spider, her and her husband decided.

She certainly didn't think such a small instance could turn a life — her life — upside down. Yet it did.

Two years ago, April 17, 2016 to be exact, Huson became sick with a flu-like

illness, which lasted for 23 months.

"At times it debilitated me, affected my speech, blood pressure, joints, thinking ability and caused unintentional weight loss," Huson said.

"The digital design company I started never had a chance — not up against my deteriorating health."

She recalls four emergency hospital visits, countless medical tests, doctor visits and appointments with medical specialists.

A great deal of OHIP money was spent, she said, though it still took eight months for a specialist to finally offer a suspected diagnosis for her debilitating symptoms.

The doctor suspected Lyme disease, as Huson had for some time.

"It was my swollen lymph nodes, strange rash — and then remembering that nasty bug bite two years prior," Huson said.

The doctor then ordered the Canadian Lyme disease test known as ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay).

At this point, Huson said she was actually happy about the possible diagnosis.

Not believing Lyme disease could make someone feel so sick, she set out on a path forward to overcome the disease any way she could.

"My first step was reading about Lyme and how complex and misunderstood it is,

particularly in late stage diagnosis — the bacteria would have been in my body for two years, slowly eroding my immune system," she said.

What she found, she said, was both startling and confusing.

The ELISA test has a 60 per cent false negative rate for Lyme disease, and if she *didn't* have a positive test, she would have to leave the country for medical help — at a great expense.

"This part made no sense," she said.

She said a new Lyme action plan policy had been developed by former Minister of Health Dr. Eric Hoskins in July 2016, and the recommendation was to go by symptoms not serology.

"It's not that complicated, I was bitten by something, the bacteria is in my system, yet someone had to carve a path in the Niagara-on-the-Lake medical system for the next late stage tick borne illness patient."

"How hard can it be to receive proper medical care in your country for a horrendous disease which destroys organs and is recognized by the provincial and federal government? I'll tell you. It took more than 300 days for an Ontario Lyme-disease-literate doctor referral because I had a negative serology test, ELISA."

Depression, anxiety, MS, chronic fatigue, stress, fibromyalgia and exhaustion are common misdiagnosis, Huson said.

"I, like the hundreds of thousands of Canadians

received this misguided, ignorant and unfortunate diagnosis."

As a result, Huson lost two years of income and went through a deal of pain and "mental anguish."

"I will never get back missing my daughters university graduation all because a doctor holds the power when the test is inadequate."

"My voice to my symptoms along with 53 years of my body experience wasn't enough to warrant the referral."

She said in doctor's minds, she was a "stressed-out menopausal woman with an active imagination who Googled WebMD and didn't know."

In the fall 2017 I became quite debilitated with Lyme and my blood pressure was dangerously spiking.

"Finally the doctor agreed I was sick. After more tests — he wanted to look for cancer (again) — I got my much sought after Lyme doctor referral to P3 Health Centre in Toronto with an appointment in late January."

"During the three month wait my husband and I were told by my doctor that I did not have Lyme disease, he was sorry that I had gone down that 'rabbit hole.' He knew what Lyme disease looked like and I didn't have that."

She said the doctor asked for one more test then, for Syphilis, which she doesn't have.

In late February P3 Health sent Huson's blood to Germany, to one of the best labs globally for Lyme diagnosis, she said.

"March brought two years

of an horrendous ordeal to an end. It was confirmed borrelia burgdorferi (Lyme bacteria) and co-infection babesiosis (a malaria like parasite). The test cost \$950."

Now Huson has been four months on proper treatment, with heavy courses of antibiotics and supplements. She's said she's eating well and living a healthy lifestyle.

"My vitality and strength are coming back and all the symptoms are slowly dissipating. I'm told full recovery, fingers crossed as early as this fall. Every day I wake feeling so grateful for my life ahead for my healing body."

She said she has a "great deal of positivity" which has played a role in her recovery as well.

"I'm lucky. So very lucky." "We tell stories to be heard, to teach, to shift thinking to bring awareness," she said, of approaching the paper with her story.

How do we shift cultural values towards equality against discrimination, bullies and abuse. Each of us must use our voice — Lyme disease does not discriminate.

Huson said she advises everyone to educate themselves about tick borne illnesses, noting it can mimic more than 300 other diseases.

"Trust your gut, not the Canadian Lyme blood test," Huson said. One woman's voice."

"A medical test with a 60 per cent proven false negative result must not be the golden rule."

"Speaking my truth."

Chautauqua moving forward on tree rejuvenation project



Project patron Ruth Denyer and some of the Niagara College Students who helped plant trees.

Penny Coles
Staff

As Niagara-on-the-Lake moves forward to protect trees in urban areas, with staff looking at tree bylaws in other municipalities to use as guidelines, there is a neighbourhood in town that already has a plan to save its tree canopy.

About two years ago Chautauqua residents Leslie Frankish and Holmes Hook decided that worrying about the decreasing tree canopy in

their neighbourhood was not enough - what was required was action.

But first, they realized, in order to protect the canopy for generations to come, they needed to understand what exactly was already growing on their charming streets, in front yards and tall enough to see in backyards, and began to catalogue the trees of their neighbourhood.

After consulting an expert, and studying an industry-approved manual on tree inventories, they began recording details of tree species, their size and location, including those on public and private property - all from the side of the road, said Frankish.

It took more than a year, more than 550 volunteer hours, 6,889 photos, an 181-page spread sheet with details of each tree, and a map identifying the location of the 1502 trees making up Chautauqua's tree canopy to complete their inventory.

But numbers weren't the only important thing they learned — by looking at the ages of the trees they were able to identify the layers of the canopy as it corresponded

to the history of their neighbourhood, said Frankish.

And by studying recent changes and finding gaps in the canopy, they were also able to identify the threats to the continued existence of what they learned was an oak savannah, she said, and to devise a plan to save it.

Their photos show early cottages and roads were built around the trees to preserve them, and smaller decorative trees and shrubs were planted beneath them.

Even as larger, year-round houses were constructed and builders planted non-native trees and newer species that would mature in the homeowners' lifetime, the Savannah oaks re-established themselves and endured, said Frankish.

However, in recent years the canopy has come under threat from age, disease or weather-related causes, and from the construction of new houses.

"It is inevitable that some trees will need to be removed for the footprint of larger homes. But more often than not the whole lot is cleared to make it easier for construction," she said,

adding it's conceivable 400 trees could be gone in the next 10 years — more than one-quarter of the Chautauqua tree canopy — without a plan to replace them.

There is a plan now, and the work has begun — 82 oaks, on just Wilberforce and Circle, have been planted, with support from the Town and from residents, and fundraising to purchase the trees, said Frankish.

"But it's just a start," he said. "There isn't a street in Chautauqua that doesn't require rejuvenation, some more than others."

And while red and white oaks are important, the tree inventory has taught them there are other native trees to be replaced — hickory, sugar maple, white pine, white spruce and catalpa, among others.

They have established three goals of their rejuvenation project — a community tree plan, which identifies the right kind of tree for the right location, with support from the Town; community stewardship with buy-in from residents; and the Chautauqua Oak Rejuvenation Project,

which will "rescue" seedlings from existing oak trees to be planted, again with support from the Town and residents.

The goal is to rejuvenate the canopy on all the streets of Chautauqua, and based on the response so far, Frankish says she is confident that many more residents will join the small group of neighbours now working on the rejuvenation of the canopy.

"The response has been magnificent," she said.

"We started this because we wanted to try to find what we could do to make a difference. This positive, it's forward-moving, respectful and inclusive. I think that's why the Town and residents have accepted it."

