



Lanternfly traps set | Page 11



Tire tracks and spray paint defaced the crosswalk.

## Crosswalk vandalism cleaned up quickly

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake has cleaned up a third act of vandalism of the town's Pride crosswalk – which

also included damage to a newly-installed security camera facing the crosswalk.

This time, the crosswalk was defaced with deep, black tire skid marks and spray paint, with the words

“F--- you” written across one section.

It is the third time the crosswalk has been vandalized since it was installed on May 30.

Town staff cleaned up the mess Tuesday afternoon and

Niagara Regional Police appealed for help from witnesses.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa told The Lake Report he was “shocked” and

*Continued on Page 3*

# NIAGARA-IN-THE-LAKE

Low-lying areas flood after relentless rains, residents offer helping hands



Saturday's stormy weather hit Niagara-on-the-Lake hard. Almost two inches of rain fell in a short period. Roads like Ricardo Street were flooded in sections, the golf course was swamped and some people's homes were flooded. **Read about one Good Samaritan who offered to help people with their water-filled basements, on Page 2.** DAVE VAN DE LAAR

## Honk if you have parking meter problems

Julia Sacco  
The Lake Report

It's been nearly six months since Old Town's parking meters exchanged the old-school cash and card system for online payments.

For some, it's been a tricky thing to get a hang of.

The majority of the machines accept coins or payments made through the Honk Mobile application, but the option to pay with bills or a credit card have

been eliminated on most terminals.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, Sunay Nur spent several minutes struggling to use a parking meter at the intersection of Queen and Victoria streets.

The Mississauga resident told The Lake Report that with most parking meters, he could just “put the money in, and off I go.”

Frustrated, Nur had to



*Continued on Page 5* A confused group forms at a parking meter. JULIA SACCO



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Left: Blair Cribb said his goal in helping people with flooding problems is to spread kindness and make NOTL an even better community in which to live. JULIA SACCO Right: Normally the only water to be found on the NOTL Golf Club's first hole is Lake Ontario along the north edge. Saturday this huge lake appeared in the middle of the first fairway. KEN PORTER

# Good Samaritans **step up** to help during heavy flooding

Julia Sacco  
The Lake Report

For many Niagara-on-the-Lake residents, the stormy weather last weekend was more than a mild annoyance: streets, parks, the golf course and many homes faced serious flooding problems.

It was the second consecutive weekend of heavy rain, but good neighbours were at the ready to help out.

Yu Cao, who lives in Garrison Village, was one of those who had a water crisis: she went down to her basement on Saturday morning and discovered water pouring in.

"I panicked. I didn't know what to do. There were two inches of water on the floor and more water kept coming in," Cao told The Lake Report.

Luckily for her, and some other residents in need, some Good Samaritans helped save the day.

Blair Cribb moved to NOTL from a small town outside Ottawa two years ago and brought both his rural hospitality and a water pump with him.

He never expected he would actually have to use the pump, but it came in handy during the final weekend of July as he was able to help clear water from Cao's basement.

During the first weekend of heavy rainfall on July 23, Cribb posted on the "NOTL 4 All" Facebook page and offered to pump out base-

ments and yards for anyone in need.

"I saw how much water was coming into our sump pump from the rain and I thought my pump was able to keep up, but I figured there were other residents who were not in as good a situation as I was," Cribb said.

But it wasn't until the second rainfall this past weekend that he was "flooded" with responses: four people contacted him on Saturday, including Cao's friend Jing Nolan, who reached out on Cao's behalf.

"I just threw the pump and the hose in the back of my pickup truck and just drove to this first house," he said.

Cao said Cribb stopped by the house while she contacted her insurance company.

"Blair and his wonderful pump came to my home and pumped the water out to stop further damage. He was a great help," she said.

Cao said by the time she went back inside, Cribb was gone and she didn't get a proper chance to thank him – "from the bottom of my heart," she said.

Cribb connected with the three other people who reached out for help, but said they were able to clear the water out of their homes in time.

Crystal Nicholls was one of them, who received some help from another pair of good neighbours while she was overseas on vacation in Prague.

She said she checked the cameras monitoring her



Top: A Jeep splashes through a deep puddle on Ricardo Street. DAVE VAN DE LAAR Middle: Simcoe Park was a swimming pool. JULIA SACCO Bottom: Cars make their way through Ricardo Street where some homes flooded due to the deluge of rain. DINA KALNS



property and saw the flooding happening in real-time.

Nicholls was able to get into contact with some farmworkers who work

behind her home and often cut the grass for her.

"They went in and helped me out and were able to get the sump pump working

again," she said.

If another storm with heavy rainfall happens to blow into town again, Cribb said NOTLers can reach out

to him for help on Facebook.

"Generally I'm at home and willing to help out," he said.



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Town worker Ray Hunter cleans up the vandalism on the Pride crosswalk. The cost of cleaning up this third act of vandalism on the Pride crosswalk came in at under \$1,000, said the town's chief administrator. EVAN LOREE

## Crosswalk vandalism condemned by town officials, **police investigating**

*Continued from Front Page*

“disappointed” by the latest vandalism and “really frustrated” to see the camera targeted.

In a follow-up statement, Zalepa said everyone deserves to be treated equally and described the vandalism as an “affront” to the town’s values of inclusivity and acceptance.

Coun. Erwin Wiens, while disheartened by the act, was also confused by it.

“Why would somebody go do that?” he asked.

There being no note, confession or manifesto, Wiens said the town cannot know what the vandal wants – beyond the short, profane message.

“It’s an expense to the town that’s unwarranted, that doesn’t need to happen,” he added.

The town has spent \$20,000 on the crosswalk, with \$1,500 being kicked in by the NOTL Rotary Club.

Wiens said the cost of the crosswalk never should have been covered with taxpayer dollars, but rather with fundraising, as the town has done with projects like the Upper Canada Heritage Trail.

“It is a complete and utter waste of taxpayers’ money to have to monitor it and to have to fix it,” he said.

He added the vandal is being very shortsighted since the cost to repair it comes out of taxpayers’ pockets.

Such expenses could be used instead to repair roads and potholes, Wiens said.

The town’s chief administrator, Marnie Cluckie, said the vandalism occurred shortly after 3 a.m. on Sunday.

A camera, which was installed shortly after the first act of vandalism on the crosswalk, was also defaced with paint.

“Unfortunately, upon initial review, it seems that the vandals may have first painted over the security camera such that you can’t see the vandalism occurring or the person(s) who damaged the crosswalk,” Cluckie wrote in an email Monday morning in a response to questions from The Lake Report.

She strongly condemned the damage and said town staff is investigating further.

“The rainbow crosswalk is an important symbol

of diversity, inclusivity and acceptance in our community. This act of vandalism attempts to diminish the spirit of unity the crosswalk represents,” she wrote.

“It is disheartening to witness such acts in our community and I hope we will join together once again and not allow such incidents to discourage us.”

The cleanup cost is “minimal,” Cluckie said, noting total cleaning costs to date have been under \$1,000.

Resident George Webber, a member of the town’s diversity and equity committee, said he thinks there are better ways for people to express themselves than with vandalism.

“That idea of dirtying and vandalizing the crosswalk is a bad idea,” Webber said in an interview.

After the two similar acts of vandalism to the crosswalk in June, he said the next step is to move on.

While he felt there was value in alerting the community to what happened, he said he believes the publicity could

do more harm than good – like pouring fuel on a fire.

“Every time they do it, they get publicity,” Webber said.

Town staff will work with the police to seek ways to prevent this from occurring again, Cluckie said.

“We appreciate the importance the crosswalk has within the community and the residents who have reached out to inform the town of any acts of vandalism,” Cluckie said.

“While it is disheartening that this incident has occurred, staff will continue to preserve symbols of belonging and respect, such as the rainbow crosswalk and respond to any acts of hateful vandalism. We remain steadfast in our commitment to collectively work towards a more compassionate and inclusive future.”

In June, Niagara Regional Police identified a 15-year-old boy from St. Catharines as the vandal in the second incident.

Police urged anyone with information to contact the lead detective on the case at 905-688-4111, option 3, extension 1007730.


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## MIND YOUR METERS

# Glendale residents join chorus of concerns about speeding

Steve Hardaker  
Community Correspondent

Residents of the Niagara on the Green neighbourhood in Glendale are joining the growing chorus of concerns being expressed elsewhere in town over deteriorating traffic safety and excessive speeding.

The safety of pedestrians, cyclists and children are the main concerns.

To start to address some of their concerns, a new entranceway to the Royal Niagara Golf Club is being created off Taylor Road.

And this neighbourly gesture by Kaneff Golf is being applauded by the residents of the Niagara on the Green neighbourhood.

When asked why Kaneff was creating this new entranceway to the Royal Niagara Golf Club,

Pro shop manager Nick Costabile said the main reason Kaneff is doing it is “to address traffic safety concerns that have been expressed to us by residents about cars zipping in and zipping out of the golf club along Niagara on the Green Blvd.”

“The other reason is to take advantage of golf club visibility along Taylor Road, especially now that we have new signage there,” he said.

Like other neighbourhoods where The Lake Report documented safety concerns, people in Niagara on the Green say speeding vehicles, delivery vans and children’s safety top the list of problems.

Niagara on the Green is a large subdivision in Glendale that was built in three



Deepak Singh and Leanne Gagnon are two Niagara on the Green residents worried about speedsters in the neighbourhood. STEVE HARDAKER

phases. The first phase one began just before 2000 and phase three was finished by 2014.

There are a total of 465 households, comprised of townhomes, semi-detached and fully detached houses. According to the 2021 census, Niagara on the Green has just under 2,000 residents.

It has become a close-knit, family-oriented community with residents volunteering at several

neighbourhood events, such as the annual Easter egg hunt organized by firefighters from the Glendale station, the annual spring clean-up and other activities all centred in the neighbourhood park.

The neighbourhood features several crescents and long, straight streets where speeding has become a concern.

The entrance to Niagara on the Green is a long, straight, broad boulevard

from Glendale Avenue to the Royal Niagara Golf Club and it gives the appearance that it could accommodate four lanes of traffic.

The posted speed on Niagara on the Green Blvd is 50 km/h, which is the same as on Glendale Avenue, a busy regional arterial road on the northern boundary of the neighbourhood.

That posted limit is a major source of concern, especially for those families living on Niagara on the Green Blvd as many a time golfers going to or leaving the golf club exceed the speed limit.

Deepak Singh and his young family own a home on Niagara on the Green Blvd. Singh is a stay-at-home employee who can view the street traffic from his office.

“I often see larger trucks on Niagara on the Green Blvd. going 55 to 60 km/h. I did not feel comfortable looking at that. This is why I want to express my concern with this issue.”

“We have an 18-month-old that has just learned to walk. He walks all around. With our small yards, within a short period of time, he could be on the street.”

Lianne Gagnon, who also works from a home office that overlooks her street, is speaking out about traffic safety.

Newly retired, Gagnon is busy working on a dissertation for her doctoral degree in education exploring the intersection of land, people and spirit in relation to supporting Indigenous sovereignty.

Her main message “is really around the safety factors and ensuring that our neighbours aren’t at risk to speeders.”

“I live on Stevens Drive and would say at times there are cars and delivery vans going 70 to 80 km/h some days. Fifty, if we could, would be better, not that I am advocating for that.”

Gagnon is especially frustrated with the lack of response when she raises these issues.

“I have complained to the Niagara Regional Police and the town at least six times,” adding she has filed a formal written complaint to the police and written to councillors twice.

