

# The Lake Report

Lakereport.ca / Niagaranow.com  
Hyper-local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake



NOTL Hydro lends a hand | Page 12

Vol. 6, Issue 1

Canada's most-decorated community newspaper

January 5, 2023

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2022



## Finally, a welcome return to 'normal'

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

In a replay of a year earlier, life in 2022 began with more fears about COVID but great hopes for a return to normalcy. And for the most part, life did get back to "normal" – but with a heavy dose of caution for many.

With two elections – Ontario and municipal – people were engaged in meaningful issues and while opting for the status quo at the provincial level, chose change in electing a much different town council in October. That's democracy.

But there was lots of other news in 2022. Here are some highlights from the past year:

### January

**Jan. 6 edition:** An outbreak of COVID-19 at Niagara Long Term Care grows to 28 cases, with 14 residents and 14 staff members testing positive for the virus.

Columnist Dr. William Brown discusses why isolation in nursing homes is a bad idea, despite the Omicron variant. It has lasting detrimental effects on residents' cognitive faculties, among other problems.

A Niagara police officer feared for his life and was justified in fatally shooting a man who led four police forces on a five-hour pursuit a year ago, the province's Special Investigations Unit says.

An instalment in a Lake

Continued on Page 10

## Former Shaw head Jackie Maxwell named to Order of Canada

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

Jackie Maxwell can keep a secret.

About a month ago, the powers that be reached out to advise the former artistic director of the Shaw

Festival that she had been nominated for the Order of Canada.

Considered the country's highest civilian honour, it is bestowed by the Governor General and secrecy rules the entire process.

"Really surprised" and

moved by the honour, Maxwell gave them the pertinent biographical information that was sought, but was then sworn to silence. Not a word.

Well, she did tell her two adult daughters, Deragh and Lou, who spent much

of their early lives growing up in Niagara-on-the-Lake when mom was head of the Shaw from 2002 through 2016. But mum was the word.

The Irish-born Maxwell

Continued on Page 5



## The clock strikes midnight

All across NOTL, people were celebrating the new year in style



Sarah Wiley, Felicia Izaguirre, Charlie Izaguirre and Laurie Izaguirre celebrate the new year with a glass of bubbly at the clock tower cenotaph in Old Town. A large and boisterous crowd gathered to watch the clock strike midnight. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Julia Sacco  
The Lake Report

Whether you rang in the new year at home, at a pub, or in the middle of Queen Street, NOTLers made sure that 2023 came in with a bang.

Those in town for the holiday had plenty of options for where

they could count down the last moments of 2022, with parties at the Sandtrap, Olde Angel Inn, Riverbend Inn & Vineyard, Spirit in Niagara Distillery and the Irish Harp to name a few.

The highlight for many was the annual countdown outside at the clock tower cenotaph, which drew a few hundred people from

nearby bars and homes.

The Izaguirre family spent their New Year's Eve with "a lot of giant Jenga, sauces and dip and a lot of good talk," before meeting at the cenotaph, said Laurie Izaguirre.

"Every year we come back and do the same thing, rain, shine, COVID. We're here every year."

Izaguirre, who has lived in NOTL for most of her life, boasted a New Year's resolution to "travel the world."

Amid lively music at the Irish Harp, owner Jovie Joki shared a similar sentiment.

"Personally, I'd like to have

Continued on Page 3



**Peninsula  
Flooring Ltd.**

13 Henegan Road  
Virgil Business Park

(905)-468-2135  
www.peninsulaflooring.ca

**Wood • Luxury Vinyl • Carpet • Tile**  
From Top Designer Names and Brands



Serving Niagara Since 1977

**SIMPSON'S**

Pharmacy: 905.468.2121 | Apothecary: 905.468.8400

Shop from the comfort of home [www.simpsonsparmacy.ca](http://www.simpsonsparmacy.ca)  
In-store | Curbside pick-up or FREE local delivery | \* Orders over \$15

**FREE Regional Delivery\***

**Join us for monthly Customer Appreciation Days:**  
Every 3rd Wednesday of the Month  
**Customers 60+:**  
Every Last Thursday of the Month  
**ONLINE & IN-STORE**

**Curbside Pick-up Available**




# Legion levee celebrates new members, volunteers and **new year**

Julia Sacco  
The Lake Report

The Royal Canadian Legion feted a dozen new members during Sunday's New Year's levee and, in the spirit of the celebration, Niagara-on-the-Lake community leaders spoke about their hopes and goals for 2023.

Legion president Al Howse emphasized the importance of the initiation ceremony and how it establishes a clean slate for the new year.

"The initiation ceremony is important as much for the new members as it is for the regular membership because

the new members get a look at what our objects and traditions are all about," said Howse.

The Legion's main goal for 2023 is to increase accessibility by installing an elevator. The branch's second floor is not easily accessible for many people.

"We have to raise a lot of funds and we're looking for some grants, it's a huge project," he said.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said his focus for the town in 2023, focusing is a "brand new strategic plan."

And during a heartfelt speech, Zalepa expressed gratitude at being able to celebrate with the Legion and



Bernard L. Nehring led Legion members in a rendition of "Auld Lang Syne" during Sunday's levee. JULIA SACCO

extended thanks to people from the community who helped out those in need after the massive snow storm over the holidays.

"We sent two hydro crews and trucks, we sent a fire

unit and also snowplow unit, our men and women from town put their hands up and went out there to help our friends in Fort Erie and Port Colborne."

MPP Wayne Gates also

credited the Legion for its hard work and shared fond memories from childhood.

"This is one Legion that's increasing membership. That's not happening everywhere, so we're obviously doing something right."

Gates' parents, who were members of branch 138 in St. Catharines, were very involved with the Legion.

The branch's many volunteers made his mom and dad feel warm and welcome, Gates said.

"They spent all their time at the Legion and when my dad passed away, they still welcomed my mom."

On a more political note, Gates and Niagara Falls

riding MP Tony Baldinelli outlined their hopes for the coming year.

"Affordability is going to continue to be a big issue, but I think the biggest issue facing people in my riding is health care," said Gates, citing overflowing and understaffed hospitals.

Baldinelli cited pandemic recovery as a main focus,

"It's about seeing that the recovery from COVID continues on, particularly in communities in NOTL and Niagara Falls," he said.

"We're also living in a cost of living crisis. We need to address that so people can have a better future moving forward."

# Council to appoint committee to **oversee spending** NOTL's 2% room tax

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

After Niagara-on-the-Lake last year introduced a two per cent accommodation tax on hotel rooms, the new council must contend with how to use the new source of revenue.

Councillors took a small step forward on the matter

just before Christmas when they voted to build a balanced committee of stakeholders and residents to manage the accommodation tax.

The new municipal accommodation tax committee will have two members from the tourism industry, two town residents, two councillors and one representative from the destination marketing committee.

There was much chatter at council's Dec. 13 committee meeting as several councillors wanted to make sure interest groups like the agriculture sector, tourism industry and residents were well-represented on the committee.

"I guess my concern is an unwieldy large group," Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa told councillors.

He favoured a broadly represented committee, though.

According to a staff report, the committee will "develop criteria" on how to use the room tax revenue and make recommendations on the projects funded by it.

"I would like to see some clarification on what the (accommodation) tax can and cannot be spent on," Coun. Maria Mavridis said

at council's next meeting, on Dec. 20.

Town treasurer Kyle Freeborn responded that the revenue has to be used on "tourism infrastructure" and not to "offset existing expenses."

Coun. Wendy Cheropita suggested the two residents on the tourism strategy committee also sit on the accommodation committee.

"What you want to have is some alignment to the tourism strategy," she said. "It may, for consistency, be a good idea to consider that."

While council approved staff's recommendations on the committee structure, it did not assign any members of council to it.

Town staff is in the process of recruiting other members of the committee.

**ONCE AGAIN THIS YEAR, WORDS CANNOT FULLY EXPRESS OUR DEEP GRATITUDE AND HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE MANY DONORS AND SUPPORTERS THAT MADE OUR NEWARK NEIGHBOURS CHRISTMAS FOOD AND GIFT PROGRAM SUCH A SUCCESS.**



Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake – Staff & Council  
 NOTL Hydro  
 Hendrick's Independent  
 Phil's Independent  
 Walker's Country Market  
 Kent Heritage Farms  
 The Lake Report  
 The NOTL Local  
 Niagara Region  
 City of Welland  
 NOTL Chamber of Commerce  
 Candlelight Stroll  
 Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124  
 St. David's Lions Club  
 Rotary Club of NOTL & Lewiston  
 St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
 Christ Church McNab  
 St. David's Queenston United Church  
 St. Saviour Church, Queenston  
 Niagara United Mennonite Church  
 St. Mark's Anglican Church  
 Cornerstone Community Church Quilters

Bethany Mennonite Church  
 Crossroads Public School  
 St. David's Public School  
 St. Michael Catholic Elementary School  
 NOTL Girl Guides and Brownies  
 Music Niagara  
 Irish Harp Pub  
 Meridian Credit Union  
 Niagara Community Foundation  
 Stone Road Village Residents Association  
 Kings Point Residents Association  
 Residents in St. Andrew's Glen  
 The Village Residents Association  
 The Jeep Guys  
 Niagara Motors  
 Niagara North Family Health Team  
 Niagara Regional Police  
 Pumphouse Arts Centre  
 NOTL Newcomers Club  
 Radiant Care - Pleasant Manor  
 Upper Canada Lodge  
 Baha'is of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Post Office – Virgil  
 Toolbox Niagara  
 Niagara Predators  
 NOTL Minor Hockey League  
 Niagara Holiday Rentals  
 Revel Realty  
 Bosley Real Estate  
 Engels & Volkers Niagara  
 Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery  
 Jackson Triggs Estate Winery  
 Caroline Cellars  
 Palatine Hills Estate Winery  
 COWS Niagara-on-the-Lake  
 EkoCouture Custom Drapes and Blinds  
 Bob Robinson Construction  
 NPG Planning Solutions Inc.  
 Candel Electric Ltd  
 Tobi Brockway Interiors  
 Niagara-on-the-Lake Co-Ed Dart League  
 Niagara Regional Labour Council  
 Ontario Public Service Employees Union, Local 215

.... and many, many generous individuals and families throughout our wonderful Niagara-on-the-Lake community.

# THANK YOU ALL!!!



# NOTL pharmacists gear up to prescribe medication for 13 common ailments

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Pink eye? Cold sores? Hay fever? Now you can skip the clinic and head directly to the pharmacy.

As of Jan. 1, Ontario pharmacists can prescribe medication for 13 different common ailments.

The service is free for anyone with an Ontario health card. But Niagara pharmacists caution, patients need to be ... patient.

“Overall, it’s something that will benefit patients in our community and we’re excited to be a part of that,” said Sean Simpson of Simpson’s Pharmacy in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

A Shoppers Drug Mart official described the news as “a positive step for patients in Niagara.”

Jamie Ikola, spokesperson for Shoppers in the Niagara Region, expects there’s going to be a demand for it, since “these are things that we see patients for every day in the aisle.”

This change is a huge benefit to patients, especially in Niagara-on-the-Lake where there’s no access to walk-in services, said Simpson.

“Hopefully this will give our doctors in town an opportunity to focus on some of the things that are more urgent and more pressing and maybe take some of the load off them,” he said.



Pharmacist Julie Taylor is excited to be able to prescribe medications of some common ailments. SOMER SLOBODIAN

It has been in the works for a while and pharmacists have been preparing for it, said Ikola, who is also a pharmacist.

Julie Taylor of Stone Road Pharmacy in Virgil said while there are courses available for pharmacists to “brush up on our skills,” not knowing full details of the program until recently makes it harder for pharmacists to prepare.

And though Simpson is excited, he urges the community to have some patience since it’s a whole new process.

He also feels there hasn’t been much time to prepare.

“It’s just a matter of trying to figure out how we can operationalize this. There wasn’t a ton of notice of how this was going to roll out,” he said.

While wait times might not be as long as at a walk-in clinic, people shouldn’t expect to be in and out

within minutes with a new prescription.

“It’s going to take much more time than that. There’s a process that has to be followed and we just want people to understand that,” Simpson said.

Early on, he said they’ll be assessing the demand and “probably be asking people to leave us with their information.”

They will then call the patients to set up an appointment or have them come in later.

Simpson anticipates that at some point patients will be required to schedule an appointment to be seen by a pharmacist, either virtually or in-person.

At Shoppers, patients will need to book appointments. There may be some walk-ins depending on the availability of the pharmacist, but Ikola recommends people book online whenever possible.

Stone Road Pharmacy will also require appointments.

“I feel like we are fully capable of doing this and we’re looking forward to being able to help people a little bit more than how we have already,” said Taylor.

Many pharmacists will need to be trained and familiarized with the process in addition to their regular duties, too.

Simpson noted the last three years have been stressful for his team and while they’re eager to provide this service to the community, this is an additional stressor.

As well, there have been a lot of questions since the government announced the program, said Taylor.

It’ll be a learning curve, just like it was as of Dec. 12 when pharmacists were permitted to administer Paxlovid, an oral antiviral medication for COVID-19.

“When we start delivering a new service, it may take us some time to make sure that we’re dotting all the I’s and crossing all the T’s that are expected,” he said.


According to the Ministry of Health, pharmacists will have the ability to prescribe prescriptions for: Hay fever, oral thrush, pink eye, dermatitis, menstrual cramps, acid reflux, hemorrhoids, cold sores, impetigo, insect bites and hives, tick bites, sprains and strains and urinary tract infections.

**SPIRIT IN NIAGARA  
SMALL BATCH DISTILLERS**

**FABULOUS FOOD  
LOCAL NIAGARA  
FARM TO GLASS  
SPIRITS & COCKTAILS**

**LIVE JAZZ EVERY OTHER  
WEEK FEATURING  
THOMAS NELSON BAND**

**FIRST SHOW 5:30-7:30PM  
MONDAY JANUARY 9TH**



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

**St. David's**  
VETERINARY CLINIC stdavidsvetclinic.com



**Where's the cat?**

House-calls available 📞 905.262.8777

**airway CPAP inc.** 

**NOW OPEN for all your CPAP and sleep apnea supplies.**

**Free delivery in NOTL and VIRGIL.**

Curbside pick-up available at  
111A Garrison Village Dr., Suite 202, NOTL.  
For appointment call 289-868-9212.