People who enjoy their tree canopy tend to take for granted it will always be there, but without a plan to replant, it will gradually disappear, she said. "But it's not enough to plant a tree — it has to be the right tree and the right relationship to what's around it. That's why it's so important to identify what's there, before you start to plant."

And what works for Chautauqua won't work for the

Old Town, Virgil and other neighbourhoods, because their histories and canopies are different, said Frankish.

She was glad to hear Town staff are beginning to draft a tree bylaw, and that a tree inventory will be part of it.

While some councillors are concerned about the expense and time to prepare the inventory, there are options to consider, said Frankish.

Niagara College has offered to partner with the Chautauqua residents on their rejuvenation project, she said, and could be approached about teaming up on a tree inventory for other neighbourhoods. And with the guidance of experts, teams of volunteers who want to save the tree canopy could also be recruited.

"There needs to be a plan to follow, with decisions based on the needs of the canopy," said Frankish, with some "place-markers" in the bylaw to be filled in once the inventory is complete.

"(Re)planting is a legacy project," she said.

"We're benefiting from trees that were planted long ago, while making sure future generations will also benefit."



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GARDENING

The greatest gift is a green one



(Submitted)

Catharine Skinner
Grow Niagara
Featured

The next time you need a gift for someone special, consider going green in the truest sense of the term – gift them with a plant. Here's why these living, green gifts are sure to be a hit.

They create lasting memories.

Every time your aunt makes a pot of chamomile tea with the flowers harvested from the herb garden you gifted her, she'll think of you. Help your loved ones honor someone special by gifting them a tree to plant in their name. Plant a Bing cherry tree on your child's fifth birthday and then take a photo of them under the blossoming tree as they graduate

from high school. Give your parents some tomato plants to tend and harvest with visiting grandchildren. Plants grow with us as we move through the seasons of life.

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Plants are a thoughtful token both for someone you may not know well, or for that person on your list who has everything. Plants make unique gifts for birthdays, special occasions, hosts or hostesses, clients or colleagues, and for saying thank you. They appeal to everyone from children to grandparents.

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around them. Some plants are said to have healing properties. Any plant can please the eye by beautifying the home or workplace.

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Plants are a fun gift idea for corporate giving, special events (like showers or milestone birthdays), and even wedding favors. Ask one of our expert Mori Gardens staff for help in creating memorable takeaways like potted succulents, bagged

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- Cloud 9
- Flowering Dogwoods
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- Japanese Maples

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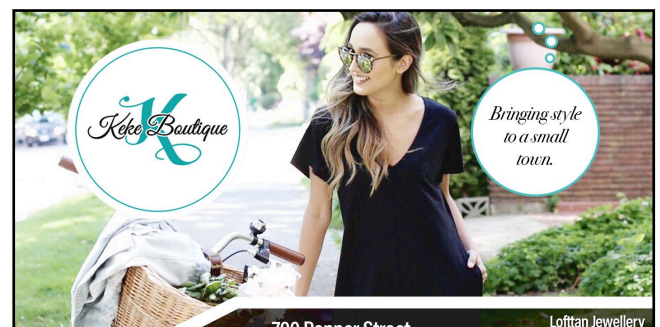
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Beekeeping demonstration at museum



Managing Director and Curator Sarah Kaufman beside a display of 'The 1812 Rose' plants in the NOTL Museum garden. (Supplied)

Beckie Fox
Garden Making
Featured

The garden at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Historical Museum will be a hive of activity on July 7 when representatives of Niagara College's commercial beekeeping program demonstrate the importance of pollinators in our gardens, offer honey samples and describe the intricacies of keeping bees.

The display, which will include an active beehive and a demonstration hive, will be part of the 27th Annual Niagara on the Lake Horticultural Society Garden Tour.

"Our aim is to explain to visitors to the museum's garden that what you plant is important to maintaining the health of pollinators," said Mylee Nordin, coordinator of the college's beekeeping program.

"You'll be able to see the inner workings of the pollinator colony in the demonstration hive."

There are hundreds of different pollinators — not just honeybees — in the Niagara region, Nordin explained.

He said they all have an important role in helping to keep plants healthy and productive by cross-pollinating as they go from bloom to

bloom collecting nectar.

Nordin also pointed out pollinators seek sources of protein, which spring-blooming trees provide, as well as nectar.

"That's why having a variety of long-flowering plants blooming at different times of the year is important to provide nectar and protein throughout the seasons," she said.

Lists of good pollinator plants will be available at the display during the event.

Visitors to the museum's garden will also see several colourful perennial beds and a large display of 'The 1812 Rose' plants, donated by the horticultural society.

The garden is also a display space for large artefacts from the museum's collection.

"We have millstones, a dry sink, hitching post, cauldrons and other items among the plants," said Amy Klassen, the museum's society administrator.

"The garden surrounds a courtyard space we also use for community events, including our heritage festival, movie nights and summer camp."

"Later this year, we're looking forward to adding a Victorian fire hydrant to our collection of outdoor

artefacts," added Sarah Kaufman, managing director and curator.

The museum garden is maintained by a group of about 10 volunteers, who plant, weed and water the site throughout the year.

"We're always looking for more helpers in the garden," Klassen said.

Tickets for the NOTL Horticultural Society Garden Tour are \$15 and available at Mori Gardens and through the society's website (notlhortsociety.com). They can also be purchased the day of the tour at any of the 10 gardens.



Pollinator bee. (Supplied)

The pollinator event is July 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the NOTL history museum, located at 43 Castlereagh St. in Old Town.

To suggest a garden to be profiled in future issues, send an email to:

editor@gardenmaking.com.



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The Lake Report

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>Canada Day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrations at Simcoe Park & Fort George - All Day Inniskillin Wines, Canada Day Celebrations: Fireworks Display - 9:30 p.m. to 10:0 p.m. - Inniskillin Wines NOTL Writers Circle - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library 	<p>2</p> <p>July 2 - Ghost Walks - 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Ghost Walks Tours</p> <p>July 2 - Canada Day - Statutory Holiday - -</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Club Code: Bloxels - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Ghost Walks - 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Ghost Walks Tours</p> <p>The Makeshift - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>Master Makers: Bat House - 2:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Simply Steam Story Time - noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>The SupperMarket - 4:30 p.m. - Garrison Village</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Author: Michael Bawtree - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Music Niagara: Great Romantics Series: Dang Thai Son - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - St. Mark's Church</p> <p>Music Niagara: Sunday in the Park - Where Have All The Folk Songs Gone? - Noon to 2 p.m. - Simcoe Park</p> <p>Niagara Lavender Festival - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Neob Lavender Boutique</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Committee of the Whole - 6:30 p.m. - Town Hall</p> <p>Music Niagara: Mozart's Don Giovanni - 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Niagara United Mennonite Church</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Club Code: Lego Robotics - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Music Niagara: Three Men in a Boat - 'the funniest book ever written' - 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Court House Theatre</p> <p>The Makeshift - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>Master Makers: Ukelele Jam - 2:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Music Niagara: Great Romantics Series: Mykola Suk - 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. - House Theatre</p> <p>Simply Steam Story Time - noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>The SupperMarket - 4:30 p.m. - Garrison Village</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Music Niagara: Great Romantics Series - Victoria Kogan - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - St. Mark's Church</p> <p>Music Niagara: Sunday in the Park - The Retro-Ramblers - Noon to 2 p.m. - Simcoe Park</p> <p>NOTL Writers Circle - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Commons Market - Antique & Vintage Fest - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Fort George</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Google Expeditions: Mission to Mars - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Music Niagara: Amor y Pasion - Isabel Bayrakdarian - 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - St. Mark's Church</p> <p>Rocket Club - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Town Council Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - Town Hall</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Club Code: Makey Makey Banana Piano - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Embroidery Machine Workshop - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Fresh from the Garden: Matt Tattrie of Zees Grill - Noon to 1 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Music Niagara: Breaking the Silence - Clarion Quartet - 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - St. Mark's Church</p> <p>The Makeshift - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>Master Makers: Make a Memory - 2:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Music Niagara: Romantic Celebration - Vynnytsky Duo - 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Court House Theatre</p> <p>Simply Steam Story Time - noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>The SupperMarket - 4:30 p.m. - Garrison Village</p>