Gagnon said she heard back from chief administrator Marnie Cluckie who said she would bring it forward. “However, things have still gotten worse.”

“We have at least nine new children on Stevens. I know two that are learning to ride bikes,” she said.

As Singh noted, many are running around and some children are playing ball on the street, she said.

In a brief on-street discussion, Karen and Karl Glauser said children’s safety is their main concern.

Karl Glauser is the principal of St. Davids Public School and he said at least 100 children are bused there daily from the Niagara on the Green neighbourhood.

And that does not include children going to St. Michael Catholic School in Virgil or the high school students who all must leave the neighbourhood to attend school.

Mike and Sandra MacDonald, who live on Cole Crescent across from the end of Robertson Road, point to the yield sign on Robertson as a problem.

They want to see more stop signs and fewer yield signs in the area.

Asked for potential solutions, both Gagnon and Singh want the town to first and foremost reduce the posted speed limit on Niagara on the Green Blvd. “Thirty or 40 (km/h) would be good,” said Singh.

They are also suggesting speed humps be considered on neighbourhood streets to help slow down drivers.

They admit that a desire for increased enforcement is hampered by police resources that cannot meet the demand based on the funding that is available. But more of a police presence in the neighbourhood would be helpful.

They are also hopeful the town might deploy speed minders in the neighbourhood to educate and remind motorists of their speed.

Many in the neighbourhood agree that relocating the entranceway to the golf club is a good first step by the subdivision’s corporate neighbour in addressing safety concerns.

Now they want both the town and police to take appropriate action to further calm the traffic and reduce residents’ concerns.

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

## Plans for 2024 budget talks to start this fall to avoid last year’s delays

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

After a lengthy and rocky review of the 2023 budget early this year, Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors want to get back on track for next year’s budget.

At a meeting on July 18, town council approved staff plans to bring forth a draft of next year’s budget for Sept. 18.

If council stays on track with the staff plan, budget talks would wrap up in December.

Staff recommended the town not increase taxes by more than 6.5 per cent in a report signed by chief administrator Marnie Cluckie.

Cluckie said the schedule staff proposed for budget talks is preliminary and there could be time to add additional meetings if necessary.

Gary Burroughs, a longtime councillor, said the plan to begin budget discussions in September will be late when compared with non-election years.

The 2022 municipal elec-

tion was cited as one reason for delays to the town’s 2023 budget talks, which wrapped up in early April.

Town treasurer Kyle Freeborn disputed Burroughs’ assessment, saying the first draft of the budget usually comes to council in September.

Burroughs also said a 6.5 per cent limit on tax increases is “too high.”

Coun. Wendy Cheropita agreed, citing resident reactions to the tax increases of 2023 as a good reason to keep increases low next year.

Burroughs was also concerned that the hotel room tax committee still has not met.

The committee, Burroughs pointed out, will be dealing with “hundreds of thousands of dollars” coming from the municipality’s accommodations sector.

“The fact the committee hasn’t even met, even to discuss it to see what opportunities there may be, is just not acceptable,” he said.

Cheropita agreed that it “could impact the budget.” “It is a substantial

amount of money that will be available to the town,” she added.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said he was happy with the staff report.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor suggested staff prepare a second budget proposal with tax increases capped at three per cent.

She added that it could be helpful for council to compare the two options so they could see what would “fall off the table” if council decided to keep tax increases low.

Zalepa spoke against

the suggestion, arguing “it would be covered by the whole process anyway.”

He said council can decide what makes the cut and what doesn’t.

“Those decisions should be on our backs, not on staff’s backs,” he said.

Coun. Nick Ruller, however, pointed out that staff help to “guide those decisions.”

At the end of the discussion, council approved staff plans to start budget talks in September and voted in favour of O’Connor’s suggestion to draft two proposals.

# Visitors face **frustration** trying to use app and figure out parking machines

Continued from Front Page

download the Honk Mobile app and submit his licence plate number and credit card information in order to pay for a few hours of parking.

“The pricing is ridiculous, too. A person might think twice before they come,” Nur said.

The meters charge \$5.25 an hour and don’t accept paper money.

Lisa Fetta was visiting Niagara-on-the-Lake with her family last Wednesday afternoon from Tottenham, Ont., and also had a hard time with a machine.

“This is ridiculous. The QR code doesn’t work: it doesn’t scan,” she said.

“Nobody carries \$10 in coins,” she added.

While Nur struggled with figuring out his parking meter, Dean Gupta from Toronto approached a reporter to share his experience paying for parking.

“We just paid \$25 and we were trying to pay \$9,” he said.

This isn’t news to the town. For the past several months, councillors have been working on a solution to the problem.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita has been outspoken about her dismay with parking in Old Town since NOTL’s machines stopped accepting credit cards.

In the past few months, Cheropita said she has received numerous complaints about parking.

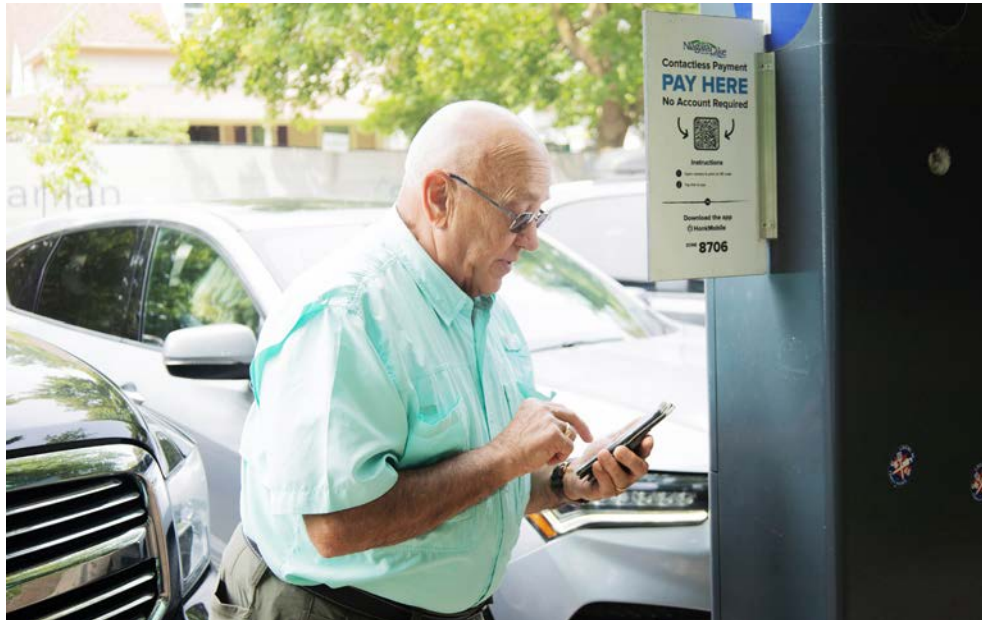
However, she emphasized that none of this was intentional on the town’s behalf.

“I can’t recall when (the original parking machines) were put in, but it was intended that they would operate for a long time,” she told The Lake Report.

“My understanding from the staff is that the company was actually going out of business,” she said, referring to the firm that manufactured the machines.

Cheropita said that going forward, the existing machines didn’t have the newest technology for accepting credit cards.

The cost for new ma-



Alfred Smith was visiting NOTL to celebrate his wife’s birthday last Wednesday afternoon. He was having trouble paying for parking and a young woman stopped to assist him. “It’s not completely user-friendly,” he said. JULIA SACCO

chines would be around \$900,000.

“That’s a huge piece of (the budget), so it’s not like we could just do that right away,” she said.

Honk Mobile was not an ad hoc solution for the broken machines, either.

Cheropita said the app was meant to be used in tandem with a fully functional parking meter.

**“It’s very frustrating, but we need to communicate that things are being done: It’s getting there.”**

COUN. MARIA MAVRIDIS

“A couple of years ago, the town found this Honk Mobile that was being used by a number of other municipalities across Ontario, and I think beyond. And so we added that just as a way of having another option,” she said.

Coun. Maria Mavridis told The Lake Report that Honk Mobile ended up helping the town, despite complaints about user-friendliness.

“Honk is still bringing in the revenue,” Mavridis said.

She explained that in an earlier budget discussion, council members considered switching solely to Honk

Mobile since it eliminates the need to pay for collecting coins from the meters and other service costs.

“Now we know it’s a good idea not to go just Honk,” she said.

New machines will be installed next year, but until then adjustments are being made, Mavridis added.

Cheropita said cash-dispensing machines have been installed in Old Town and the few existing meters that accept credit cards were moved into the town centre where most tourist traffic exists.

“I put a pile of coins in my pocket so that I can give them out if I see anyone that’s stuck,” she added.

One of the primary complaints from those paying for parking is that, especially post-COVID, people don’t carry coins and that they are unable to use Honk Mobile without a smartphone data plan.

But not everyone has a plan, especially international visitors.

Florian, who drove to NOTL from the United States on a Sunday afternoon, was one of those.

He was trying to pay for parking near Grace United Church.

“It seems that there is a problem with the network. It’s not the parking system. We don’t have network access in this area,” he said.

Florian then explained that he was likely still con-

nected to American cellular towers.

Mavridis suggested a simple solution for tourists without Canadian cellular service.

“I spoke to some other business owners and a lot of businesses along the street have open wifi for customers and guests,” she said.

Clear signage signalling locations with free wifi would help and tourists could stop at shops and restaurants to pay for their parking, she said.

“I can tell you right now Balzac’s has it, Exchange has it, Corks has it. Moving along the other way, the wine shop has it. You could literally go down Queen Street and everyone has it,” she added.

The consensus from the councillors is that Old Town’s parking machine failure is unfortunate, but changes are coming – eventually.

The town’s long-term parking strategy has been put in place and focuses on a phased-in approach to replace 30 of the 57 municipal parking meters.

There are also plans to include parking machine replacement in the 2024 budget process and to continue educating and guiding people toward using Honk Mobile.

“It’s very frustrating, but we need to communicate that things are being done: it’s getting there,” Mavridis said.

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Left Soldiers in trenches fix their bayonets and prepare to go “over the top” to attack German positions. CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM Right: Leroy Whitside was killed by shrapnel from a German artillery shell. VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL

# MISSING IN ACTION

## ‘The Suicide Battalion’ and Lt. Leroy Whitside

*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

Leroy Whitside was born in Delhi, Norfolk County, on May 25, 1888, the eldest son of Wilbur Whitside and Mary Elizabeth Heath.

Wilbur worked for the Delhi Canning Company and for several years managed the company’s fruit canning factory in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The factory was active each year from June to December and the Whitsides spent half of the year living in Niagara and the other half in Delhi.

During this period, their children, including Leroy, attended the Niagara Public School on Platoff Street.

Leroy completed secondary school in Delhi and received a bachelor of applied science degree in 1910 from the University of Toronto. Wilbur was then managing his company’s main factory in Delhi and Leroy was given a job there as a civil engineer.

He also became interested in the military and in 1912 he volunteered for part-time service in the Canadian Engineers of the Militia.

After the outbreak of the First World War, he took a more active role, commissioned as an officer in the Active Service Force of the Canadian Engineers, hoping to be posted overseas.

Lieutenant Whitside was sent to Camp Hughes in Sewell, Man., to instruct in trench building. On July 9, 1915, he attested to the 46th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

The 46th Battalion (South Saskatchewan) would gain the nickname “the Suicide Battalion.” During the war the battle group fought hard and suffered an incredible number of casualties, with 91.5 per cent of the men who served in the battalion being killed or wounded during the war.