**.HAPPY.  
New Year**



**TONY BALDINELLI MP**  
NIAGARA FALLS  
TONY.BALDINELLI@PARL.GC.CA • TONYBALDINELLI.MP.CA

NIAGARA FALLS/NOTL OFFICE  
4054 DORCHESTER ROAD, SUITE 107  
NIAGARA FALLS, ON L2E 6M9  
TEL.: 905-353-9590

FORT ERIE OFFICE  
48 JARVIS STREET  
FORT ERIE, ON L2A 2S4  
TEL.: 905-871-9991

**St. Davids-Queenston United Church**

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

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



The Irish Harp and Sandtrap pubs were filled with New Year's Eve fun seekers. JULIA SACCO

## NOTL raises a glass to 2023 with parties across town bars

*Continued from Front Page*

some more time,” she said.

The pub toasted the Irish new year at 7 p.m. and reopened at 9 p.m. for specialty cocktails and live music from Jack van Ginger.


Similarly, the Sandtrap sold nearly 100 tickets to guests who danced the night away to classic hits and even “did the Time Warp again.”

After the evening’s big festivities at the cenotaph, where bubbly was popped

and sparklers were lit, many made their way to the Angel Inn to close off the night.

The pub, which hosted a British New Year’s toast at 7 p.m. stayed open an extra hour to accommodate NOTLers and visitors alike who wanted to celebrate among friends, said bar manager Adam Dodridge.

“A lot of people can come through these doors, even if it’s just to experience a drink.”



**Pauline Reimer Gibson**  
Audiologist

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

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

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON

**A global leader in hearing healthcare.**

**amplifon**





Left: The Mountain Sanatorium in Hamilton is where Pte. Arthur McLeod died of tuberculosis after the First World War. Right: Sgt. John Mackay rose quickly through the ranks but never made it to the war zone overseas. He contracted tuberculosis and died at Queen Victoria Hospital in London, Ont.

## Sweet! Concession stand at Virgil arena is finally open again

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Skates? Check. Coffee? Check. Snacks? Also check. For the next four months, anyone heading to the Meridian Credit Union and Centennial Arena can indulge in coffee, tea, cold drinks and a variety of snacks from the Sweets & Swirls Cafe concession stand.

The stand officially opened on Dec. 27. James Cadeau and his wife Erinn Lockard, owners of the Sweets & Swirls at the NOTL Community Centre and now at the arena, are excited for this new opportunity.

Cadeau talked to the town between 2018 and 2019 about opening something up in the arena, but then the pandemic hit.

The stand had been closed since 2020, with the exception of volunteers opening the stand during the Ice Dogs fundraiser game in September.

He recalls seeing new Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and a few other council members at the game.

"When they took office, they said, 'We need to get this open,'" said Cadeau.

The town then approached Cadeau and his wife and asked them to open the concession stand for the next four months, until hockey season and figure skating are over.

"We said, 'Yeah we'll give it a shot,'" he added.

It's a touchy business model, he explained.

Most concessions around the province have been closed for the last few years and many haven't opened back up. Or the ones that

have reopened are run by volunteers.

"The way that it might work for us is because we have that other location and we have kids at the right age (to work), (so) it might work out for us," he said.

In announcing the change, the town said it will look for a permanent concession operator in 2023. If the next few months work out, Cadeau said they'll consider submitting a proposal.

The concession stand will be open during the town's public skating, figure skating activities and NOTL Minor Hockey games. Cadeau is also planning to open the stand for Jr. A Niagara Predators home games on Fridays.

"We'll try to accommodate everybody's situation," he said.

Their children, Liam, 15, Daphne, 12, and Sofie, 14, as well as some of their friends are assisting the couple at the concession and at their other location.

In addition to cold and hot drinks and snacks, Cadeau hopes to have breakfast sandwiches during early-morning hockey tournaments.

"So it'll just depend on how busy we anticipate it as to how many items we have to offer," he said.

Lockard is known for her cookies at the community centre's location and often is referred to as the "cookie lady," so they plan to sell baked goods at the concession stand, too.

"(We're) happy to be here and happy to contribute something back to the community," said Cadeau.

"Because it was really the people of the community that kept us going through the last two and a half years," he added.



Skaters can once again have a snack from the arena concession.

# THE MONUMENTS MEN

## A sickly war for John Mackay and Arthur McLeod

*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

In the Queenston-St. Davids United Church Cemetery on York Road there is a tombstone that reminds us that not all casualties of the First World War were due to enemy action.

It marks the final resting place of Sgt. John Mackay who died on Oct. 31, 1917.

Mackay was born in Ross-shire, Scotland on Dec. 15, 1889, son of William Mackay and Mary Ann Grant. The Mackays emigrated from Scotland, settling in St. Davids with their eight children.

In 1912, at the age of 22, John became a student at McGill University, studying theology. He became interested in military service,

joining the McGill Provisional Battalion as a part time militiaman.

In 1905, McGill was the first university in North America to form an officers' training corps. The program was expanded prior to the declaration of the First World War in August 1914 and Mackay volunteered while completing his studies.

He was still a student when he enlisted in the Grenadier Guards, the 87th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force, for overseas service. His rise in the ranks was rapid.

He enlisted on Oct. 4, 1915, and three weeks later was promoted to Acting Corporal. On Nov. 15 he was promoted to sergeant.

From March to August 1916, he was sick with typhoid fever. Following his recovery in Canada, Mackay was shipped to England, arriving on Oct. 17, 1916.

The Grenadier Guards battalion was already serving in combat in France. Mackay was sent to France to join them on Feb. 3, 1917. He never got to the war zone.

He spent three weeks living in a tent at Le Havre and then was reported sick on March 5 and sent to Number 20 General Hospital in France.

He was immediately shipped back to England to

be admitted to Bormondsey Hospital in London. From there he was transferred to the Ontario Military Hospital in Oprington, Kent, where he was diagnosed with tuberculosis and declared unfit for military service.

On July 21, 1917, Mackay was discharged to Canada. From Halifax he was sent by train to Kingston and admitted to the Sir Oliver Mowat Memorial Sanatorium, dedicated to the treatment of soldiers with tuberculosis.

From Kingston he was sent to the Queen Victoria Hospital in London, Ont. There his war ended.

John Mackay died on Oct. 31, 1917, and his body was sent home to St. Davids to be interred in the Presbyterian Cemetery.

Mackay was not the only St. Davids soldier slain by tuberculosis.

Arthur McLeod was a tanner from St. Davids when he enlisted in the 176th Battalion, the Niagara Rangers, on Feb. 23, 1916, at the age of 20. He was the son of Kenneth McLeod who worked in the Queenston Quarry, and Emily Hornsby.

After training in Canada, McLeod boarded the S.S. Olympia in Halifax, disembarking in Liverpool on May 7, 1917. A month later he was transferred to the 164th Battalion, Cana-

dian Expeditionary Force. Finally, he was transferred again to the 38th Battalion in April 1918, joining this group in the war zone in France on May 11.

The 38th Battalion fought in August 1918 in the Battle of Amiens. During a German counterattack on Aug. 10, McLeod was captured by the enemy. He was initially reported as "missing" but confirmed as a prisoner of war on Oct. 1.

He was released after the armistice and repatriated to England in December but had contracted the Spanish flu while in captivity. He was treated at the Fulham Military Hospital and finally shipped back to Canada when he recovered.

McLeod now tried to return to a normal civilian life, working as a machinist in a factory and marrying a local woman, Gladys Doughty, on Sept. 15, 1920. Their time together was short.

The war had left him with a lingering injury. He was diagnosed with tuberculosis, determined by his doctor as being due to his war service.

McLeod was sent to the Mountain Sanatorium in Hamilton and died there Dec. 21, 1924. He was buried in Fairview Cemetery in Niagara Falls.

Sgt. John Mackay and Pte. Arthur McLeod are both commemorated on the cenotaph in Queenston.



### All Along the Waterfront

### Exhibit held over until end of February

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



All Along the Waterfront

On display until Feb. 28, 2023



# NOTL Hydro workers join Fort Erie cleanup after blizzard takes out power

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report



Line workers from NOTL Hydro spent a chunk of the holiday season cleaning up Fort Erie after a major storm. SUPPLIED

A team of line workers from Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro spent the holidays helping other communities clean up after a massive blizzard swept through Niagara just before Christmas.

NOTL was one of the lucky areas when the storm hit.

“Here in town we didn’t have too, too much happen,” said Jason Meleskie, hydro’s operations supervisor.

The town had a few downed trees and outages but the team was able to clear up most problems quickly, he said.

Still, the utility spent the better part of two days working to restore power everywhere in NOTL.

But with hours to go before Christmas Day, the town was back on track and people were able to celebrate with the lights on.

In Fort Erie, the storm hit so hard that houses along the lakefront literally were encased in ice.

Jonathan Beam, a line worker who also lives in Fort Erie, told The Lake Report he was unable to leave his house until mid-day Christmas Eve.

Normally power outages in Fort Erie and Port Colborne are handled by Canadian Niagara Power, which supplies 24,800 people in the area.

Beam learned that the company’s line workers were forced to “shelter in place,” so he reached out to some of his co-workers in NOTL to see if they could lend a hand.

With NOTL cleaned up, six lineworkers, including Beam and Meleskie, took two trucks to Fort Erie to help repair the damage

caused by the storm.

While on the job, Beam and Meleskie encountered some abandoned cars in the snow but their fellow line workers in Fort Erie had done a good job clearing downed trees and other hazards, so the team could make it into town to restore power.

Beam estimates they worked three 16-hour days in a row after Christmas.

“There was nothing really out of the norm that we haven’t worked in before,” Meleskie said. “You just gotta adjust to it.”

The workers missed out on a lot of family time to help support their neighbours south of NOTL.

From storm start to storm

finish, Meleskie said he barely saw his two boys.

When he finally got home Thursday, Dec. 29, “They were pretty excited to see me,” Meleskie said.

In the coming and going between Fort Erie and NOTL before and after the storm, there just wasn’t much time to be with family.

Beam said he was a little luckier.

“I got to do Christmas morning with my kid, which was nice,” he said.

Like Meleskie, though, Beam was pulling long hours during the storm and was not getting home until well after dark.

“What goes around comes around,” Beam said.

Since Fort Erie is outside their normal work zone, it was left to the workers to decide if they would pick up the hours and pitch in for the clean up.

Company president Tim Curtis said many utility companies have formal or informal agreements to support each other during public emergencies like this one.

# Maxwell honoured for championing theatre

Continued from Front Page

has earned many honours over her career, including the Order of Ontario and a Dora Award for directing, but admits the Order of Canada is special.

“I think what is so certainly moving about this award is it’s dealing with your whole career,” Maxwell said in an interview. “It’s kind of putting a narrative to it, which I had never (done). You don’t normally sit down yourself and kind of go, ‘Oh, I think I’ll work out a sort of narrative to my career and see what it all means.’ You just don’t do that.”

“So the fact that somebody else did, that a group of people deemed it worthy of honouring, means a lot.”

The Order aims to honour outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation.

Maxwell fits the bill. She is renowned from her years at the Shaw and elsewhere in Canadian theatre for championing the work of women playwrights and directors.

“One of the things that I’ve always believed is that you have to kind of pay it forward,” she said.

“I always believed and I know that this continues at the Shaw, for me it was very important to get more young women into place, in terms of directing, and in terms of plays by women.”

Together with her associate director, Eda Holmes, “We kind of built stuff together” at the Shaw.

And now when she looks around she sees a lot of those women whom she supported are running organizations or are a major part of the arts scene in cities right across the country.

“You never do any of this stuff expecting anybody to really notice it. You just want to do it. You do things that you believe in and that seem to make sense,” she said.

“So it’s very gratifying, to say, ‘Yeah, people noticed that.’ And it’s perhaps, hopefully, made a difference.”

She also found it “very moving” that the award isn’t for one thing, but rather “for what I had believed in and worked on for a lot of years in the theatre and continue to do so.”

News of the latest appointments to the Order came out on Sunday, Dec. 29, with a formal announcement from the office of the Gov. Gen. Mary Simon.

Maxwell didn’t see the news of it at first, but quickly became aware that it was out.

“I just started getting

emails and texts from people going, ‘Oh my God, what wonderful news, how deserved.’ “

“I was getting reactions from people right on very early in the morning of the day and it basically kind of carried through the weekend,” she said.

“It’s a lovely way to start off the new year. It really is.”

Toronto is now home and while Maxwell is no longer formally associated with the Shaw, she does return to Niagara-on-the-Lake regularly and saw most of the productions last year.

Plus her successor, Tim Carroll, is bringing her back to town this season for “The Playboy of the Western World,” J.M. Synge’s classic comedy of rural life in Ireland.

It is onstage May 25 to Oct. 7, with Maxwell at the helm. And, fittingly, it will be presented at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre.



## What's happening at the Oaklands?

**Join us for 'Cinq a Six'**  
Come join us at the Oaklands between 5-6 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, to enjoy our “cinq a six” offer! \$10 for half a dozen oysters! Enjoy fresh P.E.I oysters accompanied with your classics & a house made hot sauce.  
Guests must be seated and ordered by 6 p.m.

**Bar Flights**  
We will also be offering bar flights between 5-6 p.m., Sunday-Thursdays, in our dining room. A red, white or a whiskey flight. If you stay with us for dinner your flight fee will be waived.  
Guests must be seated and ordered by 6 p.m.

**'Wine Wednesdays'**  
Are you visiting on a Wednesday evening? You won't want to miss this deal! Oaklands will be offering 50% off ANY bottle of Andrew Peller wine, less than \$90 on our wine list, while dining with us.

Please call our host desk at (905)-468-2270 ext. 406 to reserve your spot!



