

Broken leg, broken system | Page 7



NOTL Youth Collective unveils programs

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

After months of preparation, the NOTL Youth Collective is ready to launch an eight-week winter program.

Starting on Monday, Jan. 16, the collective will begin its winter program for youth in Grades 7 to 12. It runs until March 10.

There will be a daily after school drop-in from 3 to 6

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Please – don't feed the coyotes

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Coyote sightings are on the rise in Niagara-on-the-Lake and, once again, experts are advising people not to feed them.

There have been at least nine sightings since Jan. 1,

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New home for Newark Neighbours

NOTL food bank and thrift store is moving to Virgil later this year



Newark Neighbours board chair Cindy Grant stands out front of the new location, inside the former Lincoln Interiors building. JULIA SACCO

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

At long last, Newark Neighbours has a new place to call home.

After 30 years at 310 John St. E., the charity has plans to upgrade to a new, bigger location in Virgil.

“We have an aging building and we are completely out of space. We need more room for both our thrift store and food bank,” said Newark Neighbours board chair Cindy Grant.

After hoping to move for more than a year, the organization has secured space at 1534 Niagara Stone Rd. in the former Lincoln

Interiors storefront and plans to begin operations there in the spring or summer.

Grant said they were looking specifically for a place that did not have any stairs, accommodated the functions of both a food bank and a thrift store, and was easily visible to the community in a central location.

A tall order but they found the perfect spot.

“When this place came along it kind of fit, it checked all the boxes.”

Newark Neighbours began leasing the new property on Jan. 1 in order to prepare the space in

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GROWING TOGETHER

Encourage kids to ‘play in the dirt’ – and be young gardeners

Joanne Young
Gardening Columnist

I think that there is one thing that we can all agree on – kids spend too much time on their phones or in front of screens.

Whatever happened to the

good days when you spent every moment possible playing or just exploring outside?

I grew up on a farm and loved my time outside, especially in the garden whether I was poking a tomato hornworm with a stick or

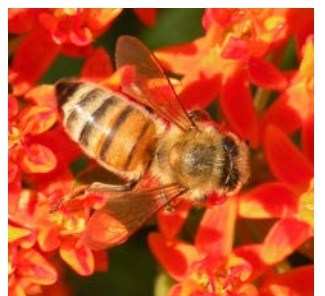
admiring a flower.

I believe it is important to involve children in gardening and there is science to back that up. The benefits range from making kids smarter and healthier, to helping them be more aware of environmental issues.

Did you know that just digging in the dirt makes children healthier?

Studies show that children who were raised on farms don't have as many respiratory allergies, asthma or

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Left: Former executive director Karl Dockstader. SUPPLIED Right: The Niagara Regional Native Centre is on Airport Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake. EVAN LOREE

Strife at native centre leads to **resignations and accusations**

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The board of the Niagara Regional Native Centre is looking for community members to fill several vacant seats, after the resignations of its executive director and three board members just before Christmas.

The members stepped down after board president Lacey Lewis and treasurer Wanda Griffin walked executive director Karl Dockstader off the property on Dec. 16, former director Roxanne Buck told The Lake Report.

Buck, Fallon Farinacci and Olivia Hope then all resigned from the board of the centre on Airport Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

When he was walked out, Dockstader had already submitted his resignation and had planned to leave on Jan. 8.

In an interview, Dockstader said the board had bypassed him in his role

as executive director and interfered with staff.

His concern about being circumvented was voiced at a board meeting in August and was disputed by the board, he told The Lake Report. He would not disclose the nature of the board's alleged overreach.

The four remaining board members are Bobbi Japp, Wendy Wilson, Lewis and Griffin.

Lewis did not agree to an interview about Dockstader's resignation.

The centre's bylaws say the board needs nine members but is allowed to operate so long as a majority of five members are present.

The board had been short two members all year before the spate of resignations in December.

Board policy dictates that it must call a meeting of the centre's membership to vote on new directors. Members must be given 30 days notice of the election.

The board announced on Facebook this past Tuesday morning that the meet-

ing will be held Feb. 8.

Sean Vanderklis, a concerned Indigenous community member who co-hosts the podcast One Dish, One Mic with Dockstader on 610 CKTB Radio in St. Catharines, told The Lake Report the centre is funded through the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres.

Until the board is reassembled, the centre will be ineligible for any "additional funding" for new programs, Vanderklis said in an interview.

In a Facebook post, Vanderklis said he would stand for election to the new board and invited others to join him.

"While our former (executive director)'s resignation is important, his resignation is a symptom of greater governance concerns I have," Vanderklis said in an email to The Lake Report.

His concerns are shared by Buck.

The former vice-president of the board, Buck expressed worries that the

board was moving away from its role as a policy adviser and becoming more involved in day-to-day management.

Centres "do not operate smoothly" when the board becomes too involved in daily operations, Buck said. "It was an extremely difficult decision" to step down, she added, as she has been "part of the centre for many years."

Buck told The Lake Report she also questioned the decision to walk Dockstader out, but received no explanation from her board colleagues.

She said she wasn't aware he was going to be escorted from the property that morning "or even why."

Asked about the incident, Dockstader said, "It felt unprofessional."

His decision to resign had been brewing for some time, he explained.

Last summer he had a heart attack while working 60-hour weeks. He believes job stress was an aggravating factor.

He was hoping to return to a "supportive and understanding" work environment with the "structures I need to try to protect my health."

Dockstader said he did not feel forced out and acknowledged he was given time off and allowed to return to work with reduced hours, but that "it seemed like the writing was on the wall."

He continued to feel a "lack of clarity" and a "seeming lack of structure" from the board.

"This board continuously operates outside the governing rules and walks over the staff without fear of repercussions," Vanderklis wrote in a Facebook post after Dockstader left the centre.

He argues the board should be restricted to governance issues and "debating high-level strategy, following or developing a strategic plan" and "laying down a foundation" for the future.

Vanderklis said when board members "bypassed

our executive director, side-stepped our management team" they "constructively dismiss the management team."

In a phone interview, Vanderklis said it violates the centre's policies for board members to directly manage the staff.

Staff management is the responsibility of the executive director, he said.

Dockstader and Vanderklis talked about board governance at the native centre on their podcast on Dec. 17.

"A good board chair listens more than they speak," Vanderklis said on-air.

Despite his criticism of the centre, he was clear in his podcast with Dockstader that "the friendship centre movement across the nation is in fantastic shape."

That opinion was shared by Dockstader, but he encouraged the Indigenous community to "man the ship" and not become passive in the running of their own friendship centre.

Native centre wants to **expand service** area to Welland, Fort Erie

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Niagara Regional Native Centre wants to update its bylaws to expand the area it serves, which will allow people from other Niagara municipalities to serve as board members.

The centre, based in NOTL, wants to expand to Chippawa, Crystal Beach, Fort Erie, Port Colborne, Ridgeway and

Welland, the board said in a Facebook announcement.

Resigned executive director Karl Dockstader said the board does not have the legal authority to update its bylaws until the board has a minimum of five members.

"They need five or more board members to operate the board," Dockstader explained.

The centre's bylaws allow the board to "fill vacancies" as long as the board has a majority of its nine members.

The bylaws allow the board to add members from a pool of directorial nominees raised at "the last meeting during which an election was held." It also allows the board to appoint directors when when no nominees are available.

However, the bylaws also say the directors should "immediately call a meeting of the members" if the board no longer has a quorum.

Dockstader describes the board's actions as "completely

outside of process" and said the moves demonstrate "a lack of understanding" of their own governing policies.

"You can't put forward a bylaw amendment proposal if you don't have a board in order to do it," he said.

If approved, the expansion will "ensure that community members will not be turned away from fully participating as a board member," the board said.

One current board mem-

ber, Bobbi Japp, lives in Welland, which is outside the centre's service area.

The expansion will help to resolve the conflict between Japp's residency and position on the board.

According to the centre's bylaws, all board members should be residents of a community the centre serves, which includes Grimsby, Lincoln, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Pelham, St. Catharines, Thorold, Wain-

fleet and West Lincoln.

Dockstader told The Lake Report if the centre expand its service area, it may cause overlap with the neighbouring friendship centre in Fort Erie.

This was concerning to the former staff director because much of the money friendship centres receive is determined by the region they serve.

He was worried the proposed bylaw amendment could result in the centres competing for funds.

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28th Icewine Festival kicks off Jan. 21

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It's almost time to start sipping icewine at Niagara-on-the-Lake's 28th annual Icewine Festival.

"It's such a signature event to Niagara-on-the-Lake and I think it's also significant to what we do here in Niagara-on-the-Lake – which is icewine," says Andrew Niven, chair of the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL.

The festival celebrates all things icewine with a focus on the Icewine Village, he noted.

