

Cenotaph committee needs \$28k to complete urgent repairs

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake cenotaph needs your help.

One of NOTL's most recognizable landmarks is in desperate need of restoration and the cenotaph committee is \$28,000 short of the \$81,000 that is needed by Sept. 15 to complete the work in 2023.

The committee, a partnership between the town and the Legion, is calling the community to action, hoping that those who already have pledged donations – and those who haven't yet done so – will contribute immediately.

So far, the committee has amassed \$53,000 to restore the 101-year-old cenotaph and memorial clock tower.

It commemorates the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake who were killed in action during the two world wars.

Donations can be made in person at the town administration offices at 1593 Four Mile Creek Rd. or the Canadian Legion Branch 124 at 410 King St., by mail to 1593 Four Mile Creek Rd., Box 1030, Virgil ON, L0S 1T0, or online at notl.com/recreation-events/community-initiatives-events.

Anyone who donates \$25 or above will be issued a tax receipt.

'We have to say no'

Community urged to not tolerate vandalism of Pride crosswalk



People cover hateful comments painted on the Pride crosswalk. Police are investigating the damage as a possible hate crime. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Somer Slobodian | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

After four separate vandalism incidents, many Niagara-on-the-Lake residents now just seem to expect that the new rainbow crosswalk will continually be damaged.

Many commenters in public, in letters to the editor and on social media have suggested such vandalism is just a fact of life.

Suzin Schiff thinks that attitude is wrong and people should not accept repeated defacing of the crosswalk as a fact of life.

"That makes me more sad, almost more sad than seeing the vandalism itself," said Schiff,

who works in administration at the Shaw Festival.

She got in touch with the town to organize a group photo at the crosswalk in support of LGBTQ+ community after vandals defaced the crosswalk for a third time on July 31.

"I called the town and I said, 'I need to talk to someone about this. Do you know that it's here? What can we do? How can we respond?'" she said in an interview.

"It's not enough to see it and then clean it up," she said.

She wanted to show her sup-

port in-person, she said, and not just through social media or the newspaper — but to stand on the crosswalk where it happened.

"We need to be physically present to feel our feet on the place where this transpired and to physically show people that we stand and support them and to show them that they should feel safe where they live," she said.

When the crosswalk was first put in, she said "it was very meaningful" to her.

This topic has always been one that's close to her heart since she

has friends and family who are queer, she said, and she's always been a "strong ally" to the LGBTQ+ community.

The group photo was scheduled last Friday at 9 a.m., barely two days after the damage from the third vandalism was cleaned up.

However, people arrived to find the crosswalk defaced for a fourth time — this time with more hateful comments.

She said it's "disheartening for queer people or allies of queer

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Medically assisted endings for people with Alzheimer's

DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Columnist

Patients who suffer from dementia, of which Alzheimer's disease is the

most common cause, are usually looked after by a spouse or partner, with the help perhaps of nearby family members when that's possible and part-time support workers.

It's exhausting for those

who provide the care because it goes on so long and the situation only gets worse for the patient and those helping out.

When home care no longer works, patients are usually transferred to a

long-term care facility, hopefully nearby, of which Niagara residents have several choices.

But wherever the patient is looked after, the clinical course continues downhill as patients lose

their lifetime's store of memories, struggle to make sense of the present and increasingly unable to form warm sustaining relationships with staff and

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Police treating crosswalk vandalism as 'potential' hate crime

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara Regional Police said they are investigating the latest vandalism of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Pride crosswalk as a possible hate crime. As they arrived for a group photo to show support for the 2SLGBTQI+ community last Friday morning, residents were shocked to discover that the Pride crosswalk had been defaced for a fourth time.

This time, someone had taken the time to spray paint even more hateful comments toward LGBTQ+ people.



Suzin Schiff leads the crowd with a brief speech.

"Die f-gs" and "f-k gay ppl" were written in large black letters as was "BLM," presumably a reference to Black Lives Matter.

The latest defacing of the crosswalk came just two days after the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake cleaned up a third act of vandalism on the crosswalk, located at Anderson Lane and Niagara Stone Road, near the public library.

In barely two months since it was installed at the end of May, the crosswalk now has been vandalized repeatedly.

Suzin Schiff, who organized and planned the photoshoot, said every time vandalism happens, people need to complain to the town and show up to express their views.

"What is expected should

not be accepted, that's my motto," said Schiff.

"If nothing is done, if no voices rise up, then there's a perception that it's accepted," she added.

She was especially shocked to see the BLM acronym used this time.

"Who's next?" she said.

More than 100 people from across Niagara-on-the-Lake and elsewhere in the region showed up for the photo at 9 a.m. Friday, not expecting to see hateful comments once again on the crosswalk.

"To use the word die, how angry can you get?" said Pat Klotz, one of the NOTL residents who was there.

Another resident, Neeti Mehrotra, was visibly upset after seeing the latest vandalism.

"What scares them so much?" she said.

If it's a young person doing it, she said, she wonders who is teaching them that such behaviour is OK.

Mel Thivierge, a worker at the Shaw Festival, said he's, sadly, not surprised it happened again and suggested the vandals won't stop.

When he got to the crosswalk, he hung up a flag nearby that read, "Hate has no home here."

"Hate is easy and hate is cheap when you're doing it

at night and blacking out cameras (and) can't be held accountable," he said.

"It's very cowardly," he added.

The amount of support from the residents who showed up and from the ones who honked while driving by appeared to show the latest vandalism has upset many people in the community — and enough is enough.

George Webber, a member of the town's diversity equity and inclusivity committee, said the number of people who gathered is an indication that "people have to say no, we've had enough."



More than 100 people showed up to NOTL's Pride crosswalk on Friday to show support for the 2SLGBTQI+ community. They arrived to find it had been vandalized again. SOMER SLOBODIAN

'Disheartening' when hateful vandalism is to be expected

Continued from Front Page

people" when this type of vandalism is so routine it is just expected.

She wants to make sure her voice is heard — and believes everyone should be doing the same every time something like this happens instead of just accepting it.

There are plenty of people in the world who are against public expressions like rainbow crosswalks, she said,

but the latest vandalism is more than just pushback. In her view, it was a hate crime.

"This is a different level. The people who are doing it have to be stopped," said Schiff.

Given how many time's the NOTL crosswalk has been intentionally damaged, it's probably going to happen again, she acknowledged.

But she's motivated to

continue to stand up for what she believes is right and encourages everyone to contact the town every time it is damaged.

"It's not about reacting afterwards. It's about preventing it from happening," she said.

She hopes by people showing up in person every time, it will eventually "tip the tables."

"If you want to show your love and support, it has to



The latest crosswalk vandalism contained vulgar messaging. This photo was edited to smudge one of the offensive words. SOMER SLOBODIAN

be a physical action and not just typing or talking to a friend or sitting and

thinking about it — it has to have some kind of action," she said.

"We have to stand. We have to speak. We have to stand on it. We have to say no."



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St. Davids boxer loses semifinal bout, still waiting on Pan Am decision

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Next stop? Hopefully Santiago, Chile. St. Davids champion amateur boxer Mckenzie Wright entered the ring Monday night at the Pan American qualifications in Cali, Colombia, to compete against Mexican fighter Ingrid Alexa Gomez Galcia in the elite women's 48- to 50-kilo-gram semifinals.

Wright drew a bye last week which automatically advanced her to the semifinals.

She gave it her all during three rounds, but in a unanimous decision from the five judges, she lost her bout to Gomez Galcia.

Wright now has to wait to see if her name is on the tournament's list of Pan Am qualifiers.

Prior to Cali, Boxing Canada said the top four fighters in each division would qualify for the Pan Ams. As a semifinalist, Wright was in the top four, but the Pan



From left, national coach Vincent Auclair, Mckenzie Wright, national coach Samir El Mais and support coach Jordan Mathieu in the warm-up area before the match. KRAIG DEVLIN

Am participants' list is not yet official.

"I knew I had a tough opponent in front of me who played a great game of chess," Wright wrote in an Instagram post after the match.

"These challenges internationally against quality fighters are the only way for me to improve, so I take the L as a lesson and continue to strive," she added.

The Pan Am Games will be held in Santiago, Chile, in October. Those games are a direct qualifier to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and the top two fighters in each wait class earn a trip to the Games.

The list of Pan Am qualifiers is supposed to be sent to the Canadian Olympic Committee by Aug. 21, according to Kraig Devlin, technical

director of Boxing Canada.

Wright is a three-time Canadian national champion and trains at City Boxing Club in Niagara Falls with her coach, Jesse Sallows, a two-time Golden Glove champion.

She was tops in Canada in the 50-kilogram weight class at the 2023 Pan American Games Domestic Qualification Competition in Montreal in June.

Additional bylaw officer proposed for 2024

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Budget talks are set to start in a month, and the subject of enforcing the town's bylaws will be on the docket.