 Visit [www.riverbendinn.ca](http://www.riverbendinn.ca) for a full list of events.

## Proud to support local news!



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



**Residential, Commercial and Industrial Automation**

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

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


 License No. 7010341



**DR HOPKINS & ASSOCIATES OPTOMETRY**  
— Sight for Life —

NOTL: 905-468-8002 | 358 Mary St. | [www.theeyedoc.ca](http://www.theeyedoc.ca)  
St. Catharines: 905-682-9119 | 8 Secord Dr.

Have an opinion you want heard?  
Send a letter to the editor to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)




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

Book a complimentary hearing test today at 905.468.9176

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON

A global leader in hearing healthcare.



Pauline Reimer Gibson Audiologist





## TLR

**Publisher:** Richard Harley

**Editor-In-Chief:** Richard Harley

**Managing Editor:** Kevin MacLean

**Design & Layout:** Richard Harley

**Advertising:** Megan Vanderlee

**Contributors:** Evan Saunders, Jill Troyer, Somer Slobodian, Evan Loree, Tim Taylor, Joanne Young, Denise Ascenzo, Brittany Carter, Linda Fritz, Elizabeth Masson, Dr. William Brown, Brian Marshall, Molly Bowron, NOTL Museum, Kyra Simone, Gail Kendall, Patty Garriock, Bill Auchterlonie, Steve Hardaker, Ross Robinson, Penny-Lynn Cookson, Dave Van de Laar, Janice White and many more members of the NOTL community

Canada

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

### COVID Tracker

**NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 46**

**Region active cases: 781**

**Region deaths: 681**

**Region total cases: 49,989**

*\*Jan. 4 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**

"No matter how difficult the past, you can always begin again today." - Jack Kornfield

### HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

**Email:**

Letters: [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)

Story Ideas: [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)

Advertising: [advertising@niagaranow.com](mailto:advertising@niagaranow.com)

**Phone**

Newsroom: 905-359-2270

Advertising Department: 905-932-5646

**Office Address**

496 Mississauga St., NOTL, Ontario, Canada.

**Mailing Address**

PO Box 724, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S1J0

**Have a lead on a story?**

Call 905.359.2270 or send an email to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)

## For Auld Lang Syne



People gather with champagne in hand to ring in the new year at the clock tower cenotaph on Queen Street. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

### Editorial

## New year and renewed commitment to NOTL news

Richard Harley  
Kevin MacLean  
Editors

Ah, the feeling of being refreshed after spending time with family for the holiday season.

Now it's a time for resolutions and renewal.

And The Lake Report is back after our annual two-week break to continue to bring Niagara-on-the-Lake the news that truly matters to readers.

We pride ourselves on giving you NOTL-centric content in print and online, stories you usually won't find elsewhere. If it is not pertinent to NOTL, or the Niagara region, it's not news to us.

You have other, long-established provincial and national news sources where you can find non-NOTL information.

We're talking about this because the media landscape in NOTL appears to be shifting. We relish competition – it makes everyone better and, done well, benefits the community – and there's a new competitor in town.

A large Canadian-owned online player has partnered with NOTL's other newspaper and from what we can tell is now overseeing that paper's website.

Normally, we would not bother to comment about such a development but several sharp-eyed readers have expressed consternation after they noticed the other paper's website has re-published several stories that were first generated by The Lake Report.

That is odd and gratifying, but rather confusing to some. So let us explain: We have two reporters who were hired under the federal

government's Local Journalism Initiative, a national program aimed at supporting the growth of local news operations like ours.

As part of the program, any publication in Canada can re-publish stories or photos produced by journalists hired under the program.

So, it's both flattering – and a bit weird, to be honest – that the website of a competitor is actually publishing (with the required full and proper credits, mind you) stories that our writers dig up. But it's all in the spirit of spreading local news.

So, there you have it. Unlike many news sites, however, we focus on NOTL, avoid filler, fluff and clickbait, will not publish government, police or any other press releases verbatim or without proper reporting, nor

will we be posting stories from across the country or around the world.

We'll leave that to others.

Whether you follow The Lake Report in print, online, on Facebook or Instagram, we resolve to keep bringing you hyperlocal content that you can't find anywhere else. (Unless others choose to re-publish it, that is.)

To ensure we can do that, please remember, like any media outlet, we rely on our readers to keep us informed.

If it sounds like news to you, let us know. Big or small, community happenings, successes or problems, people deserving of recognition, milestones, important issues that need to be dug into ...

If it's about NOTL, we want you to be able to read about it in The Lake Report – first.

[editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)



## Development and progress in Niagara-on-the-Lake

Dear editor:

Why do we have to have this unrelenting barrage of anti-human progress and anti-development stories and opinion pieces? Such as "Ford lied about Greenbelt. Now, Bill 23 will be bad for Niagara," by David Israelson and "Big developments could be NOTL's future if YOU don't stand up," by Brian Marshall (both Dec. 15).

I get it: your readers hold more value in the environment than that of our fellow human beings, but surely Niagara newspapers can find someone to argue in favour of human progress and development in Niagara-on-the-Lake?

Since I've moved here I've never understood how the metaphysical properties of the land differ from other cities.

In a universe where Toronto can be built – surely the greatest city in Canada – what right do we have to stop the progress in Niagara that has made Toronto such a great city in which to live?

The Greenbelt, conservation and heritage? If these are valid reasons for protecting these lands from development then surely private citizens would invest in the land to ensure they

remain untouched.

Shouldn't our goal be a Canada full of Toronto-like cities?

So to columnists Brian Marshall and David Israelson I have to ask, "How does a Toronto get built in your universe?"

Or is human flourishing only limited to a select few that already have?

Alexander Evans  
NOTL

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

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





## Council was **wrong** not to condemn Ford's Bill 23

Dear editor:

Niagara-on-the-Lake council's failure to condemn the passage of Ontario's Bill 23 is disappointing.

While it may be true that neither the Greenbelt nor farmland in Niagara-on-the-Lake are directly threatened by the legislation, there are times – and this is one of them – when we must take a stand on principle.

The fact that the Doug Ford government has passed legislation that will allow developers to forego paying development fees to municipalities provided they dedicate five per cent of their projects to building affordable housing should have elicited a strong response from our elected representatives on NOTL council.

Taxes in NOTL are high already without adding onto tax bills the costs to install the municipal infrastructure and services required by new developments.



NOTL councillors need to take a firm stance against Ford's plan, says Terry Davis.

Council should have objected equally strongly to the provisions of the bill that have weakened our local conservation authorities' ability to protect our natural heritage, from wetlands to watersheds.

The greenspace and natural heritage that surrounds us is very much part of what makes NOTL a great place to live, work and visit, in addition to being so important to the local economy.

As for the provisions of Bill 23 that put heritage properties at risk of demolition if they are not designated as protected under the Ontario Heritage Act within the next two years, council should be front and centre in protesting this travesty.

It should be doing so with all the means at its disposal. The very essence of our town is at risk if the new law is not changed.

A conciliatory approach is typically not effective when

it comes to making a bully back down.

It may delay the inevitable confrontation, but it is unlikely to prevent it.

If council and residents truly want to see Bill 23 withdrawn or changed, we have to protest its implementation with vigour and resoluteness.

And we need to do it in a way that makes Premier Ford reconsider his government's actions.

**Terry Davis**  
NOTL

## Generous volunteers made Christmas stocking project an **overwhelming success**

Dear editor:

The spirit of giving and the kindness and generosity of the Niagara-on-the-Lake community has been overwhelming.

A simple request to put together a Christmas stocking for the residents at Niagara Long Term Care, Pleasant Manor and Upper Canada Lodge has been truly heartwarming.

It took 100 volunteers to make this initiative a success.

The senior kindergarten classes of Crossroads Public School were busy filling over 30 stockings.

Dorothy Soo-Wiens and the NOTL Lions put together 30 stockings at one of their meetings.

Jo-Ann Cudmore and Wendy Midgley of Royal Lepage donated 20 stockings.

Amika Verwegen and her four children hand-made 222 Christmas cards with riddles. They were happy to know that this idea would make people smile!

Sheri Ruby, of Ruby Ink, provided special holiday gift tags that were attached to each and every stocking.

Hand-knit hearts were generously provided by NOTL Palliative Care.

Cards from the town signed by Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa were included.

To all the thoughtful and generous people who supported this project, please know the positive impact you have had in bringing a little joy to our seniors in long-term care.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy 2023.

**Joan King**  
Queenston



## Benjamin Geary **deserves a plaque** recognizing his Victoria Cross honour

Dear editor:

Hurrah to the new owners of 329 Victoria St. in Old Town who say they have no intention of tearing down the 170-year-old Cobbler's House, (The Lake Report, Dec. 8).

In the late 1960s, Benjamin Handley Geary retired after more than 25 years as the Ontario legislature's sergeant-at-arms. He and his second wife moved to 329 Victoria St.

Geary is the only Niagara-on-the-Lake resident who was the recipient of a First World War Victoria Cross. He was born in London, England, but resided at 329 Victoria from the late 1960s until his death in 1976.

Last year, thanks to the efforts of a conscientious NOTLer, The Lake Report published a story about Geary's April 21, 1915, defence of Hill 60 near Ypres, Belgium.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, he resigned his British commission and joined the Canadian army as a major in charge of Camp Borden.

William Humphries, a prior owner of 329 Victoria, applied to the Ontario Heritage Trust, which was created to recognize people and properties that contributed to the heritage of the province.

As the legislature's



Maj. Benjamin Geary. SOURCED

sergeant-at-arms, Geary vetted the applications of heritage-worthy persons.

But when Humphries applied he was told that Geary could not be recognized because "he was not a Canadian" when he was given the Victoria Cross.

St. Catharines has honoured three of its VC recipients with an Ontario Heritage plaque, each displayed in a different town park.

Geary sat at the table in front of the table of Queen Elizabeth II at the Pillar and Post luncheon given for the monarch in 1973 before a Shaw play commemorating

the opening of the Festival Theatre.

Later, against the advice of doctors, he went to a reunion of VC recipients.

He died after his return and is buried with his wife Constance in St. Mark's Cemetery. Benjamin Handley Geary had two sons, each of whom served with distinction as officers in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Interestingly, regarding the name of the Cobbler's House, census records show that the town cobblers (or shoemakers) lived on Gate Street not Victoria.

**Doug Phibbs**  
NOTL

## Sprague Interiors Inc.



Interior decorating and design.  
Visit [www.spragueinteriors.ca](http://www.spragueinteriors.ca)  
for more info.  
905-687-2192



# Can a building be a **work of art**? Yes, but many simply are not



Brian Marshall  
Columnist

Is architecture art?

The majority opinion among experts is that painting, sculpting and architecture are the three branches of visual arts.

Architecture has long been considered one of the “high arts,” with fine arts being the highest standard of artistic expression.

Consider the fact that in many great classical, historic and current day architectural expressions, paintings, sculpture and other art forms were created in tandem with the architecture to be viewed as a whole.

This tradition can be seen in classical/historical creations such the Parthenon, Acropolis, Vatican, to name a few, where architecture, sculpture, murals and/or paintings are meant to be observed as a single experience.

Even in the past century, many truly great architects have designed or placed every single artistic element in their creation to produce a unified experience from individual parts – often achieving a greater celebration of the individual pieces than could otherwise have been attained.

So, why is it that many, if not most, folks would struggle with architecture being classified as a fine art?

The answer is manifold, starting with the fact many of our residential buildings, both historic and then magnified by our current commoditized housing paradigm, were not designed by an architect.

And, in the vast majority of cases, when an architect was engaged, there was no attempt made to balance function with the artistic objective to convey feelings, thoughts and sense of place.

The employer’s overriding commercial dictate required that emotion must come a distant second to purpose and mass-market financial economies.

Which leads us to the issue of talent and that quintessential “something more.”

Dare I say many of us have put a pencil to paper or a brush to canvas in an



Good architecture, like Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater, can be true works of art, says columnist Brian Marshall.

attempt to create a piece of art. Of those millions of people, a relative fraction continue to pursue the endeavour and call themselves artists.

Of these artists, some are bad, some mediocre, some good, and a very, very few are great.

The difference between good and great? Both the former and the latter are talented and technically accomplished, but greatness comes from a unique creative envisioning ability combined with talent and technical proficiency.

ity of subsequent gainful employment opportunities will actively discourage the creative leaps necessary for an individual to make the transition from “good” to “great.”

And, just like any great artist, it requires the sacrifice of surviving in pursuit of their muse to achieve the creation of architecture that may be called a masterwork.

Adding to this is the influence of the real estate resale brokerages which, through no fault of their own (since the vast majority of their business is generated by handling the commoditized housing produced by developers), treat every piece of real estate the same, whether it features inspired artistic architecture or not.

And although companies such as Engel & Voelkers and Sotheby’s have presented an alternative paradigm, in our brains the mass market commoditized equation rules the day.

Given just these three factors (among others), it is little wonder that most people might be challenged to see architecture as a fine art. That said, we all need to keep in mind that there are the architectural equivalents of Monet, da Vinci and Van Gogh masterpieces.

To put this in perspective, 2022 was a banner year in the international art market. Christie’s reported its auction house sales brought in a record \$8.4 billion (U.S.) while Andy Warhol’s “Shot Sage Blue Marilyn” fetched \$195 million, making it the most expensive painting by an American artist ever sold at auction and the most valuable work by a 20th-century artist, full stop.

In a story by ArtNet News, art adviser Thomas Stauffer suggested collectors were focusing on the high-end of the market as the threat of recession looms. He was quoted as saying, “Established art acts as a safe haven for value preservation in uncertain times like this ...”

So, I wonder what Ron Thom’s masterwork at 4 Old George Place in Toronto might fetch if offered as an “established” piece of art. Closer to home, what might Don Chapman’s masterwork on the Niagara Parkway bring, and just imagine Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater masterwork on the open market.