The Icewine Village will take over Queen Street on Jan. 21 and 22 and then again on Jan. 28 and 29.

"We have 18 local wineries (and) we have probably 12 different food vendors. And we all come together and we create this village," Niven said excitedly.

Inniskillin, Jackson-Triggs Winery and Konzelmann Estate Winery are just some of the well-known vintners participating.

Masaki Sushi, Aura on the Lake and the Winery Restaurant by Peller Estates are among the culinary options available to guests.

There will also be guest speakers, like Andrea Kaiser, who will be doing an introduction to Niagara icewine history. There will also be mixology and cooking demonstrations.

An outdoor stage will



NOTL's Icewine Village returns for two weekends this month. FILE PHOTO

feature live music.

This year organizers are focusing a lot on the culinary aspect of the festival, too.

To help do that, they're launching the first-ever VIP lounge, with fire pit tables and muskoka chairs, plus a fleece-style blanket to cozy up with.

VIP passes start at \$182 and six tokens for icewine tastings, icewine cocktails and different culinary options to satisfy their taste buds.

Another key part of the festival is the Sparkle and Ice Gala that will kick everything off on Jan. 20 in the ballroom of the old Court House. Tickets are \$160 per person.

Guests will have a chance to not only taste some local food and try some of Niagara-on-the-Lake's best icewine, but talk to the winemakers themselves about their delicious cre-

ations.

Between 10:30 and 11 p.m., guests will be invited outside and given a glass of icewine to celebrate the start of the festival while fireworks light up the night sky.

Niven described it as a "mix and mingle" sort of night.

The gala will be much different than the Icewine Cocktail Competition, scheduled for Jan. 28, the last day of the festival.

That's when wineries and restaurants alike will come up with an icewine concoction in a friendly competition, said Niven.

Included in the \$75 ticket price are three cocktails and charcuterie boards.

"There's live music, a live DJ, there's photo booths, so it's a bit more fun and upbeat and definitely more casual in comparison to the gala," he said.

Guests will vote for their favourite cocktail and the

winners will be announced later that evening.

Niven is expecting a huge turnout for this year's festival, since it's one of the first "normal" years back since the pandemic began.

"I think people are ready to get out and they want to kind of go back to some normalcy," he said.

Details, details: Visit the Icewine Village on Jan. 21 and 22, then again on Jan. 28 and 29. On Saturdays the village will be open between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., and on Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

While entry to the village is free, guests can purchase individual tokens for \$6, an icewine glass for \$5 or an icewine festival pack for \$35.

Tickets for the gala are \$160 per person. It runs 8 to 11 p.m. on Jan. 20. Tickets for the cocktail competition are \$75 per person. It from 7 to 10 p.m. on Jan. 28.

Food bank leases former Lincoln Interiors building

Continued from Front Page

the upcoming months.

"Right now, it's a big open room, so we're going to have to design where we want walls, where we want the shelving, where we want the racks, what we want the food room shelving to look like," she said.

The food bank and thrift shop, which began serving Niagara-on-the-Lake more than 50 years ago, will be organizing a charitable event in the coming months to help cover the one-time costs of renovating the new building.

Ongoing operating costs for the volunteer-run orga-



The food bank is still operating out of its usual spot until renovations are done at the new space. JULIA SACCO

nization will be covered by money set aside in anticipation of the move.

"We do have a reserve fund," said Grant. "Over the

years our board has been conservative, knowing that at some point we were going to have to move."

"We are confident that

with our current revenue through our thrift store and donations that we will have enough money to fund our ongoing operation," she said.

Until their relocation this spring or early summer, Newark Neighbours operations will continue as usual at the current site, on property owned by the Riverbend Inn.

"The Newark Neighbours Board and volunteers thank the staff and management of Riverbend Inn for being gracious and supportive neighbours for the last 30 years," Grant said in a news release Tuesday.

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THE MONUMENTS MEN

Virgil's Frederick Alexander Leggatt died in West Flanders

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

Ron Dale
Special to The Lake Report

One of the names inscribed on the municipal cenotaph in Queenston presents a bit of a mystery.

Frederick Leggatt's name is spelled incorrectly on the monument as "Legatt," although in any surviving documents the name is spelled with two "g's."

Born in Lifford, County Donegal in Ireland on Dec. 23, 1893, he was the son of Charles Leggatt and Mary Jane Thorn.

His parents were grocers and wine and spirit merchants in Lifford. His father died in 1910 and Mary continued to run their shop, assisted by their children, including Fred.

In 1913, Fred emigrated

to Canada while his mother moved to Belfast. Fred found his way to Virgil, where he was employed as a clerk in a construction firm.

On Feb. 4, 1916, Fred went to St. Catharines and enlisted in the 49th Overseas Battery of the Canadian Field Artillery.

He had no previous military experience but was determined to "do his bit" for king and country.

Like so many other young men, he was rapidly trained as a soldier and soon shipped to England for deployment in Europe. He took the train to Halifax from Toronto where he boarded a steamer, disembarking in Liverpool on Sept. 22, 1916, after an 11-day passage to England.

He was transferred from the 49th Battery to the 16th Brigade at Milford Camp in Witley, England.

A Canadian Field Artillery veteran noted: "Witley is in an ideal situation for the training of artillery. It is surrounded by large areas of rolling common land covered with gorse and heather, giving opportunities for the most extensive manoeuvres. The soil is principally sand, easy to excavate when practising the construction of gun pits and adequate cover is available for the purpose of concealment."

Unfortunately, when soldiers who trained here went into action in France and

Belgium, they did not find the ground so agreeable. They had to dig trenches and gun pits in the waterlogged clay and chalk of Flanders or the Somme.

Leggatt and his comrades trained in basic trench warfare and on getting their artillery pieces manoeuvred into position, loaded and fired.

The men practised moving shells to "ready use" pits dug near their guns. They learned the characteristics and use of the various types of artillery projectiles, whether they were high explosive, shrapnel or poison gas shells.

After seven months of preparation, Leggatt was finally sent to join the Canadian Corps units fighting in Belgium and France.

He arrived in France on April 7, 1917, and was assigned as a gunner to the 83rd Battery of the 5th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery.

Artillery was the most lethal weapon of the First World War. Guns were continually fired at enemy trenches and gun positions.

In preparation for attacks, the artillery would pound enemy positions for several days prior to sending the infantry "over the top" of their trenches to cross "no man's land" in an assault on the enemy trenches.

The artillery fire was used to destroy enemy

trenches, clear barbed wire and destroy enemy gun emplacements. Of course, the gun fire was also meant to kill, maim or demoralize enemy soldiers. And while Canadian artillery was raining death on German positions, the enemy was firing back.

Leggatt survived the Battle of Vimy Ridge, the Attack on La Coulotte and the Battle of Arleux in April. He came out unscathed from the Third Battle of the Scarpe in May and the Battle of Hill 70 in August 1917.

But his luck finally ran out in November during the Second Battle of Passchendaele, part of the Third Battle of Ypres.

His gun was dug in just northeast of Zonnebeke in West Flanders, Belgium. On Nov. 3, 1917, while his gun was firing shell after shell at German lines, an enemy shell stuck his gun position.

Frederick Alexander Leggatt became the only Virgil resident killed in the First World War.

He is buried in the Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery in Belgium and is commemorated on the cenotaph in Queenston.

Perhaps at some point in the future, when the Queenston memorial is next refurbished, we can add another "g" to his surname.

Culvert replacement will mean **detours** in Old Town

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Driving around Old Town might require some detours until the end of April.

From Jan. 16 to April 28 the town has hired Anthony's Excavating to remove and replace an underground culvert at Simcoe and Johnson streets.

The road where construction is taking place

will be closed to all traffic to help reduce construction time.

According to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, there will be road closures on Mississagua Street at Johnson Street, Queen at Simcoe, Gate at Johnson and Gage at Simcoe.

A detour route has not been released yet.

A map of the closures can be found on the town's website.



Twelve-year-old Taia Epp sorts through bottles donated to the cadets at Cornerstone church. JULIA SACCO

Post-holiday bottle drive helps support NOTL **air cadets**

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

In a town without a Beer Store, the 809 Newark Air Cadets were happy to collect NOTLers' holiday empties during Saturday's cadet bottle drive.

Cadets were out collecting bottles at Cornerstone Community Church, the St. Davids Lions Club and the NOTL Legion to support extracurriculars, training activities and general upkeep.

"The public seems to appreciate it. It gives them an opportunity to clean out their garages," said commanding officer Lieut. Dan Couroux.

"We strategically place it right after the holidays and that's what leads to this," said Couroux, gesturing to the countless boxes collected outside Cornerstone Community Church.

The Legion was the group's busiest location and cadets had filled two trailers and a truck cab with donations by noon.