Niagara-on-the-Lake council will be reviewing budget proposals in September and Coun. Maria Mavridis is looking to make sure that an additional bylaw officer is part of the discussion.

One reason Mavridis gave for her advocacy of additional bylaw enforcement was because of the town's ongoing issue with short-term rentals.

At a council meeting on July 25, Mavridis pointed out that the town only has one bylaw officer to manage and respond to complaints about short-term rentals and would benefit from a second officer.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita



Coun. Maria Mavridis says more staff is needed to manage short-term rentals. EVAN LOREE

countered that the town is handing out fewer tickets and receiving fewer complaints this year relative to last year.

She said ever since the town contracted Granicus to monitor advertising platforms like Airbnb for illegal operators, the town has had fewer issues.

"I don't see the justifica-

tion for bringing in more staff when our numbers are going down," she said.

Mavridis contested the argument though.

"The metrics are down, but that's because we don't have enough officers to go out and compare," she said.

"We need staff to stay on top of this," Mavridis said.

O'Connor gave her sup-


port to the proposal, but not just to address short-term rental problems.

She said there was a particular need for after-hours enforcement.

Fire chief Jay Plato said when staff assesses the need for an additional bylaw officer, they will also look into solutions for after-hour enforcement issues.

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Town leaders want data, residents want **change now**

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Residents are calling for a red light on speeding drivers all across Niagara-on-the-Lake.

However, municipal officials say they can't take action until they have solid numbers telling them the scope of the issue on the town's residential roads.

After The Lake Report published a series of articles on traffic and speeding concerns on July 27, residents have continued to raise concerns over safety issues on Niagara-on-the-Lake's busy streets.

Most recently, Tom King, who lives at the corner of Charlotte and Campbell streets, came forward with worries that Charlotte Street was becoming a "main road" into Old Town, meaning more traffic and more speeding.

While his neighbour Carrie Plaskett, mother of two 12-year-old boys Malcolm and Henry Buffington, said she appreciates that it will take time to solve the problem, she worries it'll take an accident to get it done.

"My feeling is that (it) can take a very long time," she said.

"I don't want there to be an accident for that process to speed up."

King told The Lake Report he'd like to see a three-way stop sign put in at the corners of Charlotte and Promenade, near his home, to help slow people down.

"People that work in hotels in town, that's the shortcut into town," King said.

Charlotte Street connects Niagara and John streets.

King said he believes commuters come down rural roads like Niagara Street or East and West Line and then cut through Charlotte on their way to work at places like the Pillar and Post.

Royston Sparks, 92, and wife Joyce Sparks, 84, live across from King Street and worry about crossing



From left, Royston Sparks, his wife Joyce Sparks, Tom King, Carrie Plaskett and Carolyn Van-Helbert say their small residential street has become a main road into town. EVAN LOREE

because of how the bend in the road decreases sight-lines for drivers.

In addition, both of them have decreased mobility due to their age, they said.

"We're not very quick," Royston said.

Despite the concerns of residents, the town's draft transportation plan may bring additional cars to the neighbourhood when it's finalized.

The plan recommends Charlotte Street be upgraded to a collector road from a local road.

According to the plan, local roads have a vehicle capacity of 300 vehicles per lane per hour, and collector roads can accommodate 500.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, who also lives on Charlotte Street, said there's no "single silver bullet" for road safety issues.

"I don't believe in doing a single one-off solution to the road safety issues. I would rather take a whole look at it and apply more global, town-wide solutions," he said.

Zalepa could not say how many complaints he receives on traffic and speeding issues but said it was a town-wide problem.

While not on board with speed bumps – a traffic-

calming tool many residents have advocated for – Zalepa said speed cams, signs and narrowed lanes can do a lot to slow drivers.

He said he was also in favour of expanding community safety zones in areas like St. Davids and Line 2 Road, near Crossroads Public School.

“You lower the speed limit from 50 kilometres an hour to 40 kilometres an hour, you're not curbing the driver behaviour.”

ROME D'ANGELO
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
TOWN OF NOTL

In St. Davids, residents are currently working with the region to create a community safety zone on one of their most dangerous streets, Four Mile Creek Road.

People interested in supporting St. Davids can check out their petition at stdavidsratepayers.ca.

"I don't believe in dealing with the one percenters on the road by impacting the other 99 per cent," Zalepa said.

He added that the problem posed by speedsters was best addressed through "proper road design."

Speed bumps are one of a couple of suggestions Charlotte Street resident Carolyn Van Helbert pitched, but her neighbours are more interested in crosswalks, posted limits and stop signs.

Rome D'Angelo, the town's director of operations, said speed bumps have pros and cons.

He described them as "an aggressive option" that could cause problems elsewhere.

When people see speed bumps, they may pick different routes through town, which could inadvertently increase traffic on other streets, D'Angelo said.

They can also damage vehicles that are built lower to the ground.

Decreased speed limits are an option too, but D'Angelo said they don't always translate to lower speeds.

"You lower the speed limit from 50 kilometres an hour to 40 kilometres an hour, you're not curbing the driver behaviour," he said.

"That driver is still going to continue to do what they typically do," he said.

D'Angelo did not dismiss the option, though. He said

the town would have to consult traffic engineers and study the streets to determine if decreases are necessary.

Zalepa pointed out that some streets, like those in Chautauqua, are too narrow for high speeds.

"God, anybody driving 50 on those streets – I don't know how you would do that," he said.

Since streets in Chautauqua are as narrow as 13-feet wide, Zalepa said he would be open to rethinking the posted speeds in the neighbourhood.

D'Angelo said town staff would be meeting with Chautauqua residents in the next three weeks to discuss their concerns with residential speeding.

The town is taking speeding concerns seriously, he said.

D'Angelo added that he wants to conduct a town-wide review of rural traffic safety.

The last one was done in 2012 and is out of date, he said.

Residents can expect to see a financial breakdown of the review during the town's budget talks, which start in September.

D'Angelo said the town's master transportation plan should be ready in the fall as well, but while it touches on issues of road safety, the report recommends "further review" for specific areas.

He said staff are already reaching out to engineering firms to determine the "magnitude of what this may cost."

He also said the town is looking to other communities like St. Catharines to get a sense of what solutions have worked elsewhere.

St. Catharines recently implemented a plan to lower speed limits to 40 km/h from 50 km/h on all its residential roads.

D'Angelo would not comment on the viability of such an approach for NOTL without putting it through a

road safety review.

Additional studies take time and residents' patience may not stretch to fit the town's timeline.

He acknowledged that, but stressed, "We need to let the engineer do the talking" and let the data drive the decisions.

Coun. Erwin Wiens echoed this point and added that residents won't always accept the data the town collects, sometimes preferring their own anecdotal experiences.

"I don't want to be insulting to the people who are concerned about people's safety. But it's also important to make sure that we get the facts right," Wiens added.

Wiens also pointed out that road designs need to be both safe and efficient.

This is complicated further in areas like St. Davids, where one of the most dangerous roads, Four Mile Creek, is a regional one.

Traffic enforcement is the responsibility of the Niagara Regional Police, so the town is limited in its capacity to enforce speed limits, Wiens said.

As a former police officer, he said he wasn't opposed to increased policing in suburban areas but predicted that nine out of 10 tickets would go to residents.

"If you do enforcement in a subdivision, the people that get the tickets are residents," he said, recalling his time as a cop.

Wiens also pointed out that neither the town nor the police could prevent an impaired driver from acting like a "lunatic."

Zalepa, too, placed the responsibility to drive safely at the feet of the driver.

"The Niagara Regional Police force cannot be everywhere all the time. The reality is drivers need to take some responsibility. They're getting behind the wheel of a powerful vehicle," he said.

"Their actions have consequences."



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Left: Soldiers in the First World War load a trench mortar. LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA Right: A portrait of Lt. William Wright that was featured in a Niagara Historical Society publication.

MISSING IN ACTION

‘How different everything would have been’

In both world wars, there were men killed in action or who died in service who had a connection with Niagara-on-the-Lake but for various reasons were not commemorated on either the memorial clock tower cenotaph in Old Town or the Niagara Township war memorial in Queenston. In some cases, they lived for only a brief time in Niagara and had no family here when the monuments were built. In other instances, they had lived near McNab, not then part of NOTL or Niagara Township. While their names are not read out at the ceremonies at these monuments on Remembrance Day, they too should be remembered.

Ron Dale
Special to The Lake Report

In St. Andrew's Cemetery stands a tombstone marking the final resting place of George David Wright, who was only three days old when he died on Sept. 18, 1906.

He was the son of William Jonathan Wright, the principal of the Niagara-on-the-Lake high school, and his wife Mary Robertson.

William Wright was the youngest son of George and Emma Wright.

Born Nov. 14, 1874, in Oxford County, William attended school in St. Marys, Ont., and received a good education, earning a master's degree at the University of Toronto in 1897. He became a teacher.

On Christmas Day, 1902, William married teacher Mary Edith Robertson in the bride's hometown in Cold Springs, in Northumberland County.