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Court House Library 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Court House Library m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	5 Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson of Niagara Meet the Artist: Marilyn Cochrane "Nature's Jewels" - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Mini Masterpieces: Japanese Koinobori Kites - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library The Makeshift - 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Legion Fish Fry - Every Thursday Night.	6 Canned Film Festival: Coco - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Healthy Kids Community Challenge: Power Off & Play - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Knit-a-Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Pillitteri 25th Anniversary Celebration Lunch - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Pillitteri Estates Winery	7 Music Niagara Opening Gala: Hannaford Street Silver Band - (6:30 p.m.) 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre NOTL Horticultural Society: 27th Annual NOTL Garden Tour - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Horticultural Society St. Mark's Cherry Festival - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - St. Mark's Church Taste the Place: Southbrook Vineyards - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Southbrook Vineyards The Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Garrison Village Niagara Lavender Festival - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Neob Lavender Boutique
11 n Session - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Court House Library ntics Series - 10 p.m. - Court House Library 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Court House Library m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	12 Niagara Pumphouse: Artists' Cafe - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson of Niagara Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Mini Masterpieces: Turkish Erbu Marbling - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Legion Fish Fry - Every Thursday Night.	13 Niagara Pumphouse: Decorate a Wine Label Event - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Canned Film Festival: Hercules - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Healthy Kids Community Challenge: Power Off & Play - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Knit-a-Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Music Niagara: Lonesome Ace String Band - Bluegrass - 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Royal Canadian Legion Tours of St. Mark's Cemetery - 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - St. Mark's Cemetery	14 Food Truck in the Vineyard Series: Smokin' Buddha - 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. - Coyote's Run Estate Winery Food Trucks in the Vineyard: Southbrook Vineyards - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Southbrook Vineyards Music Niagara: Great Romantics Series - Norbert Heller and Alex Dobson - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Court House Theatre The Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Garrison Village Trius Red Presents: Rock at the Winery - 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant
18 nster - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Court House Library ello - Khoma - 9:30 p.m. - Court House Library 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Court House Library m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	19 Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Mini Masterpieces: Metis Dot Painting - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Mini Masterpieces: Metis Dot Painting - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Music Niagara: Elmer Iseler Singers - 40th Anniversary - 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Niagara United Mennonite Church Practical Genealogy: Beginner Class - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Practical Genealogy: DNA Workshop - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Legion Fish Fry - Every Thursday Night.	20 Canned Film Festival: Ratatouille - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Healthy Kids Community Challenge: Power Off & Play - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Knit-a-Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Music Niagara: Future of Canadian Jazz - Harry Bartlett Trio - 7:30 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre	21 Music Niagara: Wine and Music - Gould String Quartet - Noon - The Hare Wine Co. The Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Garrison Village

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How it all started for us



Fireworks. (Supplied photo)

Sharon Frayne
Writer's Circle
Featured

For us, it started in 1954 when Dad and Uncle Stan lit a railway flare in our backyard — they wanted the kids to have a celebration and couldn't afford fireworks, so the flare did the trick.

The grown-ups sat around in lawn chairs, probably drinking beer or pop and the kids sat on someone's lap.

Through the years, the families grew in size and so did the household income, so Dad and Uncle Stan bought real fireworks and the menu grew to include burgers and dessert.

We're weren't celebrating Canada Day — it didn't exist.

We were celebrating Queen Victoria's Birthday on May 24.

The mosquitoes had a great feast on our bare legs, and we could count on cold weather

and rain to interrupt most of the parties.

The kids favourite part of the evening was the burning of the schoolhouse — a pathetic red box that might spurt out one rocket if we were lucky and it wasn't raining.

Dominion Day was something that happened on July 1, and we learned in school that four provinces formed the Dominion of Canada in 1867 under the British North America Act.

No one really paid much attention to it.

Things changed for our country during the Centennial Celebrations in 1967, and suddenly it became cool to be a Canadian citizen.

Some politicians even thought we should change our relationship with Great Britain and rename July 1.

After two years of political wrangling and stalling, on October 27, 1982, we had an official holiday named Canada Day.

Our families decided to get with it, and moved our celebration to July 1 for better weather, better fireworks

and better onions fried on the BBQ.

Our celebration grew, just like the country's did, and we included red and white decorations, a flag cake, and the singing of the National Anthem.

We still have a burning schoolhouse, but since many of us became teachers we shout out fire drill instructions to the imaginary inhabitants of the little red box.

It's still usually a dud.

The generations in our family have grown, and many of the original participants have moved on to another plateau. I'd like to think they are they are somewhere up in the heavens, sitting on a lawn chair, beer in hand, watching fireworks light up the night sky all over this beautiful country.

I know they'll shout when we do, "Happy Canada Day!"



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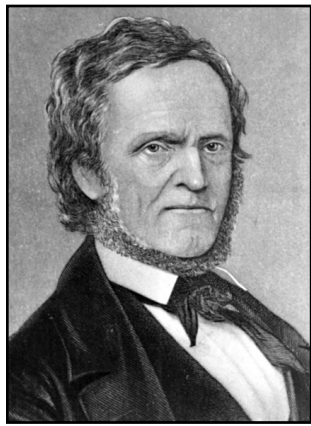
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William Lyon Mackenzie: Rebel With A Cause



Hermine Steinberg
Writer's Circle
Featured

There are a couple places in Niagara many people have never visited.

One is a heritage building located in Queenston which is home to the oldest newspaper press in Canada.

The other is the only Canadian island in the Niagara River. It's no longer open to the public, but for a short period of time was home to rebels who declared it the 'Republic of Canada'.

These rebels represent the beginning and the end of what came to be known as the Rebellion of 1837, led by William Lyon Mackenzie.

Although Mackenzie's role in Canadian history has been a controversial one, there is a growing recognition that he was not only one of Canada's first civil rights activists, he was also instrumental in helping to lay the foundation for our modern national vision of equality and liberty.

The Mackenzie Printery

and Newspaper Museum in Queenston was the home of William Lyon Mackenzie and the birthplace of his newspaper, The Colonial Advocate.

It was the first independent paper in the province.

Mackenzie and his family moved to Queenston in 1823. One year later he made the life altering decision to launch his paper, which became his platform for criticizing the government's oppressive policies and promoting the idea of representative government.

He attacked land speculators, hypocritical clergy of the Church of England and dishonest officials — naming individuals and exposing their actions.

Mackenzie was also one of the first advocates for confederation of the British North American Colonies.

In 1825 Mackenzie moved back to York (Toronto) so he could be closer to the parliamentary action and continued publishing The Colonial Advocate, actively denouncing the privileged families of Canada who he referred to as the "Family Compact."

He claimed the current government didn't represent the interests or well-being of the average citizen.

British colonial governors in Lower and Upper Canada were jailing journalists and closing newspapers. Due process was ignored, and political and religious rights were limited.

Responsible government became the rallying cry for colonial reformers.

In this era of hereditary

monarchy and aristocratic privilege, those who opposed the repressive colonial government were seen as a threat to stability, tradition, and the continued prosperity of the upper class.

But Mackenzie's paper became widely circulated and a growing number of people supported the reform movement.

