



The road to sobriety | Pages 12-13

Changes urged after woman killed by cyclist in Queenston

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

The death of Louise Leyland has shaken the small village of Queenston, whose residents have been fighting to improve traffic safety in the community for years.

• **An Appreciation:** Friends of Fort George executive director Amanda Gamble pays tribute to Louise Leyland. **Page 11**
• **Traffic concerns:** Letter writer urges the town to act in the wake of this tragedy. **Page 7**

While out walking on Saturday afternoon, Leyland was tragically struck and killed by a cyclist on Queenston Street near Willowbank.

The retired teacher and board member of the Friends of Fort George was passionate about Niagara-on-the-Lake history and was active in the community.

Niagara Regional Police said she was hit by a 64-year-old cyclist as she crossed from the east to the west side of the narrow residential street.

The unidentified cyclist was southbound, riding toward the escarpment, police said.

Detectives from the police force's collision reconstruction unit are



Continued on Page 11 Louise Leyland.

Council cuts \$95K from operating budget

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake council still hasn't approved the town's final operating budget for 2023, but found \$94,622 in savings during a special meeting on Tuesday.

The operating budget was proposed at \$43,920,434 for 2023, with the capital budget having been approved at \$9,695,042 last week.

About \$15 million of the proposed operating budget will come from the town's tax levy, with another \$952,110 being funded through areas where the town charges a special storm levy.

In the latest in a long series of debates, councillors were hoping Tuesday to finalize the operations budgets and were largely focused in on cost-saving, particularly surrounding town hires and contract workers.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita made a series of motions, many of them asking the

Continued on Page 2

Gaio performance rocks Legion



Ryan Gaio and his band rock a crowd of about 150 people at the Legion on Saturday during his album release show. RICHARD HARLEY

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Ryan Gaio wanted local music in Niagara-on-the-Lake and that's exactly what he brought to the Legion on Saturday.

And people were there for it — about 150 of them, dancing the night away.

It was a surprise for Gaio, who would have been happy with a

crowd of 50.

"I think it went amazing, I'm just like so stoked and thrilled with how it all went," he said in an interview.

"It just blew me away beyond my wildest dreams and (I'm) already dreaming about the next

Continued on Page 17

Special Report: Advocate pushes for affordable secondary units in NOTL

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Last in a three-part series
Housing advocate Scott Robinson foresees a future

in Niagara-on-the-Lake in which scores of existing homes sprout new, secondary units to provide living space for seniors, singles and anyone else in need of an affordable place to call home.

Simply put, NOTL needs to build more affordable and attainable housing options — and soon, he says.

And he thinks the most efficient way to increase housing density is for

existing homes to add more secondary suites and accessory dwelling units.

An accessory dwelling unit is a separate living space, such as a basement apartment or converted

garage, with essential amenities.

"We can build attainable housing everywhere. Because we need to build attainable housing everywhere," Robinson told The

Lake Report.

He isn't backing down and hopes to push NOTL council to encourage more such housing alternatives.

Continued on Page 10



Peninsula
Flooring Ltd.

13 Henegan Road | Virgil Business Park (905)-468-2135

Up to 20% OFF CARPETS BY

ANTRIM
HAND-LOOMED CARPETS & RUGS

HIBERNIA
WOOLEN MILLS

STANTON
CARPET • CUSTOM RUGS • RUNNERS

Rosecore
LUXURIOUS CARPET & CUSTOM RUGS

Customer Appreciation Day
Every 3rd Wednesday
of the month,
everyone saves... **20% off**
most purchases*

*Regular-priced products only.
Exclusions and conditions apply, see store for details.

Serving Niagara Since 1977

SIMPSON'S

Medical Centre | 1882 Niagara Stone Road | Virgil | 905.468.2121
Old Town | 233 King Street | Niagara-on-the-Lake | 905.468.8400

Shop online at www.simpsonspharmacy.ca | **FREE LOCAL DELIVERY**

Seniors' Day
Every last Thursday
of the month,
over 60s save... **20% off**
most purchases*

*Regular-priced products only.
Exclusions and conditions apply, see store for details.

Most Randwood demolition requests **rejected**

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

A massive, 835-page town planning report rejects most of Solmar's requests to demolish or make substantial changes to buildings and other heritage assets on the historic Rand Estate property.

The report, by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's heritage planner Denise Horne, says the plan by Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc. "falls short of achieving conservation as envisioned by the Ontario Heritage Act, applicable policies and best practices."

Solmar applied to make changes to or demolish several features of the properties at 200 John St. E. and 588 Charlotte St.

While some of the proposed alterations were recommended for approval by council, the vast majority were rejected.

The report by Horne contains 10 appendixes, detailing her assessment of Solmar's proposals.

"Conservation of the Rand Estate requires the preservation and restoration of the character-defining elements of the landscape that was designed and managed by the Dunington-Grubbs, including mature trees and plantings, the formal designed gardens and axial walkway with its designed rooms and nodes," the report says.

"In addition, conservation of the Rand Estate requires the restoration and rehabilitation of buildings that formed the early farm complex on the estate."

Solmar's "proposed Commemoration Plan falls short of achieving conservation as envisioned by the Ontario Heritage Act,



Randwood circa 1920, with sunken garden in foreground and elliptical driveway in front of the house. SUPPLIED

applicable policies and best practices," the report says.

Horne's report and town staff recommendations will be presented to the NOTL municipal heritage committee during a virtual public meeting on Monday, April 12.

As well, council has scheduled a special public meeting at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre on April 24 at 5 p.m.

Residents will be allowed to make presentations at both meetings but must register in advance on the town's Join the Conversation page.

The exhaustive planning report systematically analyzes and makes recommendations on a huge list of changes proposed by Solmar for the historic property.

For 200 John St. E.,

among the changes Horne's report recommends refusing are:

- A plan to remove mature trees and plantings, and construct a road and pedestrian pathway.
- Removing healthy trees along the site's boundary wall.
- Removing and widening the boundary wall opening and removing the brick pillars at the property's entrance.
- Removing the circular mound garden and building a new one in a different location.
- Relocating the bath pavilion and demolishing the carriage house.

Removal of healthy and viable trees near the Whistle Stop.
However, at 200 John St. E., Horne's report also recommends approval of:

- Demolition of the Calvin Rand summer house so long as the wide-plank floors are salvaged, as proposed.
- Restoration of the swimming pool garden according to the original Dunington-Grubb drawings.
- Restoration of the Peony Garden adjacent to the Tea House, that mowing of the area stop immediately and the original (existing) plants be provided on-going maintenance,
- Solmar's plan to restore the Tea House.
- Removal of the swimming pool but only if it is replaced by a shallow reflecting pool of the same dimension and shape.
- Restoration of the Whistle Stop structure and the reuse of its salvageable wood brackets.
- An archeological as-

essment be completed for the entire property.

For 588 Charlotte St., Horne recommends that:

- Demolition of the main residence (former stables and barn), be approved but with conditions.
 - Any materials that can be salvaged from the main residence (such as the cupola, weathervane, horse stall doors, wood half-glass door and wood panelling) be reused on the properties, as recommended in Solmar's Commemoration Plan.
 - Relocating a one-storey outbuilding be approved, with conditions.
 - Demolition of two smaller sheds be refused.
 - An archeological assessment be completed for the entire property.
- The community advocacy group Save Our Rand Estate "endorses and agrees with

most of Ms. Horne's conclusions and recommendations," said SORE spokesperson Judy McLeod.

"In particular, we are very pleased with the recommendation that Heritage Act permits that would permit the subdivision access road up 200 John be refused. That was always a ludicrous idea."

"SORE believes the appropriate access to the Rand Estate for both the proposed residential use of the back half of the estate and for a presumed hotel on the front half should be combined and based on the historical access route between 144 and 176 John."

The group also applauded the recommendation that the historical axial walk and circular mound be restored.

"The Marotta companies tried to eradicate these features during the outrageous 2018 clear-cutting episode, which resulted in the Heritage Act prosecution by the Town. Ms. Horne is trying to repair some of that damage even though the prosecution never reached a trial on the merits."

The only aspect of Horne's report that SORE disagrees with is permitting the demolition of the Calvin Rand house and the barn stables.

"Those buildings were designated by the Darte and Disero councils. SORE's heritage experts agree with that designation."

SORE urged council to reject the Heritage Act permits sought by Solmar, so that the Ontario Land Tribunal can adjudicate the case and "make an informed decision based on a fulsome examination of evidence tested by cross-examination."

Operating budget still **not approved**, no date for further talks

Continued from Front Page

town to continue with contract employees until the town can finalize its strategic plan.

She asked to reconsider hiring an economic development officer as well as

the lord mayor's executive officer until 2024, but those motions were defeated.

Cheropita also wanted the town's communications co-ordinator to remain a contract position for 2023, which passed for a cost reduction of \$6,000.

At her suggestion, council also agreed to defer switching five contract positions to full-time jobs until 2024. That will save \$75,450.

Cheropita's motion to reconsider a decision to hire a health and safety co-ordinator was defeated.

She also asked to remove a digital records co-ordinator from the budget.

After discussion council voted to keep the position but have a portion of the diverted from the general levy. That saved \$18,572.

Several positions re-

mained as contracts and Coun. Erwin Wiens took issue with that.

He wanted the town to commit to more full-time positions, so the people in contract positions don't start looking elsewhere for full-time work.

Coun. Nick Ruller said he heard his concerns but wants to have an approved strategic plan before committing to full-time positions.

Council ran out of time before it could finalize the budget and moved directly into a planning meeting after.



HIRING KITCHEN STAFF!

Ginger
RESTAURANT

Wed - Sun, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Dine-in and take-out
Tel: (905) 468-3871
390 Mary Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Serving Fresh Asian-Fusion Cuisine In a Cozy Atmosphere

Aging in place is like **planning a trip**, expert tells ‘Learn & Live’ audience

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

In many ways, preparing to age in place is like planning a trip.

That’s how Sue Lantz from Collaborative Aging described it to the audience at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library’s “Learn & Live” presentation.

She focused on how seniors can successfully age in place – meaning you have the health and social supports needed to live safely and independently at home or in the community for as long as you are able.

About 40 people sat in the audience last week, many armed with notepads, pens and questions.

Lantz said she believes aging well and successful aging is a personal vision that people can shape, and stressed the importance of looking forward and planning for the future.

While planning for a trip, “we think about what we want to experience first, where we want to go, who we want to go with, how much money we want to spend, what the risks are,” Lantz said.

Planning for the future is similar and Lantz encourages people to embrace aging, rather than run away from it.

“In sometimes avoiding the idea of aging we are actually narrowing our options and narrowing our choices and even narrowing our own thinking,” she said.

Lantz used her grandparents as an example.

In their 70s, they started planning by modifying the main floor of their house, talking to a financial adviser, setting money aside, talking to family and friends about the future and asking questions.

“I think a key point that I took away was to plan for these things in advance,” Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Laura Cousens told The Lake Report after the presentation.

In order to plan for the future, Lantz recommends following five strategies that



About 40 people attended the aging in place forum at the NOTL Public Library last week. Sue Lantz from Collaborative Aging led the presentation. SOMER SLOBODIAN

include looking at health options, social networks, housing options, a caregiving team and resources.

Niagara-on-the-Lake has great family health teams and primary care options, she said.

“These are really important resources that you can collaborate with to maintain your best health,” she added.

Maintaining a good social network, assembling the appropriate team of caregivers, and taking advantage of NOTL resources, such as the library, are all important, she said.

For housing, she emphasized how important it is to get “ahead of the curve” and make decisions early in life.

People are either staying put, moving or getting creative, she said.

One creative option Lantz mentioned is cohousing, a type of collaborative housing option for seniors.

Lantz described it as a “multi-unit dwelling with shared facilities.”

One example of this type of living is the Golden Girls of Port Perry, older adults who share a living space.

The average rent is about \$1,700, which includes housing and food, Lantz said.

Part of the appeal is “knowing your neighbours and feeling a part of some-

thing,” she said.

She also noted Niagara-on-the-Lake is a naturally occurring retirement community, meaning there are areas of NOTL where older adults make up a large part of the population.

These areas then come together as a community and organize things together like classes, excursions, food delivery services and other resources.

An example would be the Oasis Senior Supportive Living Inc. program. It started in Kingston and has expanded across Canada.

“I’m really trying to help you think forward, right? And thinking forward helps you act and make choices along the way,” Lantz said.

Rental and housing options for seniors looking to age in place has been a big concern in NOTL and many in the audience were open to the ideas Lantz presented.

“I love the idea of even like the joint meal delivery,” Cousens said.

It’s no secret that Niagara-on-the-Lake needs more options for seniors who want to downsize but stay in the community.

“For anybody who might, for whatever reason, need to move out of their single-family home, but does not want to leave this town (there is) no option,” said Cindy Grant, treasurer of

NOTL Community Palliative Care and chair of Newark Neighbours.

She’s on board with the idea of co-housing and announced during the presentation that she and other NOTL residents are forming a group to explore alternative housing options.

Grant said she hears of people leaving Niagara-on-the-Lake all the time because of the lack of places to move to.

Resident Bob Bader would like to see the town “enable seniors to add secondary units on their properties.”

He suggested secondary units could house people who need a place to live in town in “exchange for providing some support services to the person.”

Many people want to stay in their communities and not live in segregated settings, said Lantz.

“There are so many ways we can go about our choices in our plans that actually give us more choice and more opportunity to fulfil our wish,” she said.

The Learn & Live series grew out of recommendations made by the town’s community wellness committee on how to improve residents’ lives. Next in the series: Do You Want to Write a Memoir? presented by Tom Smith on April 17 at the library.

**SPIRIT IN NIAGARA
SMALL BATCH DISTILLERS
FABULOUS FOOD
LOCAL NIAGARA
AWARD WINNING
FARM TO GLASS
SPIRITS & COCKTAILS**

**JOIN US EVERY
MONDAY & THURSDAY
FOR LIVE JAZZ, BLUES,
AND PIANO TUNES**



**SUN - THURS 11 - 7 | FRI & SAT 11-8
458 LAKESHORE ROAD, NOTL
905 934 1300 | spiritinniagara.com**

St. David's
VETERINARY CLINIC stdavidsvetclinic.com



Where's the cat?

House-calls available 📞 905.262.8777

airway CPAP inc. 


NOW OPEN for all your CPAP and sleep apnea supplies.

Free delivery in NOTL and VIRGIL.

**Curbside pick-up available at
111A Garrison Village Dr., Suite 202, NOTL.**

For appointment call 289-868-9212.

**HONoured
TO BE YOUR
VOICE IN
OTTAWA**



TONY BALDINELLI, M.P.
NIAGARA FALLS

NIAGARA FALLS/NOTL OFFICE 4056 Dorchester Road, Suite 107 Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6M9 Tel.: 905-353-9590

FORT ERIE OFFICE 48 Jarvis Street Fort Erie, ON L2A 2S4 Tel.: 905-871-9991

TONY.BALDINELLI@PARL.GC.CA
TONYBALDINELIM.PCA

St. Davids-Queenston United Church

1453 York Rd. St Davids
905-262-5242
www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca
Minister: Rev. YongSeok Baek

Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m.
Also online
Visit our website



Pauline Reimer Gibson
Audiologist

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

Book a complimentary hearing test today at 905.468.9176

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON

A global leader in hearing healthcare.

amplifon



Pilot Officer Frederick Duggan was flying a Spitfire similar to this one when he vanished. AIRCREW REMEMBERED WEBSITE

THE MONUMENTS MEN

Frederick Charles Duggan first from NOTL to die in Second World War

It's been a century since Niagara-on-the-Lake's iconic clock tower cenotaph was erected. Then, in 1926, the Township of Niagara unveiled its own memorial in Queenston. In recognition of those who fought and died in two world wars and beyond, NOTL historian Ron Dale has been researching the stories of the people – all men – whose names are engraved on the two cenotaphs. This is one in a series of stories documenting and remembering the sacrifices of those commemorated on the municipal memorial in Queenston.