The couple's first child was Dorothy Helen, born in 1904 in Cold Springs, where William was teaching. Emma had quit teaching after her marriage.

The following year the young family moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake, where William served as the principal of the high school, now part of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum.

In 1906, they suffered the

loss of baby George and two years later had another son, born in Niagara-on-the-Lake, William Robertson Wright.

They did not stay long in Niagara, with William transferring to the high school in Forest, Ont., in 1908. Their second daughter, Margery Emma, was born there in 1910.

In 1913, the family moved again, when William became principal of St. Marys Collegiate. He also served as a part-time militia officer in the 28th Perth Battalion.

Patriotism was the stated reason for William deciding to volunteer for active service in the First World War.

He was 41 years old with three young children at home. Nobody would have thought ill of him if he had remained a teacher at home serving in the local militia.

Nonetheless, he volunteered for service in 110th Overseas Battalion on May 5, 1916, and was confirmed in his rank as a lieutenant.

Three months later he sailed to England, arriving in Liverpool on Aug. 30, 1916. One of the men who served with him testified that: "No man ever answered the call of King and country with a purer motive."

While overseas, William and Mary wrote to each other continuously, with Mary reporting local happenings. William wrote of

his experiences, in and out of the front-line trenches.

William expressed his feelings on the war: "There are a dozen worse things than death. Disgrace, shame, guilt, dishonour, lack of patriotism are all worse. Liberty and free government cannot be won and kept without sacrifice. I am glad to be able to do anything to end this awful war."

In May 1917, Lieutenant Wright was transferred to the 4th Trench Mortar Battery.

The move gave Wright a break from front-line duty in June and early July while his unit underwent more training. He returned to the front line in July when the Canadians were preparing for a major attack on German positions on Hill 70 near Lens in France.

On Aug. 26, 1917, fighting in a series of Canadian attacks and German counter-attacks, fate found Lieutenant Wright. He was killed outright when a German squad overran his mortar position.

Wright was buried at the Fosse No. 10 Cemetery in Sains-en-Gohelle, France.

On May 15, 1919, Mary wrote to NOTL historian and museum curator Janet Carnochan thanking her for sending an article about William published by the Niagara Historical Society.

She spoke of her "blues" and loneliness, and that her

depression deepened as the soldiers who had survived the war were sailing back to Canada. William's 19th Battalion would be welcomed in Toronto by cheering crowds, reunited with their loved ones.

Mary opened her heart and expressed her feelings about the return of her husband's battalion from overseas.

"I am afraid I shall have another collapse when I read of its arrival and reception in Toronto. How different everything would have been for us had he been coming and what a different person I would have been!"

Tens of thousands of wives, parents, siblings and friends of the fallen would have understood.

Today the lonely tombstone of baby George is the most visible reminder of this branch of the Wright family in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Lt. William Wright's name is not included on the cenotaph on Queen Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake..

On the heels of The Lake Report's 53-part "Monuments Men" series, which exhaustively documented the story of every soldier commemorated on the town's two cenotaphs, Ron Dale's "Missing in Action" stories profile Niagara-on-the-Lake soldiers who died in wartime but are not listed on the town's monuments.



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Contributed by Patty Garriock

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- Lucy Maud Montgomer

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Have a lead on a story?

Call 905.359.2270 or send an email to editor@niagaranow.com

Around and around



Cars take a drive around the newly opened roundabout in Glendale. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Editorial

It's not rocket science — yes, it's a hate crime

Richard Harley
 Editor-In-Chief

It is shameful what has happened – repeatedly – to Niagara-on-the-Lake's rainbow crosswalk.

It also is hateful.

The Niagara Regional Police Service says it is investigating the latest vandalism as a “potential” hate crime.

Given the repeated vandalism and the anti-gay and other hateful messages, it is not a potential hate crime.

It simply is a hate crime.

Full stop.

This is the fourth time

the Pride crosswalk in NOTL has been defaced in just over two months — 66 days to be exact.

Every time the message is more vulgar, more hate-fuelled, more unhinged.

Whoever is responsible for the last two incidents has pre-meditated their message of hatred and blacked out the town camera that faces the crosswalk.

We wonder how pathetic and scared of sexuality an individual must be to act in such a way.

Given some religious organizations' anti-gay and

anti-Pride stances, we have to wonder if the people involved are also motivated by their personal religious beliefs.

But one thing we don't have to wonder about is whether or not this is a hate crime.

The damage meets the definition of a crime — one fuelled by hatred of a specific group of people.

Yet our Niagara police force only says it is “potentially” a hate crime.

The message was disgustingly clear: “Die fags.” And more.

The only debate should

be whether it constitutes a death threat — there is no question it's a hate crime.

Respectfully, our police service simply has to do better. Find the culprits and charge them with committing a hate crime.

Treat these repeated acts of hate and vandalism with all the seriousness they deserve.

Before someone dies actually.

If police don't treat this as a hate crime, then if someone is killed, we hope the community bands together to litigate and protest our “protectors.”



Sometimes we need more government

Dear editor:

I respectfully disagree with Alexander Evans' suggestion that in a previous letter to the editor I labelled developer Benny Marotta's life as “frivolous.”

I also disagree with Mr. Evans' portrayal of the Conservation Review Board and land tribunals as somehow denying Mr. Marotta his rights as a Canadian citizen, (Letter, “Town should disband its committees,” Aug. 3).

Somehow Mr. Evans seems to have misunderstood the Canadian Charter

of Rights and Freedoms and equates community and government somehow with “mob rule” and that in order to end mob rule we need to vastly curtail the government's responsibilities.

That sounds like the reasoning behind the “freedom convoy,” which held hostage the city of Ottawa essentially demanding an end to the rule of law in Canada.

In Canada we have many freedoms guaranteed by our Charter of Rights and Freedoms including: legal rights, mobility rights, Aboriginal People's rights, right to

peaceful assembly, right to vote, freedom of thought, speech and religion.

These rights come with responsibilities to: obey Canadian laws (including property law); express one's opinions freely, while respecting the rights and freedoms of others; to participate and help those in your community; to take responsibility to protect our environment and preserve our heritage; to vote in elections and to serve on juries if called.

It would seem to me those “volunteering” their time on

the municipal heritage and the urban design committees are living full lives and taking their responsibilities as citizens seriously.

The current clamouring for individual rights seems to forget that the entirety of human civilization has evolved out of our species' ability to co-operate in communities.

When individual rights impinge on other people's rights in favour of anarchy, we need more government not less.

Bob Bader
 NOTL

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Then along came the Regency era



Brian Marshall
Columnist

For most of the 1700s, the controlling elements of British society were staunchly conservative, promoting the values of rationalism, order and harmony; attitudes that launched the Industrial Revolution in Britain decades earlier than anywhere else.

However, there were many who pushed back against the prevailing attitudes and created a movement which eventually had a profound influence on 19th-century thought. This movement, which is known as Romantic, celebrated individualism, variety, emotion and a profound connection with nature.

By the early 1800s, the tenets of Romanticism could be seen in the writing of Lord Byron, Mary Shelley, John Keats, in the art of painters like J. M. W. Turner and John Constable, in the designs of architects such as John Nash and in the actions of political reformers attempting to influence those in the halls of power, none the least of which was the controversial Prince of Wales.

By 1810, King George III was virtually blind, suffer-

ing from continual pain and recurrent bouts of mental instability that forced Parliament to pass the Regency Act in 1811, appointing the unpopular Prince of Wales (future King George IV) as regent with restricted powers.

While The Prince Regent, as he was often referred to, had a smaller role in politics than his predecessors, he moved to centre stage in matters of “style, culture and taste.”

In short order, he commissioned John Nash on projects which culminated in the design of the exotic Brighton Pavillion – the first fully realized example of grand architecture in the style that had been developing under the principles of Romanticism: Regency.

As one might suspect, a style developed by architects who spoke to individualism and variety could, and did, take on various expressions that, at first glance, may not seem to follow a consistent set of parameters. However, within this variety lies a consistency of common elements.

First and foremost, a Regency design follows the picturesque tradition of integrating with the surrounding landscape. Unlike formal Georgian houses wherein the principal rooms were often located on the second floor, these “public” spaces were placed on the ground floor and very often opened onto verandahs via French doors creating a flow from the interior to the exterior.

The buildings displayed



The Warner House is an upscale Ontario Regency cottage. BRIAN MARSHALL

a horizontal emphasis, appearing to be set lower to the ground, with distinct water tables and belt courses which drew the eye across the building into the naturalized plantings around the structure.

Particular attention was paid to the play of light and shadow generated by the sun, the plantings, and the elements of the building’s design; whether that building be grand (as in Hamilton’s Dundurn Castle) or simple (as in Niagara-on-the-Lake’s James Butler’s House at 285 Simcoe St.).

Finally, a hip roof was the most commonly used for its quality of drawing the eye back down to the ground, enhancing landscape integration.