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

# No, urban legends are **not evidence** of graves of Black slaves

Dear editor:

A certain, no doubt well-intentioned, non-resident is demanding self-funded access to private property that is nearing the end of a lengthy, likely expensive and reportedly careful restoration / renovation project (to be fair and balanced, being undertaken by another, at the moment, non-resident).

The evidentiary basis for that demand? Urban legends.

Unfortunately for James Russell, the party making the demand, “urban legends” are merely hearsay, often many times removed and wholly unattributable. For time-honoured reasons, hearsay is often highly inadmissible as evidence, even when less removed

and attributable.

Moreover, neither the historical record nor the laws of economics offer much in the way of support for the legend in question (that Black slaves might be buried there), according to the property owner in an assertion the demander has yet to address, let alone refute.

Likewise unfortunate for the demander, legal authority will be required to overcome the property owner’s rights against trespass.

And the issuance of such an authority will be dependent on the production of sufficient, admissible evidence – a standard that, at present so seems, the demander is unable to meet.

Notwithstanding the documented and considerable

investigative work already completed by the property owner – work that has apparently produced nothing to corroborate the legend at issue – Russell insists on being allowed to conduct a further form of investigative work that meets his particular standards, alleging that it will prove or disprove the hearsay.

Problematically, that is not a reliable allegation – for one important reason: it invests far too much in the revelatory powers of the technology to be used.

Despite media hype, ground-penetrating radar merely detects anomalies in the soil, anomalies that could be the result of all manner of occurrences, natural or otherwise.

It is not X-ray technol-

ogy nor is it a guaranteed grave-finder. Therefore, efforts to oversell its capabilities are to be viewed with extreme caution, at best.

This being the case, then, to what might the property owner look forward in the event that a search of his land is conducted – bearing in mind the demander’s clear bias in favour of the legend in question?

In my humble opinion, he would likely expect to see most / all soil anomalies detected, innocent or otherwise, to be met with excavation demands for greater certainty’s sake.

At considerable expense (to whom, exactly?) and with some jeopardy for the existing infrastructure as well as the work previously conducted. All at the behest

of what? Of an uncorroborated urban legend.

As a sober and level-headed society we would be well-advised to not embark on all manner of intrusive, disruptive, expensive and invasive undertakings merely on the strength of one or more urban legends.

One can only imagine the mayhem and costs such minimally justified fishing expeditions would engender to both private citizens and to the public purse, alike.

In the face of concrete evidence of provable provenance? Yes, certainly. Let the wheels of duly diligent research then proceed apace and, if warranted, proper recognition of the site ensue.

But, until James Russell

is able to produce some of the foregoing, he would do better to keep his money in hand (or invest it in finding the requisite calibre of evidence) and refrain from trying to foment adverse public sentiment against a legally entitled property owner standing up for his still-extant rights, the same rights on which readers, here, commonly rely.

“Guilty until proven innocent” is not now, nor should it ever be, a standard of guidance for a free and open society.

Those arguing the opposite need only experience its application to themselves to appreciate just how misguided and unjust a world this could be.

*Bruce Dickson  
NOTL*



FINE COLLECTIBLES BY THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND



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



# As NOTLers age gracefully, our language changes



## Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson  
Columnist

Time to reflect on the past year and to tentatively look forward to the new year. Interestingly, as we age at our individual paces, the meaning of the words we choose changes subtly.

Until a few years ago, after a fall in the kitchen, we would say, "I fell." As senior citizens now, golden agers, if we lose our footing and end up looking up, we tell our friends, "I had a fall."

My longtime good pal and A.T.O. fraternity brother Bob Potter called from Pennsylvania a few years ago to report he had slipped on a patch of ice while leaving a Christmas party.

It was a full-on crash, a wipe out, resulting in a

busted nose, a black eye and two cracked ribs. Ever the optimist and funny guy, he summarized, "Don't worry, at my age I consider this a training fall."

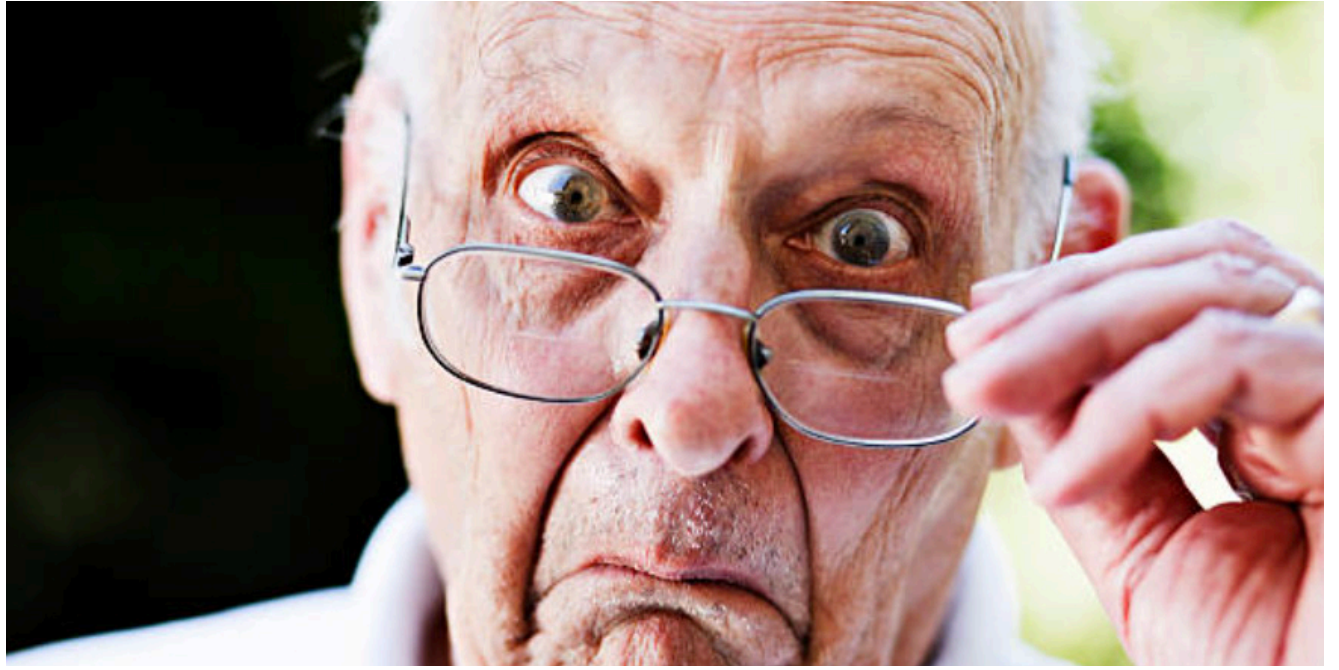
One year during my twenties, I travelled extensively throughout Canada and the United States. I kept my trips in-continent. Now, I find myself occasionally incontinent. Gotta eat more fibre, eh?

On the golf course, having a stroke on the third hole used to be a good thing. It gave me a better chance to win a hole against a better golfer. Now, having a stroke anywhere is frightening and a wake-up call to eat better and exercise more.

Flow used to describe water coursing or meandering along a river or creek. Now, my urologist regularly inquires after my "flow," as he tries to determine the state of my prostate gland. Aging! What fun!

The word "depends" is now advertised on television as a personal hygiene item.

Yes, word usage does change as we continue on our life journey. Go to Cost-



Humour writer Ross Robinson says our interpretation of language can really depend on our age. SOURCED

co, where there are pallets stacked high and neatly with various sizes of Depends. What size I buy depends on what shape I am in.

But I digress.

I hesitate to mention that after organizing and hosting an event now, we get together to "debrief." Back in my university days, to "debrief" was to remove one's jockey shorts before jumping into a lake or pool.

Our scooter used to have

two wheels. Now, many people use a mobility scooter with three wheels, often with front and back lights and a storage basket.

Go to the seniors only development called The Villages just north of Orlando and witness macho scooter envy in action. Alabama grads have custom painted burgundy scooters and Penn State alums drive around in two-tone blue golf carts.

Cars often stay in the garage for weeks on end, as scooters and golf carts are safer, cheaper and more economical.

Rambling now to the first last paragraph of 2023, may I ask everyone to be more understanding and patient when asking someone to repeat themselves. Many of us are in various stages of deafness but we really want to hear what you said.

Remember two or three

years ago, when we used to cough or sneeze, people would say, "Bless you" or "Gezundheit." Now, often with an aggressive tone, they say, "Have you had your COVID shots?"

Let's consciously be kinder to one another as we continue our battle with the ongoing deadly global pandemic.

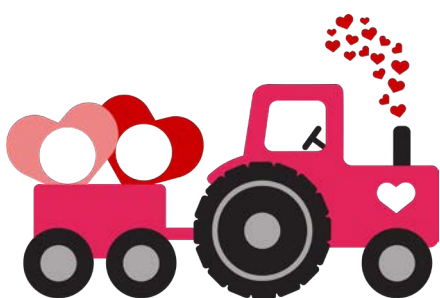
And may I be among the first to wish y'all a Happy New Year.



## THANK YOU

to all who participated and helped in making the Niagara-on-the-Lake Christmas Tractor Parade such a success. Happy New Year! May 2023 be a year full of adventures and opportunities.

- Dorothy & Erwin Wiens



NOTL Fire Stations 1 & 3  
Tom Pekar  
Eric Neufeld  
Ben, Julie & Ian Taylor  
EJ & Charlotte Tutu  
Vinetech/G.W. Farms  
Two Sisters Vineyards, Josh Aitken  
Fruit Haven Farms, John Fedorkow  
Forrer Farms, Jeff Duc  
Lakeview Vineyard Equipment  
Riverbend Farms, Steve Pohorly  
Alpine Nurseries, Howard Colcuc  
Huebal Grapes Estates  
W Farms, James & Daniel Wiens  
Van de Laar Vineyards  
Colin McCarthy  
van der Zalm Firewood & Kindling  
Seaway Farms, Vinnie Smith  
Skubel Family Farms  
Brad Nichol  
Lambert Vineyards

Hernder Farms, Jordan Hernder  
Seeger Farms  
Walter Gaio Farms  
Thwaites Farms  
Hummel Properties  
MacSween Farms Ltd. (Quiet Acres)  
Willow Lake Ventures, Ben Froese  
Sentineal Carriages  
Sean Sentineal  
Lincoln Westman  
Glenlake Farms  
Froese Farms  
Erwin Wiens Vineyards  
Pat Household  
Dave Froese  
Bonnie Baker  
Luanne & Larry Kulchar  
Cathy Wickabrod  
Ross Robinson  
Matthew French  
Karen Ra

**Sponsors:** Niagara Lions Club, Lakeview Vineyard Equipment (Joe Pillitteri), Andrew Peller Ltd. (Wayne Gretzky Estates), Brunch Beverages (Michelle & Kim), Pillitteri Estates Winery, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Erwin Wiens Vineyards



# YEAR IN REVIEW 2022

*Continued from Front Page*

Report in-depth series on short-term rentals suggests owner-occupied rentals, like B&Bs, are one solution worth exploring.

NOTL's on-again, off-again accommodation tax is not dead, Coun. Norm Arsenault says. Its start date was defeated on a tie vote in December.

NOTL residents Harriet Stairs and Duff Roman are named to the Order of Canada by Gov.-Gen. Mary Simon.

A NOTL couple's baby was one of the first newborns of the year at Niagara Health. Gabriella Barde made her grand debut at 7:14 a.m. on Jan. 1.

**Jan. 13:** The Polar Vortex weather system sweeps in to NOTL and spurs the annual icewine harvest at Pillitteri Estates Winery and other farms in town.

The Lincoln County Humane Society is now handling all animal-related needs in NOTL, a controversial decision that cost longtime animal control officer Ken Reid his job.

House prices in Niagara-on-the-Lake soared to record levels in 2021 and the average price now exceeds \$1 million. Doug Rempel, president of the Niagara Association of Realtors, sees no sign of the trend abating.

Residents came out in force and told an online open house they are steadfast against a planned apartment development on the old Parliament Oak school site. Eventually the developer, Liberty Sites © Ltd., will give up, selling the site to Benny Marotta's Two Sisters Resorts Corp. for \$8 million.

Everything is in place for the new outdoor ice rink in Virgil's Centennial Sports Park to start getting used, except some volunteers to help supervise it.

**Jan. 20:** Metre-high snow drifts greet NOTLers as a massive winter storm roars in. But all across town, Good Samaritans were busy helping neighbours dig out.

COVID continues. Niagara's top doctor says parents need to get their children vaccinated, or they should have to make a legal declaration about vaccinations that could result in their child being suspended from school.

Two residents who were in



**PHOTO GALLERY**  
See more pictures at [niagaranow.com](http://niagaranow.com)

## 22 PHOTOS FROM 2022

Photographer Janice White captured this image of a fox howling in January 2022.

palliative care and contracted COVID-19 at Niagara Long Term Care have died, as an outbreak continues at the Wellington Street care home.

The Region of Niagara's proposed roundabout in St. Davids could really hurt businesses, owners say. They argue it's not needed.

**Jan. 27:** A Lake Report investigation finds more than 50 children and volunteers are gathering every weekday in Virgil in a maskless, non-distanced private learning pod known as the Niagara Alternative Learning Alliance.

The province, region and town officials launch their own investigations as a result of our stories.

The controversial new gateway entrance to Old Town has been shrunk to meet its budget and approved for tendering by Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors. A year later, it has not been built.

Valu-mart is no more in NOTL. They've been upgraded to Independent Grocer franchises at both the Old Town and Virgil locations.

### February

**Feb. 3:** Niagara-on-the-Lake's 2022 operating budget will mean a 2.99 per cent general tax increase for property owners.

Willowbank in Queenston announces plans to sell the

former Laura Secord school, noting the historic building is unused and the sale makes sense.

At the Niagara Alternative Learning Alliance there's no homework, no tests and kids as young as eight are being taught questionable scientific subjects such as epigenetics. The Lake Report's investigation continues.

NOTL Chamber of Commerce president Eduardo Lafforgue has a cool new job. He has resigned to take on the role of tourism director for the Yukon Territory.