He became a member in the House of Assembly of York County and in March 1834, became the first mayor of the newly incorporated City of Toronto.

A year before the Rebellion, Mackenzie wrote: "one thing is certain, no free popular government can exist unless people are informed. An ignorant republic would surely degenerate into a most corrupt and hateful government."

In 1837 he drafted a constitution that called for 'civil and religious liberty,' which also included guarantees against excessive bail and cruel and unusual punishment.

Mackenzie toured the province, organizing meetings, and continued to agitate for reform. However, his efforts began to transform, from peaceful reform to preparing for a coup d'état which culminated in a group of farmers that supported Mackenzie gathering at John Montgomery's Tavern in Toronto on December 4 of that year, with the intention of taking over the city.

After a few days of disorganized attempts and skirmishes, the rebels were put down by the local militia.

Lieutenant Governor Sir Francis Bond Head offered 1,000 pounds for the capture of Mackenzie. He fled to the home of sympathizers along the shore of the Niagara River.

Pursued by British troops, Mackenzie escaped by boat to Grand Island.

Canadian rebels led by Mackenzie along with a group of American sympathizers decided to set up camp on Navy Island in the Niagara River.

They hoped to launch an attack on Canada from there. Some accounts claim their forces grew to as many as 1,500 soldiers at its peak. To put this in perspective, in 1830 Toronto had a population of 2,860.

Mackenzie proclaimed himself Chief of State of the New Republic of Canada and began to organize his new provisional government.

Bonds were sold to finance the new government and supporters provided him with supplies and weapons.

Growing concern over Mackenzie and his rebel supporters' occupation of Navy Island led to British bombardment. The Rebels retreated back to Grand Island. The "Caroline", a steam ship which was being used to supply them was docked at Fort Schlosser in Manchester (Niagara Falls), New York and became the target for British soldiers.

Despite the fact destroying the ship would require the British to invade American territory and risk re-igniting the War of 1812, on the night of December 29, 1837, British

troops set fire to the Caroline. American soldier, Amos Dupree, was killed.

An agreement was reached between the British and Americans which led to US troops removing Mackenzie and his supporters from Grand Island and Mackenzie being arrested by U.S. officials for breach of the Neutrality Act.

Many Canadian rebels captured by the British paid with their lives, while other's were sent to Australian prison camps and were vilified as traitors.

However the rebellions in both Upper and Lower Canada led to the Durham Report which recommended the unification of the Canadas and the introduction of responsible government.

The Mackenzie family spent twelve years in exile.

In January 1849, a bill was passed by the parliament of the United Canadas, granting amnesty to all those accused of committing crimes during the Rebellion and in 1850 they moved back to Toronto.

One year later Mackenzie won a by-election in Hal-dimand and was re-elected three more times. He also started another newspaper —

Mackenzie's Weekly Message.

Despite everything, Mackenzie proved himself a tireless champion for the common citizen and committed to fighting against autocratic government policies.

He helped shape the future of Canada as a representative democratic nation and helped establish our tradition of considering journalism a vital pillar of our government.

He passionately espoused the benefits of an "unfettered press."

According to a recent study by Angus Reid Forum, an overwhelming majority of Canadians (94 per cent) continue to believe in the critical role of journalism in preserving liberty and democracy.

This Canada Day, perhaps we should remind ourselves that if not for rebels such as Mackenzie and his followers — people who are willing to identify and stand up against those who wish to exploit us and diminish our rights — we could not proudly celebrate the democratic values we now associate with our nation, and also remind ourselves that we still have not completed our journey to equal justice for all, or to ensuring a free and independent press is protected.

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A cake for the record books



A past Canada Day cake in NOTL. (Supplied)

Penny Coles
Staff

As we plan our Canada Day activities, Catherine O'Donnell is making the cake of all cakes to help us celebrate.

The Willow Cakes and Pastries chef, creator of the centrepiece of Niagara-on-the-Lake Canada Day celebrations for the last 13 years, has been plotting her masterpiece since January.

Personally, she's had a rough year, losing her beloved husband and biggest supporter, Frank Wieler.

So this time, she's chosen a theme that is as much for her as for the 3,000 residents and visitors who are expected to enjoy a piece of her Canada Day cake.

As is customary, she's not revealing too much about it, except to say this one is for the locals.

"If you live here, if someone asked you what people do who live in Niagara-on-the-Lake, that's what's on the cake. And this year it's a little more 'me.' Locals will completely get it, and it makes me feel good. Making it has been a therapy of life."

She will reveal there will

be five large figurines, a combination of wood and wire covered in expensive fondant, topping the 100 sheets of sponge cake that make up the base of the cake, and that two of them will represent art and gardening, which are both symbolic of what people love to do in NOTL.

Last year, with a 150th theme, she designed the top layer so that it could be removed, and viewed in Simcoe Park as the crowd enjoyed the cake. She has done the same this year, she says, making it also easier for those who have to cut it.

Every year, as she thinks of a theme, she considers the cake and its role in Canada Day celebrations as a way of representing the town to visitors. "It makes us look amazing, and it's something anyone who has a business benefits from. It's good for the whole town."

But this year, the theme gives her a chance to show people what's great about living in NOTL, and that reminder has helped her through some difficult times.

To acknowledge that, there will be a tribute to her Wieler, who was always able to help her deal with the stress,

emotions and panic attacks she would experience while trying to complete the cake while also running a business. It's the most stressful event she faces each year, she says, and this year she will be without him to help her through it.

"Look for something yellow. Frank was the biggest Minion fan on the planet. He helped me, he put up with my emotional outbursts and calmed me down. This is my tribute to Frank."

Adding to the stress, says O'Donnell, is the memory of a customer last year — a local — who attacked her verbally for a small jar she puts on the counter at the bakery each year in the days leading up to Canada Day, while the construction of the cake is underway. It's there for donations toward the cost of the cake, and the customer, believing the Town pays her for it, called her out for what he considered to be a cash grab.

"He was very angry, and he had me so upset it made me feel like I didn't want to do this any more," she said.

That feeling passed, and although it's an expensive and time-consuming community donation for a small business, she said she'll keep doing it as long as she can.

In the early years, she was able to get suppliers to donate ingredients such as the flour for the cake, but those donations have dried up. And although the Town has never helped pay for it, in the past she has received donations from the Friends of Fort George, who organize the Queen Street cake walk.

But the volunteer organization has enough to look

after with Canada Day celebrations, and it's been a few years since she received money for the cake from them, she said.

In addition to the \$2,000 for ingredients, while she gets some volunteer time from staff, there are also hours they are paid to work on the cake. "There's only so much you can ask staff to do in the way of volunteering their time. This is a lot for a small business to fund. I don't need to come my own time, but we have 17 hours of non-stop baking - and that's just for the sponge cake. It would be great if we could just cover the cost of the ingredients."

But despite the cost, O'Donnell is happy to be able to contribute the cake. About 80 per cent of Willow customers are local, she said, "and this is a way for me to say thank you to them."

And while she deals with nerves and exhaustion leading up to the moment the cake is cut in the park — the time from when it leaves the bakery to when it arrives in the park being the most stressful — it's all worthwhile, she said.

She always walks alongside the cake during the parade along Queen Street, usually having gone to bed in the early hours of the morning for a few hours sleep, and during the parade, she second-guesses herself, worries about things she meant to add but didn't get to, wonders if the crowd will like it, hopes it will make it to the park in one piece, "but as soon as we start cutting it, the stress is gone, and in about an hour the cake is gone too and I know they liked it. That's what it's all about."

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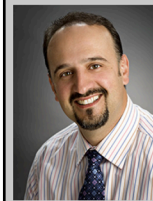
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When Canadian currency made more cents

Richard Harley
Editor



It's a common question among Canadians — why is our five cent coin bigger than our ten cent coin?