Some inspiration was drawn from neoclassical design, but this was leavened with elements from rural Italian (Tuscan), Moorish, Indian and Oriental architecture. These “exotic” elements were moulded, altered and often simplified through the filter of the

British picturesque tradition to establish a natural emotive response rather than a distinct decorative statement.

In keeping with the “natural emotive” principle, Regency decorative elements are typically minimalistic and the main entry, even when large and dressed with sidelights and/or transom lights, tends to be understated.

The advent of the Regency style in Upper Canada coincided with a fundamental change in the colony’s pattern of immigration. Where, prior to 1815, the majority of immigrants were early, middle and late Loyalists leaving the newly formed United States, after the War of 1812, the primary source of new arrivals came from Britain, not a few of whom had served in the King’s armed forces.

The post-war anti-American sentiment combined with the influx of new British settlers – many with a military loyalty bias and tastes broadened by service

in foreign lands – created a social desire to be definitively British.

The Regency style, with its hint of the exotic but completely a British development, suited Upper Canada in the first half of the 19th century to a T.

So, within a 30-minute drive of where you sit in Niagara-on-the-Lake, we are blessed to have superb surviving examples of each of the Regency design expressions for you to discover.

The Ontario Regency Cottage, a Regency expression based on the British military modification of the Indian bungalow for their serving officers in India, was one of the most common period building designs in Upper Canada.

A symmetrical single-storey home with a hipped roof, the circa 1837 Warner House at 287 Warner Rd. in NOTL is an outstanding up-scale instance built of quarried stone, while the previously mentioned circa 1817 James Butler House

at 285 Simcoe St. in Old Town stands out as an early clapboard survivor.

The two-storey, three-bay, hipped-roof, symmetrical, cubic form Breakenridge House, circa 1823, at 240 Centre St. in Old Town is likely the oldest unaltered example of this Regency expression in the country.

The circa 1840 Ball House (Roselawn) at 1413 Lakeshore Rd. in NOTL illustrates some oriental influence in its entry decoration typical of its later period.

Over in Niagara Falls at 2922 St. Paul Ave. sits the circa 1840s Oswald House, a rare one-and-a-half-storey gabled roof home which treats passers-by to its original trellis wrap-around verandah served by six sets of French doors.

Back in NOTL, the circa 1858 St. Mark’s Rectory is a Regency Tuscan, the verticality of its architecture illustrating the waning popularity of the expression and the influence of the emerging Italianate style.

Finally, the last and rarest of Regency expressions is the romantic landscape gazebo-inspired form of the Solomon Miller Octagon House located in rural Niagara Falls at 3878 Baker Rd. Designed in the form that Orson Fowler described in 1849 as the “ideal house,” there were only 45 examples of this design ever built in Ontario and, of those, a mere handful remain.

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

Rainbow crosswalk only costs each taxpayer a few cents

Dear editor:

I am greatly saddened and outraged by the hate messages repeatedly spray-painted on Niagara-on-the-Lake’s rainbow crosswalk.

To add insult to injury, the comments of Coun. Erwin Wiens, who said that the cost of the crosswalk never should have been covered with taxpayer dollars, are wildly

off-base and insensitive.

Coun. Wiens’ view that combating hate in our town is not worth a few cents per resident gives permission to these vandals and bigots to voice their violent messages, such as “F*gs must die.”

To send a strong response to these dark elements of our society, we need the town to create another prominent

rainbow crosswalk on Queen Street in time for the next Pride month.

And yes, it should be taxpayer funded, because it is not about celebrating a small group of people, it is about not allowing hate to fester.

Remember, “First they came ...”

Ernest Chan
NOTL.

Town needs to keep tax hike below rate of inflation

Dear editor:

The decision to commence budget talks in the fall is a welcome step in the right direction, (“Plans for 2024 budget talks to start this fall – to avoid last year’s delays,” The Lake Report, Aug. 3).

However, those of us living in urban areas have just received a massive increase

of more than 10 per cent to the town portion of our property taxes, well in excess of the highest inflation rate in decades.

Against this background surely the town proposal not to “increase taxes by more than 6.5 per cent” in 2024 should be unacceptable to all of us.

This would represent an

increase in excess of double the current rate of inflation and more than many people can afford.

Instead I would respectfully suggest that council direct town leadership to keep the tax increase below the current rate of inflation.

Jon Household
NOTL



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Dog waste stations installed in three Glendale parks

Steve Hardaker
Community Correspondent

Stooping and scooping just got a little more convenient for pet owners in the Niagara on the Green neighbourhood of Glendale.

This is because late last week the town partnered with Walker Industries installing new dog waste stations in the neighbourhood's three public parks.

Dog waste stations have been installed in the main neighbourhood park as well as the parkette on Cole Crescent and the parkette opposite Griffith Gate.

The idea came from longtime resident Scott Maxwell.

He in turn promoted his idea first with Walker Industries, which agreed to fund the project and then with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, which approved the



A dog waste station has been installed in Niagara on the Green Park. Pictured are, NOTL parks supervisor J.B. Hopkins, Darren Fry from Walker Industries and Scott Maxwell, along with his two bearded collies, Murphy and Stryker. STEVE HARDAKER

waste stations and installed them in the parks.

Maxwell, who is a volunteer firefighter with the town, explained why he felt this was a worthwhile

endeavour.

"This started out of a desire to keep the park clean for the annual Easter egg hunt, which is organized by Station 5 in Glendale."

"Because we have three different age groups, the youngest being up to two years, they are crawling around. Our firefighters would come out first and clean the ground, removing any droppings."

That led to his idea of having dog waste stations installed in the park.

"From that, I had a great conversation with some of the folks at Walker Industries and met Darren Fry. We did a bit of research and found out this was pretty plausible and that we could put this together with a little bit of support from the town."

Fry, a project director with Walker Industries, said he and Maxwell met at a social gathering where they chatted about the Niagara on the Green neighbourhood.

"Walker has a long histo-

ry of supporting communities where it has operations and Scott had explained he had this idea that will benefit the neighbourhood and is there an opportunity to work together on it?"

"We collaborated and came up with a solution that would involve the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Walker."

"So here we are today installing some dog waste stations so that way waste is managed appropriately."

"And we went the extra step and ensured they were compostable bags," he said.

Also in attendance for the waste station installations was J.B. Hopkins, the town's parks supervisor, who praised Maxwell, stating, "We are just grateful for Scott's recommendation of an enhancement that will improve the experience of park users."

"And then, of course, of Walker Industries and their financial support for this project."

"We are very interested in environmental sustainability and this is a measure to head in that direction."

Maxwell said it will be a two-year pilot project in Niagara on the Green. "Volunteers are needed to check on the bags and replace them when needed so as not to place the burden on town staff."

"If successful," he said, "we can approach the town and Walker and maybe down the road, we can roll this out in the other communities in Niagara-on-the-Lake."

Steve Hardaker has lived in the Niagara on the Green neighbourhood in Glendale for over 13 years and is active in several community organizations.



People unload boxes of documents to be shredded at the Shred-it 2022 fundraiser for NOTL Palliative Care. FILE

Palliative Care's Shred-it returns next Saturday

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Organize your life and free up some space.

On Saturday, Aug. 19, Niagara-on-the-Lake Palliative Care is bringing Shred-it back from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The community affair, sponsored by Meridian Credit Union, gives NOTLers a convenient way to dispose of old documents by simply stopping by Simpson's Pharmacy.

"They don't even have to get out of their vehicles," said Bonnie Bagnulo, executive director at NOTL Palliative Care.

"Just drive up. We unload the vehicles and (the documents) get shredded right in front of the people," she added.

No advance reservations are needed and the service costs \$8 per banker's box or \$20 for three.

All money raised will go toward the palliative care agency's operations.



Build proposed hotel on former hospital site

Dear editor:

The concept of a "vibrant and complete community" is seen as an important goal in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's 2022-2026 strategic plan.

Strangely, planning staff and council refuse to recognize that dropping a large commercial hotel into the middle of an established residential neighbourhood will have a massively negative effect on this goal.

Staff did not require a market/impact study to be submitted as per official plan section 10.4 "commercial policies."

At its July 25 meeting, council rejected all recommendations received from the urban design committee, including all of number three where parts b, c, and d responded directly to the requested comments from staff regarding height, massing and scale of the building.

Land use is an important part of urban design. It is not outside the purview of urban design.

Planning staff did not ask the urban design committee to comment on it, but the committee dared to offer an opinion on this important issue.

If you can only answer the questions you have been asked – and add nothing more – all of the power is in the hands of the questioner.

The site's open space that enthralls everyone is not accessible to the public and will not even be visible to passersby through the brick and stone wall.

As the entire site is proposed to be rezoned to general commercial, there is no guarantee that the green space will remain or even ever be planted.

Walls do not contribute to a sense of community. Nor do they in any way promote inclusion, diversity and equity but instead inspire exclusion, homogeneity and inequity.