Ron Dale
Special to The Lake Report

It was a cold and cloudy day in England on Jan. 25, 1942.

A flight of Spitfire VB fighter aircraft of 222 Squadron of the Royal Air Force took off from the Stapleford Tawney Airbase in Essex on a practice flight that led over the wilderness area of Orford Ness in Suffolk, flying close to coast of the English Channel.

About five kilometres east of Orford Ness, the aircraft ran into heavy cloud. The Spitfires descended more than 6,000 ft through the cloud and two of the pilots reported "severe icing conditions, their engines were tending to cut and miss."

The thick cloud also made it impossible for the pilots to see the other planes as they flew to get under the cloud cover.

The pilot of one of the Spitfires, Pilot Officer Fred Duggan, radioed base calling for an emergency homing signal. He was lost and needed guidance to the nearest landing field.

He was never heard from again.

The debris from his plane and his body were never recovered. He was declared "missing, believed dead," the first man from present-day Niagara-on-the-Lake to die in the Second World War.

It was presumed his engine iced up and seized and that he crashed into the English Channel.

On Nov. 28, 1942, the Air Ministry issued a "Notification of Death" stating that Duggan "was reported missing and is presumed, for official purposes, to have lost his life on the 25th day of January, 1942, as the result of air operations."

Frederick Charles Duggan was born in St. Davids on Feb. 17, 1920, son of Dr. Charles Duggan and Jessie Moore Hume. He had two older brothers, Hume and Richard, and a younger brother, David, who died in 1938 at the age of 15.

Fred Duggan attended St. Davids Public School from 1926 to 1932 and then Stamford Collegiate.

After graduation he was hired by the Cyanamid Company in Niagara Falls. In high school he had studied agriculture along with ancient history, math, geometry and Latin.

With an emphasis on agriculture in school and the job at Cyanamid manufacturing fertilizer, he was interested in farming after the war.

Duggan was a big man and very fit, though wiry, at 6 foot 1 and 145 pounds. He was a sportsman, playing rugby, basketball, tennis, badminton, baseball and golf.

He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force on Nov. 11, 1940, determined to fly.

His first appointment was to the Manning Depot in Toronto where he learned basic drill and deportment, the fundamentals of military training. On Dec. 12, 1940, he was transferred to flight school in Toronto to learn the rudiments of flying.

There he was described by his instructors as a "steady, dependable, clean-cut airman. Easy-going casual, but pleasant and cheerful in manner."

In March, Duggan was sent to the Elementary Training School at St. Eugene in eastern Ontario and in May he was transferred to the Advanced Flying Training School in Dunnville.

In July he received his wings as a qualified fighter

pilot.

On Aug. 19, 1941, he was ordered to Halifax to proceed overseas, arriving in England on Sept. 7. Prior to embarking he had successfully applied for a commission in the RCAF and was promoted to pilot officer.

In England, Duggan was sent to the Operational Training Unit at RAF base Grangemouth for further training in combat manoeuvres and formation flying and on Oct. 28, 1941, was posted to 222 Squadron of the Royal Air Force.

His squadron flew several patrols over England, prepared to intercept German bombers. They also flew training missions, practising formation flying and combat tactics.

The Spitfires of 222 Squadron had recently been fitted with new Merlin engines and there were still bugs to be worked out to ensure that they performed as required.

This may have been a contributing factor in the failure of the aircraft and Duggan's death. We will never know.

Fred Duggan is commemorated on the cenotaph in Queenston. His name also is inscribed on the Runnymede Air Forces Memorial near Egham, Surrey, England, along with the names of 20,449 airmen from the Commonwealth who have no known grave.

Community hub attracts support from NDP leader

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Niagara Creative Cultural Community Hub has gained some traction with some provincial political players in its quest to turn the old NOTL hospital into a shared space for charity and community groups.

New Democrat MPP Wayne Gates and his party's new leader, Marit Stiles, visited Niagara-on-the-Lake on Friday to express their support for the project.

"I think a community hub is a way of giving back to the community," Gates said,

The MPP has been supportive of the hub since the idea was first floated, said Robin Ridesic, owner of the Exchange Brewery, and an advocate for the project.

Stiles gave it her stamp of approval as well.

"I am very interested in the concept of community hubs," Stiles said during a visit to the site, noting she developed an interest in the concept as a school trustee when she was trying to keep schools open.

While the NOTL hub has been through several iterations, all of which have been trying to establish a shared space for non-profits in NOTL.

Previously the group considered purchasing the old Parliament Oak school but the property was bought by Two Sisters Resorts Corp. before they could make an offer, Ridesic said in an interview.

Julia Murray, head of

Royal Oak School, which is now housed in the old hospital, said her school was started to help fill the gap left behind by the closing of Parliament Oak.

"We emerged as a non-profit charitable organization to fill the need for education in this town."

Both Ridesic and Gates spoke to the need for additional health care services in NOTL as well, though the Ford government has shown no interest in retrofitting the old hospital.

"Medical people would like the hospital to come back," Ridesic said. "I don't think anybody would object to that."

She, Gates and Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa agreed a new hospital in NOTL is unlikely.

"It's not the direction that the government is going, quite frankly," Gates said.

He told the group, "I have not got one call" from residents who want the old hospital to be turned into a health care hub.

Ridesic said the hub is willing to work with any community group.

"Any community services that can be offered, we would love to co-locate," Ridesic said.

For its next steps, Ridesic said the group needs "guidance" on how to get support "at the provincial level."

"We really believe we can do something magical here."

Zalepa said the future of the old hospital site will be addressed as council begins working on the town's strategic plan over the next month.



From left, Wayne Gates, Julia Murray, Marit Stiles, Robin Ridesic and Karyll Justo. EVAN LOREE



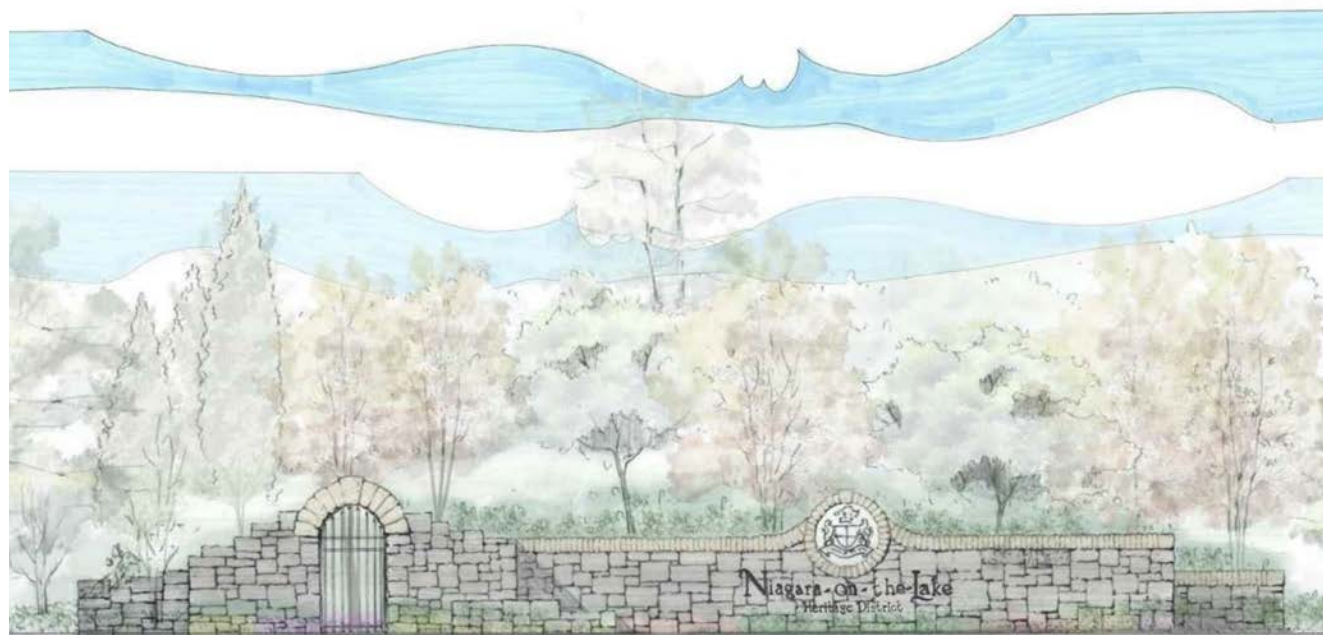
New!

SPRING SIPS

Step into Spring at Konzelmann Estate Winery! Enjoy a seasonal wine flight paired with your very own 'Wine and Herb' board. **ONLY \$35/PERSON**

Visit konzelmann.ca for details.





The gateway feature will be a drystone wall. Final designs aren't available but it will look similar to this photo. SUPPLIED

New gateway will let visitors know they've reached **heritage district**

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The town's new gateway project is getting closer to completion after more than three years of discussions.

The project will replace the current garden and landscaping at the intersection of Mississagua and Queen streets with a drystone wall that lets people know they've reached NOTL's heritage district.

The project, fully funded through a donation from the Kowalchuk Family Foundation, is budgeted at \$264,890.

Construction is expected to start this spring.

The contractor, chosen through a bidding process, is Three Seasons Landscape Group Inc., with the design by Seferian Design Group.

Gerry Kowalchuk, who is responsible for the sizable donation, said he's glad to see the project finally coming to a head after years of discussion and public input.

"I'm pretty happy it's finalized," Kowalchuk said in an interview.

He said he's hopeful the project will be completed this year, but "I am little surprised how long it took, though. Truthfully."

He attributes that largely to the town listening to public input.

"The town's got a very open attitude toward the public's participation in projects throughout here,



there and everywhere. I mean, it seems to just be a major part of their philosophy," he said.

"I'm not originally from here and I'm quite proud to be living here. That's the reason I'm doing this — my wife and I think a lot of this community."

GERRY KOWALCHUK
DONOR

"I can't deny that that's a good idea, but I didn't consider this to be a massive project. It's not like we're building an apartment building," Kowalchuk said.

"I'm not disappointed, but I would have never envisioned that going back three-and-a-half years or so."

He said he was also a

Gerry Kowalchuk and his Kowalchuk Family Foundation have fully funded the town's new gateway beautification project to the tune of \$264,890. The project is expected to be completed before the end of 2023.

SUPPLIED

bit surprised by the local reaction to the initial design that included an obelisk, but thinks it ended up the right way with the drystone wall.

He said he understands why NOTLers are particular about any changes to the town's features.

"I'm a citizen here now, about 13 years. I'm not originally from here and I'm quite proud to be living here. That's the reason I'm doing this — my wife and I think a lot of this community," Kowalchuk said.

"I can imagine you can only multiply that feeling by several times if you were born and raised here. People probably don't really like some change in certain cases. I just didn't think anything we were proposing was over the top, if I can put it that way."

Other than beautifying the streetscape, another indirect benefit to the town is the installation will have its own irrigation system, he said.

"We're actually running a water line and there's going to be a formal irrigation system, which will sustain itself. It'll take that responsibility away from town staff actually. So there is some form of indirect benefit from the town's manpower standpoint."

The gateway wall also will be lit up at night, so the lettering "Heritage District" will still be visible as a silhouette.

"I also like the fact that it's going to be lit up. It's going to come on, basically at dusk," he said.

"They're large letters and there's going to be indirect lighting where you'll see the silhouette of the lettering in the evening. I think it's going to be quite attractive, actually."

He said he thinks people are going to like the final result.

"I'm hopeful that when the public sees it completed, that there will be concurrence. You can't please everybody, but I'm hopeful and somewhat confident that when it's finished, because it's not in your face, it's not something that's pushy. It's not overly aggressive. It suits the town. It suits the neighbourhood, it suits what we're trying to accomplish. I'm hopeful that everybody, as I am, will be very proud of it."

He said the town will relocate the signage that is now on the site.



tree amigos
LANDSCAPING INC.

BOOK NOW
For SPRING cleanups, gardens & lawn care



Call us now to make plans for spring and summer!

www.treeamigoslandscaping.com
905-468-9557 | info@treeamigos.ca

Proud to support local news!



WAYNE GATES
MPP Niagara Falls proudly representing Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-357-0681

DRAIN & WATERPROOFING



McDowell DRAIN SERVICE

WET BASEMENT SOLUTIONS, INTERIOR/EXTERIOR, SUMP PUMPS, DRAIN CLEARING, REPAIRING & REPLACEMENT

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
647-285-9396
Sink2Sewer@gmail.com
DrainageService.ca



FINE COLLECTIBLES BY THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND 

WWW.UPPERCANADANATIVEART.COM | 905-468-6464 | 109 QUEEN ST.



TLR

Publisher: Richard Harley
Editor-In-Chief: Richard Harley
Managing Editor: Kevin MacLean
Design & Layout: Richard Harley
Advertising: Megan Vanderlee
Contributors: Evan Saunders, Jill Troyer, Somer Slobodian, Evan Loree, Tim Taylor, Joanne Young, Denise Ascenzo, Brittany Carter, Linda Fritz, Elizabeth Masson, Dr. William Brown, Brian Marshall, Molly Bowron, NOTL Museum, Kyra Simone, Gail Kendall, Patty Garriock, Bill Auchterlonie, Steve Hardaker, Ross Robinson, Penny-Lynn Cookson, Dave Van de Laar, Janice White and many more members of the NOTL community

Canada The Local Journalism Initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada



Your Lake Report is the proud winner of 61 national and provincial awards for journalism and advertising excellence.



Contributed by Patty Garriock

“‘This too will pass.’ Say these four words to yourself. They will give you a sense of perspective and help you also to make the most of what is good and be stoical about what is bad.” - Claire Rayner

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Email:
 Letters: editor@niagaranow.com
 Story Ideas: editor@niagaranow.com
 Advertising: advertising@niagaranow.com
Phone
 Newsroom: 905-359-2270
 Advertising Department: 905-932-5646
Office Address
 496 Mississauga St., NOTL, Ontario, Canada.
Mailing Address
 PO Box 724, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S1J0
Have a lead on a story?
 Call 905.359.2270 or send an email to editor@niagaranow.com

Back in the river again



Kayakers are getting their boats back in the Niagara River as the spring weather starts to warm things up. DAVE VAN DE LAAR



Editorial

Action needed after tragic crash

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

In the wake of a senseless tragedy, such as the death of Louise Leyland, struck by a cyclist on a Queenston residential street on a clear, bright spring day, demands for action and change are common.

But sometimes such demands need to be heeded, action taken. And that's the case here.

Cycling is a popular, healthy pastime enjoyed by many in Niagara-on-the-Lake and beyond. Making the journey up to Queenston, or rolling down from the Heights, is great exercise, and the views are beautiful.

But on narrow Queenston Street in the normally sedate village, residents have been warning for years that quiet, fast-moving cyclists – and speeding cars not obeying stop signs – are a potential safety hazard.

As our front-page story this week makes clear, residents say they have repeatedly told the town about the danger and, for whatever reason, nothing has happened.

The Niagara Parks Commission apparently is implicated in this as well, as cyclists are directed through Queenston, off that section of the fast-moving, curvy Niagara River Parkway.

We're not trying to assign blame to anyone in particu-

lar because Leyland's death seems to have been just a freak, unfortunate accident – and, frankly, we don't yet know enough about the incident nor the full details of discussions that have been had with political powers prior to now.