And it's a pretty reasonable thing to wonder, given it's the only coin that breaks the pattern of size and value correlation. Nickel for your thoughts?

Those of us who like a little bit of structure can get a little thrown off when stacking up a pile of change, though a little known fact in the 21st century is for a time in history, our money actually made sense.

Canadian five-cent coins were smaller than dimes when they first came into circulation in 1858.

Back then Canada was still an English province, so in a way the Canadian five-cent piece is celebrating its 158th anniversary this year — though the first coins were struck by the Royal Mint in London, England.

The original coins were made of silver, in the fashion of its American counterpart.

At that time, the coin was colloquially known as a "fish scale" because of its size — just 15 mm in diameter.

The coins (as well as all other Canadian coins) were struck in London until the Ottawa branch of the Royal Mint opened in 1908, at which time the coins became 92.5 per cent silver and 7.5 per cent copper.

All silver was removed from the five-cent piece in 1922 due to a spike in silver prices.

It was then the coin was made larger in diameter — again to match its American counterpart, which became larger much earlier in 1866. One big difference, however, was the Canadian coin was made of 99.9 per cent nickel. The American coin was 25 per cent nickel and 75 per cent copper. This led to the Canadian coin being known around the globe as the nickel. Newfoundland's five-cent coin remained silver until 1947, when the country became part of Canada and stopped minting.

The beaver design was first introduced in 1937, created by Canadian artist G.E. Kruger Gray.

The nickel has gone through many changes in composition through the years. In 1942, due to a need for nickel in the Second World War, five-cent coins started being made of tombac, which made them appear copperish. The coin design was changed at the time to be dodecagonal (12-sided) in an effort to help distinguish them from pennies.

Since 2000 nickels have been composed mainly of steel plated in copper and nickel, though according to some economists, the nickel could be headed in the same direction as the penny.



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The Strawberry Festival

Richard Harley
Editor

Julie Hunter isn't quite sure how many strawberries it takes each year to make the annual Strawberry Festival happen — though she estimates around 21,600.

As the co-chair of the festival, she's closest you'll find to an expert on the subject.

This year, it seemed whatever the number actually was, it wasn't nearly enough to satisfy those looking to get a taste. The festival sold out of strawberries, pies and baked goods quite early in the morning.

And it wasn't just strawberry pies — church members also made 332 turkey pies and 425 meat pies to sell during the event.

Church members all pitch together to prepare for the festival each year, including baking the pies, all of which are home made, so they've got a special touch, said Head.

That's why people come so early to make sure they get one.

The recipe has changed slightly through the years, she said, but each person gets a copy so all the pies are typically pretty consistent.

As far as the actual recipe, she did not elaborate — it's clearly a recipe worth keeping secret.

Hundreds of people came out to celebrate throughout the day and have some tasty strawberry treats, including crepes and ice cream and homemade jams and a variety of baked strawberry goods.

The bake sale was sold out by the afternoon.

Head, minister of St. Andrew's, said the event was a massive hit, and though numbers aren't in yet, it was likely one of the most attended events the church has seen.

The festival offered a little something for everyone, whether it was perusing the traditional garage and book sales and silent auction, or having some strawberry treats a burger from the barbecue to live entertainment.

Preparing for the event, which starts soon after the current year's festival finishes, also gives church members something to do throughout the winter, said Margret Walker, who was helping run the jam sales booth.

She said the jams were made throughout the winter by the church men.

"It's something to keep them busy," she said.

As usual, it was tough to find parking, but for residents, that's never been much of an issue.

Some meat pies are still available for just \$5 for those interested in a tasty treat.



Martha Gleddie mixes up strawberry crepe topping.



Margret Walker, Nancy Nichols, Lillian Brooker, Lynn Hunter-Hope and Sheila Gayman sell homemade strawberry jams.



Strawberry crepes were a popular item once the pies and fresh strawberries sold out.



Jyhmi Sims and his new puppy Riley hang out at the Strawberry Festival.



Gloria Garwood and Melanie Paines run the ticket booth.



Laura and Julia DiLollo enjoy some strawberry crepes



Lucy Hallitt peruses the selection at the annual book sale.



Kristin Taylor-Head entertains the crowd with some tunes.



The Campbell family running the barbecue.

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Music Niagara opens for 20th season in July



Atis Bankas, artistic director of Music Niagara, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. **(Richard Harley)**

Richard Harley
Editor

Music Niagara will open for its 20th season this July, with more musical programming than ever.

All in all there will be 40 performances spread over five weeks as the organization celebrates two decades of musical performances in Niagara-on-the-Lake, said Music Niagara's artistic director Atis Bankas.

He said shows will include range of artists and ensembles in various musical styles including choral, brass band, bluegrass and jazz.

It's the most grand celebration yet, as members celebrate the 20th anniversary of the organization — Niagara's longest standing music performance company.

Bankas said it would be like choosing your favourite child to pick which performance he's most looking forward to.

"How do I choose between brass and piano? ... I can't," he said.

He said the variety of genres is fitting for the festival's 20th season.

An opening gala will take place July 7 at the NOTL Community Centre to kick off the first week, starting with reception at 6:30 p.m. and a performance concert by the Hannaford Street Silver Band at 7:30 p.m.

On July 8, there will be a series of free concerts at Simcoe Park including a show called *Where Have All the Folksongs Gone?* The show will feature familiar folk songs from the 60s.

Later the same day, Music Niagara will launch a series called *Great Romantics*, to feature musical works spanning the late 18th to early 20th centuries. The first performer, international award-winning Vietnamese-Canadian pianist Dang Thai Son, will start at 3 p.m. and play pieces by Schubert, Chopin, Paderewski, and Liszt.

On July 9, British-Canadian baritone Alexander Dobson

will present an interpretation of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at United Mennonite Church, assisted by up-and-coming Canadian artists. The show, based on the legends of Don Juan, contains elements of comedy, melodrama, and touches of the supernatural.

On Tuesday, Music Niagara will present *Three Men in a Boat* with Michael Bawtree at the Court House Market Room. Written by Jerome K. Jerome and first published in 1889, the novel has been called "the funniest book ever written."

Bawtree, a Canadian actor and director, will bring all its comical antics to life as he leads the audience on a virtual boating expedition along the Thames, with three fictional men and Montmorency, the author's dog. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.

July 11 will see the second presentation in the *Great Romantics* series, once again in the Court House Market Room at 7:30 p.m. The show will feature Ukrainian-American pianist Mykola Suk, who has performed at venues around the world, from the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory to Carnegie Hall in New York. He will play interpretations of Mozart, Beethoven and Liszt.

On Friday the 13th, Lonesome Ace Stringband will wrap up the first week of the season with an evening of bluegrass music at the Royal Canadian Legion.

Band members Chris Coole (banjo), John Showman (fiddle) and Max Heineman (bass) will play Appalachian music.

"The first week really encompasses the whole spirit and idea of this festival," Bankas said.

"With brass songs to folk songs, world renowned piano and opera and a reading of the funniest book ever written ... what a spread in eight days."

The festival runs for six weeks, from July to August.

For a full schedule visit, musicniagara.org.

Decorate a wine bottle event hits Pumphouse



Help decorate bottles of white wine July 13. **(Supplied)**

Richard Harley
Editor

Have you ever wanted to decorate your own wine bottle?

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre and Hinterbrook Winery are giving locals the chance to do just that this July — with a glass of wine in hand.

In a special event July 13, artists are welcome to stop by the Pumphouse to paint "stars and swirls" which will be used on the bottles for Hinterbrook's new white wine "Stardust."