At the same time, the town is wondering what to do with the former hospital site. Hmm, let's think outside the box for a minute.

Royal Oak Community School now occupies the building. The former hospital is adjacent to the Queen-Picton commercial area.

The Shaw Festival theatre is to the south, to the southwest is the Shaw Club Hotel and Zee's Restaurant, St. Vincent De Paul Church to the west, to the north

is the Niagara Long Term Care Residence and Queen's Landing Hotel. To the east is the Fort George parking lot.

Sounds like a much better location for a hotel than the former Parliament Oak school site.

It could become an anchor to the commercial district, with weddings at the church, overflow parking possible in the existing parking lot of Fort George, and the existing roads are already adequately sized.

This much more prominent and visible location for a grand hotel would contribute liveliness to the east end of the existing commercial district.

The Royal Oak Community School could occupy some or all of the existing Parliament Oak building. That building is surrounded by houses, some of which have children who could walk to school.

Perhaps a community hub and arts organizations could also inhabit the school.

This would create a "vibrant and complete community" for the residents within the existing residential area – not the

walled black hole that would be created by the exclusionary hotel proposed for this site.

The former hospital site may be smaller in size but it is a much more prominent and appropriate location for a hotel of the grandeur proposed on the Parliament Oak site.

A land swap of the two properties would be beneficial from a planning viewpoint and be beneficial for both areas of town.

And rather than tearing down the school, it could remain and be repurposed in a meaningful way, avoiding unnecessary waste.

The heritage plaques could remain exactly where they are, as was suggested by the previous heritage committee.

"Vibrant and complete communities" require institutional lands and community services located in appropriate locations.

Such communities will not be created by happenstance nor by the whims of developers. They need to be contemplated, orchestrated and envisioned with competent planning and design.

*Connie Tintinalli
NOTL*



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Friends of the Forgotten partners with Shaw

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Friends of the Forgotten is introducing a new partnership to help raise money and spread awareness about restoration work taking place at the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground.

The committee has partnered with the Shaw Festival Theatre in an effort to spread its message to a wider audience.

At the Shaw's Aug. 19 production of "The Amen Corner," writer James Baldwin's 1954 play, inserts with information about the burial ground and its history will be placed into each playbill. "This is an amazing achievement," said George Webber, head of the committee.

He said he got in touch with Kimberley Rampersad, the associate artistic director of the Shaw Festival, to see if there were any opportunities to work together.



George Webber, head of the Friends of the Forgotten committee, is excited to partner with the Shaw Festival Theatre to help bring awareness to the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Webber said that Rampersad suggested they include the inserts in the playbills since "The Amen Corner," like the Niagara Baptist Church, is driven by Black history.

"Every person who comes to opening night, or 850 of them, will get the program with an insert," said Webber.

The show will start on Aug. 19 at 6 p.m.

The insert will describe in detail what the committee is doing to restore the burial ground and will include a QR code for donations.

The Friends of the Forgotten is a community

committee dedicated to restoring the Niagara Baptist Church burial ground, formerly known as the Negro Burial Ground.

There are believed to be 28 graves and 19 buried headstones belonging to Canadian settlers on the Mississauga Street property.

Many were members of the Baptist church and some fled from slavery in the United States in the 1800s.

Webber said the committee needs another \$35,000 to go ahead with stage two and three archeological assessments and that the plan is to eventually "lift the

headstones that are there."

In addition to the playbill inserts, Rampersad suggested another idea to Webber.

"She said, 'You know what we can do? We can put a banner up in the lobby on opening night and beyond that talks about the Friends of the Forgotten and the burial ground,'" he said.

The banner idea hasn't been confirmed yet, but Webber said he's pretty sure it's going to happen.

Along with the inserts and the sign, there will be information on the TV monitors about the burial ground.


He said he never expected this to happen and couldn't contain his excitement.

"It's coming together and I'm loving every moment," said Webber.

There are also plans in the works to hold a fundraiser in the coming weeks and to hold a consecration on the grounds.

More information about the Friends of the Forgotten can be found at friendsoftheforgotten.ca.

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Artists in their element at Niagara Pumphouse art show



Marzena Kotapska says she usually paints streetscapes and architecture, but people seem to like it when she paints people. EVAN LOREE

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A brush stroke is as natural as a breath of air, but a canvas is as complex as a beating heart.

That was the sentiment of artists hosted at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Pumphouse over the long weekend.

"It just seems to be second nature to me," said Hamilton painter Amanada Immurs describing her art.

"It's like breathing to me, actually. I can't imagine not doing it," she said.

Immurs was one of over 60 artists at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre's 16th annual Art at the Pumphouse show.

Immurs' display featured several pictures of children and animals.

For her, there's something "whimsical" about painting

the two subjects together.

The Hamiltonian painter said she finds it peaceful to watch the birds fly by in her backyard, which was one reason she gave for why they make it into her paintings so often.

The 40-year-old artist said she likes to paint the children partially obscured because it tells more of a story.

"People get caught up in what the child looks like," she said

She'd rather people experience the emotions of her painted characters.

Immurs has been drawn to art since she was a child and recalls inheriting a supply of oil paints from a family friend after he died when she was 15.

Unlike Immurs, who's been painting her whole life, Taruna Singh picked it up during the lockdowns

of 2020 after she was laid off from a job in graphic design.

"To deal with my own anxiety and depression. I started painting," she said.

Singh said her work is very emotional.

"It's my heart, my everything on canvas," she said.

Singh said she takes a lot of inspiration from the Women, Life, Freedom movement, an Iranian women's rights movement which began in September 2022 after a woman was killed by Iranian moral police for not wearing her hijab properly.

"I've lived in so many parts of the world now. And I experienced so many different cultures. That's what inspires me," she said.

Singh was originally born in India but currently lives in Oakville.

Singh likes to mix her

acrylic paint with other materials to produce a unique texture in her paintings and encourages people to touch her canvases as part of their experience.

"I use whatever I can to kind of make the art more dimensional," she said.

Lise Andreana, board chair at the Pumphouse, was pleased to see a diverse showing of artists at this year's show.

"What's life without culture?" she said.

Artists get good exposure at the annual event, Andreana said, which is why many choose to come back year after year.

"I'm always pleased to see the number of new artists coming in because that keeps a show fresh," she said.

She said they had almost 25 per cent more artists this year over last year.

Families stop by Village market **Kid's Day**

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The annual Kid's Day at the Niagara-on-the-Lake farmer's market was postponed on July 29 thanks to the rain, but families were able to enjoy the special day at the Garrison Village on Saturday instead.

"It's just great to see all the families out, finally, this week — after being postponed from last week," said market organizer Sharon Brimsmead-Taylor.

She said the market has hosted a day for kids every year since 2015.

When The Lake Report

stopped by on the sunny Saturday between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., there were about 30 people gathered under the face painting tent waiting their turn to add a splash of colour to their skin.

There were a few kids bouncing up and down in an inflatable bouncy castle nearby, some families snacking on market produce and a few kids were listening to a storytelling nearby.

Carlee Wall was there with her children Evan, 6, and Hanna, 4.

While Hanna walked away with a butterfly on her face, Evan sat pa-

tiently for a geometric abstract painted in white and black.

Wall said she and her kids planned to grab some sweet treats on the way out before they spent the afternoon boating.

Three-year-old Emerson Bjorgan was snacking on a peach under the storytelling tent nearby.

Mother Dana Bjorgan said she and the kids had just got back from a five-day camping trip near Algonquin on Friday.

When the St. Davids family found a flier for the child-friendly activities at the market they decided to make a special trip to check it out.

For Catherine Wall, there with her two kids Borden and Fiona, the fact that it was kid's day at the market was an added bonus.

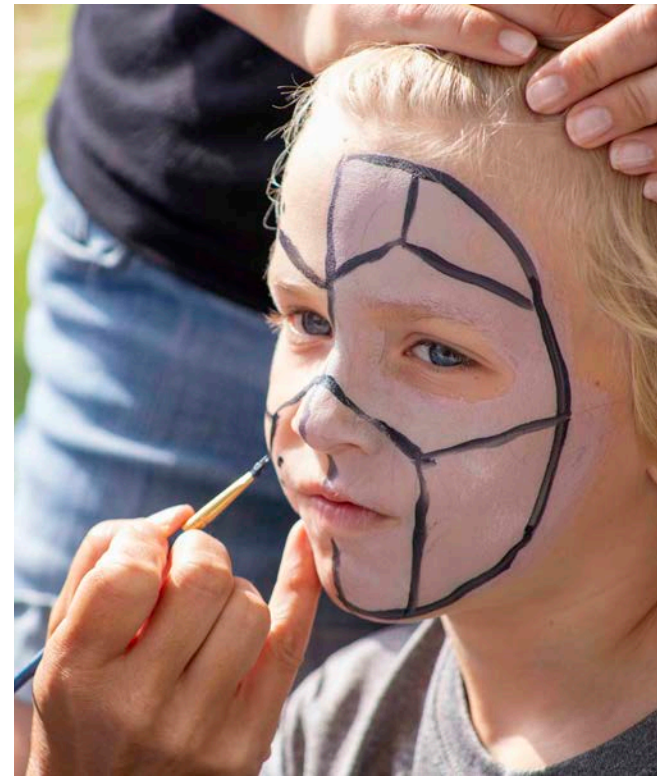
She said her family tries to support the neighbourly market "any way we can."