But we do know that an 81-year-old woman is dead, her family, friends and the community scarred as a result.

And the 64-year-old cyclist who struck her no doubt will forever live with the memory of a Saturday afternoon ride.

Whether warning signs, stop signs, community safety zones, increased police presence, flashing

lights, designated bike lanes or some combination of all these (or other solutions) will prevent a repeat of this tragedy, something needs to be done.

And soon – before the warm weather hits and tourists, local cyclists and others hit the road.

When residents of neighbourhoods vocally complain about safety and other issues in their area, it is sometimes easy for the larger community to dismiss and discount their concerns.

But in this instance, the residents' concerns have been tragically validated. Now it is up to our community leaders to respond and act.

editor@niagaranow.com



What 'inclusion' seems to mean in NOTL

Dear editor:

Niagara-on-the-Lake has so many opportunities to be inclusive to the point of being visionary, given its overall wealth and privilege. And yet ...

So many simple actions that could be transformational get bogged down in bureaucracy and excuses.

I was thrilled to see your article about accessibility, (“A single step is a closed door”: NOTL woman raises concerns about

accessibility to stores on Queen St., March 30), and even more so to see the simple and elegant solution of StopGap (a brilliant invention and organization) proposed.

So I was disappointed but not surprised to learn there are “talks” happening.

It's a simple investment of about \$15,000, for not just more tourism dollars (which seems to be the only measure of value to our leadership), but more importantly

inclusion: making people of all stripes feel not just welcome but valued.

The PR alone would pay for the investment.

In the same issue and same vein, leaders can stop the hand-wringing and lip service about accessible housing in town and deal with the real issue: housing as a commodity.

When we were looking for a long-term rental property in town, there were only two available (both priced

at over \$3,000 per month), while there are always several hundred short-term/vacation rentals around.

Too many other properties are foreign- and/or corporate-owned investments, sitting empty.

“Inclusive” in NOTL seems to refer to what tourists can expect as part of their vacation package, rather than an ethical priority for our leadership.

Lauren O'Malley
 NOTL

Ruffino's
 Naples-on-the-Lake PASTA BAR & GRILL

takeout & delivery
 289-819-0179 | 7 days a week



Cyclists and speeders in Queenston pose a **serious danger** to residents

Dear editor:

Our little village of Queenston has a growing traffic problem on Queenston Street and in light of the fatal bicycle collision with a pedestrian on April 1, action is due.

Our residents association began looking at the bicycle traffic a few years ago but then COVID arrived and discussions were postponed.

My family has lived on Queenston Street since 1975 (including at the corner of Queenston and Clarence Streets).

We used to have issues with cars speeding through the village, but adding a four-way stop at Dumfries Street has helped that situation.

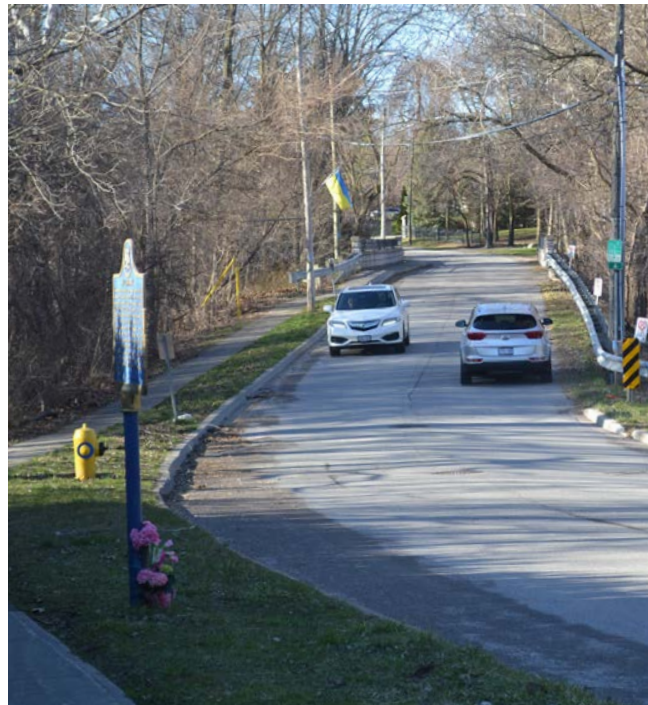
Cyclists go flying downhill past our house on Queenston Street, showing little care for caution including at the four-way stop at Dumfries. Electric bicycles are becoming more prevalent as well.

It is not just teenagers doing this; it is also families with children. It is rare to see anyone stop on the downhill portion of Queenston Street at Dumfries. Perhaps a speed bump is needed at the stop sign intersection?

Police reports state that the cyclist who struck Louis Leyland entered the village from the north, and although a shorter run, there is a hill there as well. Cyclists like to go as fast as possible to maintain their momentum.

Cars are backing out of driveways on both sides of the entire length of Queenston Street and there are multiple vehicles backing out of the post office throughout the day, including on weekends.

For the village to have a local pedestrian hit and



Flowers mark the near where Louise Leyland was fatally struck by a cyclist in Queenston. JULIA SACCO

killed is unconscionable.

I feel there needs to be signage at both points of entry from the bike path (north and south ends of the village), advising cyclists to ride slowly and be aware and extra careful while riding in the area.

As well, we need warning signs on Queenston Street approaching the Dumfries intersection from both the north and south.

There are many folks walking their dogs, people out for a walk alone or with a friend, and children playing near the street or crossing the street.

A running club jogs down Queenston Street most evenings and they circle back up the hill and repeat with several laps.

There is little traffic until suddenly there IS traffic. Then it may be as silent as a bicycle or an electric car (both giving us no warning). Or sometimes people just don't hear a vehicle coming. And our neighbourhood is aging, affecting hearing ability.

I think that there should be a police presence at the intersection of Dumfries and Queenston. Perhaps they could sit in the parking lot of the library.

We will have to investigate what power they have over cyclists if they do stop them. Or will the presence of a police vehicle be enough to make cyclists stop? But what happens when no police are here? Many cyclists are one-time-only visitors.

What about signage at that intersection showing a camera on the sign? Would this slow some bikes down and make the riders think?

Or do we plead with cyclists (and motorists) to think about their own children? Remind them we have children and seniors as well as pets out walking?

Perhaps we could get this created and approved by the Queenston Residents' Association and installed faster than the Town of NOTL could approve it. We could present our proposal to the town.

Lastly, should we petition the Niagara Parks Commission to divert the bike trail from running through Queenston? These streets were not designed for the heavy bike traffic we get from late spring to early fall.

There is no room for bike lanes; no warning signs about driveways and vehicles backing out onto the street.

It is because of the parks commission that we have all these hundreds of cyclists riding through the village. It was considered a cost-effective route to avoid widening the Niagara Parkway where it winds around the village.

If running the bike route through the village is a dangerous situation, which now seems obvious, then why should the village suffer? Why has one of our citizens of 45 years lost their life due to a cyclist hitting them in daylight on a clear day with dry roads?

With dock traffic increasing more and more on Dumfries, (crossing Queenston Street) the chance of another accident is heightened, especially if downhill cyclists continue to not heed the stop signs.

The next accident may not be with a pedestrian but maybe one of the cyclists who do not know the village and its traffic patterns.

They rent a bike in the Old Town and think they can ride to Niagara Falls. I am often asked is it much farther to the Falls? They have no idea.

Another bike season is upon us. Please, we need to come up with workable ideas to change the existing situation. It is long past due and unfortunately too late for Louise.

David Scott
Queenston

NIAGARA RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES

CUSTOM DECKS, PERGOLAS, AND FENCES, GENERAL CONTRACTOR, RENOVATIONS, FLOORING, PROJECT AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

289-690-0202 FOLLOW US

NIAGARARCE@YAHOO.COM

Hear Better Niagara

Voted #1 Hearing Service

Niagara-on-the-Lake
1630 Niagara Stone Rd.
905-468-4999

100% Independent & Locally Owned Payment Plans Available

Call us today to book your complimentary hearing test

905-468-4999

Ramps needed to make buildings accessible

Dear editor:

Thank you for the March 30 article, "A single step is a closed door": NOTL woman raises concerns about

accessibility to stores on Queen St."

I am sure many of us in Niagara-on-the-Lake were embarrassed to hear of the lack of accessibil-

ity to buildings in our town, which welcomes so many visitors each year.

The suggestion of using portable StopGap ramps with a total cost to the

town of \$15,000 seems a reasonable solution and I hope it will soon be a reality.

Marjorie Clarke
NOTL

WANTED: YOUR OLD, USED AND BROKEN PELLET GUNS.

CALL MARIO AT 365-880-3642

DR HOPKINS & ASSOCIATES OPTOMETRY — Sight for Life —

Always wear a protective pair of sunglasses when outdoors, not only for UV protection, but also to shield the eyes from irritating allergens.

Schedule your eye exam at Dr. Hopkins & Associates Optometry to find out more.

NOTL: 905-468-8002 | 358 Mary St. | www.theeyedoc.ca
St. Catharines: 905-682-9119 | 8 Secord Dr.

Going outside to enjoy the fresh spring air?

The what, why and wherefore of heritage designation



Brian Marshall
Columnist

For its size and population, Niagara-on-the-Lake has a tremendous wealth of historic houses that pre-date 1925.

Still, despite this treasure trove, comparatively few of these residences have been heritage designated.

Before we ask “Why is that?” it may be worthwhile to put a little definition around designation.

There are two classifications of residential designation in Ontario: Part IV and Part V.

The former is designation of an individual building, while the latter is applied to any building located within a provincially recognized heritage conservation district.

So, if you happen to own a property in Old Town that falls inside the boundaries of the south side of Prideaux/Byron to the north side of Johnson/Platoff between Gate Street on the east and Wellington on the west

(the geography of which is woefully inadequate in my opinion), your building is designated under Part V.

Now, prior to the Ford government’s Bill 23 legislation coming into effect last November, a property that met one (or more) of the nine criteria defined in Ontario’s Heritage Act, could have received a Part IV designation.

Of course, the provincial government raised that bar to require that two (or more) of the criteria be met because Mr. Ford apparently believes it should be more difficult to preserve our history.

The criteria are as follows. The property has:

Design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or an early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

Design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.

Design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.

Historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

Historical value or associative value because it



Brian Marshall says there are benefits to designation.

yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.

Historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.

Contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

Contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

Contextual value because it is a landmark. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

When a Part IV designation is filed and recognized by the Ontario Heritage

Trust (an agency of the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism), the documentation specifically identifies the heritage attributes of the property that met the aforementioned criteria.

Compared to a Part V designation, which applies to a geography rather than specific building attributes, this is significantly more beneficial for a property owner since it identifies the heritage limitations associated with any proposed (contemplated) alterations or changes to the property.

There is no cost associated with having your property designated and designation provides the fundamental legal platform for a municipality to use in awarding any heritage in-

centives, including grants, planning incentives and property tax rebates.

That said, let’s return to our original question: Why don’t more people designate their property?

From many conversations with property owners on this issue, I have drawn the conclusion that it boils down to a simple lack of knowledge compounded by rumour and misinformation.

For example, many folks are under the impression that a heritage designation has an adverse impact on resale property values.

In fact, nothing could be further from the truth.

Multiple research studies conducted in both Canada and the United States have conclusively shown the rate of appreciation on stand-alone designated homes is at least equivalent to and generally above that of the market. And, during a market downturn, the property depreciates at a slower rate than the average house.

Further, when located within a heritage district, the designated property will tend to appreciate (gain value) between 4 per cent and 12 per cent more than other homes during any given real estate bull market period.

Then there is a fear of “loss of control” over what the owner can do to the

house in terms of renovations, additions, etc.

To be fair, there is some of that. You will need to go before the municipal heritage committee to outline your proposed alterations, gain the committee’s endorsement and obtain a heritage permit prior to proceeding.

However, it is my experience that a properly prepared and documented proposal that respects the defined heritage aspects of the building seldom, if ever, fails to be granted a permit.

Of course, yanking out heritage windows and replacing them with modern vinyl inserts is unlikely to be approved – but, why would you want to?

There are solutions on the market that will give you efficiency while preserving the historic character without breaking the bank.

Most people purchase an old house because they fall in love with its charm, history and character. Designation serves to preserve the things you love for future generations while delivering benefits.

Brian Marshall is a NOTL realtor, author and expert consultant on architectural design, restoration and heritage.

Brian Marshall is a NOTL realtor, author and expert consultant on architectural design, restoration and heritage.



Budget: Now is **not the time** for new hires and spending

Dear editor:

With most financial experts predicting that Canada will experience a recession this year, it concerns me that Niagara-on-the-Lake might significantly increase its work force and program spending, (“Town proposing to hire 16 new staffers for 2023,” The Lake Report, March 23).

It also worries me that

the town is considering imposing a substantial tax increase on residents in a time of extraordinary inflation, with the prices of essentials such as food and fuel remaining stubbornly high despite the efforts of the Bank of Canada to bring inflation under control.

I strongly believe the town should defer all new hires and all increases in its

discretionary operational spending until inflation is under control and there is more economic certainty in Canada.

This is especially necessary when the proposed new expenditures represent long-term spending increases and financial obligations (including the need to provide benefits such as health and dental plans, disability plans

and pensions).

Deferring would make economic sense and be fairer to residents in this time of high inflation, economic uncertainty and potential recession.

It surprises me that a tax increase of the magnitude being considered in NOTL’s 2023 budget is even on the table, given the new revenues the town has at its

disposal from the municipal accommodation tax.

Perhaps the town should reconsider how these revenues can and should be used. A key intent of the tax, as I understood it, was to avoid residents having to bear the brunt of the costs associated with the high volume of tourists who visit NOTL each year.

It wasn’t all about promot-

ing more tourism.

The town should also look at how it will cope if parking revenues decline this year, should the anticipated recession take hold.

That would constitute good planning, which I have yet to see from the current council despite all the talk around it.

*Terry Davis
NOTL*

It’s about time town and businesses **embraced** accessibility

The following letter was sent to the lord mayor and council. A copy was submitted to The Lake Report for publication.

The Lake Report’s March 30 article, “‘A single step is a closed door’: NOTL woman raises concerns about accessibility to stores on

Queen St.,” highlights the issues that people with disabilities face in accessing public facilities and private companies, including retail stores all over this province, including our lovely town, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The article reveals society’s hypocritical attitude

when it comes to the idea of inclusiveness when it does not include those with disabilities.

I think the town and businesses can do much more to make their establishments accessible to those with disabilities.

As a caregiver for my father and helper to a dear

friend, both of whom had mobility issues, I can attest that sometimes one or two steps into an establishment can be too much.

It’s important that we not isolate those with disabilities as it is crucial to their mental health.

It has been said that 7.3 million Canadians are over

the age of 65 (and I am certain that a great number of them live right here in Niagara-on-the-Lake), so the issue of accessibility will increase significantly in the next decade.

It seems to me that the StopGap ramps mentioned in The Lake Report article are an affordable first step

to granting our town’s citizens equal access to retail and public places.

I, for one, hope that our town council will make provision for ramps in this year’s budget and that the Chamber of Commerce does likewise.

*Mary Varacalli
NOTL*

Tiny Wayside Chapel hosting Easter sunrise service

Rick Meloan
Special to The Lake Report

The Niagara River Parkway makes for a beautiful Sunday drive, or on any other day of the week for that matter.

Even Winston Churchill made a positive remark about his trek along the Parkway.

Part of the attraction is the Niagara River, the gorge and, who can forget or miss, the Falls.

Attractive too are the many beautiful homes, gardens and parks along the river. And the many historical sites have an appeal of their own.