At Camp Hughes, Whitside qualified for the rank of captain but chose to remain as a lieutenant to further his chances of going overseas.

He continued to train, qualifying as a musketry instructor on completion of a course in Ottawa in December. Meanwhile, a draft of the 46th Battalion had been shipped to England in the autumn of 1915.

Those men were then sent to France as replacements for other battalions while more men were recruited back in Canada to reconstitute the 46th.

Whitside was offered the position of second-in-command of the training base at Sewell but chose to remain with the 46th Battalion. Lieutenant Whitside shipped out to England in January 1916 and was assigned to the 5th Division

staff as an instructor in trench building.

In August, the rebuilt 46th Battalion was shipped to France and then to the Ypres Salient in Belgium. The men finally entered the front-line trenches facing the Messines Ridge on Aug. 17, 1916.

For the next month they participated in raids into “no man’s land” and rotated from the front line to rest areas in the rear. On Sept. 24 they were marched from that area to St. Omer for additional training.

On Oct. 3, the men left St. Omer and were sent by train to the Somme and again served time manning the trenches, facing the heavily fortified German defences known as the Regina Trench.

The western part of that trench system had been captured in bloody actions in September and October, but the Germans remained strong on the eastern portion.

On Nov. 10, the 46th Battalion was withdrawn from the front line and sent back to a rest camp for what was supposed to be a well-earned break.

However, it was not to be. The men were hastily ordered to march back to the front lines to participate in another attempt to capture the entire Regina Trench.

The battalion went “over

the top” through artillery and machine-gun fire and drove the German defenders from their positions.

The Regina Trench had been pounded by constant shelling and was in poor shape when it was captured by the Canadians. Whitside organized the men of his battalion to restore the trench to make it defensible against the inevitable German counter-attacks.

As the men dug out the trench and filled sandbags, the German artillery shelled the position. Lieutenant Whitside was mortally wounded by shrapnel from an exploding shell. He did not live long.

Leroy Whitside, who had once attended school in Niagara-on-the-Lake, is buried in the Contay British Military Cemetery on the Somme, not far from where he fell.

He is remembered each year at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the University of Toronto’s Hart House.

*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.*

## Resident parking passes now good for three hours

Julia Sacco  
The Lake Report

Good news for resident parking pass holders.

All resident parking passes are now valid for three hours instead of only one, effective immediately.

The increased time limit was passed during last week’s council meeting, keeping in mind that “some other municipalities offer up to four hours for their resident parking permits.”

Coun. Maria Mavridis said she approached residents asking if they knew

about these parking passes and when she informed them that they were only valid for one hour, people didn’t see the value.

“They would say, ‘Well can I eat in an hour?’ Well no, you can’t. So, let’s make it three,” she said.

The resident parking passes are available exclusively to residents on Niagara-on-the-Lake. The permits cost \$22 this year but will rise to \$30 in the new year.

Each pass entitles a resident to up to three hours of free parking in the Heritage District.



An off-duty Niagara Regional Police officer, right, was driving this white SUV when a dirt bike collided with it in St. Davids on Sunday. The 46-year-old rider was taken to hospital with serious injuries. JULIA SACCO

## Dirtbiker seriously injured after colliding with off-duty police officer’s SUV

Julia Sacco  
The Lake Report

A 46-year-old man riding a dirt bike suffered serious injuries after colliding with an SUV driven by an off-duty Niagara police officer in St. Davids on Sunday evening.

The unidentified driver of the green Kawasaki motorcycle was “treated at the scene by Niagara EMS paramedics and transported to an out-of-region hospital,” Niagara Regional Police spokesperson Const. Phil Gavin said.

Investigators said the driver of the dirt bike broadsided a white Ford Explorer driven by the off-duty officer. The motorcycle struck the SUV on the driver’s side, police said.

The officer, 46, was not injured. He was turning left from Four Mile Creek Road onto Creekside Drive when the crash occurred, police said.

It is not known exactly where the motorcycle was travelling. After the crash, the dirt bike ended up on the pavement partially in the crosswalk on Creekside Drive.

There is a sidewalk and an unpaved road shoulder nearby.

The incident happened shortly after 6 p.m. and when The Lake Report arrived about 45 minutes later, three paramedic vehicles and four police cruisers were at the scene.

A neighbour who came outside to help after hearing the crash said the off-duty officer called 911 himself.

“He’s an officer, so he knew how to get everybody here quickly. And they were here fast,” he told The Lake Report.

The unnamed officer, who was at the scene removing belongings from his car, declined to comment.

Police estimated damage to the officer’s SUV at \$8,000.



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# Historian wants Black burial ground memorial to focus on NOTL's past

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Rochelle Bush is happy to hear that any memorial erected at the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground will be strictly focused on Niagara-on-the-Lake history.

When Bush, a St. Catharines historian, presented to council last Tuesday she was under the impression that a proposed relief memorial would represent not just NOTL history, but also Barbados' history.

She found that unacceptable since she feels that only NOTL history should be remembered at the cemetery.

But after speaking to council she learned that the town and the Friends of the Forgotten, a committee dedicated to restoring the burial site, does not plan on using this specific memorial.

That's something she wasn't aware of prior to her going to council.

"I know there's plans for a memorial, but I did not know that one was rejected," she said.

George Webber, head of the committee, told The Lake Report that if a me-



Rochelle Bush makes her case that the town's plans for the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground should honour only the history of Niagara-on-the-Lake. EVAN LOREE

morial were to be erected on the burial site, it would be a memorial with the names of those who are buried there and those who contributed to the project.

"I'm happy now that all the focus will be on a memorial that concentrates on Black history in Niagara and nowhere else," Bush told The Lake Report.

Webber said plans at the burial site also include the next two stages of archaeological assessment – stages two and three – and the restoration of the buried headstones.

If the headstones are in good shape, they'll be

replaced properly, he said. "If they are not, that discussion is going to have to be, 'How do we replace them?'" he said.

He said stage two could be started in a matter of weeks.

The proposed memorial in question was part of a small exploratory grant Brock University professor Lissa Paul received from the university.

Paul is also on the Friends of the Forgotten committee.

After she helped digitize fugitive slave ads found in the Barbados Mercury and Bridgetown Gazette,

she felt inspired to start a project in Niagara.

The memorial proposed for the burial ground had nothing to do with Barbados, she said.

Bush's concern stemmed from a piece of information on the project's website that mentioned creating "memorials to enslaved individuals from both Niagara and Barbados."

However, Paul realized this specific part of the website was wrong and that's where people were getting confused.

It's since been corrected to take out any mention of Barbados.

# Bikes for Farmworkers in need of adult bicycles

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Bikes for Farmworkers in Virgil is reaching out to the public searching for rebuildable adult-sized bicycles.

"Our donations have been steady, but down," said Ken Eden, the main coordinator at Bikes for Farmworkers.

"We're at the point now where we're pretty tight on inventory to rebuild for sale."

Currently, the organization only has three bikes for sale and about 15 it's looking to restore – if they're able to.

Out of the 15, Eden estimated only about 11 will be repairable – some might be too far gone and others may be good for parts.



Ken Eden from Bikes for Farmworkers is asking for adult bike donations. SOMER SLOBODIAN

It's always hard to tell just by looking at the bikes, he said, and requires examining them further.

He said he'd like to be at the point where 20 bikes are available for sale.

When donating bikes, he advises people not to worry too much about things like flat tires.

"People often get very concerned about flat tires, we don't worry too much about those," he said.

"Those are quite repairable."

However, when bikes are full of rust, that's when it becomes difficult to fix.

As of Tuesday afternoon, 297 bikes have been sold to

farmworkers this season.

Compared to the 420 bikes sold last season, they're not doing too bad, said Eden.

"We (still) got another couple of months, but our records show that the bulk of the bikes have been sold," he said.

He added that volunteers have fixed about 180 bikes this season compared to 240 last year.

Bikes cost a flat rate of \$20 for farm workers.

Bikes for donation can be dropped off at the shop at 1665 Four Mile Creek Rd. on Tuesdays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and on Thursdays between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

More information can be found on [www.gatewaynotl.com/bikes](http://www.gatewaynotl.com/bikes).

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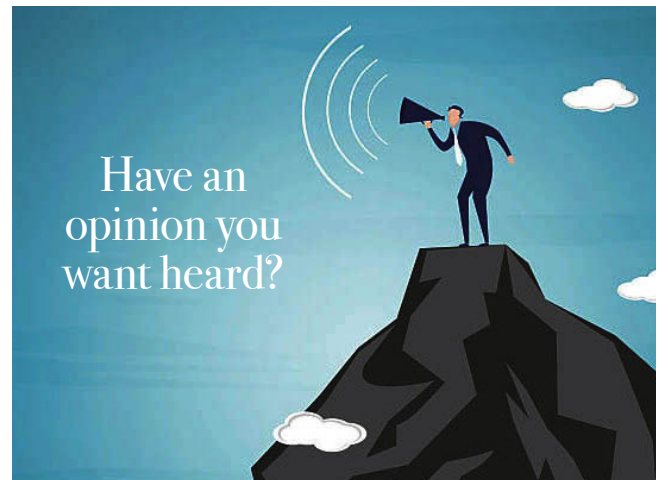
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**Contributed by Patty Garriock**  
 "Set wide the window.  
 Let me drink the day."  
 - Edith Wharton

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## Raising a glass for Red Roof Retreat



Ann Dickson, left, and Nancy Bailey are excited for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club's Icwine Cocktail Party on Sept. 15 at 78 Prideaux St. Half of the proceeds will go to the Rotary Club and the other half will go to Red Roof Retreat. Tickets are \$150 per person and includes a \$50 tax receipt. There will be a band, food, icwine cocktails and other beverages served. A limited number of tickets are available. The party runs from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and tickets can be bought at [Niagaraonthelakerotary.ca/page/icwine-cocktail-party](http://Niagaraonthelakerotary.ca/page/icwine-cocktail-party). SOMER SLOBODIAN

## Editorials

# Town needs to act on traffic concerns

Kevin MacLean  
 Managing Editor

Niagara-on-the-Lake has a problem with people driving too fast in quiet residential areas.

Just ask the folks who live in some of those quiet residential areas.

Actually, that's exactly what The Lake Report did a week ago and it led to "Mind your Meters," our five-story special report on concerns about speed limits, speeding, lack of sidewalks, dangers to children and more.

It's a problem from quaint Chautauqua, with its 13-foot wide "laneway" streets, to suburban Virgil, St. Davids and Glendale, as our correspondent Steve Hardaker laid out in his comprehensive story this week about residents' concerns in Niagara on the Green.

Worries about speeding or traffic volumes are not new. They are an age-old problem.

And to be honest, heavy-footed NOTL residents are a big part of the problem. (It's not always "visitors" who are speeding. If anything, they tend to drive more slowly as they gawk

and admire our surroundings.)

What to do about the situation is where things get complicated.

Because sometimes the problem is in the eye of the beholder.

\*\*\*\*\*

Niagara-on-the-Lake doesn't really have a problem with people driving too fast in quiet residential areas. Yes, there are some bad apples, but it's not so bad that radical measures are needed.

Just ask the town and its experts, who use professional standards, data and research to determine how serious things like speeding are in the community.

We accept there's still a lot more research to be done, but it appears there is a bit of a disconnect here between the lived experience of people in the community and the standards and expert assessments that determine whether speed limits should be reduced. Or if more radical steps should be taken.