Lisa Schachtschneider brought her sons, Luke age five and Jake age three.

Schachtschneider, who lives in Stamford Niagara Falls, said she had plans to take her two boys to the zoo but was especially looking forward to next weekend's peach festival.

"Next week is peach festival, so the fun continues," she said.

"I'm so excited."



Evan Wall, 6, gets his face painted during kid's day at the farmers' market. EVAN LOREE

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Father and daughter spotlight smithing at NOTL Museum's Heritage Festival

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A dad-and-daughter duo is keeping the fire going for an ancient and artistic trade. Neil Blythin and his 10-year-old daughter Evelyn were at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum on Monday with a display of hooks, hinges and other tools traditionally forged by blacksmiths, teaching museum-goers about the world of this historic practice.

They were there for the annual Past is Present Heritage Festival, one of the museum's busiest days of the year.

Blythin said there's something about the "permanence" of blacksmithing that has him coming back to the forge.

He said when he stamps his name into a piece of metal, it's there to stay for his kids and grandkids to see years later.

An electrician by day, Blythin works as a blacksmith in his downtime and has begun to share his historic craft with the next generation.

Evelyn said her dad taught her to make a hook so she'd have something to hang her new hat on.

Her favourite part of blacksmithing is how the heat of the fire pit makes the metal soft like clay.

This property is what makes metal reusable, Blythin said.

One tool he had on display, a 120-year-old hacksaw frame, was once a file.

When the metal could no longer be used as a file, it was turned into something



PHOTO GALLERY
See more pictures at niagaranow.com

Neil Blythin and daughter Evelyn teach people about the trade and history of blacksmithing at the NOTL Museum's Heritage Festival on Monday. EVAN LOREE

new he said.

With blacksmithing, "nothing goes to waste," and old pieces can always be reworked to create something new, Blythin said.

Elsewhere inside the museum, three members of the St. Catharines Rug Hooking Guild were making wool rugs.

"It's like painting with wool," said Debbie Fabi, a rug hooker from Welland.

She and the other crafters use hooks to pull loops of wool yarn through a fabric mat, often made of burlap.

Each loop of yarn forms a small part of a larger pic-

ture, which slowly becomes visible as the rug gets closer to completion.

Outside on the sidewalk, antique gun collector Victor Packard was showing off a few of his collection's historic rifles.

As people stopped by his table to view the weapons, he explained how each was operated and how old each gun was.

The oldest model in his collection was part of a line of rifles first used in about 1450.

Packard said the model was used right up until 1700, but he wasn't sure exactly how old his rifle was.

The gun in question, called a match lock model, was loaded from the top of the barrel and used a burning rope to light the gunpowder inside.

"The history of firearms is just a fascinating subject for me," Packard said.

Sarah Kauffman, the museum's managing director, said the heritage festival is a good opportunity for visitors to enjoy the museum grounds free of charge.

Unlike some of their fundraising events, the heritage festival raises very little for the museum.

For Kauffman, it's "all about the community."

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VIRGIL BUSINESSES ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

As construction work continues on Niagara Stone Road, Virgil businesses along the route are suffering. This special section is designed to encourage NOTL residents and readers to support those businesses. Order a pizza, book a table — whatever it takes. While it is a pain to drive the wildly bumpy roads, and the work seems to be taking forever, it's even worse for business owners and staff who are struggling. The project won't be completed until fall.



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Game, set, match: Davis Cup shows NOTL love

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The arrival of the Davis Cup to Niagara-on-the-Lake meant something special to the town's tennis enthusiasts.

For Danny and Marlene McCarthy and Bev Lees, three of the original members of the NOTL Tennis Club since 1970, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – thanks to Team Canada's historic victory.

The 231-pound trophy made a stop in NOTL last Thursday during its four-month cross-country tour. People from across town dropped by its visiting spot, a private tennis court, to see it in person.

"I think the whole town should be here," Danny said.

Team Canada won the cup last November for the first time in 122 years in a match against Australia.

To see Canada finally win, and then to see the trophy in NOTL, is something for which the McCarthys have been waiting a long time.

"Tennis is finally getting the recognition it deserves



Frank Dancevic, Team Canada captain and Niagara Falls native, in Niagara-on-the-lake last week with the Davis Cup. Team Canada won the Davis Cup for the first time in 122 years last November. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

in Niagara-on-the-Lake," said Danny.

"It's an amazing accomplishment for us, for tennis in general and Canada for how far we've come over the years," said Frank Dancevic, Team Canada

captain and Niagara Falls native.

The McCarthys said they've loved tennis since they were in their 20s, and remember playing on asphalt courts in NOTL before there was even a club.

The trophy's stop in NOTL was coordinated by Rosemary Goodwin, director of the NOTL Tennis Club, who spent months working with Team Canada and the Davis Cup to schedule its visit to town.

The cup was on display at Sam and Robin Ridesic's private tennis court just steps away from the spot where prestigious lawn tennis competitions were played more than a century ago.

In the 1890s, Queens Royal Hotel was home to some of the most well-known lawn tennis competitions — including the Niagara International and the Canadian National Championships.

"It's hard to imagine that Queens Royal had six lawn tennis courts," said McCarthy.

Niagara-on-the-Lake was a tennis hot spot. The competitions would bring in the top tennis players from around the world to not just compete but to mingle with other players.

In 1896, friends suggested to millionaire Dwight F. Davis that he should sponsor what is known now as the Davis Cup — which he did in 1900 when the first Davis Cup competition took place between the United States and Great Britain.

Dancevic said to be there in Niagara-on-the-Lake with the cup felt like it was meant to be.

He said the history of tennis in NOTL and how the Davis Cup originated "is pretty amazing."

"It's just a wonderful story."

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Assisted death should be an option for dementia patients

Continued from Front Page

other residents in the home. Life becomes a series of in-the-moment snapshots, with all but the most deeply embedded memories soon gone.

Anyone who's looked after someone with dementia is familiar with what I'm talking about and many, especially those with a strong family history of dementia, worry that what they've witnessed up-close, might happen to them.

That was certainly my wife Jan's worry when she witnessed the clinical course of four close relatives with what was almost certainly Alzheimer's, given their clinical history.

It's a terrifying prospect for many: hence the determination of many in my generation to remain as sharp as possible for as long as possible by paying attention to modifiable risk factors such as physical and cognitive fitness.

Even so, worries continue that they, too, will become trapped in a nursing home, with control over their lives ceded to others who they won't know.

This prompts the question: If medical assisted termination of life is possible for those with terminal cancer and those with severe physical disabilities, why not those disabled by severe

cognitive and behavioural impairments associated with their dementia?

This is especially so for those whose medical directives make it clear that they don't want to live once they develop moderate to severe dementia.

That's a worthy question. My wife brought that question up several times with our two children and me when she was of sound enough mind to include in her medical directives, her wish not to live once she lost awareness of her family. So far, that hasn't happened.

To me, that sounds similar to the thinking of patients and families facing other insoluble, intolerable problems but in their case fortunate enough to meet the current cognitive requirements of MAID.

There are precedents. For example, wills and power-of-attorney documents remain legally binding should the principal later become cognitively impaired for whatever reason.

The same holds true for most contracts unless specific language was included to cover the development of dementia in one or other parties to the contract.

There are many instances where life-support for patients has been stopped or if initiated, was later withdrawn, for patients



Expert columnist Dr. William Brown says medically assisted ending should be available for people with Alzheimer's disease, along with rigorous testing. MIDJOURNEY

• Read more Dr. Brown online at [NiagaraNow.com](https://www.niagaranow.com)

with severe strokes, trauma to the brain or other severe illnesses, with the informed consent of immediate family members.

The key in the latter instances was that patients had a severe disease from which recovery was not possible based on sound medical evidence, and the decision was made with the assent of the family, in circumstances in which informed consent was not possible from the patient, to withdraw life support or provide comfort measures only, until death. That made sense to me and most families who faced those life-death decisions in my career.

But short of those acute events, the catch with a patient who suffers

from dementia, is how to determine cognitive and behavioural thresholds beyond which the patient, when of sound mind, expressed her (or his) wish, that they wanted to end their life. Establishing acceptable medical and legally defensible thresholds could be

legislatively and legally challenging, but not impossible goals.

Courts have been reluctant to become involved in cases where the patient is unable up to the moment before death, to assent to the last and final step.