Civilian instructor Joachim Dau led collections at the Lions Club and said plenty of donations were received.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake has a unique situation to take advantage of because we don't have a Beer Store here," he said.

Joe Cossu recently moved to the community and used the collection day to get rid of a year's accumulation of empties, something many people in the community do.

"A lot of people hang on to (their empties), some even collect from neighbours," said Dau.

"In many ways, it ends up being a community event."

Ethan Epp and Preston Peters, both 14, braved the cold weather to help out their squadron.

Peters said joining the cadets has been an excellent way to meet new friends and get involved with the community.

"It brings people together."



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Town begins work on tourism plan

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



The Town of NOTL is hiring a private consultant to work on its tourism plan. FILE PHOTO

It's ready-set-go for Niagara-on-the-Lake's new tourism strategy.

After being delayed by the previous council, which wanted to focus instead on the town's official plan, the new town council is moving forward with its tourism plan and will hire a private consultant to help develop and execute the plan.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita was the lone holdout when council voted on getting moving on the plan.

She was concerned the town was putting the cart before the proverbial horse by hiring the consultant before it had a tourism committee to consult with.

"I think it's really important to engage the tourism industry right from the very beginning," she said.

"It may delay things by as much as two months," she added.

Still, she was happy to be "moving forward with the tourism strategy" after three years of delays.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa told The Lake Report in an interview he wasn't concerned about the timing.

He said the committee will be in place in time to work with consultant CBRE on the plan and that the decision "wasn't as sensitive as it could have been."

Cheropita worries though town staff will direct the consultant, develop a plan and conduct research all

"done in a silo without any collaboration."

Bruce Gitelman, a spokesperson for Residents for Sustainable Tourism, was more concerned about how well residents would be represented in this process.

"The purpose of having a strategy of tourism is to come up with the best solution for the town. The purpose is not to come up with the best solution for the tourism industry," Gitelman said in an interview.

He hopes tourism groups won't be over-represented on the tourism committee.

The next step is for staff to meet with the consultant and discuss "particulars regarding the project," says a staff report.

According to the report, CBRE will bring a work plan and an industry engagement plan to council early this year.

The direction of the tourism strategy depends on

the "marching orders" the consultant receives from staff, said Lyle Hall, a semi-retired private consultant in the tourism sector.

Hall said it is important for the town to decide "what type of tourist it wants" and to make sure it "has the infrastructure in place to support that type of tourist."

Cheropita said the town should place an emphasis on "premium experiences."

"It's about quality and the quality of the experiences," she added.

Gitelman expressed the same sentiment.

"A premium experience is more than a 20-minute toilet stop on the way to Niagara Falls," he said.

Too many short-stay tourists contribute to a growth of souvenir shops and a decline in resident-centric businesses like laundromats, bakeries and butcher shops, he said.

CBRE was hired as the town's consultant on this

project after a brief selection process.

It began in earnest in late November after staff learned the town was eligible for a \$100,000 grant to help pay for costs associated with the plan.

Cheropita told The Lake Report in a phone interview that normally it takes six weeks to gather proposals from consultants like CBRE and to then select the best one for the job.

The town had to complete the process in under two weeks to be eligible for the grant, though.

She said that was a little unusual, but Hall was not concerned.

"I wouldn't be at all worried about the consultants submitting their material," he said.

He added that it took "no time at all" for consultants to put project proposals together and submit them for consideration.

Consolidated regional bussystem means minor changes for NOTL transit riders

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara Region has launched its new consolidated transit system but it will have little impact on Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The transit systems of Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Welland, Fort Erie and the region are all operated under the same roof now.

This shift will help connect all of Niagara's 12

local municipalities.

"What this really does is it opens up opportunities for efficiencies among the services," Leah Tracey, a spokesperson for the Niagara Transit Commission, told The Lake Report.

NOTL will only see one minor change to the NRT OnDemand system - its prices. Nothing else changes.

As of Jan. 1, the 10-ride pass for adults is \$26.50 and for seniors and youths

it's \$22, down 50 cents.

The monthly senior and youth passes are now \$63 (a \$2 drop) and monthly adult passes are \$85.50 (a 50-cent hike).


"The amalgamation connected all of Niagara and that includes Niagara on the Lake," said Tracey.

"The service for Niagara-on-the-Lake is actually provided by NRT OnDemand, but that was part of the amalgamation," she added.


Currently, Fort Erie has its own on-demand service, as do some of the smaller areas in St. Catharines and Welland.

"Eventually we will have all of the on-demand services across Niagara sort of fall under one umbrella," said Tracey.

Residents can still book their ride on the NRT OnDemand App, or call the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre to book by phone.



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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 71
Region active cases: 712
Region deaths: 689
Region total cases: 50,274

**Jan. 11 data per Niagara Region Public Health. Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown (above) are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution." Case data for municipalities is also now being interpreted in 28-day cycles.*



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"We should appreciate the beauty in the diversity. It would be a boring world if every flower were the same shape, color, and size."
 - Muhammad Ali

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Carriages await customers outside the Prince of Wales hotel.
 DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Editorial

A collective community effort

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

From the outside looking in, it has been remarkable to watch the development and planning of what is now known as the NOTL Youth Collective.

It began years ago as the seed of an idea in the mind of Caroline Polgrabia.

Now it has grown into a seedling and is about to become a reality this Monday with the debut of its winter 2023 program at the old Cornerstone Community Church in Virgil.

It has truly been a community effort to get the collective to this point.

Now, with the help of literally dozens of people, plus several businesses and other organizations, we hope that seedling is able to grow and flourish.

As we have watched



The new Youth Collective will operate at the old Cornerstone Community Church in Virgil. EVAN LOREE

the planning continue for months now and seen some of the behind-the-scenes work of Polgrabia and her many helpers, we have been impressed with the professionalism and dedication they have brought to the cause.

This is not a slapped together, back-of-the-napkin effort conjured up by a loose-knit group of parents. It has been a communal effort, through and through.

The organization's purpose has been painstakingly and thoroughly thought out,

seemingly every eventual-ity accounted for, and then professionally planned and executed.

Most of that will not be known or visible to the young people who take part in the collective's programs.

But the results of all that hard work will be visible for all come Monday and onward as the collective takes the first steps toward becoming an integral part of the community.

As we've said before, for young people growing up in Niagara-on-the-Lake find-

ing or having "things to do" when you're an adolescent or young teen can be a tall order.

And it's common for kids growing up in any small town to want to head somewhere bigger and brighter as soon as they are able.

We would never discourage NOTL kids from seeing the world and enjoying new experiences.

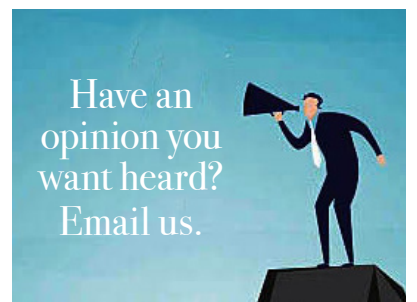
But until that time, here at home in Niagara-on-the-Lake, having a community-based and community-organized body like the NOTL Youth Collective offers young people a vital and vibrant alternative.

As a community, we all owe the organizers and supporters of the collective a debt of gratitude for all their work. And we look forward to the group's success and growth.

editor@niagaranow.com

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Broken leg and a broken system costs patient over **\$1,000** in medical bills

This letter was sent to Niagara Health's patient relations specialist, Ontario's patient ombudsman and area politicians, including Niagara MPP Wayne Gates. A copy also was sent to The Lake Report for publication.

On Dec. 19, I wrote a letter of thanks for the excellent nursing and physio care I received while I was hospitalized from Nov. 4 until Dec. 6 at the Greater Niagara General Hospital. I am now writing with some serious concerns.

Please note, I am an 85-year old man weighing about 200 pounds (this is important to the issues) who suffered a broken leg on Nov. 4. My wife, also a senior, is a petite woman.

TV, internet and telephone service: I was fortunate that new TVs had been installed just prior to my arrival so I received three weeks of free TV.

Then I had to pay Healthhub Patient Engagement Services the obscene amount of \$98.23 for five days, plus two days of "free" TV service.

My limited research indicates this company services hospitals across Canada except in New Brunswick.

There is a phone embedded in the monitor, with no handset. With assistance from hospital staff, I tried to use the phone but was unable to do so.

Volume control was insufficient to meet the needs of my hearing deficiency. The telephone service was inaccessible and staff confirmed that I wasn't the first senior who had this issue.

The only solution was for my wife to purchase a prepaid phone at about \$75 (something I no longer use) and pay \$20 per month so I could keep in touch with family and friends. The phone is now sitting in my desk drawer.

I was told I could access Netflix but only if I had an account. I was told I could access Google but I still had to paid the hospital \$54.18 per month for wi-fi access to my computer.