To brighten things up, the paint will glow-in-the-dark — so you'll be able to find your bottle at home when lights are low.

Natalie Worden, events coordinator at Hinterbrook, said owners George and Violet Yeh came up with the idea as a nod to the winery's "Express Yourself" NOMAD philosophy."

Five dollars from the sale of each decorated bottle of Stardust will be donated by Hinterbrook to the Niagara Pumphouse Ian Butler Scholarship Fund, which supports an annual scholarship award to a graduating high school student from Niagara-on-the-Lake to pursue a recognized post-secondary visual arts program.

Stardust will be available for sale by the glass to adults of legal drinking age and participants will be able to place an order for bottles and cases they help decorate.

Lise Andreana, chair of the Pumphouse board, said the event "is a perfect way for people to become familiar with the Pumphouse and engage with art, even if they have no previous art experience."

"We want everyone to enjoy the day." The Decorate a Wine Label event is free and open to anyone five and up. No reservations are required, and all painting supplies will be provided free of charge.

The event runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 13. For information on Pumpphouse classes, exhibitions and special events, visit niagarapumpphouse.ca.

What's happening on Canada Day in NOTL?



The Clock Tower cenotaph in NOTL. **(Supplied)**

Lauren O'Malley
Staff

If you're reading this after Canada Day, I hope you won't feel like you missed out on some of the most fun things to do.

If you're reading before, there are a number of the patriotic events our town has on offer this long weekend.

The Friends of Fort George have — as always — a jam-packed July 1 lined up.

Kick off the holiday with the Pancake Breakfast in Simcoe Park from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. The Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake will serve hot pancakes, sausages, juice and coffee. Proceeds go to support the Friends of Fort George.

Admission to Fort George is free all day, so you can pop in there until it's time for the famous cake walk, which begins at 2:45 p.m.

The cake, made by Willow Cakes and Pastries, will travel along Queen Street — escorted by the 41st Regiment of Foot Fife and Drum Corps — to Simcoe Park, where it will be sliced and served.

As if feeding you breakfast and cake weren't enough, Friends of Fort George will

also be serving up hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and pop inside the Fort, starting at 5 p.m.

An evening program in the Fort will feature entertainment for the whole family, including the Kiddie Militia and Drill, musket and artillery demos, and the music of the Howling Horns, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Of course, the must-attend piece de resistance, the Musical Fireworks Display begins at 10 p.m. Admission is free.

A full schedule can be found at, friendsoffortgeorge.com.

From June 30 to July 1, satisfy all of your artistic cravings at *Artistry By the Lake* at Queen's Royal Park. The popular event features a variety of artists showcasing paintings, fibre arts, jewelry, sculpture, photography, pottery, glass and wood work.

The event runs from from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If these free events aren't enough, there are a variety of other events taking place, such as

Niagara Culinary Tours "Foodie Tour," Niagara's own Katey Gatta, live at Silver-smith and fireworks to end the day at Ravine Vineyard.

Happy Canada Day, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

PHOTO: The joys of summer



Marty Sherlock takes a leap off a homemade raft into Lake Ontario. **(Richard Harley)**



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GAMES



Have some fun

The Lake Report is seeking puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. Currently we are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers.

Across

- 1. E.g. a ketch (3-6)
- 6. Copper and zinc alloy (5)
- 9. Item (7)
- 10. Not friendly (7)
- 11. Nail-like fastener (5)
- 12. Carry (9)
- 13. Bony structures (9)
- 15. Burning gas (5)
- 16. Forbiddingly (5)
- 18. Environmental fouling agent (9)
- 20. Deadlock (9)
- 23. Lukewarm (5)
- 25. Arabian Nights hero (3,4)
- 26. Mythical creature (7)
- 27. Expel (5)
- 28. Northern Canadian island (9)

Down

- 1. Melts (5)
- 2. Exterior (7)
- 3. Satan (9)
- 4. Larceny (5)
- 5. Practice session (9)
- 6. Defeats (5)
- 7. Grand Canyon state (7)
- 8. Confection (9)
- 13. In good order (9)
- 14. Home for abandoned children (9)
- 15. Ornamental water jets (9)
- 17. Conceive (7)
- 19. Sanction (7)
- 21. Make law (5)
- 22. Peer (5)
- 24. Move rhythmically (5)

Crossword Puzzle

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						


The Lake Report

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Sudoku

		2		1 8		3		
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	3 5 7							
5			1 7			6		
		4				2		
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					5 9 6			
					1 3 7			
5		9 2		4				

Dots and boxes

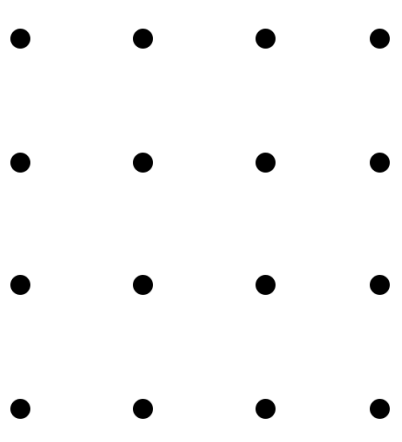


Illustration from History of Canada series by Al Huberts.

COLOURING CONTEST

Mail your coloured cut-out to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Post Office, PO Box 724 for a chance to win a special Canada Day prize! For children 10 and under.

Who is it?

Clues

- Played a major role in the creation of Canada.**
- Was Canada's second-longest serving prime minister.**
- Introduced protective tariffs to help Canadian manufacturers.**
- Pushed through the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.**
- Supported by the British Government purchased Rupert's Land from HBC.**
- Brought Manitoba, Northwest Territories, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island into confederation, in addition to founding the provinces Ontario, Nova Scotia, Quebec and New Brunswick.**

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Owen Bjorgan
Biophilic World
Featured



A cecropia moth, on a rare moment of display near Rockway Falls. (Owen Bjorgan)

Seeing as this is my first contribution to this paper, I would like to commence with a thanks to the new and locally owned Lake Report.

Notably, seeing a portion of paper space dedicated to a region's environmental material is not only original, but perhaps of value for the community.

I hope you find these tidbits about your own backyard exciting and interesting — that's how I've always felt about Niagara.

I grew up along the Niagara Escarpment, our very own chunk of UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve on the Niagara Escarpment.

I feel like the nature of my surroundings at the time steered me in the direction I'm still headed today — doing a variety of work to attempt get people to reconnect with nature.

Now I'm old enough to describe the unmistakable feeling I was driven by as a kid. It was a constant curiosity to explore wild places — at least in wild ways.

It started here in Queenston, Niagara-on-the-Lake (and one time it ended there but more on that later).

More than 20 years later with a bachelors degree in biodiversity, I feel rich in stories that have occurred in these wild places all around the globe.

But we can't neglect Niagara and what happens out in the backwoods here; deafening choruses of tree frogs; salmon blasting upstream, big cat scat; ancient flooded forests, cliffs of limestone, and superb sandy beaches — spots that makes you feel like you're in British Columbia or a tropical jungle. Places you can plant your legs, stop, listen, and not hear traffic.

I began to notice how these natural gems were getting skipped by the tourists and locals in unison.

These places have, and still do, fly under the radar for people who are fortunate to live and visit here. You might say it is a blessing in disguise, but it's worth knowing how precious these green spaces really are.

Approximately 90 per cent of Niagara's original wetland and forest coverage is gone. That number is more startling because it's something we all should have learned in school.

We fall into an area covering less than one per cent of Canada's total landmass, yet it boasts the highest biodiversity in the country.

The remaining hidden corners are beautiful strongholds for many rare and unusual species.