Amidst all this sits a tiny white church, the Living Waters Wayside Chapel.

The idea for a chapel began in the mid 1960s by Christian Reformed Churches in St. Catharines



People gather at the Wayside Chapel on the Niagara Parkway for a Christmas sing-along in December 2022. FILE

and Niagara Falls – and the chapel's dedication took place on May 20, 1965.

The suggestion for an Easter sunrise service did not begin at that time, but perhaps started sometime in the early 1980s; the date is not clear.

The chapel was intended to be a quiet spot

for travellers to stop for a rest, reflection and perhaps some meditation. The guest books are an interesting study of the thousands who stop by the chapel each year.

The comments are in a myriad of languages and are a testament to the truly global nature of tourism in

the Niagara area.

The chapel was originally constructed with donated materials and volunteer help on a site close to Line 1.

After several years it was moved farther south on the Parkway close to Line 6. In 2012, it was necessary to move the chapel again.

And, lo and behold, thanks to the generosity of the Walker family it was returned to its original location.

Prior to the move, the chapel required some maintenance. During its absence several local residents had approached me and asked what had happened to the

little chapel.

When the relocation was underway I happened to be on-site when a cyclist came off the Parkway trail and rode past slowly and cried out, "Thanks for bringing it back."

So, it may be tiny but the Wayside Chapel is making an impact and has become an iconic part of the Niagara Parkway.

This past December, for the first time, more than 60 people came together for a Christmas carol sing at the chapel.

Like the Easter sunrise service, this too may become an annual tradition.

An invitation is extended to all who wish to celebrate and reflect on the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ this Easter Sunday morning.

The service begins at 7 a.m.



SORE seeking transparency in Marotta-Burroughs investigation

Dear editor:

I am writing on behalf of Save Our Rand Estate (SORE), which notes, with deep concern, the recent town statement and media coverage on the unsolicited \$10,000 cash envelope given by Benny Marotta to Coun. Gary Burroughs.

We leave it for the police to properly and thoroughly investigate this matter, specifically whether Mr. Marotta was engaged in an attempt to bribe a public official contrary to the Criminal Code.

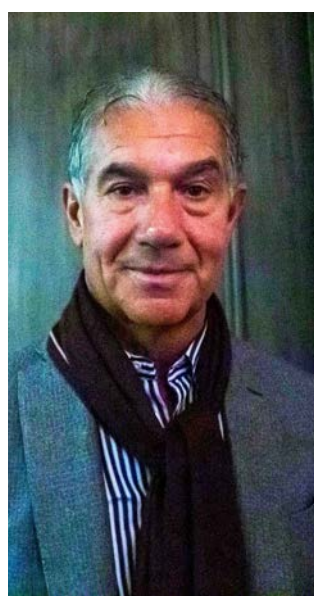
In the interim, the basic facts do not, on our understanding, appear to be in dispute.

Coun. Burroughs met with Mr. Marotta. Coun. Burroughs was given an envelope and told to read the contents later.

When he opened the envelope, he discovered it contained \$10,000. Coun. Burroughs is on the record as saying that at no time did he request money from Mr. Marotta for any purpose.

Upon discovering the money, Coun. Burroughs promptly reported it and turned the money over to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We simply observe the obvious – Mr. Marotta has several contentious projects



Developer Benny Marotta and Coun. Gary Burroughs. FILE



in front of council.

Mr. Marotta would benefit greatly from favourable decisions from council, including in relation to the historic Rand Estate.

We also note media reports of past questionable conduct by Mr. Marotta and his companies in other municipalities. See the Benny Marotta media archive on the SORE website.

This unfortunate situation puts the town and council under a cloud that neither has asked for. Some have suggested that Coun. Burroughs is in a conflict for being handed the money.

Shouldn't the more ap-

propriate question be, how can council possibly make a decision on any matter involving Mr. Marotta and his companies, while the investigation of Mr. Marotta's action remains unresolved?

As for the investigations currently underway, we hope for a speedy and thorough police investigation. SORE strongly believes there cannot be too much transparency in how these proceedings are handled.

The town should disclose the requests filed with the Niagara Regional Police and the integrity commissioner. What exactly have the police and the integrity

commissioner been asked to investigate and what has each been told?

The police (as noted in the March 30 edition of The Lake Report) are reported to be conducting a "contribution investigation."

What is that, exactly and how does that square with the facts as we understand them? Does that include a possible Criminal Code offence? Is this an isolated incident?

And has the integrity commissioner been asked to comment on how the town and council should be interacting with Mr. Marotta and his companies while this matter remains under investigation?

Will the integrity commissioner comment on whether Coun. Burroughs has a conflict in dealing with decisions affecting Mr. Marotta's companies?

This matter is extremely important and has the potential to significantly damage the reputation of the town and our elected council.

It may have already. Let's be open, honest and transparent in bringing this to a speedy resolution for everyone's benefit.

Judy McLeod
SORE

More town staffers not a priority

Dear editor:

I was surprised to read that the town of NOTL might need 16 new staffers this year, ("Town proposing to hire 16 new staffers for 2023," The Lake Report, March 23).

This is well above 10 per cent in one year. When I listened to the speeches of mayoral and councilor candidates during the last election, I do not remember any of them campaigning on adding 16 staff members at a cost of \$900,000 to be absorbed by the taxpayers.

I was a little surprised to see in the article that we cannot start committee

meetings in person again until we hire a legislative committee co-ordinator. And what exactly does a climate change co-ordinator co-ordinate?

I had a recent discussion with a couple of local business owners about this. We all agreed when you are talking about your own money, you find efficiencies and you agree some things are nice to have (a climate change co-ordinator?) but not a necessity.

When someone else pays (like taxpayers) it is much easier to justify additional expenses.

Mike Urquhart
St. Davids

Politicians, lobbyists and influence

Dear editor:

There have been many stories in many newspapers regarding our politicians, their lobbyists and money.

No matter how well-known, no matter how reputable, the source of the phrase, "Take my word for it," should be noted as a warning and the possible danger it covers should be

carefully examined.

We must object when the moneyed voice appears to be influencing the conduct of our politicians.

It is the open ethical voice we must firmly present to them, in order to balance their need for campaign funds.

Brian Emes
NOTL

Existing homes can add basement and other living spaces, advocate says

Continued from Front Page

Living in areas like the heritage district and Chautauqua is expensive because those neighbourhoods are unique and special, he said.

“So Niagara-on-the-Lake will remain expensive compared to other Ontario places, unless we add (more) housing (in) special places,” he said.

Adding secondary dwelling units would give young adults or aging-in-place seniors a lower-cost option.

Dan Romanko, managing partner at Better Neighbourhoods Inc., agrees.

“I think the issue is that there’s not a lot of choices or diversity of housing typologies in Niagara-on-the-Lake,” he told The Lake Report.

Such units could allow residents to downsize without moving.

“If they had to live in a suite on-site, they could actually rent out the house” and live in the secondary unit, Romanko said.

Robinson stressed that if developments such as secondary dwellings or duplexes do not get built, then much larger projects, like six-storey buildings, will be required to meet people’s housing needs.

Secondary suites can’t be short-term rentals

He noted that if someone in your neighbourhood builds a secondary suite, it cannot automatically be turned into a short-term rental.

Town spokesperson Lauren Kruitbosch confirmed that.

The town’s bylaw says, “Only buildings that have been occupied as a single-detached dwelling for a minimum of four years shall be eligible for a licence” as a short-term rental.

Robinson grew up in NOTL and now works as a development co-ordinator at British Columbia builder Ledingham McAllister.

He previously worked for John Hawley’s Traditional Neighbourhood Developments Inc., which developed the Village in NOTL.

Last year, before Bill 23 came out, Robinson made a plea to councillors, urging them to legalize basement apartments.

Council unanimously

voted to send Robinson’s recommendations to staff for review and for the ideas to be considered as the town reviews its zoning bylaw.

However, the passage of Ontario’s Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, helped make Robinson’s request a reality.

Now, residents don’t need to apply for zoning amendments to build an accessory dwelling or secondary suite.

All that’s needed is a building permit.

Residents can have “up to three units per lot in most existing urban residential areas,” said Kirsten McCauley, NOTL’s director of community and development services.

The process is a bit different if residents want to make changes in the heritage district.

Properties still must have a heritage permit, McCauley said.

Robinson expects that if an owner does “renovations on the interior that don’t change the designation of why it was a heritage property, then it would go through the heritage review and would likely be approved.”

There are some exceptions, such as buildings that have heritage designation for specific use reasons and therefore must remain unchanged, he said.

This could help create more housing options in Old Town, without affecting the appearance or heritage designation, he added.

Since Bill 23 became law in November, McCauley said the town has received a number of inquiries about accessory dwelling units, but none have been approved yet.

Robinson would like to see the town and council embrace secondary suites and accessory dwellings.

“Council also needs to set the tone that they want this,” he said.

He plans to go before council in April and express his concerns.

More options than secondary units

Other municipalities have information pages on their websites dedicated to additional dwelling units and that’s something Robinson would like to see in NOTL.

McCauley said that’s coming. “We are going to look at putting together some information up on our website about different residential units,” she said.

“Kind of like an FAQ of information for people who are looking for more detail about that,” she added.

Romanko said NOTL has “a number of underdeveloped properties that could be severed off or renovated to provide additional housing units.”

He realizes there are concerns surrounding intensification and density in NOTL, but there’s also an opportunity to transform underutilized spaces, like old schools.

“With respect to Niagara-on-the-Lake, I can appreciate the sensitivity around good urban design,” he said.

“And from our perspective, you can have density and still have very good attractive, walkable streets and neighbourhoods,” he added.

Jeffrey Sinclair, the homelessness action plan adviser for the Region of Niagara, said that while secondary suites are good options, they aren’t the only ones and won’t replace the need for purpose-built rentals.

“It’s one of a number of options,” he said.

The region often works with local municipalities when non-profits or private developers want to look at affordable housing options, he said.

When that happens, municipal staff will talk to the region to see how they can work together.

“Those kinds of conversations are really, really important for any community that’s looking to build affordable housing,” he said.

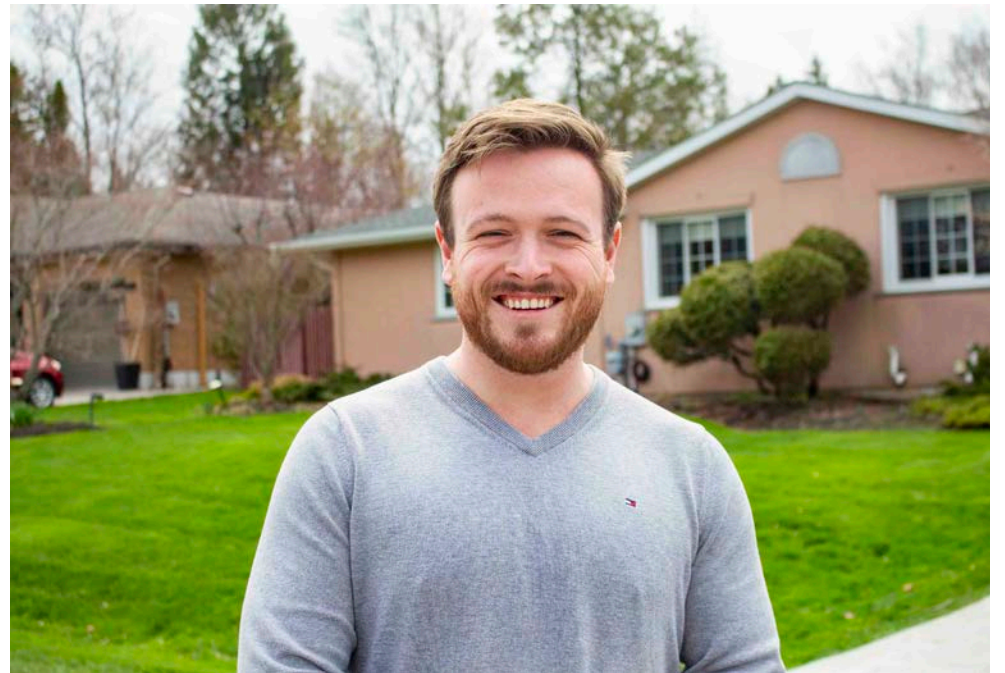
There are also some communities that have a designated group looking at affordable housing or attainable housing, he said.

He believes that if there is a need for affordable housing, municipalities must take that into consideration and follow the necessary steps to address it.

Core housing need exists, even in affluent NOTL

Though the need in Niagara-on-the-Lake is small, there is a need.

As of 2021, there were



Affordable Housing Need in Niagara-on-the-Lake 2021

Source: Statistics Canada; Niagara Region; Niagara Regional Housing; Projections from Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis (CANCEA)



Scott Robinson. Middle: A chart of 2021 core housing needs based on annual income.

Bottom: Dan Romanko stands in the kitchen of the basement suite he’s constructing at his St. Catharines home. FILE/STATISTICS CANADA/SOMER SLOBODIAN

26,000 households across Niagara experiencing core housing needs, Sinclair said.

According to Statistics Canada, renters were more likely than owners to be in need of core housing.

NOTL has about 460 households in need, which represents fewer than 2 per cent of the households across Niagara, Sinclair said.

NOTL has about 460 households in need of core housing.

A household with housing needs could be spending 30 per cent or more

of its pre-tax income on shelter, according to Bethlehem Housing and Support Services.

Out of the 460 households, about 337 are home to one person.

These people would benefit from studio or one-bedroom options, like accessory dwelling units, Sinclair said in an email to The Lake Report.

There also were 446 households earning less than \$40,000 per year and unable to afford more than \$995 per month in rent.

“Deeply affordable units that are well below the

average market rate for Niagara-on-the-Lake would be required to meet the need for this population,” he said.

Compared to some municipalities, NOTL is fairing well, but there’s a need in every community, says Sinclair.

“Another big piece is just all of us being open to the various partnerships and relying on each other,” he said.

“Because no one group or municipality is going to sort out our affordable housing crisis on their own,” he added.

Neighbours talked for years about **safety problems**

Continued from Front Page

leading the investigation with the help of detectives from the forensic services unit.

Jim Armstrong, president of the Queenston Residents' Association, was devastated by news of Leyland's death.

And, like many in the community, he wants to see changes made to control traffic and prevent future tragedies.

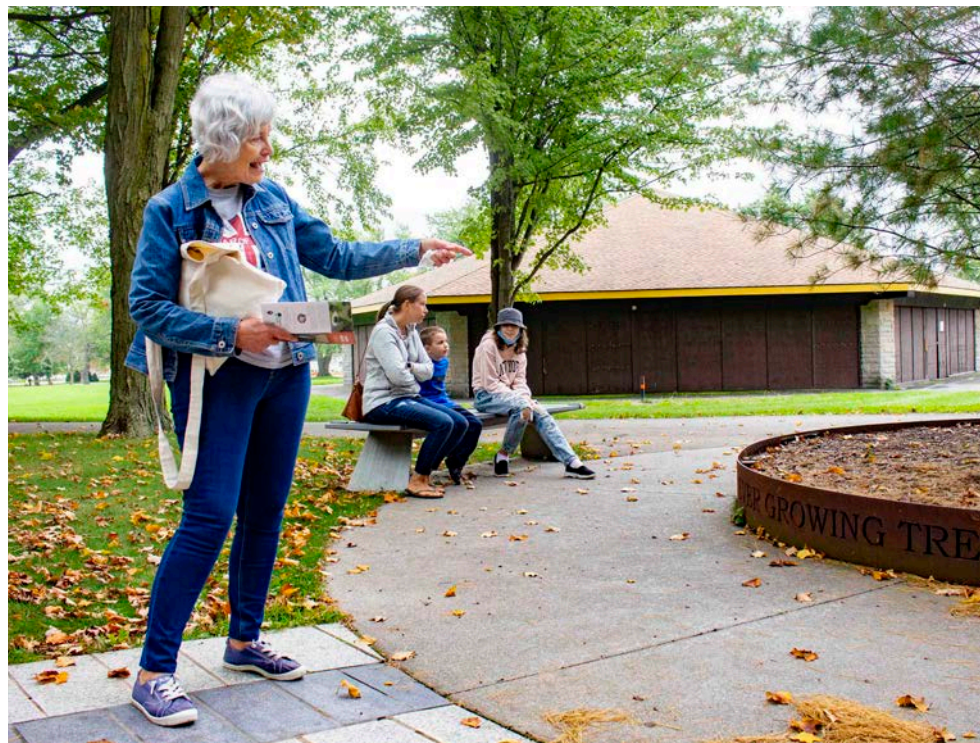
"This one is so tragic. It's unspeakable and we never really thought it would be a bike and pedestrian issue," he said.