While I am not fond of buzz words, these charges are really taking advantage of "vulnerable people" who need as much outside contact as possible in order to get well.

A hospital stay is a dismal experience. Imagine it without TV, phone and internet access.



Bud and Leslie Moulson had some bad experiences with the health system. JULIA SACCO

Hospital contracts with this company need to be reviewed and reined in.

Hospital food: It is simply too easy to make jokes about hospital and airline food.

But the stuff I was served was, for the most part, inedible. The smell was enough to put me off and the beige/bland appearance didn't do much for my failing appetite.

I was given no choices and never had a consultation with a dietitian. I have no doubt the meals are nutritionally sound but only if they are eaten.

The wasted food on the carts going back was a crime. If hospital administrators were served these meals, they would understand the problem patients are facing.

Mealtime could be a highlight in an otherwise dreary day.

Home care: I will be in a full-length leg splint with limited mobility until Jan. 31.

While there were risks of falling because I still couldn't bear weight on my leg, I came home at least two weeks early, all thanks to my wife.

We are both very much aware of the bed shortage in Ontario hospitals.

It is difficult to get a handle on how much an average day in hospital costs in Ontario. One site quoted \$842 a day. Home care costs \$42 a day.

Other expenses: We had to pay out-of-pocket to rent an overbed table and hospital bed (plus a set-up fee) because these items weren't covered by the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), which oversees home-care services.

Our own bed is too high and unsafe for transfer without a side rail. This will be about \$310. The LHIN did provide a wheelchair, for which I am grateful.

It was recommended that I have an occupational therapist do a home visit upon discharge.

I was advised by my case manager/discharge planner that none was available until January so this visit didn't happen.

We muddled along, figuring out my limited movements. My wife requested the help of a personal support worker (PSW) twice a week for about 30 minutes each time to safely assist with showering when I am able to do so.

Again, none is available.

I was supposed to have home physio starting Jan. 10. My wife has a call in to St. Elizabeth Healthcare. I hope it starts as soon as I am able to start bearing weight on my leg.

I had to pay for Ontario Patient Transfer to get home and I returned to the hospital fracture clinic on Dec. 20 for an assessment.

Because I can't bear weight on the injured leg, I was forced to again use RNR Patient Transfer Services (via Ontario Patient Transfer). The care given by the two attendants was good.

But the cost was almost \$500 for 1.5 hours – another obscene gouging of vulnerable people with no options.

Had I stayed in hospital, I wouldn't have had to pay this. But the worst part was the broken-down old ambulance that was used, rattling and bumping down the road.

And the stretcher I was on had no brakes. At that price, I expect safety, at the very least.

I can't even share a copy of this letter as I have no mailing address for the service.

Had I stayed in hospital, I would have cost the Ontario government about \$29,470 for an additional 35 days until I could start putting weight on my leg.

By my calculations, I saved the province about \$30,000 but depleted my own bank account by over \$1,000. Thank heavens I saved the TV charge for two weeks.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Respectfully,
Bud and Leslie Moulson
NOTL



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Retro is 'in' as mid-century modern has resurgence



Brian Marshall
Columnist

Over the past few years there has been a resurgence in the popularity of mid-century modern design, but what exactly is that?

Well, similar to the term "Victorian," which groups together several architectural styles and interior design aesthetic in vogue during the reign of Queen Victoria in Britain, mid-century modern is a general descriptor for certain architecture and design styles popular between 1945 and 1970.

The principal criteria of mid-century modern include:

Quite wide, low footprints with clean, straight lines, geometric shapes dominated by right-angles and roof lines that vary from flat to low-medium pitches.

Large, open interior spaces with multiple window and sliding glass door openings that often stretch from floor to ceiling, creat-

ing seamless interior/exterior transitions.

Changes in elevation, which might be accomplished by following the topography of a sloping lot with the architecture to create separate levels and/or introducing differing interior elevations by sinking or raising a section of the floor (think sunken living room as an example). These differing elevations could be visually accentuated by the placement of partial brick or glass walls, built-in cabinetry set at various heights, fireplaces centred in rooms, gapped screen walls (often vertical wood), and so on.

Elegantly clean and minimalist decorative elements both on and in the architecture. Cabinetry emphasizing flat planes, light furniture with graceful curves and straight lines (Scandinavian is one example), undecorated rectangular trim work or trim completely replaced by recessed shadow gaps, and, up until the last half of the 1960s, a muted colour palette.

The over-riding design intent was to connect the interior with the exterior in a naturalistic and, to the greatest extent possible, unbroken flow while merging the architecture into the landscape as opposed to dominating it.



There are lots of mid-century modern homes in Niagara, like this one in Bevan Heights.

Because of this landscape orientation, similar designs in various geographies (say coastal B.C. rain forest versus southern Ontario) can, at first glance, appear distinctly different.

In terms of the architecture, three style schools are typically associated with mid-century modern: Contemporary, Organic and of-the-period International.

Certainly, the most commonly built style in this grouping was the Contemporary, which came in two broad form categories.

The first could best be generally described as after the Eichler expression. Initially popularized in California by J. Eichler, this form is characterized by a low to low-medium pitched front-to-back gabled roof with wide overhanging eaves and pyramidal stacked floor-to-eave windows that dominate the facade.

The main entry is asymmetrically placed and it is quite common that the wood beams spanning the vaulted ceiling extend to the exterior and remain exposed. Typically, warm materials such as stone, brick and wood clad the exterior of these houses.

Alternatively, I would loosely describe the second Contemporary form category as after Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian expression. Generally flat-roofed, they are commonly long, low, single-storey homes that appear to set firmly into the landscape.

Although the location of the asymmetrically placed main entry is intuitively obvious, the door itself is often obscured from sight in a deep recess and/or placement into the side wall of the recess.

Again, warm, "natural" materials clad the exterior and larger window/sliding

door openings are on the rear or end walls, with facade windows smaller and more demure.

While earlier (1920 to 1955) International homes appeared almost severe in their adherence to the school's precepts of rigidly straight lines, absence of any exterior decorative elements, use of white stucco cladding, steel (often black) window frames, the expressions of the 1960s and 1970s had stylistically evolved with the times.

These designs tended to be much more integrated into the landscape, the facade wider and, although the vertical lines remained rigid there was much more emphasis placed into the home's horizontal lines.

The stucco cladding was not uncommonly tinted in a more natural tone and wood elements (generally painted to match the stucco) introduced on some exterior

surfaces. Window openings were larger, unbroken plate glass and sliding glass doors introduced to enhance the indoor/outdoor transitions.

The vast majority of residences designed in the Organic tradition were custom commissions and, as a result, less common than either Contemporary or International designs.

The object of architects working in this school was to blend their designs into the landscape. They tended to use far fewer straight lines and right angles, preferring more natural shapes inspired by the landscape.

These homes were designed to follow the topography, echo the elevations of the land and modestly sit down within the landscape. Wood, stone and brick were their claddings of choice and these materials were used extensively on the interior as well.

Although pitched roofs tend to be somewhat more common on Organics, there is no shortage of flat roofed examples.

If you watch for them, examples of mid-century modern homes can be found across Niagara-on-the-Lake. They are worth seeking out.

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



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Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation. Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated. Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published. Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 496 Mississauga St., NOTL.

Development needs to respect NOTL's history and architecture

Dear editor:

With regard to Alexander Evans' letter concerning development and land use in Niagara-on-the-Lake ("Development and progress in Niagara-on-the-Lake," Jan. 5) I cannot be certain if he is serious or is simply penning a send-up for his amusement.

I would agree that the Region of Niagara will have to respond to the increased need for housing as outlined by Premier Doug Ford's new provincial legislation but to assume that the Old Town be completely open to development suggests a lack of

any historical context by the writer.

In some way I am not surprised as most of our visitors now seem to be here for wine tastings, tours of wineries, ice cream and fudge.

Lost in the marketing and in the approval process of building guidelines is the fact that this was the First Capital of Upper Canada and we should all respect the beautiful examples of the period.

It saddens me to see a complete lack of respect for this heritage as monster homes soar above cottages and small two-storey

homes of the early to mid-1800s time period.

I am not optimistic given this trend and the fact that the town is part of a region that generally feels Niagara-on-the-Lake receives special treatment and is unlikely to elect several people like your architecture columnist Brian Marshall to council.

Indeed, Mr. Evans may get his wish as we increasingly see developers and builders who love the brand but sue the town if they do not get permission on density, height and style.

*Michael Eagen
NOTL*

Sculpture out of place at new retail plaza

Dear editor:

There's something new at Solmar's new retail development on Queen Street.

I just noticed an unusual sculpture has been installed in what seems an inappropriate setting.

I like the way this project has turned out as far as appearance goes and the quality of work.