However, in the case of dementia, suitable threshold tests could be established, which repeated several times, over the span of several weeks, would help to ensure they were consistent with the law and the patient's wishes.

Of course, all this conjecture would need public, supreme court and parliamentary support, which at this time, would probably not be there.

Patients in Europe and Canada won the right to death should they suffer from an incurable and intolerable condition such as late-stage cancer or paralyzing disorders.

Surely, it's time to grant

the same freedom to patients who suffer from dementia, who are unable to speak for themselves, yet made provision in their end-of-life directives to cover the possibility that they might be able to speak for themselves at the time when lethal injection was used.

Many will find this discussion unpleasant, wrong-headed, and even repugnant and immoral.

But I think it's a discussion the country needs to have given the long-term suffering of so many patients with dementia for so many years in long-term care facilities, where they progress all too often to some version of mindlessness, with no control over their day-to-day.

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.

Two peach fests, car show, rosé dinner **this weekend**

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

This weekend is packed with a little bit of fun for everyone in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

For all things peachy, head over to Queen Street on Saturday, Aug. 12, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the annual Peach Festival.

Food featuring NOTL's homegrown peaches along with music, entertainment and a pie contest – all sure to make for a great day.

The fruit-filled fun continues on Sunday, Aug. 13, with St. Vincent de Paul Church's 34th annual Peach Festival at 73 Picton St. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring more goodies and entertainment for all.

On Sunday evening, Queen Street will transform



into all hues of pink for the Chamber of Commerce's Shades of Rosé Dinner from 6 to 11 p.m.

The dress code is strictly pink and guests can enjoy an extensive beverage list and music from the George St. Kitts Band. Book one of the last remaining tables of eight at niagaraonthelake.com/shadesofrose2023.

Also on Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., car enthusiasts can support the Kins-

men and Cystic Fibrosis Canada at the 23rd annual Show & Shine car show.

Held at the Kinsmen Scout Hall on the corner of King and Mary streets, the show will include a barbecue, beer tent, T-shirts for sale and more. All cars are welcome and registration is at the gate.

If you'd take chords over cars, the Music Niagara Festival also has a stacked weekend in NOTL, with Emma Meinrenken in recital at St. Mark's Church on Friday, Aug. 11, at 7 p.m., Kiri Quartet & Friends at Grace United Church on Saturday at 7 p.m. and Masterclasses by Kiri Quartet at 2 p.m. at Grace United, followed by Talents of the Royal Conservatory at Ironwood Cider House at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

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EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM

Niagara Township Rural Fair trophy

This trophy was won by Mary Sheppard (married name Davies), who was named the “Champion Pupil” at the 1927 Niagara Township Rural School Fair. Mary attended SS #4, a school in Queenston. The trophy was presented by T. Eaton Company, more popularly known as Eaton’s, once the largest department store chain in Canada. This silver trophy was found in a landfill in Dorset. The engraving inside the cup reads “Standard’s Co. International S. Co. 1/156” and has embossed images of two oxen pulling a plow with a farmer and the crest of Ontario on either side.

Convenient public transit commute to charismatic Caribana



Ross’s Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

Yes, readers, it is sometimes cathartic to take a giant leap out of one’s comfort zone.

Last Saturday, I went from comfy and cozy Niagara-on-the-Lake to big and crazy and noisy and chaotic Toronto, for my 14th visit to the Toronto Caribbean Carnival. Caribana!

I make this day an annual sensory overload. Fourteen fabulous years in a row now, with two years off for COVID-19.

A kaleidoscope of colours, a seemingly disordered but in reality highly-organized celebration of all things Caribbean and Canadian.

Get out of the way, mon, the soca music is heating up, eager to overpower everything in the area.

And I did it with the real folk. The GO bus from Niagara College to Fairview Mall in St. Catharines at 7:46 a.m., on a crowded double-decker bus with about 40 young people going to work, coming home from work or visiting family and friends.

All into their own worlds,

many with earphones insulating them from the world. All courteous and quiet, getting on with their lives in a new country. Many fatigued, after a night shift working at NOTL hotels and restaurants. Beautiful new Canadians.

Then, along the QEW with four more brief stops on the way to the Burlington GO station, to catch the GO train (that’s the clever acronym for Government of Ontario, eh?) to Toronto Exhibition Centre.

Everything is on time to the minute so far, and unbelievably cheap. Especially for seniors like me.

So many people smiling. So much courtesy and quietness. Most nap as the GO bus and trains take them where they are going. It’s all good here in Canada, eh?

People are polite and the GO employees are professional, eager to help, and they make it easy for riders to get from point A to point B to point C and beyond. Everyone is going somewhere, for their own reasons.

Long live public transit. We need it – much more of it. Is it true that 38 per cent of Canadians don’t have a driver’s licence?

Off the GO train at 10:15 a.m., at the Exhibition stop along the lakeshore in Toronto, next to the fairly busy Gardiner Expressway. Why drive?

Into the fray. An explosion of bright colours and I head to the grand parade muster area in behind Medieval



Ross Robinson waits for the GO bus at Niagara College’s NOTL campus. SUPPLIED

Times. The brighter and more sparkling the better, and “as bare as you dare” costumes.

So many feathers and so much glitter. I have never seen so many people helping so many people attaching so many strings and ribbons to so many bare limbs. Bodies of all shapes and sizes, all ready for a day in the sun, with their “mas” groups at this year’s emotional blowout.

Mas is short for masquerade and everyone seems to know the cool steps to the marching dance. Except me.

Mas groups with names like the Toronto Revellers, Tribute, and Sunsmile. The 18-wheel trailers are heavily laden with speakers and

amplifiers. Try to think through the deafening music, as DJs try to overwhelm each other, revving up the thousands of beautiful Caribana celebrants.

All types and forms of beauty.

Beautiful in so many diverse ways. Almost all adults, some teenagers, almost all various shades of non-white skin, all proud of themselves and feeling the vibe in their costumes for the day.

It is refreshing to feel part of a definite minority, in the senses of age, sex, national background, musical preference and social comfort level.

And this Caribana party, my 14th, is just revving up.

I am that random old guy, as my winger Larry couldn’t make it this year. Lots of sunscreen and a wide-brimmed white felt hat. I look a bit like a Panamanian drug dealer, but so be it: I’m me today.

This year’s Caribana parade got underway right at noon.

I find a place along the parade route, on the Exhibition grounds, next to a community of about 25 friends. They were all set up under a tent, with food cooking and cold drinks. And lots of love.

I must have looked hungry as the smell of their food hit me.

“Do you want a plate, mon?” A 40-ish Guyanese man brought me a plate of what looked like jambalaya. “No, mon, this is my pelau, the favourite food on my island. We call it cookup. It’s a Trini dish.”

Soon, I had two bottles of cold water for five bucks, an overpriced double multi-flavoured popsicle and a bunch of new friends with whom to enjoy the next few hours of my life.

I asked my new pal, Marco, a few questions, and he easily explained how to roll a spliff (weed mixed with tobacco wrapped with rolling papers). Yes, there were a few people enjoying weed or a water pipe, but certainly not a lot.

Marco has been in Canada for 20 years and is a mechanic at the big Chrysler dealership in Mississauga. I asked him if Canada was a

good place to be.

“It’s good if you want to work and don’t spend money stupidly. It’s all good, mon,” he said.

Everyone was just taking in the day of celebration.

Later, at about 2:30, strictly by chance, I got involved with a bunch of marchers/dancers/crazy ladies from the Tribute mas.

Their music was great, they were dancing very suggestively, and they wanted to get pictures with “the random old guy.” It would have been rude to refuse their request. You must agree.

The DJ was firing them up, as they waved their flags from Grenada, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Barbados and other islands.

There were lots of ladies in the parade from the United States, and I met some from New Jersey, Detroit and Las Vegas.

I realized on the way home that none of them had waved the Stars and Stripes.

Interesting, eh? Or am I overthinking this?

Returning to NOTL late in the afternoon, I was mentally exhausted from having so much fun. GO train, GO bus, Niagara Region Transit. Great people. Dependable, well-trained. Fun!

Again, it was my favourite day of the year. I know what I’ll be doing on Aug. 6 next year.

God willing, I am certain our public transit system will be even better. C’mon, politicians.

We are so fortunate to live in Canada in 2023.

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The world of heucheras, or ‘choral bells’



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Columnist

There are many plant species that have blossomed over the last decade. When I think about a genus of plants that have made one of the biggest impacts on our gardens, the first one that comes to mind are heucheras, commonly known as coral bells.

Going back about 15 years ago or so, the only coral bells available for sale had small, rounded, green leaves with tall, airy stems of tiny coral/red. They had bell flowers that would

bloom repeatedly throughout the summer.

Now, there are so many varieties available with new ones being added every year. They have been developed mainly for their leaf colour rather than their flowers. They still get a tall airy stem of small bell-like flowers throughout the summer.