The Shaw Festival celebrates its 60th anniversary with 22 new shows and a schedule that runs from Feb. 9 to Dec. 23.

**Feb. 10:** After an investigation sparked by stories in The Lake Report, the Ontario Ministry of Education has ordered the owners of the Niagara Alternative Learning Alliance to reduce their operation to only five children or face a \$250,000 fine and potential jail time.

NOTL fire chief Nick Ruller resigns to become a platoon chief with the City of Brantford's fire service. Later in the year, deputy Jay Plato succeeds him.

Niagara Long Term Care is COVID-free once again after an outbreak that started Dec.

27, 202, was declared over by public health.

Black history in Niagara is complex, with deep roots that encompass slavery as well as the people and events that pushed for freedom and gave safe haven as part of the Underground Railroad. The Niagara Bruce Trail Club plans a series of hikes exploring that history to mark Black History Month.

"Freedom convoy" supporters gather at NOTL's Husky truck stop to protest ongoing COVID safety mandates.

**Feb. 17:** After a Lake Report investigative series, the education ministry won an injunction against a NOTL learning pod. A Superior Court judge acknowledged the operators were "sincere and well-meaning" but ordered the Niagara Alternative Learning Alliance to cease all operations in Virgil – and anywhere else.

NOTL sports and community legend Doug Garrett dies at age 94.

After lobbying by Lake Report columnist Ross Robinson, the town approves a plan to install a flagpole at Queen's Royal Park. The cost of the flagpole and its installation is being covered by Tom and Jim Caldwell of Caldwell Securities Ltd.

*Continued on Page 11*



Reporter Evan Saunders took this image of children at the Niagara Alternative Learning Alliance, a maskless "pod" school that operated against public health mandates.



Editor Richard Harley catches a rare winter sight, kids playing hockey on the frozen One Mile Creek pond in Chautauqua. A truly Canadian scene.



Evan Saunders photographed Laryssa Droig and her daughter Alana at St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, organizing space for the copious donations coming in to help relief efforts for Ukraine.



This stunning photo of a community centre display of 1,400 hand-folded paper cranes to honour front-line and essential workers was taken by Evan Saunders.



**DR HOPKINS & ASSOCIATES**  
OPTOMETRY  
— Sight for Life —

**An estimated 196 million people are living with macular degeneration worldwide. Regular eye exams can ensure that your eyes and vision stay healthy. Call Dr Hopkins & Associates to schedule your eye exam!**

**NOTL: 905-468-8002 | 358 Mary St. | [www.theeyedoc.ca](http://www.theeyedoc.ca)  
St. Catharines: 905-682-9119 | 8 Secord Dr.**





# YEAR IN REVIEW 2022

Continued from Page 10

The Lake Report is nominated for 14 provincial awards in recognition of the newspaper's journalism, advertising and community service – the most awards of any community newspaper in Ontario.

**Feb. 24:** A month after a major snowstorm hit the area, residents along Irvine Road used sandbag barriers and high-powered water pumps to save their homes from severe flooding after a huge rainfall.

Peter Warrack is receiving the Meritorious Service Cross from the Governor-General in recognition of his work to combat human trafficking in Canada and abroad.

With the upcoming March 1 removal of the proof of vaccination requirement and with capacity restrictions already lifted, NOTL restaurateurs are hopeful some economic hardship may finally be behind them.

**March**

**March 3:** In the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine,

NOTL residents of Ukrainian heritage – like Andre Kostyuk – are thinking back on their own families and when they moved to Canada.

The Rand Estate has officially been declared a property of cultural heritage value or interest in the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake thanks to a vote by NOTL council.

The former Parliament Oak school site at 325 King St. is officially for sale – again. Liberty Sites @ Ltd.'s proposal for a 71-unit apartment building and a handful of semi-detached and single-family homes was met with vocal resistance.

**March 10:** To commemorate International Women's Day, we bring readers stories about the four strong women leaders on NOTL council, a woman who fled Hong Kong to live in Niagara, and a 10-year-old NOTL girl who is making a big difference in the world.

A Niagara church is leading the way, collecting medical, military and cash donations to

support Ukraine in the way of Russia's invasion.

The Virgil Stampede expects to return in May after two years of COVID cancellations. (It did and it was a great weekend, as always.)

The Shaw Festival celebrated its fifth consecutive financial surplus – \$114,000 – in 2021 despite pandemic limitations.

**March 17:** The Lake Report presents "Hotels-on-the-Lake," an in-depth look at the implications of short-term rentals turning housing into a commodity and quickly taking over a large number of NOTL homes.

The NOTL Farmworker Hub is back and offering a free tuck shop and even health care for seasonal farmworkers.

After a heavy snowfall closed Niagara District Airport for one of the first times in its history, the federal government is kicking in \$1.6 million for new snow-clearing equipment.

The arenas were packed as

more than 40 hockey teams competed in the annual March Break tournament in Virgil.

**March 24:** Advocates, residents and migrant workers marched in front of NOTL's town hall to call for permanent residency for all seasonal workers.

After being shut down for operating illegally, the Niagara Alternative Learning Alliance will restart operations in the old Virgil school on Four Mile Creek Road. It took steps to become a registered private school with the Ministry of Education.

Chautauqua residents are worried their community is being hollowed out by the growth of short-term rentals, the head of their community association tells NOTL council.

A Lake Report investigation learns that all the town's beloved summer festivals plan to return this year, including the Strawberry, Cherry, Peach Festivals. Plus the Stampede, Kinsmen Car Show and Grace

Continued on Page 12



Brad Hamilton and his dog Tanner were harassed twice by a coyote in Garrison Village. Evan Saunders' photo shows Hamilton carrying a large stick for self-defence.



The pickleball courts in Virgil are empty after a noise complaint and legal battle forces the town to shutter the racquet game, for causing too much racket. EVAN SAUNDERS

**JANUARY**  
**16 • 23 • 30**  
**@ 7:30PM**

the **IRISH HARP** pub

**GRAND PRIZE**  
\$1000 + 1 YEAR CONTRACT OFFERING TO PLAY AT THE IRISH HARP PUB

**Battle of the Bands**

**9 BANDS • 3 NIGHTS • 1 WINNER**  
HELP US CROWN "THE IRISH HARP PUB'S 2023 CHAMPION"  
STREAMING LIVE ON FACEBOOK • VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**  
**THEIRISHHARPPUB.COM**  
**(905) 468-4443 • RESERVE A TABLE TODAY!**

**HAPPY**  
*New Year*

We look forward to serving you in 2023



Your Town Council and Staff



# FEATURED

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2022

Continued from Page 11

United Festival Market.

**March 31:** More than 1,400 hand-folded origami cranes are adorning the front windows of the NOTL Community Centre to honour essential workers and those who helped everyone during the pandemic.

Former NOTL canine control officer Ken Reid is suing the town after his contract was not renewed, a move that upset many local residents.

Kaleb Schriefer was crushed by the loss of his younger brother Noah in January 2021 and plans to complete the 4,400-kilometre Tour Divide ride in his sibling's memory – from Canada to the Mexican border.

On one of the first weekends of spring, downtown NOTL business operators were happy to see visitors starting to return.

**April**  
**April 7:** Garrison Village and other NOTL residents say foraging coyotes are a threat to people and pets in their neighbourhood. Experts say the problem is food being left out for easy access.

Flooding, torrential rain, windstorms and suffocating heat are just a few of the climate change-driven threats Niagara-on-the-Lake is preparing to deal with in its new climate change adaptation plan.

Members of the NOTL Arts Collective showcase their works in a new Pumphouse exhibit.

The annual Easter sunrise service returns to NOTL's tiny, six-seat Wayside Chapel on the Niagara Parkway this year.

**April 14:** Despite advice from experts, some residents worried about coyotes attacking them or their dogs are

carrying big sticks when out and about. The town plans a coyote information session.

The sixth wave of COVID-19 is beginning to eclipse the Omicron wave on several metrics and the time for provincial action is now, Dr. Mustafa Hirji warns.

Correspondent Linda Fritz explores the history of NOTL's Shalamar resort and people's fond memories of the campground on Line 8.

**April 21:** An egg-cellent time is had by all – especially youngsters – as the Kinsmen Club's annual Easter Egg hunt returns.

Noise from Virgil's popular outdoor pickleball courts has sparked a legal challenge by a neighbour who's had enough.

The venerable Taylor's Bakery in Old Town is becoming a Dairy Queen franchise.

**April 28:** The coyotes terrorizing residents of Old Town have been eating food from human sources and until those sources are addressed the problem will continue, experts tell a NOTL information session.

Despite one resident's legal complaint about pickleball noise, many of her neighbours disagree with taking the town to court over the dispute, though they admit the sport can be loud.

Deputy Lord Mayor Clare Cameron announces she will not seek re-election, taking some of her colleagues by surprise.

The Niagara on the Green neighbourhood's annual Earth Day spring cleanup is a huge success, collecting 25 bags of garbage and debris.

**May**  
**May 5:** Congratulations to The Lake Report, winner of 14 Ontario Community Newspapers Awards – more than any other newspaper in the

province. The awards recognize our journalism, advertising and community service in NOTL.

Jim Russell and a team of technicians gathered this week at the Mississagua Street site known as the Negro Burial Ground to begin the process of locating and identifying the Black Canadians buried in the sacred plot.

Less than a year after cutting down about 400 ash and maple trees along Two Mile Creek, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority is replanting 4,700 new saplings in the area.

Battle of the Atlantic heroism and sacrifice are remembered in a ceremony at Navy Hall.

**May 12:** Control of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club changed hands suddenly and unexpectedly after a prolonged legal battle between operators John and Jill Wiens and a group of business partners.

Telling supporters she is "humbled and appreciative," Lord Mayor Betty Disero files her nomination papers for this fall's municipal election.

And Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa announces he is challenging Disero for the top job.

The Lake Report launches an ambitious year-long journalism project, A Year in the Life of Niagara-on-the-Lake. A team of more than 10 photographers will be out and about all year documenting life in NOTL. And as we assemble the project, we'll publish a picture online for each day from May 1, 2022, to April 30, 2023.

**May 19:** It's time for the Virgil Stampede and eager young folks anticipate fun, friends and food as the fair returns after a two-year COVID hiatus.

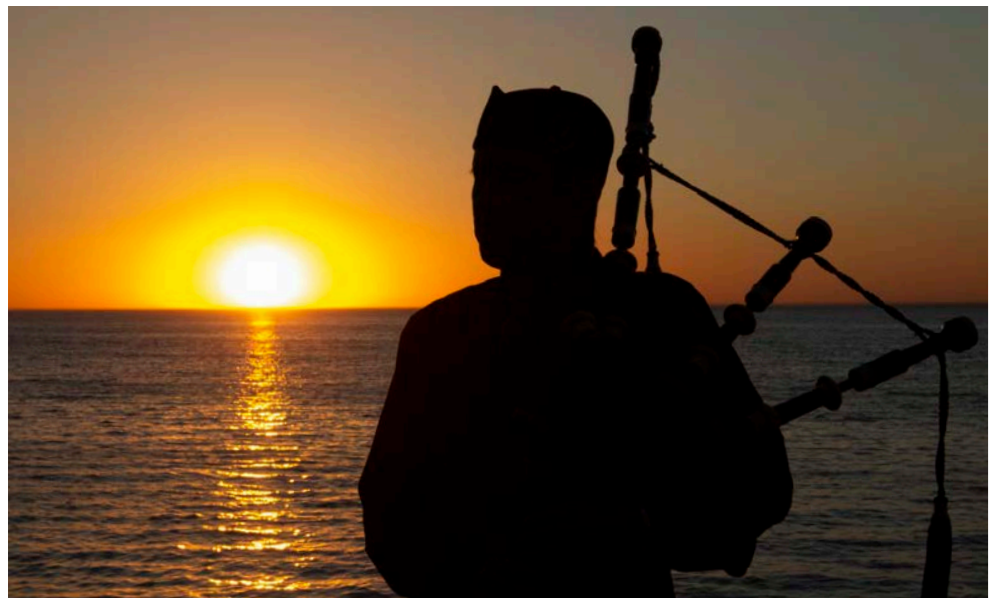
Continued on Page 13



Lake Report correspondent Steve Hardaker captures a turkey vulture soaring over the Niagara River from Queenston Heights.



Doug Ford visits NOTL as part of his kick-off for the twinning of the Skyway. He ironically hops on a steamroller and reporter Evan Saunders doesn't miss the shot.



Allan Spencer from the City of Thorold Pipe Band pipes down the sun. RICHARD HARLEY

**LIDA KOWAL**  
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

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

**LIDA KOWAL**  
MBA, CPA, CMA

\*Accounting \*Taxation \*Business Services \*Estate Planning

Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre

Participate in a class or workshop at the art hub of the community

**In-Studio | Online**

Learn more: [niagarapumphouse.ca/programs](http://niagarapumphouse.ca/programs)  
office@niagarapumphouse.ca | 905.468.5455  
247 Ricardo St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0

**Warren**

RENOVATIONS

905.468.2127

PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

carpet solutions

CLEANER, FRESHER CARPET  
for a  
CLEANER, FRESHER HOME!

SAVE  
**\$30.00**  
ON YOUR FIRST CLEANING!

BOOK YOUR EXPERT CLEANING TODAY!  
**905-630-1892**

carpet | upholstery | tile & grout

**SCOTTISH LOFT**  
YOUR BRITISH GROCER

905-468-0973

Scottishloft.com | sales@scottishloft.com  
13 Queen St., Niagara-on-the-Lake

**ALLSPARK ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS INC.**

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

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

Residential, Commercial and Industrial Automation

License No. 7010341



# YEAR IN REVIEW 2022



Fort George's Fife and Drum Corps escorts the 1,000-pound Canada Day cake down Queen Street toward Simcoe Park where it will feed hundreds of celebrants.  
RICHARD HARLEY



British troops open fire on Napoleon's army during a battle re-enactment at Fort George in July. EVAN SAUNDERS



Photographer Dave Van de Laar documents the excitement after the U22 Thunderhawks lacrosse team scores a goal. The team will go on to be the undefeated champions of all of Ontario for the season.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's iconic clock tower cenotaph turns 100 on June 4, and the Legion and Town of NOTL are planning a celebration fit for the occasion.