But it seems a bit odd to be presented with this modern art installation in the middle of a setting that seems to be trying to present a period setting.

The overall project appears to be trying to reflect our historic Niagara area



and streetscape.

While the quality of the piece is excellent it seems out of place.

I look forward to hearing the thoughts of others on this.

*Christopher Allen
NOTL*



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Novelist **reconnects** with lost family member through her work

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake author Oew Sook Kim says she puts a little bit of herself into everything she writes.

“As a writer, I have to be all characters,” Kim said in an interview.

The 69-year-old Korean-born writer says she needs to get inside the minds of her characters to better understand what they would do in a situation.

Her latest book, “El Condor,” is no exception.

It marks an impressive milestone as her 11th publication and the first to be translated into English.

She started writing “El Condor” in 2019, but seeds of the story were sown shortly after she married retired reverend James Hills in 2004.

Hills, 95, has never been able to read his wife’s work because she writes mostly in Korean.

“My husband, at last, he could read my book,” she said in an interview.

The book is dedicated to Hills and his adopted daughter, Anna.



Oew Sook Kim has been writing in Korean for 31 years and is proud to share an English translation of her 11th book with the readers across Niagara. EVAN LOREE

Kim first met her husband at a service station in 2002 while travelling abroad from Korea to visit friends.

While visiting, Kim was staying with friends who owned a gas station in Thorold.

In a chance encounter, she met Hills at her friend’s business while he was stopping to fuel up.

Hills, active with the Korean Church in Niagara at the time, was with two Korean friends.

After the two groups got to chatting, Hills learned Kim was a writer.

Smitten, Hills invited Kim and her friends to the Pillar and Post the next day for tea.

“He was falling in love right away with me,” she said with a big smile.

After she was back in her home country, he would sometimes email her three times a day.

Hills proposed to Kim the next year while visiting Korea, despite the fact they spoke different languages.

“He said, ‘If you say no, I will go to Niagara Falls. I will jump,’ ” Kim said with a laugh.

Still, she was reluctant to say yes.

“I didn’t want to get married again. I already had a sad experience,” Kim said.

She was widowed in her mid-30s. She and her first husband had a son, who still lives in Korea today.

After months of back-

and-forth emails with Hills, Kim finally said yes. They were married at West St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in St. Catharines in January 2004 and moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

On the acknowledgement page for “El Condor,” she describes her husband as “no ordinary man.”

Hills had five children, including the adopted Anna, who was born in Costa Rica. She died of a heart attack almost four years ago, Kim said.

Her new novel has been a way for her to reconnect with Anna.

“From that time, I decided to put her in my story,” she said.

For the author it was a way to reconnect with her stepdaughter and “make her alive again.”

“In truth, the writer in me saw the source material when I looked at the adoption and the warm, happy family,” reads her acknowledgement page.

“El Condor” tells the sad and romantic story of a Peruvian girl, named Anna, who grows up in Niagara-on-the-Lake after being adopted by a grape farmer.

Her life gets complicated after she falls in love with her stepbrother Brian.

But as their love is a forbidden one, Anna moves away, and eventually falls in love with Michael, a boy from school named. After marrying Michael, her heart is tested once more when she has a miscarriage.

The novel ends on a happier note, though, when Anna and Michael go to Peru to adopt a baby.

The romantic epic was originally published in serial fashion in a Korean-language daily newspaper based in Toronto.

Kim, who used to work as a counsellor in Korea, said that is where she learned to empathize with different people and craft a wide variety of characters.

To accurately portray Anna’s family and the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, she had to learn a lot about the local winemaking industry.

On her novel’s acknowledgement page, Kim writes, “The daughter of my husband Rev. James Hills may have passed, but Anna Hills will be happy again, forever reborn as Anna Evans.”



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Youth Collective gears up for winter program launch

Continued from Front Page

p.m. Monday to Friday at the Cornerstone Community Church Town Campus, 1570 Niagara Stone Rd., in Virgil.

“It’s super, super exciting,” said Caroline Polgrabia, chair of the Youth Collective’s planning committee.

Most of the programs are free to Niagara-on-the-Lake young people, but some might require tickets or advance registration, Polgrabia said in an email to The Lake Report.

The program schedule will be announced every week since Polgrabia is still in the process of confirming community partnerships and programs.

Along with daily drop-ins, the collective will be holding a “Wonderful Wednesday” night every week from 6 to 9 p.m. It will feature a variety of activities and workshops.

The collective is working on offering a resume workshop and a home alone certification for kids ages nine to 12.

A NOTL Youth Collective Gives Back workshop and a NOTL heritage moments workshop also are in the



Volunteers Marie Lapointe, left, and Brenda Ferguson begin their morning by stocking the bookshelves. SOMER SLOBODIAN

works. However, more details will emerge in the coming weeks.

These are only a few of the events the collective hopes to offer.

Polgrabia also wants to hold more movie nights like the group put on in November.

For a town with no high school, it will offer youth a safe space to meet up in the evenings.

They will have the oppor-

tunity to learn new skills, meet new people or just grab a book from the growing library to read.

Each participant is required to register because no one can participate in the program without signing a risk waiver form, code of conduct and emergency forms.

“We think that whole first week is kind of going to be a pre-registration, try it out, figure it out week. As much

for families as it is going to be for us,” said Polgrabia.

“To work through the kinks and get everybody registered and get all the proper paperwork in place,” she added.

Anyone looking to register is welcome to stop by the campus during the drop-in hours to fill out the proper paperwork.

People are also encouraged to keep an eye on the collective’s website, not-

lyouth.com, for program updates over the next eight weeks.

Polgrabia and the volunteers have been working non-stop to prepare for the launch, and parents can be rest assured that each volunteer has had to go through intensive training.

The application process included community reference checks and in-person interviews.

After that process, ap-

plicants go to the Ontario Provincial Police for a vulnerable sector check.

Then, volunteers have to complete a two-hour youth supervision Plan to Protect training session.

“It’s really quite daunting. One of the church staff does the program. It’s very eye-opening,” Polgrabia said.

The training teaches volunteers about all the worst-case scenarios so they’re prepared for anything, she said.

After one final review from the Youth Collective, the application gets sent to Cornerstone staff. Since it’s on the church’s property and under its insurance, the church has final approval.

The collective changed its name because Cornerstone is commonly known as the “Town Campus” and Polgrabia wanted to avoid any confusion between the program’s name and the church’s name.

So the group is now the NOTL Youth Collective and the campus refers to the church location.

“Collective is about the program. So, it’s a group of people and the community collectively developing programs for the youth at the campus,” said Polgrabia.

Ruffino’s pizza supports youth program

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Eating pizza and helping the community go hand-in-hand for the folks at Ruffino’s Pasta Bar & Grill.

On Monday, the Ruffino’s team presented the Niagara-on-the-Lake Youth Collective with a cheque of \$3,000 raised to support them in their early stages of

programming.

Throughout December, the restaurant held “Make A Pizza With Santa” on Sundays, an opportunity for kids to make their own food and grab a picture with St. Nick.

The proceeds from the fun winter event benefited the new NOTL Youth Collective.

Caroline Polgrabia, chair

of the NOTL Youth Collective planning committee, expressed thanks for the “unbelievable community support” the program has received.

“Having a community-minded business like Ruffino’s donate and dedicate their proceeds to the program in its concept stages, tells us we are on the right path,” she said in an email.



“Team Ruffino” donated \$3,000 to the NOTL Youth Collective on Monday. JULIA SACCO


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Image Detail: Lauren Stewart Harris, Study for "In the World I, City Paintings", 1918, Samuel E Weir Collection, RiverBrink Art Museum.



Disc golf proved to be a popular game on Saturday as players flocked to the community centre course. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Pros and amateurs toss off in first **disc golf** tournament at NOTL Community Centre

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Apparently, nothing brings a community together like disc golf.

After a disc golf course was built outside the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre in July, fanatic Andrea Michaud knew it was going to be a hit.

"It gathered way more traffic and was way more popular than (the town) thought it would be," she said.

Michaud knows firsthand how passionate disc golfers are, which is why she decided to host the Holiday Buster Bonanza last Saturday.

Players of all skill levels from around Ontario braved the cold in the name of sporty fun.

Professional disc golfer Steven Soucie came all the way from St. Thomas, Ont., to play a few games and reconnect with friends.

Soucie started playing disc golf in the early 1990s and has been at it ever since, making friends and memories along the way.

"Disc golf has taken me all over North America. I've played against some of the world's best players," he said.

Soucie even married his wife at the International Disc Golf Centre in Georgia.

Joe McCormick of Port Colborne said it was great to have one of his inspirations visit Niagara.

"If it wasn't for (Soucie) and my brother, I probably wouldn't even know what disc golf is," McCormick said.