The flower will vary from a beige/tan flower to pink or red. The leaf colours vary from limey yellow, to copper-orange to silver to red and burgundy. There are even varieties that have bi-coloured leaves such as lime with red, silver with burgundy, darker veining with light colour in between the veins. Heucheras are now primarily used to provide that splash of colour in the garden.

Light conditions: The growing conditions for heucheras vary slightly from variety to variety, but it is safe to say that they all prefer a lightly shaded location, receiving about

four to six hours of sun per day, or an area that receives more of a dappled light throughout the day. Some varieties can burn in full sun, and most will not do well in a deeper shaded area. I find that the lime-coloured leaf varieties are less sun tolerant than some of the orange and burgundy leaf varieties. The key to successfully growing coral bells is that they all require a well-drained, loamy soil. If you have been unsuccessful in growing them before, chances are that it was because they had been over-watered. They do like to dry out slightly in between waterings. This can be an issue for gardens with in-ground irrigation when run too frequently.

Fertilizer: Coral bells have low fertilizer requirements. The best way to feed them would be to apply a half-inch of compost around each plant in spring. You can also use a slow-release fertilizer such as bonemeal. Do not use fast-release

fertilizers (water-soluble fertilizers).

Varieties: The size of the plants also varies with the different cultivars. There are some dwarf forms available, but the majority of the varieties grow about 18 inches high and two feet wide. Because of its smaller mounding form, it makes heucheras a great plant to add into the borders of perennial beds as well as mixed borders. I like to use them where you need to break up leaf colour to provide an accent. Most Coral bells have larger, rounded-lobed leaves that also provide a contrast in texture. Coral bells will really work well with any plant, but some of my favourite companion plants are hydrangeas, Japanese painted ferns, hakonechloa grass and hostas.

Hybrid: As you are checking out the heucheras at the garden centre you may also come upon a close relative of theirs named heucherella. There is a native perennial called tiarella



Heuchera "solar eclipse." JOANNE YOUNG

(commonly foamflower). It grows best in a shade to part-shade locations and sports upright, spikey clusters of fuzzy white/light pink flowers. They have now been hybridizing heuchera and tiarella together and have produced heucherellas. They are slightly more shade tolerant than heuchera and have a showier flower. The heucherellas also come

in a variety of leaf colours from lime to bronzy-orange to red and burgundy. Next time you are at the garden centre make sure you check out the heucheras and add some life into your garden. Happy harvesting!
Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at joanneyoung.ca.

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Patricia Mitchell



MITCHELL, Patricia May (nee Roberts) - Passed away peacefully while holding her loving daughter's hand on Friday, August 4, 2023. Beloved wife of the late Jack Mitchell (2013); and adored mother and best friend of Donna McIntyre. Predeceased by her parents Jessie and William Roberts and siblings: Jack, George, Joan and Bruce. She is survived by sisters Bettye

Southworth and Irene Nepean; and brother Donald Roberts. Patricia will be dearly missed and lovingly remembered by family and friends. Cremation has taken place. At Patricia's request, there will be no visitation or service. In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation to the charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.

"To the world she was just one person, but to one person she was the world."

Online guest book - www.georgedartefuneralhome.com



Diane Brophy



Celebration of Life

For Diane Brophy (Kerr)

August 19, 2023 from 1-5 p.m.

923 Line 5 Rd., NOTL

Beer, wine and food

Stop by, say hi and have a drink for Di.

Hope to see you there.

- Mike and Larry

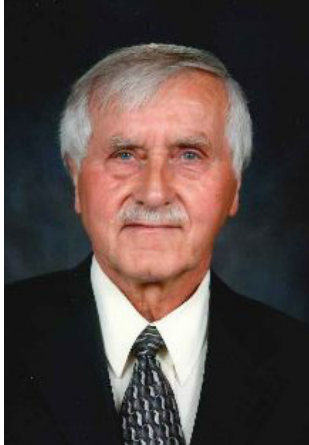
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The Lake Report's printer sources 100 per cent of its paper fibre from industry-leading paper mills, which use quick-growth, sustainable, renewable plots of land, rather than clear-cutting forests.

The ink is also vegetable-based.



Nestor Chemerika



Nestor David Chemerika, 84 (born January 4, 1939), tragically passed away on July 25, 2023 surrounded by his loving family, in the Greater Niagara General Hospital as the result of a hit and run.

Nestor is survived by his one true love Ella; his daughter Dennise (Gavino), their children Jeremiah and Sarah and great grandson Gavin Falzoi; his son Wayne (Nancy), their children

Cassandra (Devon), Samantha (Carl) and Devin Chemerika; his son Nestor (Tracey), their daughters Madison, Mackenzie and Makayla; his brothers Walter (Lucienne) and William, and numerous extended family and friends.

Nestor was predeceased by his father Nicolas, mother Anne, brothers Jack, Sam, Roy and sisters Mary and Rose.

Nestor was born at Mountain Rd. in Manitoba. At age 14, he moved to St. Catharines with his brother Walter (age 17). Nestor worked for over 25 years at G.M. and was passionate about Fruit Farming. He greatly enjoyed working around his yard, feeding the hummingbirds, dancing and keeping physically fit by cycling and walking (was known as the 'stick-man' by many around town). He was such a charismatic and sociable man who will be greatly missed by all.

Dad (Grandpa), you fought so hard, like the true Warrior you are. You left us all speechless with your unstoppable will to live. Everything that's good in us, dad, we got from you. God Bless you and see you in Heaven.

Visitation will take place at Bethany United Mennonite Church (572 E & West Line, Niagara-on-the-Lake) on Friday August 11th from 10:00am - 12:00pm with the funeral service to follow. After the service, interment will take place at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery with a reception to follow back at the church.

Online condolences at tallmanfuneralhomes.ca



Hugh Carter

CARTER, Hugh Bernard

Passed away, peacefully, at home in his sleep Saturday, August 5, 2023. Much loved and will be forever missed

by his wife, Donna (nee Skeoch) and his daughter, Sarah and her husband, Jason Cheshire. Hugh is survived by his mother, Phyllis; predeceased by with father, Albert. Dear brother of Phillip, Mark (Linda), John, Tim, Elizabeth (Alex), Margo (Mark) and the late David. He will be missed by his sister-in-law Karen, brother-in-law, Jim (Marg) Skeoch and the late Robert Skeoch. Hugh's an uncle to many nieces and nephews and their families.

Thanks to family, friends, nurses and PSWs for their support during the last few months.

In honouring Hugh's wishes cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life to be held from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, August 19, 2023 at the **Kinsmen Hall**, 430 King St., NOTL.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Kinsmen Club of NOTL, P.O. Box 222, Virgil, L0S 1T0, would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to **Considerate Cremation & Burial Services**, 26 Nihan Dr., St. Catharines (between Lake Street & Scott Street), 289-362-1144.

Online condolences may be made at CCBSCares.ca



Jacob Janzen



Jacob Benjamin Janzen - April 10, 1942 - August 5, 2023

It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of Jake Janzen ("Sammy", "Yash") on August 5, 2023.

He leaves behind his wife (of 60 years) Maryann and children Allen & Susan, Annette & Larry, and Richard. He will be greatly missed by his

grandchildren, Kaila (Alasdair) Daw, Dean (Katie) Janzen, Alyssa (Brandon) Benoit, Derrick Janzen, and Ally. As well as his great-grandchildren, Zoe & Ryan Daw, Madison & Emily Janzen, and Eloise Benoit.

Jake was born on April 10, 1942, and grew up on a farm on Hunter Rd in Niagara. He is predeceased by his parents Henry & Mary Janzen and all his siblings, Henry, Rudy, John, Nick, George (infancy), Maryanne, Anita, Luise (in infancy) and Hilda. Jake had many stories about his growing up years. They were a lively bunch.

This past April Jake & Maryann celebrated 60 years together. Family was always his number one priority, and he loved them all.

Jake loved life and had a happy personality. He often whistled while he worked and could do it in harmony to music. He liked to sing, dance and enjoyed listening to country and gospel music. He had a great sense of humor, a quick wit and enjoyed a good joke.

Jake enjoyed Hockey (Die-Hard Leaf Fan). He played "the nets" in his youth and coached minor hockey for many years. Hockey was in the family DNA as both sons and grandsons played.

Jake worked for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake for 31 years. He started out as a labourer/heavy equipment operator and for the last 20 years as the Foreman for the Roads Dept. He often said, "I had the best job!" He has enjoyed 25 years of retirement, much of it spent doing odd jobs for family as well as having fun with family, friends, and fishing at the cottage. Jake also had many great family times in Florida, and many other trips across Canada and the US.

As per Jake's wishes cremation has taken place. A private funeral will be held.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at Caroline Cellars, 1010 Line 2 Rd. #358, Virgil, Ontario from 2-5 pm.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Red Roof Retreat.

Online condolences at tallmanfuneralhomes.ca



Have an opinion you want heard?



The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often. Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation. Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated. Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published. Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 496 Mississauga St., NOTL.



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Stefan Regier

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