Everyone would probably prefer if there were more police patrols to deter people from hitting the gas as they motor through town, but it also seems to be a

universal reality that more patrols or a larger police presence simply isn't going to happen. After all, NOTL already has, what, two Niagara Regional Police cars cruising the byways?

So, what can be done?

Let's get radical and try some things that other municipalities have implemented.

We'll use the Big Smoke – Toronto – as an example.

Many of its inner-city residential streets, whether north-south or east-west, stretch for many kilometres.

With parking on one or both sides, these streets can be as narrow as some of the roadways around our town.

Whether you're driving through Riverdale, the Annex or what used to be North York (and other communities in "the city"), you will encounter a wide range of traffic-calming measures.

Such as: Reduced speed limits, stop signs, speed bumps (often called speed humps), pinch points (where the road narrows, forcing drivers to ease up) and "slow down" signs placed in the middle of the road. These are just a few of the concepts you will

find on residential streets all over Toronto. And beyond.

And they work.

The city's website notes: "Speed humps are one of the most popular traffic calming measures. Studies have indicated that speeds drop approximately 15km/h between speed humps and about 20km/h at the hump itself."

\*\*\*\*\*

NOTL residents have done an excellent job articulating their concerns – which are genuine and reasonable.

While the town's data might show the situation does not meet the threshold of enacting the kinds of measures people are seeking, we challenge our town council to learn more about the problems and then bring in measures to ensure that people's concerns are satisfied.

This is retail, grassroots politics. Reduced limits or speed humps, for instance, might not be what the road engineers want to see, but if they have the desired effect – and they will – we urge council to get on with it and bring in these changes immediately. Just do it.

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# Other municipalities **taking action** to reduce residential speed limits

Dear editor:

We extend our appreciation to The Lake Report for its “Mind Your Meters” stories on July 27.

Those stories assisted in raising awareness of the current and growing problem of excessive speed on the roads in Old Town, Virgil and St. Davids.

While our group’s focus is on speed reduction on the lanes that pass as roads in the Chautauqua area, we certainly concur that excessive speed is not limited to our unique community.

In a series of overtures to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake on this matter three years ago we cited that excessive speed on our narrow roads was a matter of public safety.

We were asked to defer these concerns until the completion of the NOTL transportation master plan. Indeed, when that draft document was unveiled by the previous council it made reference to the possibility of lowering speed limits in certain areas of town.

While NOTL was pondering, other communities including St. Catharines, Hamilton, Toronto, Mississauga, Oakville, Guelph, Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge have taken the bull by the horns and, in the interest of safety, lowered the speed limits on most residential streets.

In addition, Niagara Falls city council recently directed city staff to explore



Brian Crow says curbing speeding in Chautauqua is a matter of public safety. EVAN LOREE

reduced speed limits.

We’re not sure of the status of the Niagara-on-the-Lake transportation master plan but we are confident that the issue of excessive speed remains prevalent and of significant concern in NOTL.

Town staff once again undertook traffic speed studies in April and May in our areas and those studies concluded that speeding wasn’t an issue.

Of course not! It’s almost impossible to retain control of a vehicle at 50 km/h on our laneways. That doesn’t mean there isn’t an issue of excessive speed.

In fact, it is probable that even 40 or 45 is too high in our area. The analysis also doesn’t capture the brief early morning, afternoon or evening spurts when the real problems emerge.

Consider just a few: herds of illegal open-piped

motorcycles accelerating up Shakespeare Avenue after making the hairpin turn at the lake; people late for work ripping down the lanes bleary-eyed in the morning; cavalcades of souped-up Subarus accelerating off the turn and heading down Niagara Boulevard.

In the meantime, seemingly oblivious to lurking danger, we have children and grandchildren happily playing on the roads (remember, we have no sidewalks); moms and dads walking their kids to and from the school bus; seniors on their morning or evening walks; landscapers tending to their business but standing on the road to pull their tools.

And on it goes.

People are entitled to go about their pursuits in safety and not having to be constantly worried about being placed in jeopardy.

We have great respect for our councillors and the town administration. We value the thoughtful way in which they embrace and address issues.

In the weeks ahead, on behalf of the Chautauqua community, we intend to approach them and offer suggestions (based on our research) as to how this serious problem could be addressed in the short-term.

And yes, as indicated in your article last week, (“Chautauqua residents skeptical of town’s neighbourhood traffic study findings,”) our community would be pleased to pilot any and all measures to mitigate the problems of excessive speed in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

**Brian Crow**  
**Shaun Devlin**  
**John Scott**  
*Co-ordinators,*  
*Friends of Ryerson Park*

# Wheeled dolly might be helpful to kayakers

Dear editor:

I read with considerable interest the July 20 article by Somer Slobodian, “Kayakers feeling pushed out of Balls Beach.” Being a kayaker myself, I cannot say I agree with that sentiment.

While I do believe it would be very easy to park my car and launch from the old willow tree beyond River Beach Road, it seems that this has become an issue more of convenience than true necessity.

The argument that kayakers over 50 years of age find it difficult to carry their kayaks 150 metres from the free municipal parking lot to the launch area is unconvincing.

Presumably, these 50-plus year-olds managed to get their kayaks on top of their cars when they set out from home, and at some point will have to put them back up again to return. This requires a fair bit of upper body strength.

If the 150-metre distance

from the parking lot or the 90-metre distance from the drop off area, is too far for a solo carry, perhaps investing in a kayak dolly would help.

These devices are not expensive and many have detachable wheels so that they can easily store in the hatch while out paddling.

I am a 65-year-old woman and no one would describe me of having much upper-body strength. That said, I can still manoeuvre my 50-pound kayak 150 metres, either carrying it tandem with my husband, or rolling it along by myself with the kayak dolly.

The article does, however, make me wonder: if some kayakers find it too challenging to carry their boats 150 or 90 metres to the water’s edge, what are they going to do if they get into trouble on the water?

Or end up in the water? Something to think about.

**Dina Kalns**  
*NOTL*

# Town should **disband** its committees

Dear editor:

I’m sorry to hear that letter writer Bob Bader finds developer Benny Marotta’s life “frivolous,” (“Economic progress” and the future of Niagara-on-the-Lake,” July 27).

Because, and let us be absolutely clear, the Conservation Review Board and the Ontario Land Tribunal are denying him his right to exercise his life as he sees fit.

A one-year delay in building may be “democracy in action” to some, but in reality it is mob rule denying him his most precious resource — his time.

Mr. Bader is probably unfamiliar with my letters so let me reiterate, “not only should these committees ‘rubber-stamp proposals’ they should disband the committees and throw out the rubber stamps.”

In today’s culture it’s not surprising that Mr. Bader is mistaken and I feel I must inform him there are only individual rights, not collective rights.

Collective rights is a contradiction in terms.

Joining a group gives you no more rights than feeding a neighbour will fill your belly. What we’ve attempted to civilize by referring to as “collective rights” or “the common good” are in fact simply “mob rule.”

I do agree that we need more government support to protect individual rights but if we want to end mob rule we need to vastly curtail the government’s responsibilities.

Finally, as a “poor” capitalist, I will not dictate how people should spend their time, but can we really call the urban design and heritage committees volunteer work?

We call it volunteer work when someone works in a soup kitchen not when they are protecting the wealthy from having their housing prices fall or keeping the views from their homes unobstructed.

Maybe their time would be better spent living their lives?

**Alexander Evans**  
*NOTL*

# NOTL needs to **reject** King St. apartment

Dear editor:

The proposed three-storey condominium building to be constructed on the backyards, severed from numbers 727 and 733 King St., came as a gut punch to neighbours who were promised a projects that was compatible with surrounding homes.

The builder, Josh Bice of Butler’s Gardens Development, touts “honesty” and “integrity” on his company’s website.

However, Mr. Bice has ap-

plied to the town for an official plan and zoning bylaw amendment, fully aware of the existing R1 zoning.

After promising single-detached homes to multiple neighbours, he has chosen to build a totally inappropriate multi-unit condominium building for wealthy investors.

Residents of this three-storey building will look down on all the surrounding homes, patios and gardens. Neighbours’ privacy will be destroyed.

The building will cause light and noise pollution. It is 16 feet from the neighbour to the east and 20 feet from the northern neighbour, who will face 12 balconies and 27 windows.

It has 17 two-bedroom units and 18 parking spaces, one of which is designated for people with disabilities. This assumes that the residents will have no social life.

The building will set a precedent in Niagara-on-the-Lake for residentially

zoned neighbourhoods to be arbitrarily changed to allow multi-storey buildings anywhere in Old Town.

If the council approves Mr. Bice’s application, residents should beware: this could happen near you.

Please encourage council to deny the Bice application. If council approves the proposal, you too could have a building such as this in your neighbourhood.

**Margaret Tarnowski**  
*NOTL*



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# Understanding the Georgian



Brian Marshall  
Columnist

Upon the death of Anne, the last of the Stuart monarchs, in 1714, her closest Protestant relative George Ludwig of the Hanovers ascended to the throne of the United Kingdom and Ireland.

And so began the Georgian era, which was to last until the death of George IV in 1830.

The rise of George I to the throne just happened to occur as the evolution of British architecture, growing from the seeds of classical parameters and Italian Renaissance designs planted by Indigo Jones in the early 17th century, was maturing under the auspice of men like Christopher Wren, Colin Campbell, William Kent, and James Gibbs.

Based heavily on the work of Andrea Palladio – a late 16th-century Italian architect who sought to recreate the style and proportions of ancient Roman designs – the neo-Palladian architecture of the early Georgian era can be characterized by a few key elements.

These include a strict emphasis on classical proportions (often religiously adhering to the golden ratio), stripped-down decoration, understated elegance and a standardized system of proportions that could be scaled from humble homes to grand institutional buildings.

It was, perhaps, the first example of a truly inclusive formal architecture style in Britain. This was a style that could be embraced by people from any social class who had the wherewithal to finance a building's construction.

Thus, in fairly short order, designs (in what came to be known as the Georgian



Columnist Brian Marshall says the circa 1800 Field House is a classic Loyalist Georgian. The design focuses foremost on symmetry. SUPPLIED

style) for everything from palaces to row houses popped up across the country.

Following this wave of popularity and, as with almost all British innovations of the period, it was inevitable that the Georgian style would migrate across the Atlantic to the English colonies in North America.

While initially, the Georgian was the purview of only those wealthy enough to be able to afford British-trained carpenters and builders, after 1740 the number of architectural pattern books published rose dramatically.

This, together with printed broadsheets of Georgian details and house forms, gave the locally-trained builders what they needed to replace the post-medieval dwelling tradition then existent in the original thirteen colonies.

Now, while the fundamental design parameters may have been identical, there were several points of divergence between the English Georgian and those built in the American colonies during the

1700s – differences which spoke to purely practical concerns.

For example, the English Georgian was typically clad with brick or (somewhat less often) worked stone whereas the Colonial Georgian was much more often sheathed with clapboard.

Why? Britain had a ready supply of bricks and trained masons while long straight timber was comparatively scarce (and hence more expensive). Whereas, in the colonies, timber was readily available and boards could be produced with relatively unskilled labour working a common pit-saw, while masons were few and far between.

Another point of English/American divergence can be seen in the roof styles. Hip roofs very often capped the walls of British Georgians whereas gable roofs were the norm for American Georgians.

Aside from the fact that gable roofs are simpler, faster to build, and shed snow more efficiently than a hipped roof, the former provides a much larger usable footprint in a space

that was often utilized as a sleeping loft.

Just as in Britain, the Georgian was wildly popular in North America as settlers moved westward to open new territories. By 1776, it was certainly one of the most common styles of established dwelling in the colonies (particularly if one includes the Federal or Adams variant).