Many more amateurs and pros were among those signed up for the tournament, with a big draw being the low entry fee and a chance to win cash prizes.

"A cheap tournament is around \$60," said Michaud, so the admission fee of \$6 for pros and \$11 for amateurs was unbeatable.

The event was also unique as it allowed players of dif-

ferent divisions and genders to play together on the same card.

"There's a lot of couples I know who love to play the game together but can't compete together," said Michaud.

"I wanted to do things differently."

She thanked the tourney sponsors, including Picard's Peanuts, as well as the town, particularly those in the permit office who were "better than any city (she'd) ever worked with."

"Picard's is even having their staff come out and try playing disc golf when the weather gets warmer," she said.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: GERUNDS

A recital of a literary work, or a service performed by a psychic

Last issue:

Category: **THAT ANIMAL HAD A NAME**

Clue: Launched into space in 1961, Ham was one of these primates.

Answer: What is a chimp?

Answered first by: Larry Mantle

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Margie Enns, Jane Morris, Susan Hamilton, Bob Wheatley, Jim Dandy, Margaret Garaughty, Howard Jones, Wade Durling, Pam Dowling, Hedy Wiebe, Sheila Meloche

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

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Katharine Elizabeth Frances



Laura Fraser and Colin O' Connor are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter, Katharine Elizabeth Frances, born December 17, 2022. Katie is welcomed by her proud grandparents Frank (Sandy) and Donna Lynne Fraser, Queenston, Frankie O' Connor and Doug Bradley, Larder Lake, and Charles Bowman, Montreal.

Advertising inquiries?
Email advertising@niagaranow.com

NOTL Kids Rock Club in search of **new home**

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

The excitement over crystals and geodes won't quit in Niagara-on-the-Lake, as the Kids Rock Club is rockin' with eager new members.

The group backed by the Niagara Peninsula Geological Society and led by Francesca (Ms. Fran) and her son Nicholas Sorrenti meets monthly to discuss a different rock each session and give kids a chance to show and share their own geological findings.

Since their first meeting at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre in October, the group has exploded in popularity.

"The kids are really excited. They're enthusiastic," said Francesca Sorrenti.

Kiddos aren't the only ones inspired by the group's unique programming.

Queenston resident Eben Holmes read about the group's NOTL launch in The Lake Report and was inspired to help out.



John Anderson breaks open geodes to show Kids Rock Group members Paul Suarez, Aspen Ziraldo and Matthew Meyer during the group's Dec. 11 meeting. SUPPLIED

Holmes contacted Sorrenti, detailing his love of geology in the Niagara region specifically and donated both a microscope and a 100-year-old book with a specimen to the group.

"He said he considers the area to be a very magical place and he loves exploring the area to this day," said

Sorrenti.

"He said that he included his book because he hopes that it will be picked up by many more young and curious minds."

With all of the buzz and excitement around the program, the group is looking to relocate to provide additional much-needed space

for learning and exploration.

Sorrenti expressed gratitude to those who donated services and funding including Holmes, Walker Aggregates, Garage Pizza in St. Davids and the Book Outlet in St. Catharines, as well as Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa for his assistance in the ongoing search for a new location.

"We will talk to anyone who has an interest in geology if they want to come and help out. We're open to volunteers and we're open to suggestions and anything that the community wants to bring forth."

The Kids Rock Club is scheduled to meet next on Jan. 22 at 10:30 a.m. at the community centre where the discussion will focus on calcite.

To lend or support instructional materials, or to simply share a fun rock fact, reach out to club directors at cocoandclayforkids@gmail.com.

To enrol, visit: bookwhen.com/cocoandclay.



COMMITTEE MEMBER RECRUITMENT

JOIN A TOWN COMMITTEE

The Town is looking for people who have an interest in contributing to the community to make Niagara-on-the-Lake a great place to live, work and visit!

The Town is currently recruiting members for the following five (5) Committees:

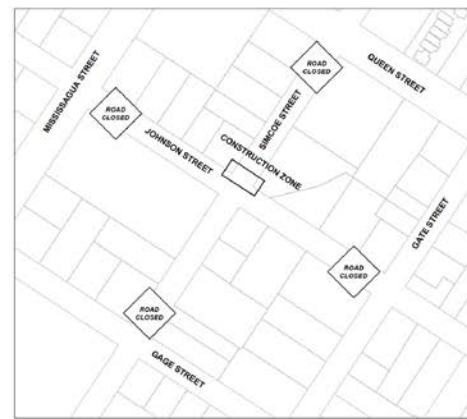
- Committee of Adjustment
- Irrigation Committee
- Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Municipal Accommodation Tax Committee
- Urban Design Committee

The deadline for registration is Monday, January 23, 2023.

For more information and to apply, please visit www.notl.com or call 905-468-3266 ext. 248.



PUBLIC NOTICE ROAD CLOSURE - JOHNSON STREET AND SIMCOE STREET



WHAT: The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, through its contractor Anthony's Excavating, will soon begin the removal and replacement of a road crossing culvert on Simcoe Street at Johnson Street.

The section of road over the structure will be closed to all traffic for the duration of construction. This closure is necessary to facilitate a shorter construction schedule for the construction of the structure. Road closures are to take place on Mississauga Street at Johnson Street, Queen Street at Simcoe Street, Gate Street at Johnson Street, and Gage Street at Simcoe Street.

A detour route will be provided around the site for traffic.

WHEN? The work is scheduled from Monday, January 16, through Friday, April 28, 2023.

CONTACT: Any inquiries concerning this project may be directed to Mike Komljenovic, Engineering Supervisor for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, at mike.komljenovic@notl.com or 905-468-3266 ext. 240.

Emergency Services will be notified of this closure by the contractor prior to work commencing.

Your co-operation is appreciated. Thank you.



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View it while you can: Susan Low-Beer exhibition ‘Specimen’ in final weeks at RiverBrink Art Museum

Debra Antoncic
Special to The Lake Report

What better way to start off the new year than a trip to RiverBrink Art Museum?

The exhibition “Specimen,” featuring ceramic sculptures by senior Canadian artist Susan Low-Beer, is sure to both challenge and inspire.

Guest curated by Sheila McMath, it is the latest iteration of the Toronto-based artist’s exploration of the body and human experience. The sculptures, installed on the main floor of the gallery in Queenston, are at once whimsical and oddly surreal. They are infused with warmth and compassion for the frailty of the human body.

In her previous work, Low-Beer often created life-sized representations of the body in three-dimensions. In this work, however, she delves into the interior, exposing what might be seen as organs: hearts and lungs, arteries and veins.

The oddly shaped forms with appendages convey Low-Beer’s interest in



“Pulmonem” is one of the exhibition pieces. SUPPLIED

biology and her extraordinary facility with clay is also clear. The assortment of amorphous sculptural shapes, although abstract, nonetheless reference the human form.

And they are still legible as human, as evidenced by the visitors who commented, in reference to “Pulmonem,” “We like the old couple on the bench the best.”

The two vessels that comprise the sculpture suggest human forms

nestled together, while other groupings of shapes, in genderless pairs or threes, suggest a family. They perform the activities of daily life – sitting on a stool, climbing a stair, resting on a pillow.

Allowing the mind and vision to stray from a desire for representation is essential to experiencing the exhibition. The space is animated by shape and form, the incredible variety gradually settling into a thoughtful display.

The careful placement of the sculptures throughout the gallery is enhanced by the inspired use of tables, plinths and dressers from RiverBrink’s cache of furniture. What at first appears to be a hodgepodge gradually becomes legible, the artist’s subtle use of colour and texture drawing the eye and the body through the space.

Low-Beer is no stranger to the fragility of the human body and the ravages of disease, but her focus here is on healing, aided by a light touch of humour and the absurd.

Visitors may also enjoy a companion exhibition “The Figure: Life Drawing and Other Studies” organized from the rich collection at RiverBrink, installed in the adjacent gallery.

Low-Beer’s “Specimen” closes Jan.21 and travels to Espace Pierre-Debain (Gatineau, Que.) for spring 2023 (March 22 to May 21) and later this year to the Beaverbrook Art Gallery (Fredericton) for the summer (June 16 to Sept. 18).

Debra Antoncic is RiverBrink’s director and curator.

Insurance firm donates \$30,000 in bursaries to Willowbank students

Staff
The Lake Report

Some students at the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts will soon be eligible for an \$10,000 annual bursary to help pay for their studies.

Ecclesiastical Insurance Office PLC announced a new partnership with the Queenston-based institution, Canada’s premier heritage conservation school.

Ecclesiastical is donating \$30,000 for second-year student bursaries over three years, from 2023 through 2025.

“As a specialist insurer, we provide tailored insurance solutions to many sectors, including the arts, culture and heritage community,” said company president David Huebel said in unveiling the donation.