"Pre-COVID we were talking to the town by email, trying to find out how to drop the speed limit here and encouraging the town to have a community meeting to look at some of these issues around parking and the speed limit, and maybe making a community safety zone," Armstrong said.

For the most part, there are no sidewalks and typically traffic is moving quickly, he added, and often there's "no audible signal that they are coming, no bells, no horn."

"Nobody ever stops and bikes wipe out on the far side frequently," he said.

Tracee Smith, another Queenston resident and member of the association, told *The Lake Report* that she contacted the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake about a year ago with that very



Louise Leyland leads a guided tour in Queenston Heights on the 209th anniversary of the Battle of Queenston, on Oct. 13, 2021. FILE/EVAN SAUNDERS

concern in mind.

"We've seen so many near-death accidents happen," she said.

"We see cyclists wipe out all the time, especially as tourist season picks up."

Smith described several instances of cyclists jumping curbs, cars getting T-boned, mailboxes being hit and, on some occasions, ambulances being called.

"It's awful and we've been saying this for years. I have an email to the town from last August where I said to them, 'You guys need to do something because someone's going to die.'"

Her close friend and

neighbour, Sandra Gowans, remembers Leyland's deep love of learning and history.

"Her favourite thing was working with the Friends of Fort George, particularly at (Queenston) Heights, being the teacher that she was and she loved teaching the students," said Gowans.

Throughout her eventful life, Leyland wore many hats, one of which was being a teacher in Niagara for years. She is survived by her husband Don and sons Sean and Tyler.

Sean described the passion his mother had for her work and her ability to touch the lives of many.

"Man, she was strong, persistent and strong," he said.

"She just got things done. You hear stories, especially from her generation, about how women weren't supposed to be like that, you know?" he said.

"Mom just turned around and said 'That's not the life I want. I want a life that's better than that, that's fuller than that. I don't want to just be a housewife and have kids, I want to have a career.'"

A private family service will be held and a community celebration of her life is planned for mid-

May. Details will be posted on the website of the George Darte Funeral Chapel in St. Catharines.

Recalling some of the standout moments in Leyland's past, her lifelong friend, Coun. Sandra O'Connor, spoke of her generosity and passion.

"She was more like a sister to me than a friend. She'd been in my life since I was three years old. She was my matron of honour. Our lives were always intertwined even though I didn't always live close," O'Connor said.

"She was a teacher for many, many years, she was also on the board of directors for the Friends of Fort George and she was a Reiki master and often helped out at Wellspring."

One moment in their lives O'Connor says particularly stands out was during the 1955 World Scout Jamboree in NOTL, the first ever to be held in Canada.

Leyland, who was volunteering, caught the attention of June Carter Cash, whose boys were at the Jamboree. She asked young Leyland to be her children's summer caregiver.

"She went to Nashville that summer, watched the kids and met Johnny Cash."

Most of all, Leyland is remembered as an active member of the community and a friend to all she met.

Gowans was thankful for sharing time with Leyland,

especially on their walks together and said many in the community likely feel the same.

"We talked and walked for about an hour or more sometimes. I can think of all the conversations and you know it was a bit of anything and everything. It was like therapy. Whenever I'd get frustrated I'd call her up and ask 'Can you go for a walk?'"

"She always seemed to know what to say if you were feeling down or just to cheer you up and I'll miss her sense of humour and smile," said Gowans.

In the wake of her death, Queenston residents are as dedicated as ever to getting the Town of NOTL to make their community safer for pedestrians and cyclists alike.

Smith said this preventable crash unfortunately doesn't come as a surprise.

"I'll be shocked to see if the town actually does something, to be honest. God knows residents have been complaining about this for years."

Armstrong said the residents association has already begun more work in hopes of forcing change.

"The bottom line is we want to reopen our conversation with the town about a number of safety issues in Queenston and see what solutions there might be."

An Appreciation: Memories of Louise Leyland's contributions to the community

After the tragic death Saturday of Louise Leyland, who was killed when she was hit by a cyclist in Queenston, The Lake Report asked Amanda Gamble, the executive director of the Friends of Fort George, to share her memories of this remarkable woman from the Niagara-on-the-Lake community.

Amanda Gamble
Special to The Lake Report

If you ever visited Brock's Monument on a warm autumn day, you most likely met Louise Leyland, one of the amazing heritage interpreters employed by the Friends of Fort George.

Louise started working with the Friends of Fort George more than 25 years ago, when she retired as a school teacher.

She became a mentor to countless students who worked at Brock's

Monument over the years, sharing her passion for the site and for Canada's early history with everyone she met – along with her muffins and baked goods.

She influenced so many young people with her charm, wit and sincere caring.

Louise was extremely involved with the planning of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, and worked with committees on planning the re-enactments of the Battle of Queenston Heights and the funeral of Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock.

She also sat as a representative for the Friends of Fort George on the Landscape of Nations educational committee and this is where she truly excelled.

Louise was extremely passionate about Indigenous history and ensuring that anyone who visited the site understood the connection between Brock and the Indigenous community.

In 2016, Louise became more involved with the Friends of Fort George as a board member.

She dedicated countless volunteer hours to ensuring events ran smoothly, such as the Canada Day celebrations, the Fife and Drum Muster, and special tours at Brock's Monument.

Her love for history and her love for teaching shone through whenever she was talking about the War of 1812 and Sir Isaac Brock's role in making Canada a nation of its own. She could speak at any level, from small children to adolescents and adults.

Louise will always be remembered for the indelible mark she left on Brock's Monument. It truly was her second home.

She would often reminisce about Queenston Heights being her favourite place on Earth – it was the site of her engagement to her beloved husband Don

and the village of Queenston was her home, where she raised her two sons.

Louise was more than just an employee or just a board member of the Friends of Fort George.

She was a lively, happy, caring woman who was more than willing to share her time and expertise with anyone who was interested.

I will truly miss her as a confidante and friend. There was no one like Louise.

I also have spoken with Erika Alexander, the former executive director of the Friends of Fort George, and she asked me to pass along the following:

Louise was truly a giving person. She was always there when I asked her to help and "no" was not a part of her vocabulary.

I first knew her as Peter's primary school teacher and our paths crossed again

after she retired. She took on a part-time position at Brock's Monument with Jim Hill and from then on became a permanent-temporary volunteer/staff assistant.

We supported each other through personal and work lives and our friendship grew through the years. She was an integral part of helping at special events from setup to cleanup.

Louise was always invaluable in her support and training of the Friends' summer students at the monument and the fort's gift shop – sharing her experiences, knowledge and enthusiasm about the sites and their history.

She touched and influenced so many young people with her charm, wit and sincere caring. I will miss her so much on so many levels.

Amanda Gamble is executive director of the Friends of Fort George.



Louise Leyland, in period costume, in 2013 at Brock's Monument. SUPPLIED

Road to sobriety: Pulling apart the kn

How her community became a Mohawk woman's path to breaking inte

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

"I prefer to be Marie Louise."

Marie Louise gets her legal last name, Bowering, from her grandfather, but she doesn't have a lot of kind words for the man.

"My grandfather is, I think, part of my trauma," she says while warming up inside a silver crossover parked at Richard Pierpoint Park.

Outside, the snow is frozen on the ground and the bright sun makes it look like a sheet of white stained glass.

Marie Louise and the women who make up her sisterhood have to dig their heels in to the ground to keep from slipping.

Together, they lay down a green cloth in the shape of a circle and build a small fire at its centre.

Some of them have brought drums, some medicines and a few came with firewood.

When they are done, they have created a sacred fire with the four traditional medicines of the Anishinabe people present: tobacco, sage, cedar and sweetgrass.

Marie Louise says they always light the fire with a little tobacco to help it get going.

Tobacco is traditionally offered at Indigenous ceremonies to open communication with the spirit world.

The last time they tried to light the fire without tobacco they had a devil of



Marie Louise, seen left at Richard Pierpoint Park in St. Catharines. Top right: A childhood photo of Louise. Bottom: Louise's great-grandmother Lizzy. SOMER SLOBODIAN/SUPPLIED



a time getting it going, she says.

She and her sisterhood think it was a message.

Marie Louise is mixed race, Mohawk on her mother's side, Scottish and Dutch on her father's.

Growing up, she didn't have much knowledge of her ancestral teachings.

She remembers the first time she burned sweetgrass, it made her grandmother Maggie cry.

She thinks Maggie was scared her granddaughter was going to get hurt for following the ways of her

ancestors.

"I knew I was native, but I didn't really know what that meant," Marie Louise says. "And it wasn't something I wanted to go around and talk about."

She grew up in St. Catharines and was mostly raised by her single mother, Marilyn.

Her father "was consistently inconsistent." She describes a father who was around, though not a steady member of the household.

Bullied as a child due to her red hair

Marie Louise was bullied a lot as a child, especially

for the colour of her hair.

Sitting in that silver crossover, she pulls a few strands of her fiery red hair into her hands and looks down.

"No wonder people made fun of me," she says. "It's beautiful!"

It took a long time and healing before she could look in the mirror and say that about herself.

"Nobody ever told me that, so I had to tell myself," she says.

Despite her fiery red hair, a feature she gets from the Scottish branch of her family tree, everyone knew she was Mohawk.

Her family was "visibly native," Marie Louise says. "A lot of my friends knew, even if I didn't want them to know."

It was especially hard to hide the alcoholism.

"My grandmother was heavy into alcohol, heavy into heroin, heavy into drugs," she says.

Maggie also struggled with suicidal tendencies.

Marie Louise faintly remembers the sound of sirens coming for her grandmother, but tries not to focus too much on those memories.

She began drinking regularly shortly after high school, though she had her first drink when she was 15.

At her worst, she remembers waking up without knowing where she was.

"My life experience and trauma, a lot of it was strictly because of my Indigenous heritage," she explains.

Mother in foster care, never went to high school

Her mother spent some time in foster care and never went to high school.

This is a common experience in the native community. Even today, Indigenous children make up more than half of all children in foster care, according to Statistics Canada's 2021 census data.

Marie Louise was told her grandmother went to a fancy all-girls school. But that was not true.

"Grandma definitely went to an Indian residential school," she says and suspects Maggie wasn't the first in her family to do so.

Her great-grandmother Lizzy was often described

as a "wild card" by her other family members and suffered from many of the same post-traumatic symptoms as Maggie and other survivors of residential schools.

Marie Louise thinks she, too, went to residential school.

Growing up, Lizzy's story was a cautionary tale to Marie Louise.

In October 1955, her great-grandmother was beaten and left for dead across the border in Niagara Falls, N.Y. She was 56 years old.

"All I ever used to hear about when I was growing up was about my grandmother Lizzy that got murdered."

"My grandpa Tom loved her. She was an auntie. She was a friend. She was a gardener."

But even Lizzy, "she, too, picked up the drugs and the alcohol."

And so from one generation to the next, the bottle slowly made its way to Marie Louise.

"My mom taught me to drink."

And when her mother Marilyn drank, she did it to get drunk, she says.

"(Marilyn) raised me based on how (Maggie) was raised" and when Maggie came out of residential school "she didn't have the parenting skills."

"She didn't have that nurturing ability, because she was not nurtured as a child."

Marie Louise was about 24 when she realized, "I want more."

**LIDA KOWAL**
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT
1627 Niagara Stone Rd., Unit B2
Virgil, ON L0S 1T0
905-468-5300
Monday to Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

LIDA KOWAL
MBA, CPA, CMA

*Accounting *Taxation *Business Services *Estate Planning

THE NIAGARA PUMPHOUSE ARTS CENTRE
is seeking qualified applicants for the following summer positions

- ♦ Art Coordinator
- ♦ Camp Leader
- ♦ Camp Counsellor
- ♦ Event Planner

To learn more, visit:
niagarapumphouse.ca/join-give/careers

 Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre
247 Ricardo Street, NOTL
905-468-5455
office@niagarapumphouse.ca

Warren
RENOVATIONS
905.468.2127
PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

**GREAT NORTH PHYSIOTHERAPY**
Book your appointment at
greatnorthphysio.ca

**TREVOR KWOLEK**
Diploma in Physiotherapy
Diploma in Sports Physiotherapy

1882 Niagara Stone Rd. NOTL
905-467-1440

**SCOTTISH LOFT**
YOUR BRITISH GROCER
905-468-0973
Scottishloft.com | sales@scottishloft.com
13 Queen St., Niagara-on-the-Lake

**Allspark Electrical Solutions Inc.**

Scott Davidson, M.E.
RR3 750 East-West Line
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
L0S 1J0

Cell: 905-933-3974
allspark.scott@gmail.com

Residential, Commercial and Industrial Automation

 License No. 7010341

Knot of Indigenous trauma Intergenerational patterns and living a better life

And then, May 5, 1994, she too was beaten and left for dead.

"It was a robbery," she says. And her assailant was acquitted ... reasonable doubt.

"That was basically when I hit pretty much rock bottom."

At the time she felt like "heaven didn't want me and I was stuck here on Earth."

Grandmother Jackie Labonte brought her back

It was Grandmother Jackie Labonte, a community elder and teacher of traditional medicines, who brought Marie Louise back to the fold.

At the time, the Niagara Regional Native Centre was running a 14-week life skills course in collaboration with the First Nations Technical Institute, she says.

"I signed up because Jackie said, 'I need somebody.'"

Labonte had been on the perimeter of Marie Louise's life since she was young, so she knew and trusted the older woman.

She felt flattered because she had always needed Labonte.

At the time Marie Louise had buried much of her trauma with alcohol. She was forced to confront a lot of it during that course.

She remembers much of it came to a head at the end of the course when she joined a group of medicine women to howl at the moon.

"I just thought they were batshit crazy." But by the end of the weekend, "It was beautiful," she says.

At the ceremony, Marie

Louise was encouraged to express herself to the moon without words.

She growls quietly to demonstrate, much like she did 30 years ago.

They told her to go "deeper."

"This wasn't what I knew," she says. "It was hard for me to let go."

She remembers the women at the ceremony gathered around her. One of them placed her hands below her bellybutton.

They told her they were going to help her get the sickness out.

Marie Louise describes what she felt next as a knot of trauma being pulled up from the depths of her body.

"The knot was the sexual abuse from childhood" and it felt like the women were literally pulling the knot out of her, she says.

As she felt it rising to the top of her body, she suddenly stopped.

"I wouldn't let it do no more. Because I was embarrassed. I didn't know what the hell was going on."

After that, she says, she "chose to stay and walk with the elders," chose to be part of the community.

Marie Louise credits the experience for being the start of her journey back to sobriety.