And, just as the British immigrants to the colonies brought over the Georgian, the Loyalists moving north in the aftermath of the Revolution carried the style with them into the remaining British colonies.

In fairly short order here in Niagara, possibly re-enforced by the influx of new English immigrants and the desire of Loyalists to demonstrably show their British allegiance, masonry replaced clapboard as the cladding of choice, although the practical gable roof remained a fixture on newly built Georgian homes.

So, what makes a Georgian a Georgian and how do you recognize it on the street?

Georgian design, first, foremost and always,

focuses on symmetry and proportion. It is a balanced composition wherein the window/door openings are equally and regularly placed across the facade; whether in the classic five-bay (each bay containing opening(s)) form or three, four or multiple-bay variants.

In facades containing an odd number of bays, the entry door is commonly placed in the centre bay to emphasize this symmetry. In professionally designed Georgians, first-floor windows are typically sized in accordance with the golden ratio; the opening height is equal to 1.6 times the opening's width.

Georgians are long but comparatively shallow, emphasizing an "expansive" facade. Historic Niagara examples were commonly only one or two rooms deep and, particularly in earlier homes, did not exceed a depth of 20 feet which was thought to be the maximum measurement to allow for proper light penetration into the interior.

Simplicity and uniformity are watchwords of Georgian exterior design. Whether clad in brick, stucco, stone

or clapboard, the fields are mono-coloured and largely unbroken by applied decoration or flourishes.

Ornamentation, if any, is generally confined to simple columns or pilasters at the main entry which occasionally might be topped by a pediment.

Openings are filled with sash windows in which, depending on the era of the house, each sash is divided into six, nine or 12 panels.

Finally, the height of each storey in a Georgian house tends to be reduced as one moves upwards; the main floor ceiling height being higher than the second and any subsequent storeys.

Without a doubt, the Georgian is the longest-lived architectural style in North America and is being still built today. However, it was certainly not the only style imported from England to find popularity in Niagara during the Georgian era.

Stay tuned as we explore others.

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

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# Traps set up around NOTL to **limit the spread** of spotted lanternflies

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Spotted lanternfly traps are showing up on trees around Niagara-on-the-Lake, in an effort to spot the invasive bug before it spreads.

The highly invasive species hasn't been found alive yet in Canada, but experts are saying it's a matter of when it arrives, not if — and are working to ward off its invasion.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs is responsible for setting up the traps in collaboration with multiple government bodies.

There are about 40 traps set up around the Niagara region and about 16 across town.

“The whole idea of the traps is just to identify where (the spotted lanternfly) is located and try to limit its spread from there,” said Wendy McFadden-Smith, a pest management specialist with the ministry.

Last year, the spotted lanternfly was discovered at the Buffalo border, where it has since turned into an infestation.

The insect, originally from China, is recognizable thanks to its namesake — an adult measures about 25 millimetres in length, with a black head and gray-brown forewings with black spots.

It has the potential to wipe out entire vineyards — as it's done in parts of the United States.

As the spotted lanternfly climbs the tree, it'll hit the batting that's wrapped around the tree, fall back and land in the sticky trap.

The agriculture min-

istry distributes these traps across many parts of Ontario. There's also information on each trap for residents to read and a QR code that can be scanned for more information.

While spotted lanternflies prefer the tree of heaven — an invasive exotic plant from Asia brought to North America in the 1700s — as their host tree, they also love to feast on grape vines and black walnut trees.

“Even though they really like the tree of heaven, they don't need it to complete their life cycle,” said Emily Posteraro from the Invasive Species Centre.

The insect is not picky: it likes to feed on more than 100 different plants and trees, using its piercing teeth to suck its hosts dry of sap.

They destroyed vineyards in Pennsylvania — some vineyards have lost up to 50 per cent of their vines due to infestations.

Rather than setting up traps only according to tree species, however, McFadden-Smith said the agriculture ministry has set up traps in areas that would see a high volume of vehicle traffic.

“Because it's a hitchhiking species, we're trying to identify places where cars or trains or trucks would park that are coming from the States,” she said.

She said she went around with Kevin Turcotte, the town's manager of parks and recreation, and found suitable trees for the trap.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is littered with the tree of heaven: one can see several of them populating the start of the Heritage Trail at John and King streets.

In an email to The Lake Report, town spokesperson Marah Minor said staff visited the location last week and identified 17 trees in the area.

The town currently doesn't have an invasive species management plan, said Minor, but one is in the works — which includes taking an inventory of how many trees of heaven are in town and implementing a response plan.

She noted that on July 25, council approved its 2022 to 2027 strategic plan, which included a section called “Enrich Community Assets, Environment & Infrastructure, one action item is to develop an Invasive Species Plan.”

Minor also provided a link to the town's website where more information on invasive species can be found, at [notl.com/town-services/environmental-stewardship/invasive-species](http://notl.com/town-services/environmental-stewardship/invasive-species).

Master gardener Betty Knight compared the potential invasion of the spotted lanternfly to the “apocalypse” and said the arrival could be detrimental to Niagara's agricultural industry.

Knight has been helping the group Save Our Pollinators make a pollinator garden with native plants along the Heritage Trail.

However, it's a difficult task since there are so many invasive species fighting for the spotlight.

She said the group has brought the tree of heaven to the attention of the town many times.

“The tree of heaven needs to be removed and they (the town) know it needs to be removed,” said Knight.



Quinn Nixon, a research assistant, has been hard at work putting spotted lanternfly traps on trees around NOTL. SOMER SLOBODIAN

The tree produces more than 300,000 seeds annually and has a high germination rate.

Besides being a favourite for the spotted lanternfly, this invasive plant can choke out native plants and alter the surrounding plant community and prevent the growth of other plants.

It can also cause infrastructure problems and affect human health.

It reproduces colonially, said Posteraro, so there's a good chance all of the new trees sprouting at the Heritage Trail started from one tree.

Posteraro also noted that because the spotted lanternfly will feed on anything, removing it might not stop the introduction of the invasive insect.

While the spotted lanternfly has been a federally regulated invasive species since 2018 due to its threat to grape, fruit tree and forestry industries, the tree of heaven is not regulated.

In an email to The Lake Report, Marcela Mayo, corporate communications officer for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, said that this means the town is not obligated to remove the trees.

The natural resources ministry is in charge of implementing Ontario's Invasive Species Strategic Plan (2012), and administers the Invasive Species Act.

Since the tree of heaven is not regulated, there's no law stopping people from purchasing or planting it.

According to a report released by the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario at the end of 2022 regarding the management of invasive species, the tree of heaven — along with 29 other species — should be considered for regulation under the Invasive Species Act.

Since it is all across Canada, a spokesperson from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency said regulating it would not be effective.

Mayo wrote that the ministry prioritizes invasive species for “regulatory consideration” based on the results of ecological risk assessments and assessments of potential socio-economic impacts.

Such assessments have been conducted for the tree of heaven, and will help decide the next steps, Mayo wrote.

Posteraro noted that the tree is incredibly difficult to remove and someone would

normally need a licensed pesticide applicator to properly get rid of it.

Knight said now is the best time to remove the trees.

“The trees should be taken down now, and a systemic herbicide applied from July until fall colour comes, because that's when trees are moving carbohydrates into the root system,” she said.

She said after applying the herbicide from now until the fall, the town would need to be on top of it in the spring.

She said she realizes it's not that easy.

“That takes manpower, and that takes money and we're a town of tourists. So, you can't just be spraying herbicides,” she said.

Posteraro said if people can remove them they should, but if it's not feasible, then people should report it and monitor the tree.

“That might be able to tell us where a spotted lanternfly could establish if and when it gets here,” she said.

Tree of heaven or spotted lanternfly sightings can be reported to [Eddmaps.org](http://Eddmaps.org), [Inaturalist.org](http://Inaturalist.org) or by sending an email to [info@invasivespeciescentre.ca](mailto:info@invasivespeciescentre.ca).

# Truck suspected in fatal hit-run undergoes **forensic examination**

Staff  
The Lake Report

The pickup truck that police suspect struck and killed an 84-year-old Niagara-on-the-Lake cyclist has been sent to the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto for a detailed forensic examination.

Investigators will be searching for evidence, including DNA, that could confirm the vehicle is the one that hit Nestor

Chemerika on July 13.

He died July 25 in hospital in Hamilton. No charges have been laid.

Chemerika had been cycling along East and West Line about 7:50 p.m. when he was struck from behind by a truck that left the scene.

Niagara Regional Police seized a pewter-coloured 1999 GMC Sierra pickup in Niagara Falls six days later.

A police statement about the seized vehicle said

“detectives noted that the damaged areas had recently undergone repair.”

The truck was repaired with used GMC auto parts, including a used grill, passenger side headlights and a passenger-side mirror, police said.

Investigators said that after striking Chemerika and leaving him unattended in the north side ditch, the driver fled southbound down Concession 2 to York Road and

then turned west toward St. Davids.

Once in St. Davids the pickup turned down Four Mile Creek Road and headed to Niagara Falls.

Police are asking anyone along this route with video cameras to review footage between 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. on July 13 for a 1999 GMC Sierra pickup truck.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 905-688-4111, option 3, extension 1009089.



Police are examining a pewter-coloured 1999 GMC Sierra for evidence in a fatal hit-and-run case. SUPPLIED

# Rain or shine, St. Davids carnival ro



Clockwise from left: Competitors at the first annual St. Davids Lions Carnival dog show. Two-year-old Ethan Chan-Xie chowed down on a lollipop at Saturday's carnival. Youngest dog winner Bennett Skubel enjoyed their snow cones after playing games on Saturday. Hattie the three-legged boxer was the winner of the Beatrice Memorial Best in Show award. PHOTOS BY DAVE VAN

Julia Sacco  
The Lake Report

The St. Davids Lions Club didn't let a bit of stormy weather rain on its parade on Saturday.

The Lions celebrated the club's 60th anniversary with the annual carnival on July 29.

This year's festivities are following a banner year of success in 2022 – despite the weather not being on their side on July 29.

"We lost probably a good four hours on Saturday," Susan Snider, the incoming Lions president said.

The club is looking at the bright side though, recognizing that money was still raised for the community nonetheless.

"You have to stay positive. In everyone's life, a little rain must fall. You just have to make the best of it," Snider said.

She explained that the total amount of funds raised is still being calculated, and emphasized that "there is still money to give to our community, to Canada and to our world."

Snider is the St. Davids Lions' first-ever female president, so the carnival – of which she was in charge of running – looked a bit different for her compared to the past 15 years or so.

In past years, Snider had worked the grocery basket post and food booths.

"This year I had to mitigate and do other things, so it was different and

I did kind of miss just being at one post," she joked.

Snider's official presidential duties began on July 1, with the new Lions year.

She expressed her excitement to take on the new role and add a bit of a womanly touch to leadership.

"Men are from Mars, women are from Venus: We work well together," she said.

She said that Lions clubs worldwide began accepting women only seven years ago and are already at nearly 50 per cent female members.

"Every woman who I know who has joined the lions club has been received with open arms," she said.

For her first carnival as president, Snider was overall pleased.

"A huge thank you to everyone who supports our carnival year after year," she said.

She added that going forward, she's going to ensure that the Lions "have fun in everything we do."

Hal Barlow and Fred Broughton worked one of the Lions' booths on Saturday evening and said that despite the rain, things were looking up.

They explained that while the carnival stayed open during the weekend downpour, rides and music had to stop for around four hours.