“We know the importance of heritage conservation and sustainability, and Willowbank teaches its students how to do this important conservation work.”

Willowbank offers a

unique three-year diploma program, pioneering an innovative approach to learning about heritage conservation.

Combining hands-on and theory courses, Willowbank is training the heritage professionals of the future.

“This generous donation is an investment in our program and our students,” said Caitlin Wooll, director of Willowbank.

“The bursaries will afford students who may otherwise have struggled with second-year tuition the peace of mind to focus entirely on their education, rather than how to make ends meet.”

Ecclesiastical was founded in the United Kingdom in 1887 with the goal of protecting churches from the consequences of fire.

Ecclesiastical was named one of Canada’s Top Employers for young people in 2022 for the 10th consecutive year.

Willowbank graduates have an employment rate of 95 per cent. The school’s patron is King Charles III.



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Kids should be **learning** how to garden

Continued from Front Page

autoimmune disorders as children who were raised in urban areas because children who live on farms are exposed to more microbes and fungi in the dirt.

Letting children get outside and get in the dirt may actually make them healthier than keeping them tidy, clean and indoors. Schools are starting to introduce dirt kitchens in their playgrounds to encourage them to play in the dirt. I love this.

Studies also show that when a child is involved in growing different vegetables they are more likely to eat what they grow.

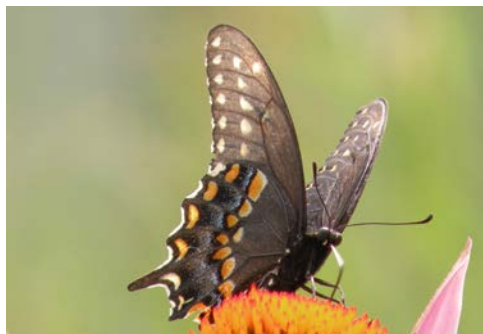
This means an increase in the number of servings of vegetables each day and, in most cases, these vegetables will have been organically grown.

Research also indicates that students who garden score higher on science tests. Schools that offer gardening as part of their curriculum see an increase in their students' marks on standardized science tests.

That makes sense as they are introduced to botany in a natural, tangible way.

Children who are involved in gardening also develop important, character-building skills such as a sense of responsibility, patience, perseverance and problem-solving abilities.

With gardening there are no instant results. From the planting of a seed to waiting for it to germinate, or from the time it flowers to



Whether it's learning about growing your own food, or looking for insects like butterflies and ladybugs, children can learn a lot from spending time in the garden. JOANNE YOUNG

the time it produces fruit, gardening is a practice of waiting.

Working in a garden can be quite therapeutic and after going through the COVID pandemic we could all use some good horticultural therapy.

It seems that kids are suffering more and more from anxiety and a sense of hopelessness. Mental health issues have become one of the top medical concerns.

Gardening and just connecting with nature has a way of reducing stress. In fact, a study in the Netherlands showed that after 30 minutes of gardening, people who had exhibited stress symptoms beforehand had a "fully restored" positive mood. Nature has a way of calming nerves.

Lastly, gardening is a great workout. Instead of the kids spending their time sitting in front of computer screens with very little movement, gardening activities involve them using different muscles.

It involves stretching, bending, squatting, digging, lifting, pulling and raking. It is a full body workout and the best part is kids will have fun while getting some exercise.

So, come spring, when you are back out in your garden, get your children or grandchildren involved in what you are doing.

Let them plant their own section of the garden and make them responsible to care for it whether they plant vegetables or flowers that will attract birds,

butterflies and pollinating insects.

Plant some giant items, like sunflowers, to instill a sense of awe for them. Teach them about the importance of pollinating insects, such as bees, and the role that they play in the garden and not to be afraid of them.

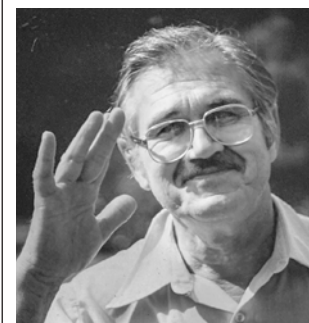
Teach them the importance of feeding the soil. Maybe plan a little secret garden area for them so that the magic of gardens is something that will remain with them as they grow up.

Planting these "seeds" within our children when they are young will make a lasting impact.

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

Obituary

Gerald Enns



Gerald Enns, 99, of Virgil, ON passed away peacefully on January 6, 2023 in Pleasant Manor, Virgil, attended by his children

Celebration reception will be held at Redbrick Church (1775 Niagara Stone Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake) on Wednesday, January

11, 2023 from 4 to 8 p.m. A private family burial will take place on Thursday at Lakeshore Road Cemetery. Tallman Funeral Home will be handling the funeral arrangements.

Gerald was born in Landskrone, Molotschna Colony, South Russia to Katerina and Jakob Enns on June 19, 1923. He, along with his family, escaped Russia in 1930 to a refugee camp in Germany. In 1931 the family went to settle in Brazil and in 1947, Gerald along with parents and siblings came to Canada, settling in Virgil. He married Sinaida Janzen at Niagara United Mennonite Church on July 28, 1951

He had a long career as a tool and dye maker, employed by Tri-Sure Products. At the age of 67 he retired, being the last employee of the company as he completed last special projects for the International office. At this point he took on the role of chauffeur for his newborn grandson. Gerald is best known in the region for being a professional photographer who photographed countless weddings and family portraits

Gerald is survived by his son George, St.Catharines, daughters Ellen (Robert) Smith of NOTL, Christa (Ken) Wright of Virgil; sisters Ramona Crickmore and Kaethe Fieguth. He is preceded in death by his/ wife Sinaida, grandson Christopher Enns, brothers Herman Enns and John Enns

Memorial donations can be made to The Mennonite Committee The family wishes to extend their gratitude to the amazing and caring staff of Pleasant Manor and to Dr. Al-Jarrah for kind and considerate care.

Online condolences at www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca



Coyote sightings increasing, experts say to **limit food sources**

Continued from Front Page

according to the Town of NOTL's website.

"Although seeing coyotes is not uncommon, public safety is of the utmost importance to the town," the town wrote in a Facebook post.

The nine reported sightings could be the same coyote, however, one expert notes.

"If you look at that number, that doesn't mean nine individual coyotes," said Lesley Sampson, executive director of Coyote Watch Canada.

Since Nov. 25, the town reports a total of 15 coyote sightings across all areas of the community, including Virgil, St. Davids and Old Town.

Virgil resident Mary Marrello says she saw them more frequently until No-



A coyote was spotted last week at the old rifle range on Lakeshore Road, near Chautauqua. SUPPLIED/MIKE DAVIES

vember but since then has only spotted a few.

An increase in sightings could be due to a number of factors, including mating season.

"There's like a week in February, a short window of time and that's it, and that's the only time that the

female could ever be pregnant," said Sampson.

Coyotes could also be re-establishing their territory with their chosen mate, whom they stay with for life, or there could be a young coyote that's figuring out their surroundings, she said.

No matter the reason for the spate of sightings, Sampson noted coyotes play an important role in the community.

They keep the rodent population in check, clean up dead animals and consume species that host ticks.

The best thing residents can do is not feed the coyotes.

"They're fabulous at maintaining healthy ecosystems in the community as long as they're not being fed," said Sampson.

The more often people feed them, the more comfortable they become with human interactions.

"Coyotes don't go up to people unless there's been feeding going on," said Sampson.

Back in April 2022, a video showed a NOTL resident being chased by a coyote while out walking her dog.

"In almost all cases, such behaviour is the result of food conditioning, the process through which coyotes lose their fear of people

after repeated access to human food sources," Anita Tamrazi from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry wrote in an email to The Lake Report.

If you find yourself face to face with a coyote, don't turn your back on it and don't run away, experts say.

Slowly back up while keeping a close eye on the animal. Be assertive, wave or clap your hands or stomp your feet.

Sampson urges residents to avoid hanging bird feeders, since they attract lots of wildlife – including coyotes.

It's also important to secure trash cans with animal-proof lids.

Marrello said she has noticed people putting

their garbage out the night before pickup day, only to have trash all over the following morning.

A study that was done in Portsmouth, a small neighbourhood in Portland, Oregon, showed that removing food sources can drastically reduce coyote traffic.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake is a beautiful, beautiful community," Sampson said.

"Folks did such a great job last year rallying together and wildlife-proofing and getting rid of those bird feeders where the coyotes were coming in," she said.

"Everything really worked out well for co-existing and people have to commit to that on a daily basis," she added.

If residents see any coyotes in their neighbourhood, they're urged to notify the town.