A survey of 300 people conducted for NOTL's tourism industry finds most residents are happy with tourism. But the mayor and others have questions.

**May 26:** The Virgil Stampede storms back, literally. There was blistering heat and heavy rain, but mostly just lots of fun.

Advance polls open for the June 2 provincial election, as incumbent MPP Wayne Gates faces challenges from Tory Bob Gale and Liberal Ashley Waters.

The Niagara Thunderhawks U22 team triumphs 12-1 as lacrosse returns to NOTL. It's a sign of great things to come for the team, which will go undefeated all season and win a provincial championship.

## June

**June 2:** The Monuments Men series debuts. A massive undertaking by NOTL historian Ron Dale, it commemorates the 100th anniversary of the town's clock tower cenotaph by retelling the stories of the men whose names are literally etched in stone.

A happy announcement: Canada Day returns with the Cake Parade, entertainment, fireworks and plenty of history.

After a court case claimed that noisy outdoor pickleball games in NOTL parks violate the town's noise bylaw, council changes the bylaw to permit recreational noise until 11 p.m. The case is back in court soon.

It's provincial election day and at least one poll predicts a close race. We'll see what happens.

**June 9:** Oops. The NDP's

Wayne Gates retains his provincial seat by winning 48 per cent of the vote. Runner-up Bob Gale takes 36 per cent and ends up 5,800 votes behind. Gale says he's retiring from politics, but later decides to run for regional council in Niagara Falls again.

A Good Samaritan talks about an unacceptably long wait for an ambulance to arrive after a cyclist was hurt on a rural NOTL road.

NOTL seasonal farmworkers get ready to resume their rivalry in their annual cricket match versus Vineland. NOTL has won all but two of the 26 annual matches.

**June 16:** Pickleball play has been banned from the town's six outdoor courts in Virgil. A court in Welland ruled the town and the NOTL Pickleball Club violated the municipality's noise bylaw by allowing pickleball games in Centennial Sports Park.

Caroline Polgrabia and a group of dedicated parents unveil plans to launch a youth campus for NOTL high-schoolers.

The NOTL Clippers notch their 25th victory (in 27 matches) in the annual farmworkers cricket match. A stellar record.

Hundreds flock and walk-about through town for the annual Shaw Guild Garden Tour.

**June 23:** NOTL's much-debated and long-delayed municipal accommodation tax begins on July 1. It will be 2 per cent in year 1 and rise one point in 2024 and 2025.

The Canadian Navy's oldest ship, the HMCS Oriole pays a weekend visit to the NOTL Sailing Club.

With pickleball banned on outdoor courts in NOTL, Lord

*Continued on Page 14*



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.  
Category: **THAT ANIMAL HAD A NAME**

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

Last issue:

Category: **GETTING SPORT "E"**

Clue: **In the NFL, a defender who makes contact with an opponent before the ball is snapped is guilty of this infraction.**

Answer: **What is encroachment?**

Answered first by: **Jane Morris**

Also answered correctly (in order) by: **Bob Wheatley, Margaret Garaughty, Pam Dowling, Jim Dandy, Ted Wiens, Rob Hutchison, Hedy Wiebe, Wade Durling, Margie Enns, Bill Hamilton,**

**\*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 \$20 Irish Harp Pub gift card every week. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

**Love games? Join us for fun events every week at the Irish Harp Pub. Details at [www.theirishharppub.com](http://www.theirishharppub.com)**

## D-Handyman Services

"Pass me the Job Jar, enjoy your spare time."  
289-929-handD (4263)

PO Box 1088  
Virgil, Ontario  
LOS 1TO

Denis Curtis  
Proprietor  
<http://dencurtis.wix.com/d-handyman>



## UPPER CANADA MECHANICAL

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

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

KeepRite



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

**Sundays at 10:30 a.m.**  
[www.graceunitedchurch.com](http://www.graceunitedchurch.com)

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



Pauline Reimer Gibson  
Audiologist

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

A global leader in hearing healthcare.

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON



## GAUGHILL

FULL SERVICE REPAIR SHOP

905-687-9456  
[www.caughillauto.com](http://www.caughillauto.com)  
256 East & West Line  
Niagara-on-the-Lake



**DON'T WAIT!  
GET YOUR WINTER TIRES BEFORE THE SNOW HITS**



NEW & USED tires available.  
FREE summer storage with purchase.  
Tire install & balance: \$20 each



**PUTTING NIAGARA RESIDENTS FIRST!**

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



**289-697-5757 | JS-CONSTRUCTION.CA**



# YEAR IN REVIEW 2022

Continued from Page 13

Mayor Betty Disero says she is focused on finding a solution for club members.

Dylan Rumsey announces plans to swim from the Queenston boat launch to the gazebo in Queen's Royal Park to raise awareness and money for mental health.

**June 30:** Bad news: Heavy rain and cold air severely damaged Niagara's grape vines last winter, and early signs show growers could lose 50 per cent or more of their crops this year.

The beloved Virgil Stampede attracted some 10,000 visitors and had one of its best revenue years ever, organizers say.

The annual Strawberry Social was back in-person at the NOTL Community Centre for the first time in two years.

## July

**July 7:** The mammoth Canada Day Cake created by Catherine O'Donnell of Willow Cakes and Pastries is again paraded through town as part of NOTL's July 1 party.

NOTL's only sign maker says he was ignored by the town when it launched its new ShopNOTL campaign. Instead, the work went to an out-of-town supplier.

The undefeated U22 Niagara Thunderhawks completed their regular season with two more wins to thrust them into the number one seed headed into the Ontario Lacrosse League playoffs.

**July 14:** French and British troops relive battles as re-enactors spend the weekend staging Napoleonic clashes at Fort George.

Willowbank sells the former Laura Secord Memorial School for \$2.2 million to Canadian Niagara Heritage Inc. of Niagara Falls, owned by the Shahani family.

After just six months on the job, town clerk Ralph Walton quits. The town fired his predecessor in June 2021.

The annual Cherry Festival makes a sweet return to NOTL – and the cherry pies sold out before noon.

**July 21:** Niagara is in the midst of a seventh wave of COVID-19 and this one has the potential to be worse than the previous one, says Niagara's acting chief medical officer of health.

Brock develops virus-free



## 22 PHOTOS FROM 2022

Ten-year-old Isabella Yan from team Saskatchewan strikes the ball at the Canada Summer Games. SOMER SLOBODIAN

vines that Niagara grape growers will be able to benefit from.

NOTL's proposed transportation master plan proposes converting Queen Street into a "flex" street, with no curbs, more bikes and pedestrians, and fewer cars.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library's "pop-up libraries" are proving increasingly popular spots for families and children to have fun together. The temporary libraries are "popping up" in neighbourhoods all summer long.

**July 28:** Two men on a disabled Sea-Doo were rescued after hours stranded in Lake Ontario while clinging to a green buoy at the mouth of the Niagara River.

A much-debated rainbow crosswalk will be installed at Anderson Lane and Niagara Stone Road, after council unanimously approved the plan.

NOTL businesses are facing labour shortages. "I don't know what I'm going to do," says one shop manager, as lack of staff forces her store to close early.

An 11-year-old girl was sent to hospital after she was struck by an SUV while riding her bike in Virgil. The unidentified girl was cycling along the sidewalk when an SUV exiting the parking lot of Phil's

Independent Grocer collided with her.

## August

**Aug. 4:** A torch relay heralds the start of the Summer Games. Sailing and tennis will be held in Niagara-on-the-Lake Aug. 7 to 20.

The Shaw Festival's annual preview shows generated \$4,000 for NOTL charities. The recipients are: NOTL Palliative Care, the cancer society, the NOTL Soccer Club and the TD Niagara Jazz Festival.

A truck that was reported stolen last week and crashed into an unfinished pool in NOTL wasn't stolen after all, police say. The truck's owner faces several charges, including public mischief.

**Aug. 11:** In a huge week for sports in NOTL, the Canada Summer Games kick off, the Niagara Thunderhawks complete a season for the ages, going undefeated and winning a provincial lacrosse championship, and the NOTL Golf Club crowns new champions after a sweltering weekend of competition.

Dozens of no parking signs have popped up along Four Mile Creek Road for several hundred metres in either direction from the Grist restaurant in St. Davids. The owners feel "targeted" by the Region of Niagara's move.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's council chambers will re-open

to the public on Aug. 22 after two years of strictly online virtual meetings.

**Aug. 18:** Calm waters and a lack of wind causes the first day of Canada Summer Games sailing competition on Lake Ontario off NOTL.

At the Summer Games, NOTL wrestler Zubin Gatta wins gold with Team Ontario to go with an individual bronze medal in the 52-kg weight class.

Retired businessman Vaughn Goettler jumps into the mayoral race, joining incumbent Betty Disero and Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa.

Jamaican Labour Minister Karl Samuda visits NOTL farms to learn about the industry and working conditions for seasonal farmworkers.

**Aug. 25:** Two NOTL athletes – Kai Bartel and Zubin Gatta – competed in the Canada Summer Games and both came home with gold medals.

It took a few extra hours on the final day of competition but Canada Summer Games organizers managed to corral enough wind on Lake Ontario to finally finish off the sailing races.

Seniors are tuning into their artistic sides at Pleasant Manor and Upper Canada Lodge with pre-made art kits from the Pumphouse Arts Centre that are delivered monthly to both facilities.

NOTL adopted its new official plan almost three years ago but now the Region of Niagara is demanding "significant" changes before approving it.

## September

**Sept. 1:** Cleaning up and containing a mysterious "organic" pill costs the town more than \$650,000 but officials won't say – or don't know – exactly what the substance is.

Beekeepers are losing honeybees at an alarming rate, causing at least one farmer to completely reinvent his bee business.

After two and a half years of construction to completely redesign the QEW/Glendale Avenue interchange, drivers can expect to soon start using the new road.

The Terry Fox Run is back and celebrating 42 years of fundraising in NOTL.

**Sept. 8:** Kids all over NOTL traded in their summer gear



Reporter Somer Slobodian is there when Dylan Rumsey's mom Sue gives him a joyous hug after he swims from Queenston to Queen's Royal Beach to raise money for Pathstone Mental Health.



NOTL's lord mayor-elect Gary Zalepa struts into the community centre on election night, after solidifying a big win over his two opponents. SOMER SLOBODIAN



Volunteer Janet Guy helps set up the NOTL Museum's poppy display at the NOTL Court House, with more than 3,000 hand-crocheted poppies. SOMER SLOBODIAN



A steady stream of water drips from Mountie Evan Malcolm's hat as torrential rain soaks everyone attending Remembrance Day services at the Queenston cenotaph. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Continued on Page 16

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

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



**FINE**ESTATES  
—TEAM—

# REVEL

## ON-THE-LAKE

REAL ESTATE GROUP



\$3,400,000



6 DAVID LOWREY COURT  
NOTL

\$1,899,999



379 NIAGARA BLVD  
FORT ERIE

\$1,319,000



1461 IRVINE RD  
NOTL

\$2,488,000



527 MISSISSAUGA ST  
NOTL

\$1,075,000



7087 MOUNT FOREST LN  
NIAGARA FALLS

\$1,100,000



1059 LINE 5 ROAD  
NOTL

\$1,000,000



2970 HIGHWAY 3  
PORT COLBORNE

COMING SOON

10+ ACRES  
NOTL

\$3,200,000



UNIT #2 SMILEY COMMON  
ST. CATHARINES

\$1,899,999



10357 LAKESHORE RD  
PORT COLBORNE

\$1,499,000



3634 EAST CHIPPAWA  
WEST LINCOLN

\$1,149,000



557 MISSISSAUGA ST  
NOTL

\$979,000



4 VILLAGE RD  
NOTL

\$2,100,000



571 TOWNLINE RD  
PELHAM | 64 ACRES

\$529,900



39 MERRITT ST  
WELLAND

\$829,900



41 STERLING ST  
ST. CATHARINES

# JOIN THE REVOLUTION

## IN NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE AND TAKE YOUR CAREER TO THE NEXT LEVEL

300+ REALTOR® & 21 LOCATIONS ACROSS ONTARIO

REVELREALTY.CA

**REVEL.**  
REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

289.868.8869



# YEAR IN REVIEW 2022

*Continued from Page 14*

for backpacks and lunch kits as they headed back to school this week, the first “normal” return to class in a couple of years.

More questions than answers abound regarding the mystery spill the town is cleaning up. Some NOTL residents contend town staff overreacted.

Every dollar donated to NOTL Community Palliative Care up to \$25,000 will be matched by developer Rainer Hummel, the agency says.

Remembrance Day poppies will be popping up on the old Court House and elsewhere in town this year as the NOTL Museum expands its commemorative Poppy Project.

**Sept. 15:** A new high-tech hovercraft service aims to connect Niagara to Toronto. The company, headed by a NOTL resident, will dock in Port Weller, with a free shuttle bus to Old Town and other destinations.

It’s been four weeks since a mysterious “organic pollutant” showed up in the Cole municipal drain that runs from Line 5 to 6 in rural Niagara-on-the-Lake. Cleanup costs have hit \$873,000 but little else is known about the substance.

Polo returns to the Commons, attracting about 2,500 people and raising thousands of dollars for the NOTL Museum.

NOTL residents reflect on the death of Queen Elizabeth and her historic visit to town in 1973.

**Sept. 22:** Thanksgiving is just around the corner and the shelves at the Newark Neighbours Food Bank are empty.

There’s a new potential threat to Niagara vineyards: The invasive spotted lanternfly has been spotted just across the U.S. border.

By publicly supporting and backing certain candidates for council, Lord Mayor Betty Disero is being “divisive” and bringing a form of “partisan politics” to the race, opponent Vaughn Goettler says.

Ben Froese of Willow Lake Ventures Inc. on Line 6 in NOTL is crowned the 2022 Grape King by the Grape Growers of Ontario.