I made a documentary titled "Hidden Corners: Niagara" you can find on YouTube to find out a bit more about me and what I do.

Filming in Niagara is fascinating, but studying it at another level with professionals and submitting a paper on lichens gave me a whole closer look at it.

I speak at schools and have organized community trash cleanups, I've been in the thick of it with mud, mosquitoes, and some elected officials.

Niagara is my home and I will always treat it as such.

Cheers, to the coming photos and stories of Niagara's natural wonders.

I look forward to bringing you a regular column.

Drumming down the sun for Solstice



Summer Solstice at Ryerson Park. (Supplied)

Richard Harley
Editor

It was 20 years ago when Niagara Nature Tours hosted its first Summer Solstice, Drumming Down the Sun event at Lakeside Park in Port Dalhousie.

Over time, the event has grown to attract hundreds of people. One of those people was Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Loretta Pietrobon, who,

after the 2013 celebration, got in touch with event founder Carla Carlson to let her know she wanted to help bring the event to NOTL.

"I was thrilled and we came up with the tag line, One Solstice, One Lake, Three Beaches. Because I'd already expanded to Charles Daley Park in Jordan," Carlson said.

This year residents drummed down the sun for the fifth time in town,

though it wasn't always smooth sailing.

The first year, both Pietrobon and Carlson decided to hold the event at Queen's Royal Park. The figured not much could beat being at the mouth of the Niagara River where the famous gazebo is.

"So on the longest day of the year, June 2014 saw a handful of drummers, dutifully drumming down the sun, but — there was no sun; no sunset."

It wasn't until then when Pietrobon realized the sunset isn't visible from that spot.

The following year she and Carlson set out to look for a west facing beach in NOTL.

The two park choices were Ryerson and Niagara Shores, though Niagara Shores was ripped up with tire tracks.

Since then the annual event has been held at Ryerson Park in Chautauqua.

This year Carlson said "the word has spread."

Around 200 people attended to drum down the sun this Solstice, she said..

"The night was spectacular thanks to John Pizzolato from Fox Den Yoga and the owner of Circular Motion Canada, Kevin Richard Hotte who facilitated the drumming, all the eager drummers and the sun's grand performance," said Pietrobon.

"It was magical when a flutist joined in and another gentleman was blowing bubbles with a gorgeous array of colours as the background."


Around 18 people attended prior to the event for a "energizing, yet contemplative session," she said.

It was the most they have ever had partake.

"From one end of the park stretching out all the way to the other, there were at least two hundred people watching, chatting, dining, playing, strolling.

The drum circle itself consisted of 25-30 folks enthusiastically drumming, shaking, tapping and rattling in a number of different rhythms led by Kevin," Pietrobon said.

"My grateful thanks to all."



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Support Newark Neighbours

Penny Coles
Staff

Although most people in Niagara-on-the-Lake are aware of Newark Neighbors and the work it does in the community, there are always newcomers to town who are surprised to hear there is a food bank and thrift shop to help out those in need.

Newark Neighbours was established by Peggy Anderson in 1972, originally to help seasonal agricultural workers who come to town to work on local farms. She collected clothes and household items she would sell, in the early days, for \$5 for a full garbage bag.

Farm workers continue to shop there, purchasing items for themselves and to send home to their families. That helped to finance the food bank, which helped families who were having trouble getting by.

The money from the retail shop helps fund items needed for the food bank.

Newark Neighbours remains the only non-profit organization in town that provides food for local residents in financial need, determined by the resident's income and

Statistics Canada.

It is run by a board of directors and about 30 volunteers. The food bank is aided by the generous donations from local organizations and individuals, said volunteer Cindy Grant.

Food stocks can rise and fall depending on donations and the demand for food, but at the moment, said Grant, food supply is in good shape thanks to a generous donation from St. Michael Catholic School, and more is expected to come in next week from St. Mark's Church, where bins for non-perishable food will be put out during the annual Cherry Festival.

For the thrift shop, though, they can always use clothing for the farm workers, bedding, small household appliances, pots and pans and dishes, says Grant.

For more information about the food bank call Marion at 905-468-3519. Newark Neighbours is located at 310 John St. (turn into the Riverbend Inn driveway and Newark's entrance is to the right). It is open Monday to Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., as well as Sundays, same hours, April to October to accommodate farm workers.

Pauline is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community. Julia Dick is a Virgil Native and Front Office Coordinator. Call Julia today to book a free hearing test!



Pauline Reimer-Gibson, Audiologist

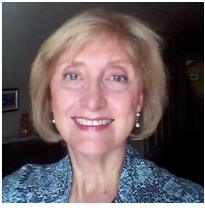
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Miss Janet Carnochan

The woman behind the NOTL Historical Society



Denise Ascenzo
Featured

The Niagara Historical Society was founded in December of 1895, by a very formidable woman named Janet Carnochan.

Born in Stamford, Ontario in 1839, Carnochan moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake when she was hired to teach at Niagara High School, which is now a part of the museum.

Carnochan saw a great need to preserve the history of Upper Canada. As the War of 1812 became a fleeting memory to many of a new generation, she saw that artifacts from the war were being lost. Carnochan decided something must be done, and became determined to start a historical society.

The first meeting to explore the ideas of a Historical Society was held in the public library on Dec. 12, 1894. The Lord Mayor at that time, Henry Paffrd, attended the meeting and acted as the chair. Imagine Carnochan's surprise when she was voted in as the president, a position she held for more than a quarter of a century.

Carnochan's goal became the mandate of the society and remains much the same today: "the objects of the Society are the encouragement of the study of Canadian history and literature, the collection and safe preservations of Canadian historical records and relics, and the building up of Canadian loyalty and patriotism."

With this mandate, Carnochan made it known that the Society was accepting any and all artifacts that pertained to the history of Niagara-on-the-Lake and they soon amassed a collection that outgrew the room donated for the Society's use in the Court House.

Not to be thwarted by the limitations of the "museum" room, Carnochan (in 1898) put forth the idea that a permanent building must be erected.

In 1899, letters, from the Society were sent out to many ministers of the Crown, requesting support and funding from the Government.



Miss Janet Carnochan, founder of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Historical Society and NOTL's first museum, which was the first purpose-built museum in Canada. (Supplied)

We can read, in one of Carnochan's own accounts, that the reception of these letters had very much the same response as one would get today from any politician. She was told that "the matter would receive their very serious attention," or that "the matter would be brought before their colleagues."

Only one politician, Hon. George William Ross, responded in a positive manner. He suggested that if the Society raised a significant portion of the funds, then the government would consider a contribution as well.

Regardless of support, the Society made the decision to move forward with building a permanent museum. The Society had \$150 in the building fund at the time, and the land, which had been donated by Carnochan herself.

On Sept. 17, 1903, the Society agreed to mail out five hundred circulars (today's modern flyer) with a personal letter attached, to all its past and present members, as well as many prominent business owners, asking for monetary support.

It must be remembered that each letter was hand written by Carnochan. No computers, no typewriters, no copy machines in those days, not even ball point

pens, just pens dipped in ink. The process of writing all these letters took over six months to complete.

By 1905, the Society had more than \$4,000 in the building fund, though the tenders for the construction were more than \$7,000.

Members of the Society then met to change the specifications of the building and sent out another request for tenders. This time only one company

submitted a tender. Luckily for Carnochan and the Society, it happened to come in under the \$4,000 budget.

Construction of the building started in April 1906 and was completed — minus the portico — in the Fall of 1906.

The name of the building was debated, but all agreed that "Memorial Hall" would honour all that was held inside the building, including articles from the E.U. Loyalists who first

arrived in Upper Canada, the many regiments of British and Canadian soldiers who defended our freedom on Canadian soil, and the many people who were involved in the development of such a great community.