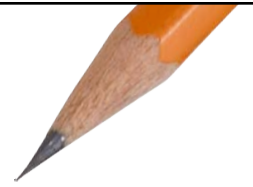
Across

- 2. Kind of party (9)
- 8. Wheel shaft (4)
- 9. Global promoter of peaceful nuclear energy (1,1,1,1)
- 10. Patella (7)
- 11. Woman's garment (6)
- 12. If you're in this, you're inside (4)
- 13. He wrote "Hell is other people" (6)
- 14. Go around and around (5)
- 15. Screen or religious image (4)
- 17. Ornamental coronet (5)
- 18. Repast for a late riser (6)
- 20. Brandy (6)
- 23. The German state (5)
- 24. Kerfuffle (4)
- 26. On the quiet (5)
- 27. Strives and makes an effort (6)
- 29. Crude cartel (1,1,1,1)
- 31. Agency promoting children's well-being (1,1,1,1,2)
- 32. Tyros (7)
- 33. GMT alias (4)
- 34. A great deal (4)
- 35. Sensitive to criticism (9)

Down

- 1. Such as Marco Polo (8)
- 2. Inca descendant (8)
- 3. Finds pleasing (5)
- 4. 1971 Sidney Poitier film (3,12)
- 5. Domestic pest (9)
- 6. Sealed for secrecy? (4)
- 7. Adolf's ally (6)
- 16. Cell occupant (3)
- 17. Unhorsed (6,3)
- 19. Black light (2,1)
- 21. Easily fooled (8)
- 22. Sickesses (8)
- 25. Appears suddenly (4,2)
- 28. Fish dish (5)
- 30. Heavy wet snow (4)

Have some fun



Crossword Puzzle

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Last issue's answers

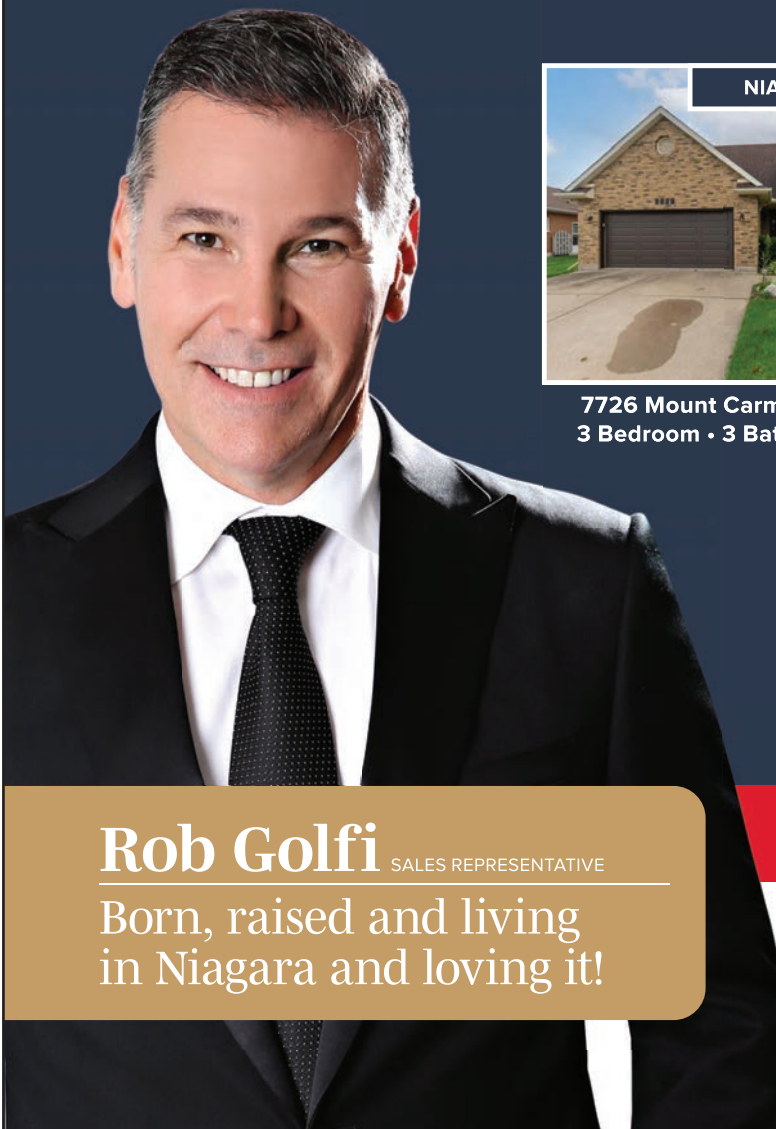
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6		8				2	9



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Eighteen-year-old NOTLer Zoe Abraham pumps herself up before her final game of Saturday evening during the Harrow Reggae Cup tournament at White Oaks. JULIA SACCO

NOTL squash players compete in **Reggae Cup** at White Oaks

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

White Oaks Resort & Spa was bustling all weekend long as over 200 people came out for the annual Harrow Reggae Cup squash tournament. Players from all over took part in the game, with a handful of NOTLers making their marks. Eighteen-year-old Zoe Abraham has been playing squash for the past six

years after a knee injury stopped her from figure skating. She said she stuck around for the amazing community. “Even though it’s an individual sport, everyone is really close with each other,” the Niagara-on-the-Lake resident said. “If you’re alone you always have someone to play with,” she said, noting one of the best ways she stays hyped up for games is by chatting with her teammates.

This was Abraham’s fourth time participating in the tournament and she played well throughout, finishing fifth in the Women’s A Singles division. “I love the vibes (of this tournament),” she said. “They’ve got the music on, it’s fun.” Other NOTLers, Jim Friesen and Zoe’s brother Adam Abraham, made it into consolation rounds for the Men’s C and D divisions, respectively.

Predators notch their **first win** of new year after extended layoff

Kevan Dowd
The Lake Report

The Jr. A Niagara Predators hit the ice for the first time this year on Friday night but could not shake off the holiday rust in time to best the Bradford Bulls. One night later the Predators skated to their first victory of 2023 with a 4-0 decision over the Tottenham Thunder.

The Predators lost 6-2 to the Bulls after a nearly three-week hiatus thanks to a cancelled game on Dec. 23 and the holiday break.

Head coach Kevin Taylor feels the long break and tough opponents contributed to the loss.

The Bulls managed four goals before Niagara’s Jaroslav Dohnal was able to put his team on the scoreboard 12 minutes into the second period. Anthony Tropea notched a second for the Predators six minutes later for a two-goal difference heading into the third.

Unfortunately, Niagara was unable to put anything else past Bradford’s Domi-



Niagara Predators goalie Ryan Santini faces down an offensive chance by Bradford’s Esa Patton. KEVAN DOWD

nic Marquis and the Bulls would earn two more tallies – the last on an empty net.

The next night at Tottenham, Cameron Savoie netted a goal five minutes into the game and added a second with just over seven minutes left in the third period.

A power play goal by Declan Fogarty at the 5:29 mark of the second period, Cole Ellis scoring unassist-

ed a minute and a half later, and Ryan Santini shrugging off all 53 shots that came his way meant a 4-0 win for the Predators.

Taylor still thinks his team could have done better against a team they have beaten by a much wider margin before.

“They weren’t as intense as the Bradford game,” he said.

“We took a couple penalties that took the flow out of the game but we played a good defensive game, we got the shutout for Ryan (Santini). I think a lot of guys thought it might have been an easy walk – we beat them 8-1, 7-1 in previous games – so they think the same outcome is going to happen.”

With 12 games left in the regular season, Taylor is hoping his team can move up in the standings. They’re now seventh in the Greater Metro Hockey League’s south division.

The Predators host Tottenham this Friday, Jan. 13, at the Meridian Credit Union Arena. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

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EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM



A view of Fort Niagara, circa 1833

An important early watercolour in the NOTL Museum is a “View of Fort Niagara” by Anglo-Canadian artist John Herbert Caddy (1801-1883). Born to a military family posted at Quebec City, Caddy enrolled as a cadet at the Royal Military College in Woolich, England, in 1816 where he learned to paint and draw topographical views for military use. A surveyor and engineer in London after his retirement, Caddy moved to Hamilton in 1861, where he devoted himself entirely to painting. The piece offers a view of Fort Niagara from near the corner of Front and King streets. Its precision suggests Caddy may have used mechanical aids in its creation; Caddy’s style was usually less structured. We know he came to the Niagara region several times (undocumented) after he moved to Hamilton. Was it painted prior to 1833 as the inscription states – or later, after he settled in Hamilton, as is more likely? Its size suggests it may have been painted in the studio from on-the-spot studies. Ultimately we know that Caddy’s creation offers an exceptional panoramic view of an important town feature from about the middle of the 19th century.

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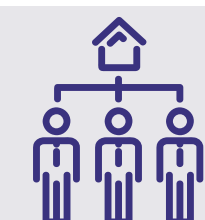
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