**Sept. 29:** NOTL’s incumbent lord mayor was critical

of her two opponents during their first head-to-head encounter Tuesday night at the Royal Canadian Legion, a meeting that focused on issues and candidate platforms.

NOTL residents really stepped up on Saturday for the Newark Neighbours Porch Pick-up Food Drive and nearly bare shelves are now brimming with donations.

NOTL hikers Margaret Northfield, Rick Waters and Elaine Aldridge-Low overcame extreme altitude, vertical climbs and even illness to traverse the famed Haute Route through the Swiss Alps in an “epic” trip of a lifetime.

Now that the new diverging diamond interchange is open, construction crews have torn down the old Glendale overpass in a one-night massive demolition project.

## October

**Oct. 6:** \$3.5-million, 5,000-square-foot home on the Niagara Parkway in NOTL has been “placed under criminal restraint” as part of a massive seizure of methamphetamine and cocaine unveiled in Alberta.

Former town councillor Austin Kirkby, a tireless advocate for the agriculture community and a hard-working farmer and public servant, dies at age 79.

Mark Gaudet and Terry Weiner are retiring from the Bikes for Farmworkers program they launched in 2016.

The Every Child Matters flag was raised to half-mast in NOTL to mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30.

**Oct. 13:** Robert Enns, the driver who fatally struck Matthew Wilson late at night on Lakeshore Road in 2021, tells a court he thought he’d hit a deer.

NOTL seasonal farmworker Ceto Reid, 51, is expected to recover from his injuries after being struck by a car while riding his bike carrying a load of laundry back to his farm residence.

Niagara Nursery School is celebrating 50 years of operating and Tim Taylor launches an extensive series of stories documenting its history.

The town is appealing a court ruling that stayed Heritage Act charges against Two Sisters Resort Corp. and Solmar (Niagara) 2 Inc.

It appears a high-quality

grape harvest is silver lining to an expected low yield for 2022.

**Oct. 20:** The bloody Battle of Queenston Heights is relived as NOTL steps back in time for a historic re-enactment.

Sulfate reducing bacteria – that’s the name of the substance the town vacuumed out of the Cole municipal drain in rural NOTL. It was first discovered on Aug. 17.

With three retirements and a long, hard-fought campaign wrapped up, NOTL council will have a new look after next Monday’s election.

In an op-ed for The Lake Report, retiring Coun. Clare Cameron urges people to take time to consider the candidates and the issues – and vote.

**Oct. 27:** Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa surges to a big victory over incumbent Lord Mayor Betty Disero, winning by almost 1,200 votes.

Finishing the town’s official plan is a key priority, the new mayor says. And voters said development, tourism and agriculture were big issues.

Voter turnout in NOTL for this year’s municipal election was just under 48 per cent, down 10 percentage points from 2018 but still the highest in the region, again.

NOTL’s quirky past was on display Saturday as Doors Open Niagara invited people to visit historic buildings for free.

## November

**Nov. 3:** Niagara-on-the-Lake council acted illegally in 2018 when it ordered a freeze on development in Old Town, the province’s highest court has ruled. It’s a major win for developer Rainer Hummel and other builders.

Some 4,000 handmade poppies cascade from the balcony of the old Court House as part of the NOTL Poppy Project.

The historic Parliament Oak property in NOTL’s Old Town has been sold to Two Sisters Resorts Corp. for \$8 million. Montreal-based Liberty Sites © Ltd. for \$4.925 million in 2018 but its plans for the land stalled.

After 175 years of worship and 169 years in the same building, Christ Church Anglican – known locally as Christ

*Continued on Page 17*



The old Glendale overpass is torn down by heavy machinery to make way for the newly completed diamond diverging interchange. Richard Harley is there in the early hours of the morning to capture the shot as cars are diverted around the construction.

## 22 PHOTOS FROM 2022



Fans gather at the Irish Harp Pub to watch Team Canada play Belgium in the FIFA World Cup. It’s the first time Canada qualified for the tourney in 36 years. SOMER SLOBODIAN



Nolan Tamby is in awe of Santa Claus during a December photo-op at the NOTL Community Centre, in support of palliative care. JULIA SACCO

# FISH FRY

THURSDAYS 4 - 7 P.M. TAKEOUT/EAT-IN  
1 PC \$11 | 2 PC \$15 | CASH ONLY (TAXES INCLUDED)  
**THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT!**

# FISH FRY RESUMES JAN. 12



**Legion**  
BRANCH 124  
NIAGARA ON THE LAKE

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 124 | 410 King St.  
Phone: 905-468-2353 | E-mail: legion124@gmail.com



# YEAR IN REVIEW 2022

Continued from Page 16

Church McNab – has shut its doors forever.

**Nov. 10:** At Southbrook, orange is the new white as the winery literally steps back in time to create one of its most popular vintages.

A Lake Report investigation finds some NOTL farmers unknowingly might not be living up to federal contracts with their seasonal workers thanks to confusing rules over something most Canadians take for granted – doing the laundry.

Lord Mayor-elect Gary Zalepa is confident he can walk a tightrope and balance his work between the political and private sector during his first term in office. And he won't give up his job in real estate.

**Nov. 17:** Despite pouring rain that soaked NOTL's Remembrance Day ceremonies, veterans and residents turn out to honour the sacrifices made for our freedom.

The Lake Report is honoured by the Canadian Community Newspaper Association with 30 national awards for journalism excellence in 2020 and 2021, more than

any other publication in the country.

High fuel costs and a shortage of pilots has forced FlyGTA to cancel its NOTL to Toronto air passenger service.

**Nov. 24:** Promising 'more listening and less talk,' Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa outlines his priorities at council's inaugural meeting.

NOTL fans pack local watering holes to celebrate Canada's return to the World Cup for the first time in 36 years.

Work has begun on the Village plaza in NOTL, with a grocery store, hotel and more retail planned.

The King Street property known as "The Wilderness" is an urban oasis and Ken Reid, who lives on it, says he is confused why the Niagara Foundation worries he might sell it for redevelopment. That simply won't happen, he says.

## December

**Dec. 1:** Youngsters begin receiving letters from the North Pole thanks to Santa's helper at the NOTL post office.

NOTL conservation group the Preservation of Agricultural Land Society is sounding the alarm over changes to



Somer Slobodian illustrates the magical scene of the Christmas light display at 15630 Niagara Parkway in NOTL.

the Greenbelt passed by the Doug Ford government.

At age 66, NOTL's Margot Devlin just finished her 10th New York City Marathon, bringing her career total to 14 full marathons and 13 half-marathons, including the famous Boston and London runs.

**Dec. 8:** Robert Enns, the NOTL farmer whose pickup truck fatally struck Matthew Wilson late at night in April

2021 is found guilty of failing to report an accident. He's fined \$500 and sentenced to nine months of probation.

The Candlelight Stroll again draws thousands to downtown and raises about \$8,000 to benefit injured farmworker Ceto Reid as well as the Farmworker Hub and NOTL Palliative Care.

There were smiles aplenty as family and friends packed the Niagara Regional Native

Centre for a giant Christmas party.

Inalis Medina, 9, of St. Davids, brings toys and joy to sick children by selling 609 jars of homemade hot chocolate then distributing more than \$4,000 in toys to young patients.

**Dec. 15:** The Lake Report's special Christmas Edition wraps up the year (with customized wrapping paper). We take two weeks off over

Christmas so our giant edition is chock full of festive news.

There's the Christmas Parade returning after two "drive-by" years, Santa for Palliative Care, the exclusive behind-the-scenes story about a fabulous lighting display on the Niagara Parkway, the second annual Tractor Parade, plus greetings and salutations from businesses and organizations in the community – and lots more.

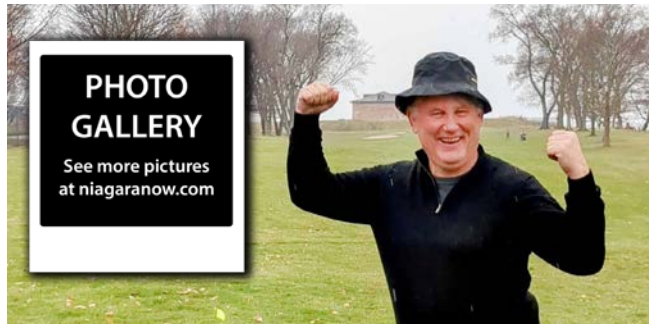
## Make Child Care Your Business

Flexible hours.  
Work from home.  
Provide a vital service for Niagara families.

Become a Home Child Care Provider







Patrick Craig was the first NOTL Golf Club member to play on Jan. 1. KEITH VANT

## Die-hard golfers enjoy New Year's Day outings

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

Golfers around NOTL were out in force on the first day of the year.

The snow that usually filled the fairways and covered the greens at Christmas was long gone by New Year's Day and that prompted some 44 players to hit the links at Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club on Jan. 1.

The course opened holes 1, 2 and 9 for play, though temporary tees were used and pins were placed near but not on the greens.

For the players it was more about the novelty of being able to play in the middle of winter.

Most of the players were non-members – only about eight club regulars showed up to test their mid-winter mettle.

Patrick Craig was the first member to tee off in 2023, club pro Keith Vant said.

In addition, about 300 people enjoyed the warmth of the clubhouse for brunch and lunch seatings.

Die-hards also broke out the clubs at Queenston and St. Davids golf clubs. Those two sister operations are famous for running year-round, weather permitting.

While Queenston has been a bit wet so far this winter, St. Davids has been a popular choice for players who want to enjoy a walk and the chance to hit a few near-frozen golf balls.

## Jr. A Predators hope to climb out of sixth place

Kevan Dowd  
The Lake Report

With 25 games down and 15 to go, the end of the Jr. A Niagara Predators' 2022-23 season is quickly approaching.

With time running out, the Predators are fighting to move up from sixth place in the Greater Metro Hockey League's south division.

They have a ways to go but Predators' president and owner Robert Turnbull has high hopes for his young team.

"I've always said once December has ended you really see what you have as a team," said Turnbull.

"I think the way the younger players are developing, I'm really pleased, and our returning players have been playing very well and our new players that have joined the team are going to give a lot more strength down the finishing run."

Featuring a roster of young players new to junior hockey, the Predators have struggled compared to their 2021-22 season which saw them dominate

most teams and finish third in their division.

"I had an older team last year. Our goals for and our goals against were drastically different from this year."

Turnbull also notes a difference physically in the two teams.

"We were bigger on the back end, we were stronger on defence last year, but again, the way the guys are coming along, I'm very pleased. It's tough to play against some of the bigger teams."

Turnbull cites the challenge his team faces playing against larger, rougher opponents but he credits his players with not backing down in the face of physical intimidation.

"Our strength is our speed and if they don't utilize their speed or at least play up to their potential then there's going to be games where you're going to shake your head. But I believe that we will be in a position to compete against anybody," he said.

Right now Niagara is not far behind the fifth-place St. George Ravens, who have bested them in three

of four games but only by a narrow margin.

The fourth-place Tottenham Thunder have six points on the Predators but also a 0-2 record against them with 8-1 and 7-1 losses to Niagara.

Meanwhile the top three teams in the division – the North York Renegades, Durham Roadrunners and Bradford Bulls – seem to be playing in a league of their own with a substantial lead on every one else.

Turnbull chalks this up to the teams having had more favourable schedules – playing weaker teams throughout the first half of the season.

Though Niagara has lost all its games against the top three teams, Turnbull still gives his team credit for their performance.

"Against the top teams, they've played very well. Two against North York Renegades and one against Durham they could have won. In the one game, the Renegades had to come back to tie it up to win in overtime."

With no further games against the Renegades and just two against both

Durham and Bradford, Niagara will spend the rest of the season playing mostly lower-tier teams or at least teams with which they have a better record.

Turnbull said this is promising for Niagara "on paper" but is not getting too far ahead of himself. He does think his team has certain advantages over others going forward, in particular that they have allowed all their players ice time.

He credits head coach Kevin Taylor and assistant coaches Connor Shipton and Greg Wilson with doing a "phenomenal job" mixing up lines and ensuring every player gains game experience.

Turnbull remains optimistic his team will finish the regular season with a good run.

"On my wish list, I'd like to see us come out with at least 10 wins. I know it's going to be difficult but I believe they can do it."

The Predators take on the Bradford Bulls in their first game of 2023 this Friday, Jan. 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Meridian Credit Union arena.



**MICHELLE REYNOLDS, BROKER**  
 DIRECT: 905.401.8874  
 MICHELLE@ROYALLEPAGE.CA  
 125 QUEEN ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

# MICHELLE REYNOLDS



**NEW PRICE**



**1823 FOUR MILE CREEK, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$795,000**  
 Opportunity knocks with this 4 bedroom, 2 bath home on large lot with no rear neighbours in the heart of Virgil. Main floor master bedroom and large kitchen with dining room and living room. This home is ideal for those looking for an investment with future plans to build or renovate. CALL MICHELLE

**INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY**



**NEW PRICE**



**1213 CONCESSION 6, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$2,185,000**  
 Introducing a one-of-a-kind 4 bedroom country estate unrivalled in privacy and luxury. This stunning property is now being offered to the buyer who appreciates the ultimate dream of owning in one of the most coveted towns. A sophisticated farm home that embraces breathtaking vineyard views and open spaces. This residence features quality craftsmanship throughout, with flawless attention to detail at every turn. This is lifestyle, and luxury.





**NEW LISTING**



**19 GARRISON VILLAGE DR, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$985,000**  
 Located in the highly acclaimed Garrison Village this beautiful home offers plenty of privacy and excellent access to all the important urban amenities. Located just a short walk or drive to award winning wineries, biking trails, restaurants and shopping. This custom built home features 4 bedrooms, 2 bath and plenty of living space that has been well maintained and upgraded over the years. Fully fenced backyard with no rear neighbours.