Thinking back to her grandfather, she can't remember what he did, just that he touched her.

Familiar smell of beer and Player's cigarettes

But she does remember, one day, she was sitting outside with her mother.

And the smell came over her.

"I could smell the beer. I could smell the old Player's cigarettes. I could see my grandpa," she says. "All of a sudden she looks and I've got all these tears rolling down my face."

Marie Louise asked her mother that day, point blank, "Why'd you leave me with them?"

Her mother knew that her grandfather was not safe to be around, she says.

"It was the alcohol. I wanted to drink," her mother said as the two sat and cried.

After the life skills course and after the medicine women helped her find her voice, Marie Louise joined a women's drum circle.

Grandmothers like Labonte continued to mentor her and shared responsibilities with her.

"They made me feel like I was needed," she says.

Marie Louise was almost at the end of her journey in 1999.

At the time she had been drinking about five days a week, not knowing that she was pregnant.

"There would have been issues with that child, had I not miscarried," she says.

At that point "I had a choice" – between the way back and the way forward.

"And I said, 'I'm taking it head-on.'"

"From there, I never drank another day in my life," she says and is proud to say that her own children live drug- and alcohol-free, having learned the lessons

of their mother.

"That cycle of abuse and trauma stopped at Marie Louise," she says.

She couldn't have done it without her Marilyn, though.

Her mom died 30 years sober and her example gave Marie Louise the strength to push for a better life.

"She taught me sobriety," she says.

"Besides life, that was the most sacred special gift that my mother ever gave to our family."

Marie Louise looks out at her ancestral homeland as the sun starts to get low.

"I have forgiven, but I can't forget," she says, speaking of the Catholic and Canadian systems that devastated her ancestors.

"We stand in Niagara-on-the-Lake. This is where the Two Row Wampum was created."

In 1613, the Haudenosaunee people signed a treaty with European settlers called the Two Row Wampum.

In it they agreed to sail the same river side by side in friendship and peace forever.

Europeans would sail the river in their ships and the Haudenosaunee would travel in their canoes.

"Our canoes and our vessels aren't supposed to touch," Marie Louise says.

She looks around at the "white tape" binding her community to the Canadian government and says, "There is no Two Row," the treaty is broken.

"I'm a canoe in a ship."



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: ACTOR-MOGULS

Happy Madison, Adam Sandler's production company, combines these two Sandler movie titles.

Last issue:

Category: SURVIVING PROHIBITION

Clue: This brewery bought a Colorado ceramics company & sold porcelain under the brand name; the ceramics co. is worth billions today.

Answer: What is Coors?

Answered first by: Bill Hamilton

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Bob Wheatley, Pam Dowling, Rob Hutchison, Marjory Walker, Wade Durling, Hedy Wiebe, Margie Enns, Jim Dandy, Victor Zilinskas

*REMEMBER TO PUT "WHAT IS" FOR JEOPARDY QUESTIONS!

Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com, with your name, for a chance to win a \$20 Irish Harp Pub gift card every week. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

Love games? Join us for fun events every week at the Irish Harp Pub. Details at www.theirishharppub.com

**RENT MY HUSBAND
in Niagara-on-the-Lake**

See what he can do for you at:
www.rentmyhusband-notl.com
Or call me, **Marion (905) 321-5776**

**UPPER CANADA
MECHANICAL**
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
905-651-0470

KeepRite

**GRACE UNITED
CHURCH**
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONTARIO
222 VICTORIA ST. 905-468-4044

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
www.graceunitedchurch.com

Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community.



Book a complimentary hearing test today at **905.468.9176**

Pauline Reimer Gibson Audiologist

A global leader in hearing healthcare.



504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON

GAUGHILL
FULL SERVICE REPAIR SHOP

905-687-9456
www.caughillauto.com
256 East & West Line
Niagara-on-the-Lake

ANNOYING NOISE WHEN YOU STOP?
IT MIGHT BE AN INEXPENSIVE FIX IF CAUGHT EARLY. SOME BRAKES REQUIRE REGULAR MAINTENANCE.
AS ALWAYS - NO COST CONSULTATION.
CALL OR MESSAGE TODAY.



J&S CONSTRUCTION

PUTTING NIAGARA RESIDENTS FIRST!

Renovations • Additions
Custom Homes • Kitchens
Decks, Fences & much more!



289-697-5757 | JS-CONSTRUCTION.CA

Memorializing **missing, murdered** at Willowbank

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Under the guidance of the Indigenous community, the Willowbank is constructing a cairn on its property to memorialize missing and murdered Indigenous women

Marie Louise, an Indigenous graduation coach with the Niagara Catholic District School Board, has been working with the Queenston-based school of restoration arts on the project for the past two years.

To have the ancestors' voices heard and honoured is "very uplifting," she said.

Willowbank is on land that was traditionally used as a camp, hunting ground and portage route by Indigenous communities.

"Our ancestors have been there for hundreds, if not thousands, of years," Marie Louise said.

She is part Mohawk, part Scottish. She gets the Mohawk from her mother's side of the family and the Scottish from her father's side.

Like many Indigenous people, she has been touched by the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

She said her great-grandmother Lizzy was murdered before she was born.

Her story was often used by her mother and grandmother as a cautionary tale when she was growing up.

The inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous



Dean McLellan works on the cairn for missing and murdered Indigenous women. EVAN LOREE

women and girls, completed in 2019, collected stories about victims from more than 2,380 survivors, knowledge keepers and family members.

Statistics Canada reported that, in 2021, Indigenous women and girls were murdered at a rate more than four times that of non-Indigenous women.

The cairn is being built by Dean McLellan, a mason with a mastercraft certification from the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain.

Marie Louise said she met McLellan in 2014 when he was working on the dry-laid stone lodge on the property, but it wasn't until a couple years ago, when she bumped into him again that they decided to build a cairn.

Dry-laying is a specialized skill where stone structures are assembled without cement.

McLellan has built a couple of cairns like these before.

The first was made in Saugeen First Nation and the second was for a private client in Paris, Ont.

He said the final structure will be "about eight feet high in the shape of a teardrop."

It will be made of limestone and sandstone, much of which was donated by Perry Hartwick of the Upper Canada Stone Company, said McLellan.

He became aware of the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women while working in Saugeen First Nation, where he met a few women whose daughters were missing.

"I can't imagine the pain," he said.

Before they could start laying the stones, they had to seek permission from Niagara-on-the-Lake's municipal heritage committee.

McLellan said he isn't sure how long it will be before he completes the cairn.

He's building it on his own time and has to balance it with other projects,

but said he thinks it should be done by October.

The foundation slab was recovered from the now-defunct St. Thomas courthouse.

John Scott, who chairs Willowbank's board of directors, said the school has developed a "symbiotic relationship" with the Indigenous community.

Willowbank set aside a portion of the property for the Indigenous community, which has unrestricted access to it, he noted.

"We're sharing the land like we did traditionally," Marie Louise said.

This area is called the "Love Garden."

She said that in the spring the community uses it to grow the four sacred medicines, tobacco, cedar, sage and sweetgrass.

These make up the heart of the garden, whereas herbs and vegetables make up the inner circle and sumac comprises the outermost circle.

She was amazed one year to find a weed growing in the garden but an Indigenous woman from Six Nations told her it was actually a ceremonial plant called an Indian teacup.

"When it rains, those big leaves shaped like a cup fill up with all the water and you use that water for healing," she said.

When it first started growing Marie Louise said wanted to pull it out but she felt "guided" to leave it alone and to this day sees it as a gift from a higher power.

Harmonized wine tax **no help** to small operators: Grape growers

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A harmonized wine tax proposed in Ontario's 2023 budget is expected to come into effect on July 1.

The harmonized tax will combine four basic wine tax rates for Ontario and non-Ontario wine sold in off-site winery retail stores, including wine boutiques.

"It doesn't affect 90 per cent of the small wineries because we don't have winery boutiques," Bill

Redelmeier of Southbrook Organic Vineyards told The Lake Report.

The proposal is a result of a complaint made to the World Trade Organization by Australia in 2018 concerning the sale of wine in Canada.

There is a 9.6 per cent tax on 100 per cent Ontario VQA wine and 22.6 per cent tax on non-Ontario international domestic blended wine sold at off-site boutique stores, Aaron Dobbin, the president of Wine Growers of Ontario, told

The Lake Report.

There is also a 6.1 per cent tax on 100 per cent Ontario VQA wine and a 19.1 per cent levy on non-Ontario international domestic blended wine sold at other off-site locations.

Australia didn't agree with the difference in tax rates between Ontario and non-Ontario wines.

In May 2021, a settlement was reached between Canada and Australia and part of the deal included the introduction of a harmonized wine tax.

The Ontario budget proposes one rate of 12 per cent across the board.

"We were looking for a different rate but this one is going to impact the government more," CEO of Grape Growers of Ontario Debbie Zimmerman told The Lake Report.

According to the Ontario budget, the move will cost the government about \$4 million in lost tax revenue.

It raises the tax on VQA Ontario wines, and lowers the tax on non-Ontario wines, like international

Canadian blended wines, Redelmeier said.

International Canadian-blended wine is wine manufactured with 75 per cent imported grapes and only 25 per cent Ontario grapes.

For a major wine operation like Peller Estates, which produces international Canadian-blended wines and has many wine boutiques in Ontario, it's a gain, Zimmerman said.

There are 292 off-site winery retail stores across Ontario.

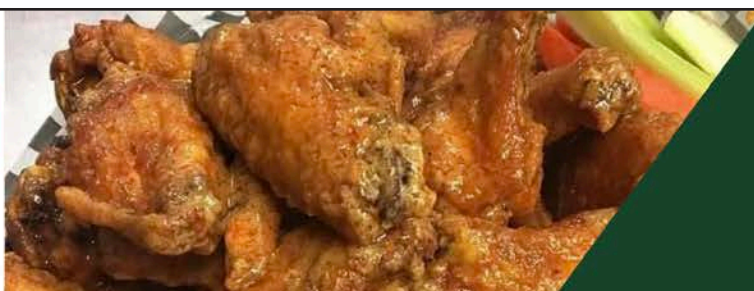
Zimmerman said it will

adversely affect businesses like Château des Charmes, which produces VQA wine and operates two off-site stores.

"It's not a win for small wineries," she said.

Zimmerman said there has been a concern for a while about how the tax structure was going to be harmonized because "our focus is on growing the domestic industry, not growing imports."

"Giving away something to Australia is never good for us," she added.



WING WEDNESDAY IS BACK!

\$0.75 wings every Wednesday,
eat-in only, with purchase of beverage

NOTL swimmer **looks ahead** after performance at Olympic trials

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake swimmer Peyton Leigh registered some solid performances in the Canadian Olympic trials last week.

The 15-year-old competed in the national trials in Toronto in two events – the 200-metre butterfly and the 400-metre freestyle.

While Leigh didn't qualify to represent Canada at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, she gained some priceless experience to help build on.

After shaving about a second off her personal best in

the 400-metre freestyle last Tuesday, Leigh qualified for the evening's final and then competed in the butterfly on Friday.

"I think I was a little bit anxious going into it, just racing at such a high level and I added a little bit of time, about 8/10 of a second, but I'm not super unhappy with it. I know what I can do better next time," she said.

Meeting one of her inspirations, Summer McIntosh during the trial events was also a big plus.

Leigh said that the 2028 Olympics is now "definitely a goal" but noted that there

is lots to be done in the five years until then.

After a much-needed 10-day break after long days of preparation, Leigh will go back to the drawing board and plan ahead.

"I'm going to reassess my goals and see where I want to go from here."

"I learned that I can naturally let pressure take over my swim and I get really anxious beforehand so I need to learn how to control that and realize that I'm swimming at the same level as everyone else," she said.

"There's no need to be intimidated."

Peyton's mom Christi

emphasized just how proud she was of her daughter for making it this far at such a young age.

"We're really proud of all she has accomplished so far and I think if she really wants to go to the Olympics later on, she's going to need to practise and stay focused."

Through it all, Leigh's mom promises to be there and help, from transportation to emotional support.

"We're there to support her, to drive her everywhere and to just help her along the way by giving her a big hug before races, after races and all in between."



Niagara-on-the-Lake swimmer Peyton Leigh, left, with Olympian Summer McIntosh, who set two world records at the national trials last week. SUPPLIED

NOTL skater Ashleen Hale bids a **bittersweet goodbye**

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Figure skater Ashleen Hale waved a bittersweet goodbye to her home away from home of the last 15 years on Sunday.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Skating Figure Club wrapped up its season with its annual showcase at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.

This showcase was Hale's last of many, as she left the club's STARSkate program and took a look forward to a future in figure skating – potentially for Brock University.

"I told my friends we weren't allowed to be sad until it was over," said Hale.

"It was a difficult day because there were a lot of endings and I still feel like I just started skating. So yeah, it was kind of unreal."

The 18-year-old has been skating with STARSkate coach Judi Boyle-Krzeczkowski from the age of three and refers to her as "more of a second parent."

"She just made the club feel like a second home and she's definitely my biggest influence."

During Hale's time in STARSkate, Boyle-Krzeczkowski allowed her to take on more of a leadership role among the younger skaters, and during the showcase's award ceremony referred to



With her parents Jim and Lolita, Ashleen Hale celebrates her finale with the NOTL Skating Club. JULIA SACCO

her as "a great role model" for the kids.

"I started doing the program assistant role when I was around 10," Hale said.

"I always watched the older girls handle the younger kids and since I'm the youngest sibling I always wanted to have that leadership role."

"I've always enjoyed being around the kids and using my talent to make an impact on a small community. It felt really rewarding," said Hale.

When citing her inspirations as she continues in her skating career, Hale named fellow NOTL skater Kyra Marotta, who served as a role model during her time in the program, as well as her father Jim for his career in hockey.

But she has a few of her own inspiring accom-

plishments, winning gold and silver in the women's competition at the Ontario championships in Stratford two weeks ago.

"I tried my best to keep emotions in check and I still managed to pull out a personal best skate, but after the fact it was really difficult to wrap my head around what I just did."

Hale said that most people stop participating in STARSkate around the age of 18 simply because of schooling and life changes. She's not ready to give up figure skating entirely, though.

"I've decided I want to try out for the Brock skating team," she said.

Hale will be attending Brock in September to study applied linguistics so she looks forward to tryouts at the end of the summer.

That's a wrap for minor hockey



The weather has warmed up, the ice is out and only one Niagara-on-the-Lake minor hockey team has games left as athletes wrapped up another season. The U11 rep Wolves face-off this weekend in Barrie, competing for the provincial championship. The U18 rep team played well in the OMHA championship last weekend but faced some stiff competition and were unable to advance. Meanwhile, the NOTL house league ended its season last week with a few championship matches of its own. In U11, team 1 beat team 2 by a 2-1 score and in U18 team 1 was victorious 3-2 over team 2. JULIA SACCO



HISTORY — IT'S COOL

Visit the NOTL Museum online or in-person to learn more.

905-468-3912 | notlmuseum.ca | Hours: Daily from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.



SHAW 20
FESTIVAL 23

SHAW Shivaree 2023

SATURDAY APRIL 15
6:30PM

Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre
\$175 per person

Enjoy an evening out in support of the Shaw Festival with an open bar, fabulous food, and dancing the night away with George St. Kitts and his band.

Savour delicious foods by Treadwell, Wellington Court, Yorkshire Pudding, Ruffino's, The Garrison House, Tide & Vine and Niagara Juice Co. & more; featuring seasonal & local offerings. Bid on our fantastic silent auction without leaving the dance floor and get real-time updates right on your phone!