"After 3 o'clock or 4 o'clock things started picking up," Barlow said.

"It's a great night now," added Broughton.

They both said that the dog show at

1:30 p.m. drew a large crowd on the rain.

"That was a big success and was the first year that they did," said Broughton.

Snider said that the dog show was a real highlight for an otherwise rainy day.

"It was fantastic," she said.

"There were over 30 dogs there and we held it under the bingo tent," she laughed.

The show was originally planned to be outside with a DJ, but organizers decided to compromise with the weather and take a bit of shelter.

She shared her amazement that even with the rain and the chaos, the dogs got along."

Hattie the three-legged Boxer

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# Rolls on, dog show and all



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Khalil, a five-week-old French bulldog, held by Elijah, 7. Six-year-old Jolie and four-year-old N DE LAAR AND JULIA SACCO

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fixture of the Lions club made her appearance. Snider told The Lake Report that Hattie, a rescue dog, took a fall as a puppy and shattered one of her legs. The original owners refused treatment for Hattie and the leg was removed by the Hamilton SPCA before she was put up for adoption. "Either the leg had to be removed or she had to be put down," Snider said. Hattie was given the Beatrice Memorial Best in Show Award, named for the lead organizer's 14-year-old dog who was recently put down. All funds raised from the first-ever dog show are going to the Guide Dogs of Canada. Entry was \$10 a pup.

Other show-stopping attractions included a visit from New York Rangers player Ben Harper on Wednesday night, who had a shootout game to kick the carnival off. New this year too was the carnival's ticketed Country Night on Sunday, led by entertainment chair Ken Lamb. Lamb expressed disappointment in having to cancel multiple acts due to the rain. "People are so controlled by the weather, you kind of live by it and die by it when you're doing outdoor events," he said. He added that three acts were cancelled for Saturday's carnival festivities.

"It really dampened the crowd," he said. "The volume just hasn't been where we'd love it to be, but it is what it is." Country night entry was a \$20 donation, which Lamb was greatly appreciative of especially since technical costs were fronted by the carnival's numerous sponsors. "They underwrote any costs that we have, from equipment rental to the costs of the bands, which is really cool," he said. Because of the generous community and the "great safety net," all funds raised can benefit the residents of St. Davids. "Every penny goes straight back to the community."



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.  
Category: FORTUNE 500 FORTUNES

Sales of these, 55% of Apple's total sales, fell 14% in 2019; never fear, the company's still worth \$2 trillion.

Last issue:

Category: 5 BURROS

Clue: This melancholy donkey whose tail is attached by a nail debuted in a 1926 story.

Answer: What is Eeyore?

Answered first by: Jane Morris

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Claudia Grimwood, Lynda Collet, Becky Creager, Catherine Clarke, Al Brockway, Lynn Brownlow, Val King, Pam Dowling, Nancy Rocca, Wade Durling, Marjory Walker-Barone, Debra Jacobs, Jim Dandy, Margie Enns, Sheila Meloche, Patricia Fraser, Elaine Landray,

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

Email answers to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com), with your name, for a chance to win a \$25 Irish Harp Pub gift card every week. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

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# UNDER CONSTRUCTION

## 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.



## Yoka hosts **summer sale**

Submitted  
The Lake Report

There is no doubt the construction along Niagara Stone Road has hurt all the businesses on the strip. As Yoka Fashions goes through its second season in its newest location, owner Carla Kloosterhuis-Lilly hopes the end is near and that the road improvements will be worth the wait.



Carla Kloosterhuis-Lilly is one of the many business owners feeling the effects of ongoing construction work on Niagara Stone Road. SUPPLIED

Luckily for Yoka, the majority of the store's business is digital — a shift that was made after two decades as a storefront on Queen Street in Toronto.

"Had we been completely dependent on walk-in traffic this would be a nightmare," Kloosterhuis-Lilly says.

"Nevertheless, the retail side of things has been much quieter this year and we hope our big summer blowout sale will bring the shoppers back in person."

Kloosterhuis-Lilly encourages everyone in town to support all of the busi-

nesses in the construction zone, "as we truly are the ones bearing the load of a lost tourist season."

She listed off a few of the affected businesses "that make this beautiful town what it is."

Those include the Pie Plate, Silversmith Brewery, the Twisted Vine, Regal Florist, Niagara Image Gallery, Grape Escape and of course our local Independent grocery store.

"Make it a point to shop or dine at these establishments that are so important to our community,"

Kloosterhuis-Lilly says.

"Yoka is having a massive summer blowout and we hope to see your smiling faces soon."

The store is stocked with beautiful European fashion at deep discounts to make room for a stunning fall season, Kloosterhuis-Lilly adds.

Catch Yoka's Instagram live shows every week and order direct from fashion modelled right before your eyes, and take advantage of the store's local Niagara delivery service.

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# 1973 Kinsmen Warriors' celebrated

Ken Slingerland  
Special to The Lake Report

Fifty years ago this summer, the Niagara Jr. B Kinsmen Warriors did something that has never been repeated.

They won gold at the Ontario Games, the Canada Games in British Columbia and also took the Ontario Jr. B lacrosse championship – all in the same year. An incredible feat.

The Jr. B franchise was started in 1969 by Fred Conradi, Peter Conradi and Stan Ignatczyk and then only took five years to win the championships.

In 1981, the Jr. B Warriors also won the Founder's Cup – the Canadian Jr. B championship in 1981.

On Aug. 18, there will be a celebration to honour the 50th anniversary of that 1973. The festivities at the Kinsmen Hall in Niagara-on-the-Lake begin at 7 p.m.

After the gold medal win in British Columbia, Jack Gatecliff, sports editor of the St. Catharines Standard, described the Warriors' season as a "rags to riches" story.

The team was considered



John Wiens, Dave Parsons, Howie Vant, George Moses, Bob Taylor. Second row: Ontario Mission member D.L. Minshall, Russ Hodgkinson, Norm Hope, Jojie Engemann, Mike French, Bruce Morgan, Steve Miller, coach Monty Slingerland. Back row: Ralph Hamm, John Floris, Willie Plett, John Skubel, Don Smith, Gary Hill, manager Stan Ignatczyk. SUPPLIED

the underdog in the Ontario tournament to qualify for the Canada Games but eliminated Whitby and then upset top-seeded Hamilton to qualify for the trip to B.C.

Franchise co-owners Monty Slingerland (coach) and Stan Ignatczyk (manager) then had to scramble to raise enough money to send the team to the west coast. The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake chipped in to outfit the Warriors with warm-up jackets and T-shirts.

The team won all four matches at the Canada Games, including the final

against Nova Scotia to take the gold medal.

A newspaper clipping from 50 years ago reported, "On their return home to the Toronto airport, the team was met by Lord Mayor Jake Froese, who left a meeting of the town council mid-way to greet the boys personally. Accompanying them home to a homecoming reception at the Royal Canadian Legion headquarters, the Lord Mayor and the team were greeted by a few hundred residents who cheered their arrival in King Street."

The team still had to compete in the Ontario

lacrosse playoffs following the Canada Games. After almost being upset in the semifinals to Oakville, the Warriors defeated Whitby to claim the provincial championship.

A civic reception was held in late September in 1973 to honour the Warriors and other athletes in the community. Goaltender John Skubel was singled out as the most valuable player for the year.

On Aug. 18, the Kinsmen will welcome NOTL Jr. B players from all teams over the years to celebrate the Warriors' 1973 championship season.



## NOTL U7 lacrosse team wins against Pelham

The NOTL U7 lacrosse team participated in the first U7 Extravaganza held in Burlington on Saturday. The Niagara Thunderhawks rolled to a 4-3 win vs. Pelham Raiders 1. Player of the game recognition for NOTL went to #14 Noah Sticca and #16 Nora Thorimbert. Top: Nora Thorimbert and Kenny Neudorf go for the ball. Bottom: Nora Thorimbert. ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

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# NOTLer taking national stage at **Special Olympics** in February

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Carter Simpson will be taking the national stage next winter at the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Calgary for alpine skiing.

This will be his first time competing at the national level.

His parents, Ann Liz and Mark, were on the Tour de France when they found out their son's success at provincials last winter will take him to nationals next February.

The games will take place between Feb. 27 to March 2 and will include eight different sports.

While his parents wanted to wait until they got back home to tell him the news, someone from his west Niagara team posted a congratulatory message

on social media.

The news was out, and Simpson couldn't contain his excitement.

"I think you FaceTimed the world," his mother, Ann Liz, told him.

Once the cat was out of the bag, the family friend with whom Simpson was staying in Sault Ste. Marie, Simpson's hometown, quickly made a sign and a banner and placed it outside their cottage.

"Anyone that walked by their cottage was called in to see the sign," said Ann Liz.

Then, as a surprise, their neighbours in NOTL threw Simpson a small party on Monday to congratulate him.

"I'm blown away by all our friends and the support both up in the Soo and here," said Ann Liz.

The 29-year-old has been skiing with his family since he was five.

He loves to go fast down the hills, he said.

He trains in Milton with the Milton Snowblazers but grew up training in Sault Ste. Marie at Searchmont Ski Resort.

The hills aren't as challenging this far south, said his mom, but the coaching he's getting here is fantastic.

"He's on a Special Olympics team, whereas in the Soo he wasn't. There was no other special Olympian, he was the only one," she said.

Simpson goes to the gym seven times a week and takes spin classes.

He'll be working on his balance in the coming months and following a training program.

On top of alpine skiing, he also does track and field and swimming — a jack of all trades.

His parents expressed how proud they were of Simpson and his accom-



Carter Simpson will compete with Team Ontario in alpine skiing at the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Calgary next February. SOMER SLOBODIAN

plishments.

"Oh my gosh, he's living my dream," said Ann Liz.

He'll be competing in the giant slalom skiing and

slalom events next February, and his eyes are set on gold, he said.

If all goes well at nationals, Simpson could be

going to Worlds — which is the equivalent of the Olympics.

"I'm just so thrilled for him," Ann Liz said.



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**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE'S**

# SPORTS WALL OF FAME CEREMONY

**You're invited to attend a ceremony to celebrate this year's Sports Wall of Fame inductees, Paul French and Monty Slingerland!**

**WHERE:** Meridian Credit Union Arena (1567 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil)

**WHEN:** Friday, August 18, starting with a social at 5:00 p.m. followed by a ceremony at 6:00 p.m.

Please visit [www.notl.com/recreation-events/community-initiatives-events](http://www.notl.com/recreation-events/community-initiatives-events) for more information.





# NOTL women capture **Wood Trophy** for second straight year

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

The Wood Trophy is staying at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club.

A team from NOTL recaptured the historic cup for the second straight year (and eighth time since 2012) by coming out on top during a head-to-head competition at Rockway Vineyards Golf Course in St. Catharines.

Margot Richardson, Lisa Allen, Yolanda Henry and Maria Townley combined for the four total lowest net scores, helping NOTL bring home the championship cup.

They were among 11 NOTL golfers in all who travelled to Rocky to compete for the trophy. The best four net scores (after handicaps are deducted) counted toward the final outcome.

NOTL beat out teams from Bridgewater Country Club, Cardinal Lakes, Look-out Point, Peninsula Lakes, Port Colborne, Rocky, Sawmill, St. Catharines and Twenty Valley.



The top four shooters from the Wood Trophy competition – Lisa Allen, Yolanda Henry, Margot Richardson and Maria Townley. Richardson also won the Flo Monroe Trophy for best net score. KEVIN MACLEAN

Richardson also was named winner of the Flo Monroe Trophy for shooting the best senior low net score. Richardson also won the title last year.