Upon the opening of the museum, there was already an extensive collection of historical material. It held more than 4,000 articles, 800 books and pamphlets, 1,000 newspapers, 500 pictures, 150 military pieces,

80 pieces of fine china, 300 Indigenous artifacts, 150 garments of women's ware, and 1,000 documents from municipal and church matters.

Today, the museum houses an even larger collection of more than 50,000 artifacts, many from the cherished first collection of Carnochan.

A large majority of this collection is now in the museum database, with over 3,500 pieces available for viewing online.

The town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is a "town of firsts," I like to say.

It was home to the first English settlement on this side of the Niagara River after the American Revolution. It was home to the first parliament of Upper Canada, the first Masonic temple, the first circulating library, first newspaper, and it had the first parliament in the new world to ban the trade of slaves.

One might ask, "what is so unique about Memorial Hall?"

Not only does it house the history of the aforementioned, it is the first purpose-built museum in Upper Canada. Memorial Hall is older than the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto by ten years.

* Additions and expansion to the Museum occurred when the 1875 Niagara High School next door to the museum — the same school Carnochan taught at — was taken over by the Society in the 1940's. In the 1970's, the Link building was constructed to join Memorial Hall to the Niagara High School.

The mandate of the Historical Society is much the same today as it was written in 1894. However, there was one change to it, which was to be more focused on preserving the history of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

To learn more about the topic of this story you can visit the Niagara Historical Society & Museum website at, www.niagarahistoricalmuseum.com, or visit the museum for yourself.

The Niagara Historical Museum is located at 43 Castlereagh St., Niagara-on-the-Lake in Memorial Hall. Visit, or give them a call at 905-468-3912.

Denise's profile can be found at niagaranow.com/profile.phtml/13



Janet Carnochan. (Supplied)

Niagara Historical
SOCIETY & MUSEUM



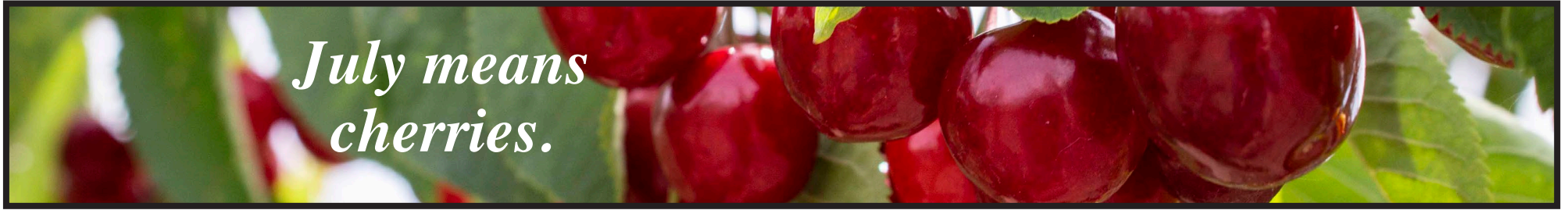
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COMMUNITY

All local residents are welcome to submit photos and letters for consideration in this section. Send to editor@niagaranow.com



July means cherries.



The lake was calm as David Janaszek piped the sun down during a celebration of life for longtime NOTL local resident Ramsay Morrison in June. The evening saw Scottish dancers, shortbread and coffee and tributes to Ramsay, who is survived by his wife Sharon. The evening saw around 200 local residents show up to Ryerson Park pay their respects. (Photo by Richard Harley)

Want to see the video? Download the HP Reveal app on your phone or tablet and follow Niagara Now, then simply scan the photo using the app. Check around the paper for other fun augmented reality surprises. Just look for the HP Reveal logo — and maybe some other places!



Cherry Festival returns July 7



Members of St. Mark's Church have baked 775 homemade pies to sell at the annual Cherry festival when it returns July 7. **(Supplied)**

Penny Coles
Staff

It's been almost three decades since St. Mark's Church began its annual Cherry Festival, a popular event that continues to evolve.

It's a family celebration, with one focus of course — cherries.

Fresh cherries, cherry pies, juice, floats and jam.

Devoted volunteers have been busy since February - they use last year's cherries to make jam and pie filling, and since the crop was so good, there will be more pies than ever — 775 of them for sale.

They will still sell out, says Donna Belleville, one of the organizers, but this year they may be available a little later in the day than other years.

This year's silent auction is also bigger and better than

ever with 80 different items - events and destinations - to be auctioned off.

There is also a bake shop, and books, clothing and jewelry for sale - including a couple of quite valuable bracelets, says Belleville.

There will be a children's nook to keep the little ones occupied, and to help out Newark Neighbours there will be bins for donations of non-perishable food items.

Throughout the day, the Holly Grill barbecue will offer food for the soul, served by St. Mark's volunteers.

The festival is at St. Mark's on Byron Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake Saturday, July 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. If the Strawberry Festival was any example, you'll want to get to the Cherry Festival early in the morning to get a pie.



Blackberries are on the way!

Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol



Willow
Cakes & Pastries

3.5 / 5
Golden
Plungers



JOKE OF THE MONTH

I just found out wine gums don't contain any real alcohol in them ... I could have sworn they were a little liquorish!

By David Green. Check out Monday Pundays with David Green, only at niagaranow.com.



Scene of the week

Konzelmann Winery celebrated its 30th anniversary in June with a celebration for family and friends. Herbert Konzelmann gave a heartfelt speech and was awarded a gift from the Town.

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Featured Local Story

Konopka recital strikes chords



Payton Ellis plays *Merrily We Roll Along* on piano for the crowd. (Photos by Richard Harley)



The Exploring Music Group sing and dance a few songs for the crowd.



Bethany Pottl sings *Jeunes Fille*.

Richard Harley
Editor

The families of some talented young musicians were given a personal performance in June during a recital for students of The Music Studio of Cynthia Konopka.

The night saw students play a mix of genres, some classical pieces and some a little more modern.

Cynthia Konopka, teacher and founder of the studio, said students picked their own songs to perform for the night, based on what they felt most comfortable playing.

The kids have been practicing since after their Christmas recital, she said.

The school is for ages two-and-a-half and up. Even adults are welcome to get lessons.

For some of the students it's their first time performing in front of a crowd, so it can be nerve wracking. But in the long run, it's valuable experience, she said.

Konopka played along with most of the students to give them a little guiding edge.

The show, held at Yellow Door Theatre Company's performance hall in Virgil, was filled with people.

Some of the performances drew quite the applause, including a rendition of Beethoven's *Spring Sonata* (1st movement) played by Simon Hauber.

His father Peter's expression said he couldn't have been more proud. He closed his eyes and listened just to the sound of the strings.

To view a video of Hauber's performance, try out our new augmented reality feature (instructions on Page 19).

Other highlights were performances by the school's children's group the Exploring Music Group, who sang and danced a few tunes.

Lord Mayor Pat Darte even made an appearance, but this time not as a politician. His granddaughter is one of the students in group.

Konopka, who some may recognise as the brother of former NHL player Zenin Konopka, said she created the school to help people get involved in music.

After spending some time out of Niagara for school, she decided to come back and start a private music studio of her own.

A lot of the students were also from a studio she runs out of her home in Oakville.

She said she thanks the families and parents of the students for coming out to recitals and showing support for the music, both in the studio and at home.

"Without their support and encouragement the students are not able to develop the gifts that they have."



Cynthia Konopka, Simon Hauber, Madison Maclean and Mary-Mariah play as a quartet.



Simon Hauber drove home a fantastic performance of *Spring Sonata* (1st movement) by Beethoven.



Simon's father Peter feels the music as his son performs.

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