EVENT SPONSOR



BEER SPONSOR



MEDIA SPONSOR



EVENT SPONSOR



WINE SPONSOR



To purchase, call the Shaw Box Office at 905-468-2172 or book online at shawfest.com

Ironwood raises more than \$2,000 for Gillian's Place

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The guests were the ones concocting the cocktails at Ironwood Cider House on Friday night.

"I'm not a very good mixologist," Tom Rendall said before the competition.

During the Cocktails for a Cause fundraiser in support of Gillian's Place, guests had the chance to compete in a cocktail competition.

At first, Rendall and his partner, Carol Murray, weren't sure if they'd enter. But after hemming and hawing, they decided to give it a go.

Each team drew a random theme and had 15 minutes to grab the necessary supplies to make a delicious – or not so delicious – cocktail.

Rendall and Murray had to make something spicy,

so they were adding as much heat as they could, including some jalapeno moonshine from Limited Distillery.

"I don't know what I'm making," Rendall said as he added the ingredients to his cocktail.

Along with the cocktail mixing competition was a silent auction, with all proceeds going to Gillian's Place, an organization that works to end gender-based violence across Niagara.

More than \$2,200 was raised through the silent auction, surpassing Ironwood's goal of \$2,000.

Originally, the fundraiser was supposed to be on March 10, a few days after International Women's Day.

"We just felt like there was too much going on with Women's Day that we weren't going to be able to maximize our funds raised (for Gillian's Place)," Robyn Brown, Ironwood's

marketing and events manager, told The Lake Report.

Amanda Di Zia, development and communications co-ordinator for Gillian's Place, said the organization was honoured to be the beneficiary of the money raised.

"We are really reliant on community fundraisers and donations to sustain our priority programs," she said.

The money raised will go toward its 34-bed emergency shelter, its second stage housing program and the lawyer the organization has on-site.

Di Zia was happy when Ironwood reached out to her about the fundraiser, noting that with Niagara-on-the-Lake's demographic and tourist traffic not many people realize that gender-based violence happens in NOTL.

"Any demographic can experience gender-based violence," she said.



EAT, SIP & PAINT PAINT NIGHT AT THE IRISH HARP PUB

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26 @ 6:00 PM

\$90 Per Person Includes:

2-hour guided paint session, all paint supplies, dessert, large wine, beer, or cocktail, and take home your masterpiece.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

THEIRISHHARPPUB.COM

(905) 468-4443 • TAXES & GRATUITIES EXTRA

Credit Card Required To Reserve Your Spot • 72 Hour Cancellation Policy In Effect

Gaio show brings **live original music** to Legion hall

Continued from Front Page

one,” Gaio said.

“I was like, if we can get 50 at the max, I’ll be pumped and we definitely surpass that.”

The NOTL musician, now 32 and based in Toronto, had dreams of playing on stage in his hometown ever since high school, when he says lots of local bands were playing regularly in town.

So he made that happen.

The show was a celebration of the release of his album, “The Best Ain’t Happened Yet” — a rock album available to stream at ryan-gaio.bandcamp.com/album/the-best-aint-happened-yet.

He said after an article appeared in The Lake Report, ticket sales had a “huge lift.”

The show also featured NOTL musician Matt Meagher, who played an acoustic set for the crowd before Gaio’s six-piece band and back-up singers hit the stage.

He said he plans to host another show eventually, likely next year around the same time.

“We’ll need a bit of time, but I definitely want to do another show like that,” he said, noting the Legion was also happy with the turnout.

“I think they made a

good amount of money. It’s just a huge win-win for everyone.”

The highlights of the night for him were seeing everyone out having a good time, dancing to real NOTL music.

“Just before we went on, we all went out on the fire escape and just had a little team huddle and we’re like, ‘You know we’ve worked a long time to do this and here it is. We’re ready to go. Let’s go rock.’ We just had a little moment of calm before the storm.”

He was also happy to see a diverse crowd in attendance — the audience was filled with people both young and old.

Part of the show seemed like a NOTL reunion.

“My parents saw old friends they hadn’t seen in a long time. I saw old friends I hadn’t seen in a long time. Yeah, just all different age groups represented.”

Gaio had nothing but thanks for the community.

“It really does take a village, so I’m so appreciative of all the community support,” he said.

“I think it really is a good reminder of the true meaning of community — people coming together, supporting each other, help-



Above: NOTL musician Matt Meagher sings acoustic songs during the show. Below: Ryan Gaio’s band rocks the concert hall crowd with music from his new album, “The Best Ain’t Happened Yet.” RICHARD HARLEY

ing out, making cool, fun things happen.”

While he plans for another Legion show maybe next year, “I’m also just dreaming about all kinds of other shows — acoustic shows and any kind of artistic performances that we can come up with. Let’s make stuff happen.”





Summer Company

STUDENTS GET \$3,000 TO START A BUSINESS

SUMMER COMPANY OFFERS STUDENTS FUNDING AND MENTORSHIP TO START A BUSINESS.

Apply Now

niagarafalls.ca/summercompany

905 356 7521 ext. 5130





EXPLORING PHOTOS
WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Outlet of Niagara River (circa 1838)

This is a wonderful print by William Henry Bartlett (1809-1854) of the lower Niagara River. The perspective is likely from south of Lewiston, N.Y., and shows people exploring the banks of the river with Lake Ontario in the distance. The first Brock Monument can be seen on the left at Queenston Heights. Bartlett was an adventurer who would draw sketches of the places he visited. He was in North America four times and in 1838 he spent the summer and fall in Canada. He produced 120 engravings for the book "Canadian Scenery Illustrated."

Niagara Lions Easter food drive supports Newark Neighbours

Katie Ryan
Special to The Lake Report

Members of the Niagara Lions Club will be collecting donations at Niagara-on-the-Lake's two grocery stores on Saturday in aid of the Newark Neighbours food bank.

The Lions will be at Hendrik's Independent in Old Town and Phil's in Virgil from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Lions spokesperson Catharine Wickabrod said one goal of any Lions Club is to feed the homeless and needy.

"This is a great opportunity for the Niagara Lions to provide a service to those in need," said Wickabrod.

It is also nice to get out into the community, meet different people and talk about how the Lions have been supporting the community for more 80 years, she said.

"This is the first food drive since COVID-19 hit," but the need for food has not diminished, said Wickabrod.

At the height of the pandemic, the club purchased food and delivered it to Newark Neighbours to make sure the food bank's shelves were full and nobody would go hungry.

The Niagara Lions started collecting food for Newark Neighbours in 1971 and as the need grew the club knew it had to find grocery stores that would be willing to allow the donations.

"It was a win-win situation for the Niagara Lions and the grocery stores because with any cash donations the Lions would go in to the store and spend that money buying more groceries," Wickabrod said.

The food drives turned out to be a huge success and a convenient way for shoppers to contribute and make donations while doing their weekly shopping, she added.

Newark Neighbours is asking for non-perishable food items such as soup, chili and vegetables, and household items such as toilet paper, paper towels and dish soap.



FREE HOME EVALUATION

CALL OR TEXT GREG DIRECT

905.329.3484



When you call Greg, you get Greg.

GREG SYKES *real estate*
TEAM



STEPHANIE FARR



MARIO SOLDO*



DEBI CHEWERDA*



GREG SYKES*



CAMERON JONES*



SHANNON LEIGH BEATTIE*



MAC INC.
NOT JUST REALTORS
BUY • SELL • BUILD • INVEST

**JESSIE
MACDONALD**
Broker

**EVAN
MACDONALD**
Sales Representative



#1 IN THE NIAGARA REGION*

**Highest Average Sale Price
2 Years in a Row****

LIFESTYLE IS FOR SALE!

WATERFRONT LUXURY



\$2,499,000

MODERN LIVING



\$3,599,000

THE PARKWAY



\$6,649,999

PRIVATE MARINA



\$8,000,000

ROOFTOP POOL



\$3,599,000



BROKER AND OFFICE FOR A REASON!*

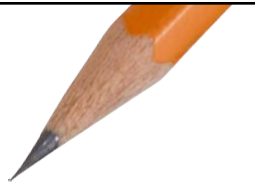
www.MacInc.ca

905.WE.REVEL

*RANKING ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD & NIAGARA THIS WEEK READERS' CHOICE AWARDS IN 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022.
**RANKING ACCORDING TO MLS STATISTICS.

REVEL.
REALTY INC., BROKERAGE

Have some fun



Across

- 1. Fabric (8)
- 9. Longing (8)
- 10. Merchant (8)
- 11. Imagine (8)
- 12. Candidate (7)
- 13. Precarious (8)
- 14. Turns around (8)
- 18. Exceptionally tense (8)
- 22. Portuguese jellyfish (3-2-3)
- 23. Austere (7)
- 24. Hallway (8)
- 26. The world of schools and universities (8)
- 27. Its capital is Little Rock (8)
- 28. Locate exactly (8)

Down

- 2. Breathtaking (7)
- 3. Vague (7)
- 4. Ailment (7)
- 5. Small harp-like musical instrument (4)
- 6. The gathering of crops (7)
- 7. Uncommon (7)
- 8. Cuddle (7)
- 13. Doorkeeper (5)
- 15. Stonework (7)
- 16. Portal (7)
- 17. Like Abba (7)
- 19. Make clear (7)
- 20. Underwater missile (7)
- 21. Inhabitant of e.g. Tehran (7)
- 25. Coarse file (4)

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			

Last issue's answers

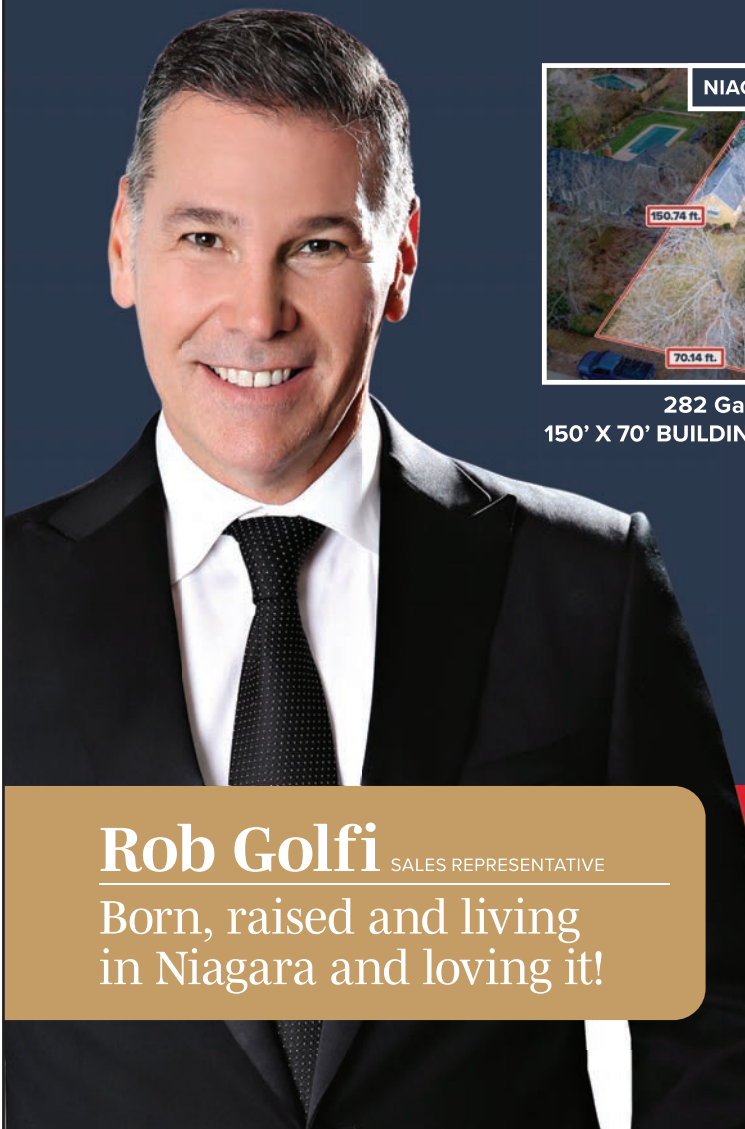
1	H	C	A	T	F	A	B										
9	S	E	C	O	N	D	Y	E	A	R	9	B	U	O	Y		
10	R	M	R	L	E	E	G										
11	A	S	A	P	O	C	E	A	N	F	L	O	O	R			
12	C	A	I	P	E												
13	T	H	I	R	S	T	H	A	T	H	A	W	A	Y			
14	E	I	O	I	D												
15	C	L	O	S	E	R	A	N	D	C	L	O	S	E	R		
16	O	A	E														
17	A	B	I	N	G	D	O	N	20	S	U	N	D	A	E		
18	A																
19	P	R	O	G	R	A	M	M	E	R	23	E	D	I	T		
20	G	A	T	B	U	N	N										
21	S	E	M	I	25	E	V	E	N	B	E	T	T	E	R		
22	S	N	S	R	S	S	D										

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

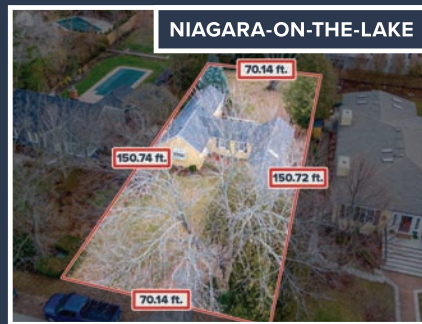


Call the brand that gets your home

NOTICED!



Rob Golfi SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Born, raised and living in Niagara and loving it!



282 Gate Street
150' X 70' BUILDING LOT • \$1,389,900



23 Four Mile Creek Road #133
1 Bedroom • 1 Bath • \$349,900



6A Circle Street
4 Bedroom • 3 Bath • \$1,399,900

- #1 Real Estate Team**
- #1 on Google Trends***
- #1 in Client Service***
- #1 in Web Traffic***

- #1 RE/MAX Team Canada†
- #2 RE/MAX Team Worldwide†
- #2 on Toronto Real Estate Board**
- Million-dollar marketing system!

FREE HOME EVALUATION!



Call **905-641-0308**
or visit **RobGolfi.com**

GOLFI
TEAM

*Rob Golfi, Sales Representative. **Based on unit sales and \$ volume of closed transactions in RAHB Jan 1, 2020 - Dec 31, 2021. *** Source: Google Trends and Google Reviews †Source: RE/MAX LLC rankings for Large Team Residential, 2022. ††Source: REDATUM Agents by units - listing and selling combined performance in TRREB Jan 1 - June 30, 2022. RE/MAX Escarpment Golf Realty Inc., Brokerage. Independently owned and operated.

Did Neanderthals team up to hunt **giant elephants?**



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

The first of our cousin species, the Neanderthals, were discovered in the Neander Valley in Germany in 1856, three years before Charles Darwin published his revolutionary book, "On the Origins of Species."

Neanderthals were a thick-boned and heavily muscled species with prominent boney orbital brows.

For those features, they were roundly considered to be dimwitted and certainly no match for modern humans. Discoveries in the late 1900s revealed a different picture.

Not only did Neanderthals leave numerous examples of hand prints and less often examples of figurative art, on the walls of caves they

inhabited, but they were the first species to create flutes.

All this occurred many thousands of years before modern humans in western Europe. They also created jewelry and at least one example of what looks like a temple of sorts inside a cave dated over 100,000 years ago.

Based on recent evidence gleaned from widely scattered cave sites in Siberia, Neanderthals were thought to live in small groups of 10 or fewer.

If so, that may have been their undoing and the explanation for their extinction 30,000 years ago. Living in small groups reduces genetic diversity and favours the accumulation of faulty genes made worse by too few fathering males. That's where this story comes in.