“This is an annual district tournament with a long history and we’re pretty proud of ourselves,” team captain Martha Cruikshank said.

The Wood Trophy has been in existence for nearly 60 years and takes its name from the Wood Manufacturing Company in St. Catharines.

Anne Wood donated the original trophy in 1966.

The tournament allows participants to play different courses, enjoy a nice luncheon and meet new people. It also provides a venue for golfers of all ages and talent levels to compete.

Flo Monroe was one of several Niagara golfers, (including Alice Holt, Margie Rae, Cathy Sherk, Kay McNiven, Alison Hall, Marj Comfort, Doris Ransom, Marg Abbott, Peggy Mango, Ella Williams,

Anne Sharpe and Shirley Romanow), who played together for many years.

They often would travel and play in North Carolina, where some of them owned condos.

After Monroe died, Sherk and Roman dedicated a trophy in her name. Since Monroe was about a 28 handicap, the trophy was for best net score.

**GOLF UPDATE:** Heavy rains forced the NOTL Golf Club to close for most of this past weekend and

for a few days last week, cancelling most of the club’s popular leagues.

But golf course superintendent Mike Magwood’s team spent many hours pumping water that accumulated around the links and players returned on Monday.

Everyone is hoping the torrential downpours are over.

The Tuesday women’s leagues were back and reigning club champion Louise Robitaille had the best low gross score with 79 in 18-hole play. Next were Lisa Allen (92), Yolanda Henry (95), Martha Cruikshank (96) and Cathy Murray (98).

Robitaille also was low net (71), followed by Sharon Marlow and Allen (76), May Chang (78) and Murray (79).

Closest to the pin winners were Allen (#4) and Cheryl Yamamoto (#9).

Charlotte Kainola won the nine-hole women’s Carmichael Cup competition, with Bonnie Lamourie and Linda

Williams tied for second. Gross score winners were Diana Dimmer, Judy Wright and Suzanne Watson.

Dimmer was closest to the pin on #9 and Trish Anthony had the longest drive on #8.

Norm Kerr was top dog in Tuesday’s WOOFs league, with a 39. Gerry Shelly was low net (35) and Neville Da Silva was closest to the pin on #4.

In Couples League action last Friday, before the rain returned, Maria and Brodie Townley, Cheryl and Rob Yamamoto were first with a 2-under 34. Janice and Jim McMacken, Victoria and Joe Interisano were next, also with 34.

Third place went to Gail and Norm Kerr, Sheila and Larry Blight (36) and fourth to Carolyn and Drew Porter, Bonnie Lamourie and Ron Newman (36).

Drew Porter was closest to the pin on #4 and Bernard Marlow and Eileen Hanna sank the longest putts on #2.

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**Across**

- 1. Summer sky sights (8)
- 5. Desisted (6)
- 9. Made suitable (7)
- 10. Put in writing (3,4)
- 11. Grasp (10)
- 12. PIN points? (1,1,2)
- 14. Up till now (2,4)
- 16. Faith-based fight (4,3)
- 19. --- Oak ("Far from the Madding Crowd") (7)
- 20. Grieve (6)
- 23. Portal (4)
- 24. So careless about some hot dishes (10)
- 26. Declines (7)
- 28. Hibernia (7)
- 29. Spotting (6)
- 30. Becomes rigid (8)

**Down**

- 1. Dearth (8)
- 2. Sleep stopper (5)
- 3. The written classics (10)
- 4. Side-to-side measurements (6)
- 6. Corrode (3)
- 7. Cat breed (9)
- 8. Coffee accompaniment (6)
- 10. Elder (6)
- 13. Without assistance (2,8)
- 15. Large flying insect (9)
- 17. Flower attractions (6)
- 18. Every story has them (3,5)
- 21. Puts on a pedestal (6)
- 22. Holiday memento (1-5)
- 25. Depart (5)
- 27. Transgression (3)

### Crossword Puzzle

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Last issue's answers

1	A	2	V	3	F	4	D	5	Y	6	G	7	A	8	P
9	T	B	I	L	I	S	I	10	M	A	R	I	N	E	R
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21	S	K					22	V	H	S	N	S	I		
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# The trial and error of fighting to prevent Alzheimer's



**DR. BROWN**

Dr. William Brown  
Columnist

Were any disease to be called cruel, Alzheimer's disease surely would be near the top of the list.

It wipes out a lifetime of memories, relationships with long-time partners and friends, and toward the end, a sense of self.

For many, the course goes on for years, initially at home, and later in long-term care facilities.

Unlike cancer, heart disease and stroke, where major advances have been made in prevention and treatment, until the last few years there was little hope for patients with Alzheimer's.

What hope did exist was usually a flickering affair, each successive flicker collapsing in the face of the failure of this or that drug to slow – never mind stop – the relentless cognitive and behavioural decline associated with the disease, to say nothing of the drugs' often-serious side effects.

The central challenge with Alzheimer's is that the condition progresses silently for as long as two to five decades before the earliest

symptoms manifest.

During that long asymptomatic period, abnormal proteins such as beta-amyloid accumulate in the brain's extra-cellular space forming inflammatory, destructive plaques, and the tau protein creates tangles within neurons, which spread.

The result is the destruction of neurons and the vast networks of connections between them, the clinical effects of which go unnoticed for a long time – although PET scans reveal the deposits of beta-amyloid and tau, and analyses of the cerebrospinal fluid and blood, show traces of the underlying chemical products in the disease.

The last decade of clinical trials employing monoclonal antibodies designed to target beta-amyloid revealed that clinical benefits are minor, even if PET scans show striking reductions in beta-amyloid.

That's the reason why following two expensive Phase 3 trials, the medication Aducanumab initially failed to receive approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Biogen lobbied the FDA to reverse its decision based on its claim that following the review of the trial data, Aducanumab had – at the highest dose level – significantly slowed cognitive decline.

In the face of this and other pressures, the FDA conditionally approved



Unlike with cancer, heart disease and stroke, there have been no major advances so far in treating Alzheimer's disease. MIDJOURNEY

Aducanumab – a mistake, in my opinion.

Then, early this year, the New England Journal of Medicine published the results of a Phase 3 trial with Lecanemab, a similar monoclonal antibody designed to target a different part of the beta-amyloid molecule.

Here, the evidence for slowing cognitive decline was statistically significant but modest, and there were serious side effects.

That both Aducanumab and Lecanemab clear the brain of much of the beta-amyloid burden is obvious. The tougher question is whether the drugs significantly slow the decline in cognitive function.

Some scientists believe the real culprit is tau. Hence, a renewed interest by many scientists in clearing the brain of tau.

That might be a chal-

lenge: unlike beta-amyloid, tau tangles are located inside neurons, where the tau may prove less accessible to monoclonal antibodies.

The importance of tau is supported by experimental models, which suggest that only when tau levels increased was there evidence of cognitive impairment.

The evidence suggests several paths forward:

Those at risk for developing Alzheimer's should be identified early based on their family histories, genetic tests, PET scans, and blood and possibly cerebrospinal fluid testing.

Dominantly inherited Alzheimer's cases would be prime targets for prophylactic treatment because they can develop the disease decades before other far more common forms of Alzheimer's.

Treatment should begin before symptoms do.

For any treatment to be considered for use during the asymptomatic period of the disease, any drugs used must be shown to be safe, well-tolerated, and effective in preventing the accumulation of tau and beta-amyloid in the brain, and most importantly, must prevent the later development of cognitive impairment.

Vaccines should be developed using modern RNA technologies to target specific sites on the tau and

beta-amyloid molecules.

Combinations of vaccines and monoclonal antibodies should be explored for use early in the course of the disease.

Gene editing should be developed to delete or correct high-risk genes to reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's.

We are well short of achieving those goals, but the groundwork has been laid. The number of clinical cases is so high that urgent action is needed, especially by identifying and treating cases before cognitive impairment becomes apparent.

Similar reasoning may hold true for other neurodegenerative diseases.

My opinion, of course, but it makes sense based on the published evidence so far.

*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.*

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The Lake Report



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## EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM



## Peach time in NOTL

This photograph shows a team of horses pulling a wagon loaded with baskets of peaches. It was taken on King Street in front of the Plumb house, formerly located where the old Parliament Oak Public School building is today. In the foreground are the railroad tracks for the Michigan Central Railway. A corner of the Plumb house can be seen behind the trees. The house was demolished in 1943 to build the former Parliament Oak school. Look for our Tiny Museum at the Peach Festival!

## Remembering the **historic scents** of our beautiful town



### Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson  
Columnist

Back on July 6, I rambled about the situation in our pretty town, after a particularly busy weekend when we had welcomed an amazing number of happy tourists. Visitors are blown away by our flower displays, set in well-weeded and fresh flower beds.

And so many visitors are in awe of the private gardens in NOTL. "Does the town do the landscaping?" No, our residents just enjoy gardening and tend their properties as if they own them.

After that ramble encouraged a lot of conversation around town, I happened to sit at a booth at the

venerable Stagecoach with longtime NOTLer Dave Greaves, of the Greaves Jams family.

My rambling in The Lake Report had taken him back to the 1950s and 60s, and the sensory overload that was downtown Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Today we are treated to the scents from NEOB Lavender and Budapest Bakeshop and Chimney Cakes, and the tantalizing aroma of bacon sizzling at the Stagecoach. Walking on Queen Street (should we consider renaming our main street Carnochan Street?) our nostrils are tickled by the smells of canna lilies, begonias, hydrangeas, petunias ... and so many other flower varieties, as the seasons come and go on their annual schedule.

The town was really unique then, according to Dave. He recalled Jack Greene's Livery on King Street, where the Aura on the Lake Indian restaurant is now, with all the strong scents that come with horses.

The livery rented horses for riding on the Com-



The smell of chili sauce used to waft across Queen Street when it was still made at Greaves. ROSS ROBINSON

mons and occasionally one returned without its renter rider. A search party quickly would be organized and usually they found the rider walking back to town.

Nobody complained about the smells, as it was just an accepted part of living in NOTL.

And how about the strong and irresistible smells every fall from Greaves Jams when they were making chili sauce and relish. It was the drawing card, and even people from Fort Niagara and Youngstown would drive across the bridge and down "the River Road" to

buy some sauces.

Every fall, there were the pungent odors from Gertrude Eckersley's backyard, as she burned leaves and horse chestnuts. "Nobody complained and we all got along. Everybody knew everybody," recalled Dave.

Niagara Home Bakery teased folks with fresh breads baking every day. With no preservatives, it only lasted for a day.

And we think the ice cream-licking phenomenon is new? In the '50s and '60s, right in Simcoe Park, there was a dance hall and refreshment stand. Lots of

ice cream was sold, especially to soldiers staying out at Fort George.

Apparently a good number of local women married soldiers, as would be expected.

There was a large and very loud fog horn to help boaters, and it was a lot noisier than the jetboats. Nobody complained then and the fishermen were happy for the navigational assistance.

When the huge ship Cayuga was coming in to dock, lots of people drove down to see who was getting off. A pretty exciting time, eh?

When the Cayuga landed at the Queenston dock, diesel-powered buses met it to take passengers by the hundred up to the park at Queenston Heights. Lots of diesel fumes, but again, nobody complained. Everybody just got along.

On the 24th of May, local people all got a free ride on the Cayuga from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Queenston. What a treat. And hopefully a ride back.

Connolly's store at King and Queen, where Hatley's

is now, sold everything from fine bone china to ice cream cones. Lots and lots of ice cream cones. By the way, I always wonder who buys a cup of ice cream. Ice cream is meant to be licked, not spooned from a cup.