Recent findings in a coal mining area in Germany revealed a startling example of butchery of giant elephants on a grand scale.

Neanderthals had gathered in the area to slaughter these giants. Most of the butchered elephants were male, who like their modern-day descendants



Taking down a giant elephant would have required a lot of effort and co-ordination, which suggest groups of Neanderthals likely worked together to hunt them. WIKIPEDIA

and mammoths, tended to forage alone, unlike females and their progeny.

These now-extinct giant elephants were twice the height of modern-day African elephants and possessed straight tusks (*Paleoloxodon antiquus*).

Estimates suggest that harvesting the flesh of one of those giant elephants

would yield as much as four tons of meat, enough perhaps, to feed 100 Neanderthals for a month.

But bringing down such massive elephants with axes and spears would have required the co-operation of many, extensive planning, great skill – and courage.

The level of co-operation required strongly suggests

that killing such massive animals would mean a large group of Neanderthals worked together, which suggests everyone in the group knew each other well.

My guess is that overnight group size was 10 or possibly 20 and that nearby groups banded together for major hunts such as this one. Hunting and killing large

animals (megafauna) was common with modern humans.

The collective evidence on almost every continent modern humans reached is that within a few thousand years of the arrival of humans most of the megafauna (such as woolly mammoths) had disappeared in Eurasia and eventually the Americas.

Unfavourable climate change might have been a factor, too, but in the case of these Neanderthals, the climate was favourable because the Earth was in a warming interglacial period with plenty of food.

In modern times, killing elephants and other large animals as trophies or, in the case of elephants, for their tusks has had a profound effect not only on herd size but an increase in the proportion without tusks because the gene that leads to tuskless elephants is favoured.

What a waste.

Dr. William Brown is a professor of neurology at McMaster University and co-founder of the InfoHealth series at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

BARREL HEAD

**WALK-INS
WELCOME**



**WOOD OVEN
PIZZA**

**OPEN
— FOR —
INDOOR
DINING**

\$40 ANY TWO
\$80 FAMILY MEAL

TAKE OUT SPECIALS

**THURSDAY-SUNDAY
NOON-8PM**

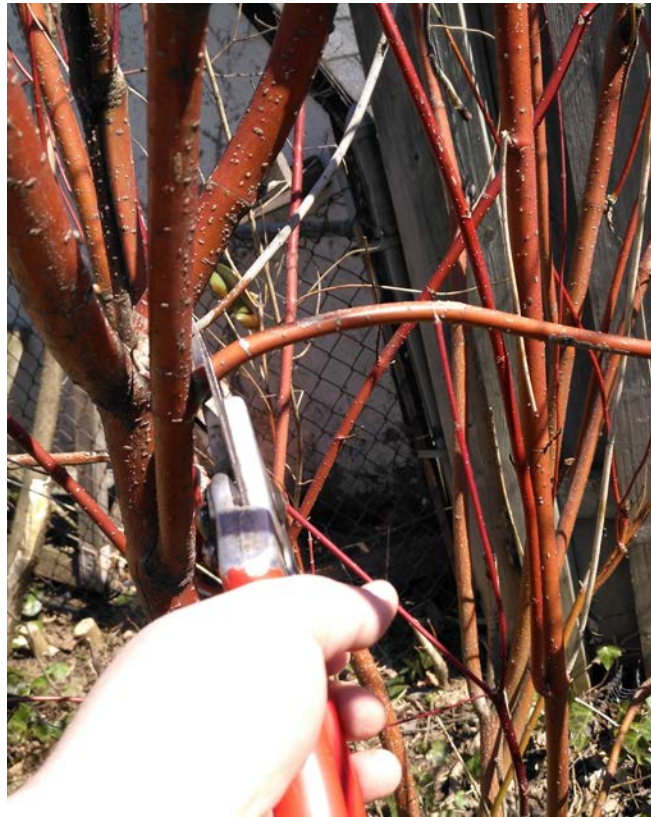
PILLITTERI
ESTATES
Winery

**LOCALS GET 30%
DISCOUNT ON FOOD**
DINE IN ONLY

FULL MENU AT PILLITTERI.COM/BARRELHEAD
CALL FOR TAKE OUT (905)-468-1439
  FOLLOW US @BARREL.HEAD

1696 NIAGARA STONE RD, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

 **NOW OPEN IN ST. CATHARINES**
Your Local Birding & Nature Experts
 280 Geneva St. | 289-362-2892 | www.UrbanNatureStore.ca 



Left: Joanne Young says to prune branches that cross over others. Right: A properly pruned rose bush. JOANNE YOUNG

Understanding why and how to **prune properly**



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Columnist

I love to prune. I find it relaxing.

One of the first chores we attack in our gardens each spring is pruning, but I find that most people are do not know how to prune properly or understand the best time to prune.

I cannot stress enough that proper pruning techniques can make all the difference. Pruning promotes flowering, reduces pests and diseases, and contributes to a plant's overall health, all while helping it maintain an attractive shape.

The longevity of a plant is also determined by how well it has been pruned over the years.

It wasn't until I really understood what was going on inside a plant that pruning started to make sense.

Here are three scientific facts to help answer some questions you may have about pruning deciduous trees and shrubs.

FACT #1

Four types of buds

Four types of buds are found on any branch: terminal, lateral, latent and adventitious buds.

The terminal bud (a.k.a. the apical bud) is found on the tip of any branch.

Lateral buds form during one growing season and remain dormant until the next growth period when they develop into stems, leaves or flowers. New leaves emerge first from the terminal buds then the lateral buds.

Not every bud grows into a branch, leaf or flower, though. Some buds on young twigs remain inactive for many seasons.

These are the latent buds, which are the plant's insurance. Should a branch be cut off or broken above a dormant latent bud a new shoot can quickly develop.

Adventitious buds develop where no buds previously existed. These sometimes grow after a branch is wounded or cut back to mature tissue. These are different in that they develop close to the branch surface from deeper mature tissue.

FACT #2

Apical dominance

All plants grow from the tips of branches, or to put it more scientifically, all plants go through a phenomenon called apical dominance.

There are many different shapes of plants available

to choose from. Some are more upright, some are round and some grow flat to the ground.

But what causes plants to grow into different forms?

All plants produce a hormone in the terminal buds known as auxin. This hormone suppresses the growth of the other buds, signaling them to remain dormant.

The hormone is strongest at the tips so the buds closest to the terminal bud are stunted the most. As the auxins move farther from the terminal buds, they are less stunted, which causes more growth.

This hormonal effect determines a plant's branching pattern and its response to pruning. A pyramidal plant produces more auxin than a low-growing plant.

When you prune off the terminal bud, the growth patterns become drastically altered. The science of pruning lies in understanding the growth pattern of plants. If you remove a terminal bud, it releases the lateral, latent and adventitious buds from the growth inhibition caused by apical dominance.

Many of the buds behind the pruning cut sprout into branches; where one stem once grew, now a cluster of stems might emerge.

If you are trying to maintain a certain shape of plant, special attention must be taken as to how you prune.

FACT #3

The food cycle

When we head into autumn and start seeing plants go dormant and the leaves turn beautiful fall colours, what we don't see is what is going on inside of the plant.

All summer, the leaves have been storing up food from the sun in a process called photosynthesis. As the fall approaches, all this stored energy starts to move from the leaves, down the stem and back into the roots by late winter.

In the spring, that same energy (food) then moves from the roots, through the stem and forces out new leaves.

If this process did not occur, when a plant drops its leaves it would lose all its stored energy, weakening the plant.

As temperatures start to warm up in the spring and we start to tap maple trees to collect sap to make syrup, we often say "the sap is rising" and that is exactly what is happening.

The plant's food is rising from the base into the branches and is what forces out the new leaves.

Knowing this information, the best time to prune most deciduous shrubs is late dormant period to early spring (March-early April) before the new leaves emerge.

Next week, we will look at some general rules for pruning deciduous shrubs.

Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach.

Obituary

Louise Leyland



LEYLAND, Louise Carmen (née Romeo); While enjoying her much loved daily walks around Queenston, she was fatally struck by a bicycle on April 1 at the age of 81. Loving wife of Don, beloved mother of Sean and Tyler, and sister of Joseph (Mary). She will be sorely missed by her family, cousins, nieces, nephews, and a multitude of friends.


Louise will be remembered for her generosity of spirit, her dynamism and her passion. A retired teacher and mentor to student interpreters at Queenston Heights, she loved interpreting local history to adults and students alike. She was able to captivate audiences with her energetic tours and explanations that brought history to life.

A long-time resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake, she was a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Fort George, as well as the Political Action Committee of the Retired Teachers Organization. She enjoyed her book club, current affairs group, and was dedicated to giving back to the community by sharing her Reiki practice at Wellspring Cancer Support Niagara.

Louise touched the lives of everyone around her. She made a positive impact on her community and everyone she met. We will miss her dearly and remember her always.

Memory comments may be left on the website of George Dart Funeral Chapel (GDFC) 585 Carlton St., St. Catharines. There will be a gravesite ceremony for immediate family, which may be viewed on the GDFC website. A Celebration of life is planned for mid-May and details may also be found on the GDFC at a later time.

In lieu of flowers, if desired, please consider making a donation in honour of Louise to the Wellspring Niagara <https://wellspring.ca/niagara/> or Project Share Niagara Falls <https://projectshare.ca/>

 **Easter Sunrise Service**
Living Water Wayside Chapel
Niagara River Pkwy at Line 1
Sunday, April 9 @ 7 a.m.

Holy Week at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
 323 Simcoe St. Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
standrewsnotl@gmail.com; standrewsniagara.com
Thursday, April 6: Prayer Gathering in the Sanctuary, 6.30 p.m.
Friday, April 7: Good Friday at 11 a.m.
 A service of meditation and music with Cellist Marcela Lagunas and Choir
Sunday, April 9: Easter Festival Service at 11 a.m.
 All are welcome. Special Musician - Nathan Pol, Trumpeter

Advertising inquiries?
Email advertising@niagaranow.com

FISH FRY
THURSDAYS 4 - 7 P.M. TAKEOUT/EAT-IN
1 PC \$11 | 2 PC \$15 | CASH ONLY (TAXES INCLUDED) 

Legion  **HALL RENTAL AVAILABLE**
 BRANCH 124 NIAGARA ON THE LAKE
Royal Canadian Legion Br. 124 | 410 King St.
Phone: 905-468-2353 | E-mail: legion124@gmail.com

Angelika & ASSOCIATES

LUXURY REAL ESTATE

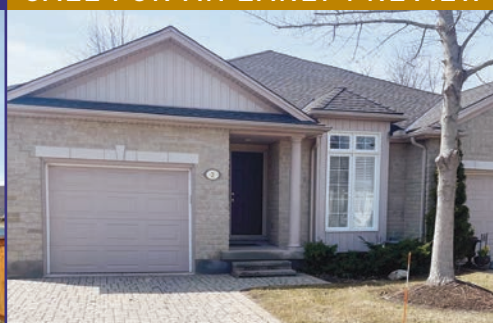
★ **FREE** ★
HOME EVALUATION
CALL 905.468.8777

SOLD!!!



24 GEORGE MANOR
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

COMING SOON!
CALL FOR AN EARLY PREVIEW



556 KING ST, UNIT 2
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

STUNNING! \$1,949,000



2 PARK COURT, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



\$1,949,888 FORMER MODEL HOME



56 GARRISON VILLAGE DR, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



LEASED!!!



23 LORETTA DR, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



\$989,450 END UNIT/UPGRADES!



31 WINDSOR CIRCLE, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



\$1,375,000 DOUBLE LOT IN PRIME LOCATION



390 SIMCOE ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



MCGILLIVRAY™

Trusted

Angelika Zammit is proud to have been recognized as the exclusive
McGillivray Trusted Agent in the Niagara-on-the-Lake market.



Angelika & ASSOCIATES
LUXURY REAL ESTATE

T. 905.468.8777 C. 289.214.4394
www.angelikazammit.com
496 Mississauga Street
Local Office: Niagara-on-the-Lake



#1 BROKERAGE in the GTA.
The largest independent real estate
brokerage in Canada - **6,000 Agents**
across 10 branches in Ontario.



listglobally 60+ COUNTRIES 150M+ MONTHLY CONSUMERS UP TO 100 GLOBAL PORTALS

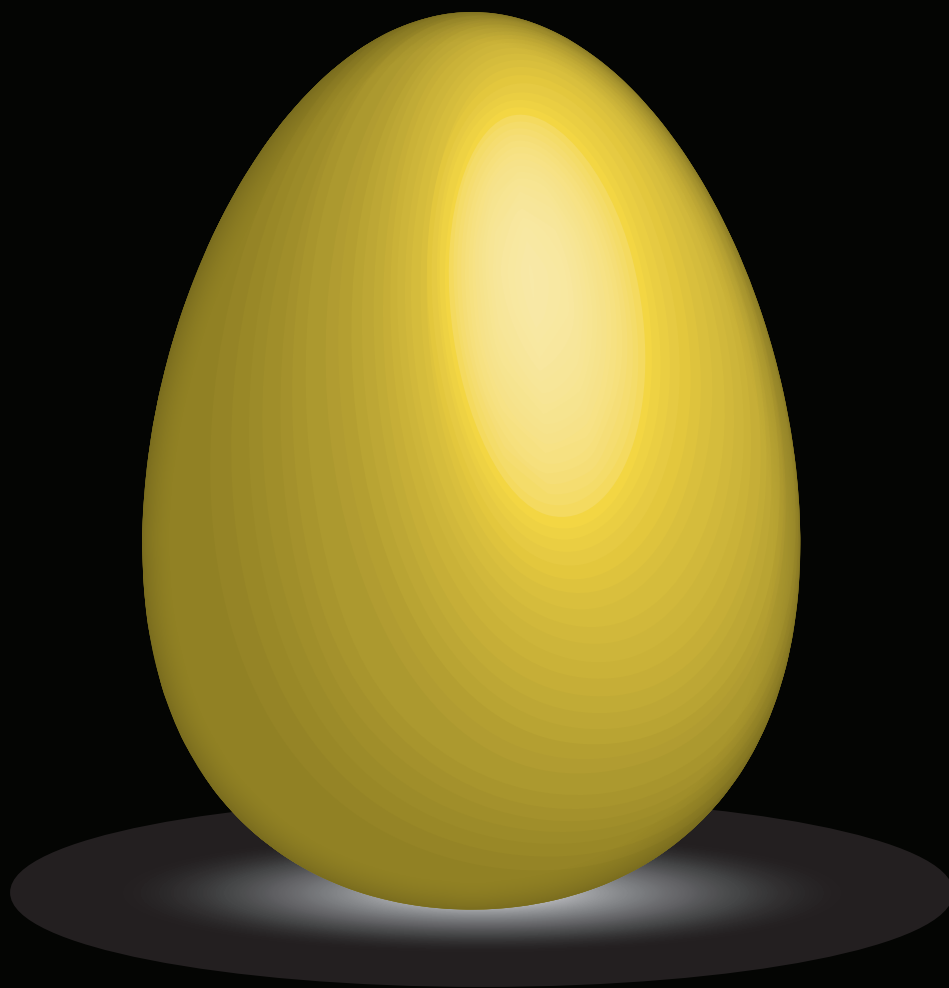


HGTV Celebrity, Scott McGillivray

Find Stefan Regier's

GOLDEN EGG

*in one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's
beautiful parks on Saturday April 8th
and go home with \$500*



Stefan Regier
sales representative



*125 Queen Street,
Niagara on the Lake*

Office: 905-468-4214
Cell: 289-257-6744
stefan@royallepage.ca