So, things change in our town. But there is still lots of smells and noises and ice cream cones and good friendly feelings between people who live here and those who come for a visit.

The crowds are more cosmopolitan now, as is the population of our Canada.

We live in an increasingly mobile world. With more and more immigration to enrich our lives.

People still need a break from city life and the asphalt. A day trip to Niagara and a drive past our fruit orchards and vineyards. A family picnic in one of our parks or along the Parkway.

Go ahead, feel free to pull over and park on the grass along the Parkway. Kinda weird, but that's just the way it has always been.

We somehow manage to get along with each other, don't we?



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Brussel sprouts, tomatoes and zucchini are becoming ready to harvest. JOANNE YOUNG

## Get an **early start** on vegetable harvesting



**GROWING TOGETHER** 

Joanne Young  
Columnist

Gardening can be one of the most rewarding activities and at the same time, one of the most frustrating experiences – and that is just your tomato plants.

It is so rewarding to be able to grow your own food. I grew up on a farm and every year we planted a very large garden that would feed my family of eight for the entire winter.

We spent much of our summers preserving food. Even though shelling peas or peeling corn cobs didn't seem like a like of fun at the time, it is something that never leaves you and I am so glad that I have had that experience.

Frustration comes into play when it comes to the different diseases, insects

and other critters.

With the amount of rain that we have been getting in July, some plants are thriving while others are struggling with different disease problems.

The one thing that I love about gardeners, though, is their eternal optimism – often saying, “Next year will be better.”

For vegetable gardeners, the best season is the “early harvest” season. You can be busy harvesting the fruits of your labour from picking peas and lettuce in early summer to gathering pumpkins and winter squash later in the season.

Here are some general tips on how to harvest this summer:

- 1. Pick at the correct time.** For some vegetables, this means picking at the peak of ripeness, others, like tomatoes, can be picked early and will continue to ripen off the plant.
- Corn** – pick cobs when the tassel turns brown and the cob feels plump.
- Carrots** – start harvesting when the size is large enough to be using them. Carrots become sweeter when harvested after the soil started to cool in late summer.

- Eggplant** – Cut from the plant when the skin turns glossy, and fruit has stopped getting bigger.
- Cucumbers** – start to harvest as the fruit is large enough to use. Harvest often to keep them producing.
- Green Beans** – pick when young and tender. When bean pods begin to bulge, it means that the seed is maturing, and the bean will be tougher and more stringy.
- Melons** – Withhold water from your melons for about a week before harvesting. This will help the sugars to become more concentrated and sweeter tasting.
- Tomatoes** – Best to harvest before they become dead ripe on the vine. This will help to reduce the fruit's skin from cracking, and you can pick them before any critters decide to feast on them.
- Leave them on the countertop to ripen. Do not twist the stem and green calyx off when picking tomatoes. They will last longer if left on.
- Onions** – Harvest Spanish or cooking onions once leaves have yellowed and fallen over.
- Zucchini** – Harvest when young and tender.

- 2. Harvest regularly.**

Many vegetables, like green and yellow beans, will stop producing if it is left on the plant to mature.

- 3. Pick in the morning.** There are a couple of good reasons to harvest your vegetables early in the morning. One reason is that the temperatures will be cooler, making it a more desirable time for you to be out in the sun.
- Secondly, your produce will be better hydrated and not stressed. This enhances the quality and flavour.
- 4. Preserve your food.** Wait to harvest your produce until you know that you'll have time for the canning, freezing or dehydration process right away. Preserving vegetables when they are at their freshest helps retain valuable nutrients and improves flavour.
- Cut, don't tear, to avoid damaging the plant and bruising the fruit.
- Water root crops. Irrigating root crops prior to your summer vegetable harvest softens the soil and reduces the risk of marring tender skin.

Happy harvesting!  
*Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at joanneyoung.ca.*



The Farmworker Hub in Virgil needs donations like pots, pans, spoons, forks and water bottles for NOTL's farmworkers. SUPPLIED

## Farmworker Hub in **'dire need'** of donated items

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's centre for farmworkers is busier than ever during the growing season.

However, its manager says it's running low on the necessities it supplies to these workers to help them get by.

“We're in dire need of stuff right now,” said Julia Buxton-Cox, founder of the Farmworker Hub in Virgil.

It's been an extremely busy season, Buxton-Cox says, with at least 150 workers coming to the hub every Sunday to pick up necessities or use the hang-out room upstairs.

Since March, she said, the hub has served more than 2,300 workers.

“Last year, we served I think it was 3,100 in the whole season from mid-March to the end of October,” she said.

She added that the hub is expecting to serve more than 4,000 by the end of the season.

“With the price of groceries going up, every dollar we can help them save makes a big difference,” she said.

She said everyone, including the community, is feeling the effects of rising costs.

The hub is in need of small and medium short-sleeved T-shirts, long sleeve button-up dress shirts and hoodies.

It needs long sleeve T-shirts made of cotton in

sizes small, medium and large, men's jeans sizes 30 to 36 and men's and women's shoes sizes seven to 11.

“In the household room, the shelves are bare,” she said.

She's asking for items like pots and pans, spoons, forks, water bottles, upright wheeled luggage, twin-size bed linens and blankets and toiletries like toilet paper, towels, shampoo and deodorant.

Another way to help the hub is by purchasing the Winemakers' Selection Tasting Pass from the Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The organization is donating all of its proceeds from the sales to the hub.

On July 12, the organization presented a cheque to the hub with the proceeds of the pass since the beginning of the year.

This will assist with operating costs and everyday items for the workers.

The pass costs \$40 and includes one tasting of a winemaker's selection of wine from each of the participating 20 wineries in NOTL.

The hub is open for donations on Tuesdays between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also has a donation box out front where people can place items.

For more information, contact the Farmworker Hub by emailing thehubnotl@bell.net or calling 905-483-9717.

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# All-female cast for 'Jenny's House of Joy' at Foster Festival

Sponsored Story  
The Lake Report

For the first time in eight seasons, The Foster Festival has assembled an all-female creative team and acting company for its highly anticipated production of "Jenny's House of Joy" by Canada's most prolific playwright, Norm Foster.

"Director Lisa Horner and I started talking about assembling an all-female team for this production when we were working on '1812' at Fort George last year," said Foster Festival artistic director Emily Oriold.

"With the desire to continue to give women directors opportunities at the festival, I asked Lisa if she had ever considered directing. Lisa immediately accepted the opportunity and we talked about assembling an all female creative team. I am beyond thrilled that we were able to make it happen," said Oriold.

"What a wonderful opportunity to tell a story of women and the hard journeys they have to take, relationships they try to maintain and how they find their way in the world they



Lisa Horner, director of "Jenny's House of Joy" at the Foster Festival. SUPPLIED

find themselves in. It is a privilege to tell this story, I can't wait to share 'Jenny's House of Joy' with festival audiences," said director Lisa Horner.

As an actor, Horner appeared as Vi in The Foster Festival's 2016 world premiere of "Halfway There" and Henrietta in "1812," which The Foster Festival premiered at Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake last year.

She also spent four

seasons at the Shaw Festival and has appeared on stages all across Canada in productions such as the hit Canadian musical "Come From Away."

"Jenny's House of Joy" marks her first time directing for a professional theatre and The Foster Festival is thrilled to be her canvas.

The play is set in 1871 Kansas where Jenny Starbuck runs the best little house of ill-repute. When a tireless young runaway

comes begging for a job, all five women at Jenny's house will find out what it will cost to stay true to themselves. It's a delightful comedy that resonates with the spirit of resilience and camaraderie.

"Jenny's House of Joy" is the companion piece to "Outlaw" by Norm Foster which the festival presented this past June at the historic barn at Ball's Falls in Lincoln.

"It is the first time that

any theatre company has offered these two pieces in the same season," said Oriold. "These two plays are not what one might expect from Foster and whether theatre-goers are able to see both or only take in one of the plays, they will be pleasantly surprised by what they discover."

Playing the title character of Jenny Starbuck is Niagara-on-the-Lake actor Catherine McGregor. "I don't think I've ever been a part of a show that has had an all-female cast and creative team. But it is magical," said McGregor.

"The energy in the room is palpably joyful. Lisa Horner, of course, has so much to do with that, but there is also something about the level of comfort, the shorthand that we, as women share that has brought an incredible intimacy to the work in a very short time. I hope that's what the audience will see and feel when they come into Jenny's house for a spell."

McGregor has been pulling double-duty these past few weeks. Not only is she starring in "Jenny's," she

just opened the doors to a new franchise of Craig's Cookies in downtown Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"The shop is going incredibly well," said McGregor. "We are so very grateful for all of the lovely local folks who have come in to say hi and buy cookies, or pop their heads back in the next day to tell us how much they enjoyed them. But, most importantly, I would like to enthusiastically shout out to my magnificent business partners, Dani, Jason, and my business (and personal) partner, Phillip, who have all been unfailingly supportive and understanding of the time and focus it takes to make shows like Jenny's happen."

The all-female cast is rounded out by Donna Belleville as Clara, Julia Dyan as Frances, Zoe O'Connor as Natalie, and Kelly J. Seo as Anita.

"Jenny's House of Joy" runs Aug. 9 to 20 at the Mandeville Theatre at Ridley College in St. Catharines. For more information and to secure your tickets, visit fosterfestival.com or contact the box office at 1-844-735-4832 ext. 3.



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# MICHELLE REYNOLDS

LUXURIOUS COUNTRY ESTATE WITH VINEYARD VIEWS 1213 CONCESSION 6 - \$1,850,000




Discover unparalleled luxury and privacy in this exquisite country estate. Nestled in sought-after Niagara-on-the-Lake, this sophisticated farmhouse offers panoramic vineyard views from every room. Situated on a 200x200 lot this 4 bedroom home features custom finishes, and meticulous design. A dream come true. Updated flooring, luminous kitchen, and elegant dining room set the stage for family gatherings.








Ascend to the upper level, where a generous bonus space awaits, providing access to the covered porch. The master suite is a serene sanctuary, complete with a walk-in closet, spa-like ensuite, and French doors leading to the upper porch, an idyllic setting for leisurely summer evenings. The lower level, currently unfinished, presents an opportunity for an in-law suite, with a fully poured concrete foundation, heated floors, a spacious workshop, and double doors that open to a separate walkout. Stunning outdoor spaces complement the breathtaking surroundings. Experience refined living and unmatched opulence. Truly one-of-a-kind.





**SOLD** **SOLD** **SOLD**

5 RED HAVEN DRIVE, ST. DAVIDS - \$1,450,000  
Niagara living at its finest! This stunning bungalow offers everything you could want and more, from a sparkling pool to a covered upper deck with breathtaking views, and no rear neighbours. As you step inside, you will be struck by the elegant design and high-end finishes throughout the home. With over 2,500 square feet of finished living space on both levels this bungalow is the perfect place for you to sit back and relax..




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# #1 FOR A REASON

WE'VE HAD THE HIGHEST AVERAGE SALE PRICE FOR OVER TWO YEARS AND FOR GOOD REASON ... WE DON'T SELL REAL ESTATE

WE SELL **LIFESTYLE!!!**



AND BUYERS **LOVE IT!**



SEADOO AND BOAT TOURS



HELICOPTER TOURS



WINERIES AND LOCAL CUISINE

BECAUSE ONCE PEOPLE REALIZE HOW AMAZING NIAGARA IS, SELLING YOUR HOME IS **EASY.**