**ROYALLEPAGE**  
TRC Realty, Brokerage Independently Owned & Operated

**LUXURYNIAGARAREALESTATE.COM**



## A new year brings the chance to fulfil new **gardening goals**



**GROWING TOGETHER** 

Joanne Young  
Gardening Columnist

There is something about a new year that makes you want to set some new goals.

Usually, those goals are centered around health, finances or self-improvement. This year why not set some new garden goals.

If you are like me, every spring I think about all the wonderful things I want to accomplish in my garden and every fall I think about all the things that I didn't get to that year.

Before you know it, a couple years have passed and not much has changed. So, this year I am setting some goals for my garden.

The first goal is to dream big. I love to dream about what my outdoor space could become and the best thing about dreaming is that it doesn't cost anything – at least not yet.

Winter is a great time to sit down and write out a wish list. What are the things you have always wanted?

Maybe it is an outdoor kitchen, or an area to entertain family and friends. It might be creating a quiet space for you to sit and relax. Maybe you want to attract more butterflies and birds to your garden.

Whatever those items might, write them down. It is the first step to forming a plan to achieve your goals.

Just because you are dreaming big, remember that you can always take small steps to work toward the garden of your dreams. Not everything has to be done at once.

A garden is always a work in progress. Don't expect overnight results.

With the rising cost of groceries, you may want to start to grow your own vegetables. It is amazing how much produce can be produced from a small space.

Even one tomato plant, purchased for about \$3, can produce up to 10 pounds of fruit.

No space for a garden? No problem. Many vegetables can be grown successfully in containers on a patio or balcony.

Do you have areas of your yard or maybe unwanted views of a neighbouring yard that are a constant eyesore?

On one side of my yard is a chain link fence that gives an open view into my neighbour's backyard. Every time that I go out into my backyard one of my first views is of a brightly painted aqua-coloured shed, behind which they store all the kids' toys.

It would be so nice to block that view out. This year's goal is to come up with a solution to hide that view, but also add a special element to the garden.

Another goal this year is to add at least three new native species into my garden to attract pollinators and provide food for different insects and songbirds.

It doesn't seem like that, in itself, will make any impact on the world, but just imagine the effect if all of us added three new native plants to our gardens each year.

An ongoing goal of mine is to be mindful of building a healthy soil structure. A plant's overall health and productivity is directly related to the health of the soil it is growing in.

The best way to improve your soil is by adding composted manure or composted plant material back into the ground. Healthy soil leads to a happy plant.

The last goal I will share is to take time to sit and enjoy your garden. We all have busy lives and spend so much time running around and not enjoying life.

In a day and age where mental health has become a major issue, we do need to take time to smell the roses. Nature has a great way of healing what ails you and will teach you much.

Make sure you make being quiet in the garden one of your priorities this coming year. Even if you do not have a garden of your own, there are many wonderful gardens to visit.

Remember these words from garden expert Andy Tomolonis: "A gardener's best tool is the knowledge from previous seasons."

Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at [joanneyoung.ca](http://joanneyoung.ca).

## Obituaries

### David Edward Smith



David Edward Smith, O.C., S.O.M., F.R.S.C.  
August 8, 1936-January 2, 2023

David died peacefully at home in Niagara-on-the-Lake just one year after being diagnosed with ALS. He is survived by his wife, Gene Anne Smith, son, Joshua Smith (Brooke McDonald), daughter, Sarah Smith, and three grandchildren, Emma Ladouceur, Deanna Ladouceur and Ryder Smith. He was predeceased by his parents, Sterling and Doris Smith and his sister, Jean Smith.

Born in Springhill, N.S., David grew up in New Westminster and Victoria B.C and Aylmer, Ontario. He received his B.A. from the University of Western Ontario in 1959 and his PhD from Duke University in 1964. He taught politics at the University of Saskatchewan for forty years until his retirement in 2004 and was subsequently Senior Policy Fellow at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Regina and then a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Ryerson University (now Toronto Metropolitan University).

David loved teaching and loved his students, maintaining contact with many over the years. He received several teaching awards. He served his profession as head of his department and associate dean of graduate studies. He was a book editor of the Canadian Journal of Political Science and President of the Canadian Political Science Association. He was on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and held a visiting professorship of Canadian Studies in Japan.

He was a distinguished writer and scholar, authoring or editing 20 books, 6 monographs and enumerable articles and book chapters. His publications include a trilogy of works on each of the parts of Parliament, as well as books on political parties, the constitution, and federalism. The People's House of Commons: Theories of Democracy in Contention (University of Toronto Press) won the Donner Prize for the best book in Canadian public policy in 2007. Across the Aisle: Opposition in Canadian Politics (University of Toronto Press), won the Canada Prize in Social Sciences in 2014. He was an Officer of the Order of Canada, a member of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He was granted an Earned Doctor of Letters Degree from the University of Saskatchewan, based on his published work over the course of his professional life, and an Honorary Doctor of Letters from Ryerson University.

David was gentle, kind and witty. He was a great cook. He loved his family, entertaining and being entertained by his friends, travelling, reading and writing. Our terrible sadness at this time of loss is tempered by a deep sense of gratitude for having shared in the life of this lovely man, our beloved husband, Dad and Grandad.

David's many friends, colleagues and former students have established the David E. Smith Memorial Scholarship in Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan in his honour. The family would welcome charitable gifts in support of this scholarship for those wishing to remember him. Donations may be made at [www.usask.ca/give](http://www.usask.ca/give) or by phoning (306) 966-5186.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St. Niagara-on-the-Lake. A funeral service will be held this Saturday January 7, 2023, at 11:00am at St. Mark's Anglican Church, 41 Byron Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Inurnment will take place at St. Mark's Cemetery, later in the spring.



### Irene Epp



It is with immense sadness, but grateful hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother, Irene Louise Epp (nee Fast), on December 27, 2022, at the age of 84. Devoted wife of Henry W. Epp, (63 years), loving mother of Gary (Cindy) Epp, Joanne

(Michel) Gagne and Kathy Epp. Awesome grandmother of Alex, Nicholas, Forrest, Faith, Sandy and Amy. Sister of Werner (& the late Marlene) Fast, John (Liz) Fast, Arnold (Elena) Fast (Germany), sister-in-law of Abe Epp. She is predeceased by her mother Margaret Fast, father, Johann Fast, brothers Viktor and Edward Fast (Germany). Mom is also survived by many nieces, nephews and several cousins.

Irene was a dedicated employee of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake for many years, devoted member of the Niagara United Mennonite Church, White Oaks and Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club.

Many thanks to the dedicated staff at Upper Canada Lodge where she spent her last year. Visitation took place Monday, Jan. 2, 2023 at the Niagara United Mennonite Church, 1775 Niagara Stone Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake. A celebration of life took place on Tuesday Jan. 3, 2023 at Niagara United Mennonite Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to MCC Canada or Alzheimer Society of Canada. Funeral arrangements by Tallman Funeral Home.

Online condolences at [www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca](http://www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca)



### Sheila Hirsch-Kalm



HIRSCH-KALM, Sheila - We are heartbroken to announce the death of our mother, Sheila Hirsch-Kalm on Sunday December 18, 2022. She is survived by her sons Keith and his wife Dora, and Mark and his wife Irene along with her two grandchildren, Joshua, and Megan. She had recently

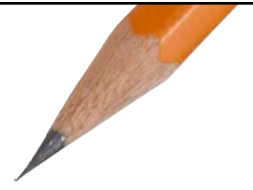
lost her brother Scotty and her beloved husband Michael. The days had become much tougher and it was taking its toll until she relented and passed over to join her much-loved husband in the next life. Sheila passed away one day shy of her 86th at her home in Niagara-on-the-Lake. As one of her grandkids said, it is thought she could not bear even one birthday without her beloved husband, Michael. She lived an incredibly full life visiting places and doing things she had always dreamed of. She is most known for her work in the NOTL community, fundraising for the Cancer Society and advocating for the handicapped. She will be missed by many.

We do not remember days, we remember moments.... Sheila's family will receive friends and family at Morse & Son Funeral Home, 5917 Main Street, Niagara Falls on Saturday January 7, 2023 from 1 to 3 pm. A funeral service to celebrate the life of Sheila will follow at 3 pm. In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make a memorial donation to the Canadian Cancer Society. Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at [www.morseandson.com](http://www.morseandson.com)

To share memories of your loved ones, email Megan at [megan@niagaranow.com](mailto:megan@niagaranow.com)



*Have some fun*



**Across**

- 1. Husky (7)
- 5. Highest (7)
- 9. Complete (6)
- 10. Opening (8)
- 11. Shades (10)
- 13. Restraint (4)
- 14. Unsullied (6)
- 18. Foretells (8)
- 19. Fleet commander's vessel (8)
- 21. Chaise longue (6)
- 23. Having no money (4)
- 24. Writing materials (10)
- 28. Large amount of electrical power (8)
- 29. Stoppage (6)
- 30. Profound (7)
- 31. Nervous (7)

**Down**

- 2. Member of the Indian majority (5)
- 3. Unpaid (5)
- 4. 8th letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 6. Lay out too much (9)
- 7. Motherhood (9)
- 8. Table napkin (9)
- 10. Fabulous story-teller (5)
- 12. Permit (3)
- 15. Eve of All Saints' Day (9)
- 16. Source of sweetness (5,4)
- 17. Recipients of one of St. Paul's Epistles (9)
- 20. Braid (5)
- 22. Fuss (3)
- 25. Relative by marriage (2-3)
- 26. The dark (5)
- 27. Achieve (5)

### Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9				10			
11		12				13	
14	15	16	17	18			
19				20	21	22	
23			24		25	26	27
28					29		
30					31		

Last issue's answers

1	C	O	B	W	E	B	5	N	E	P	A	L	E	S	E	
	M	A	R	I	O	A	T									
9	H	A	I	R	B	A	L	L	10	S	U	N	T	A	N	
	H	S	T													
11	M	A	T	H	S			12	I	M	P	L	I	E	D	
15	P	R	O	P	R	I	E	T	O	R	17	N	E	O	N	
	E															
18	A	C	I	D	19	S	U	M	M	E	R	21	C	A	M	P
	E	R	E													
22	I	S	R	A	E	L	I	23	S	P	L	A	Y			
	S	S	T													
27	B	I	S	T	R	O	28	L	E	N	G	T	H	E	N	
	O	I	W													
29	A	N	A	C	O	N	D	A	30	O	I	L	M	A	N	

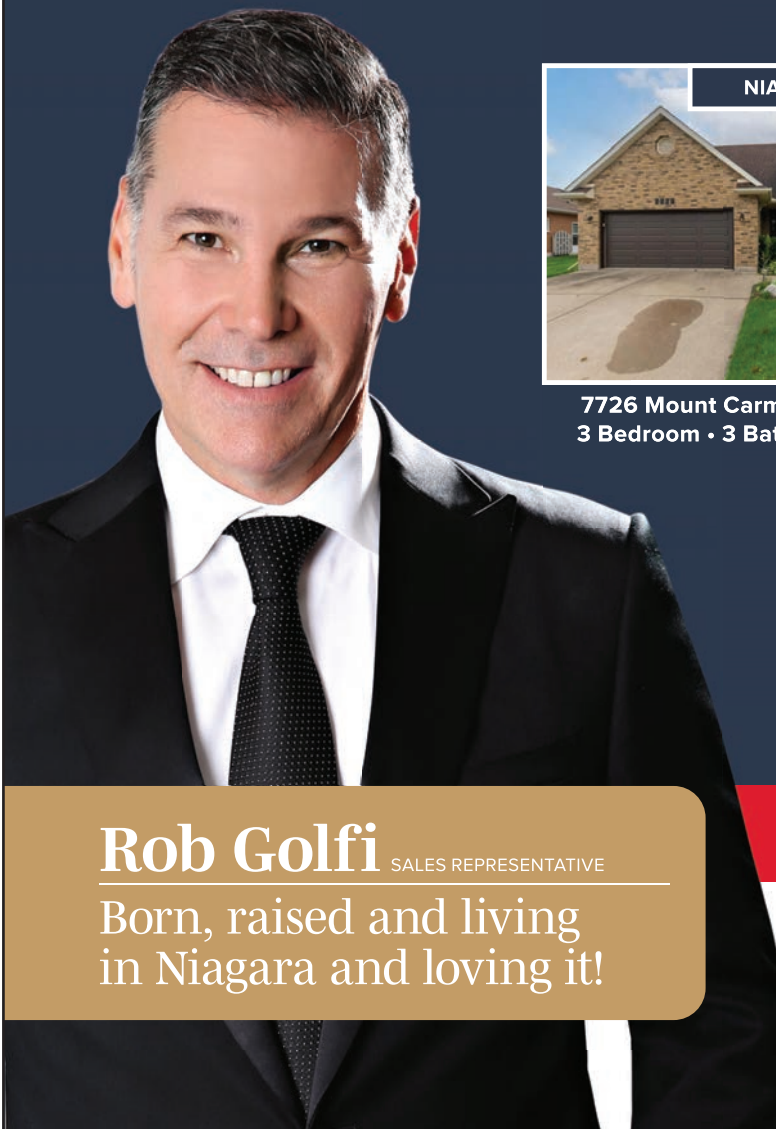
		9		3			8
			7		3	4	1
				8		9	
		3	6		7		5
			8				
5	7			1	6		
	6		9				
3	1	5		2			
9			8		4		



MEDIUM

Call the brand that gets your home

**NOTICED!**



**Rob Golfi** SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Born, raised and living in Niagara and loving it!



**NIAGARA FALLS**  
7726 Mount Carmel Boulevard  
3 Bedroom • 3 Bath • \$999,999



**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**  
282 Gate Street  
150' X 70' BUILDING LOT • \$1,399,900



**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**  
6A Circle Street  
4 Bedroom • 3 Bath • \$1,399,900

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

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

**FREE HOME EVALUATION!**



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

**GOLFI**  
TEAM

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



# Science, art, religion and a new series **exploring the universe**



**DR. BROWN**

Dr. William Brown  
Special to The Lake Report

Science, art and religion may be part of the human landscape but in the present day they tend to be separate despite common, deep evolutionary roots.

For most modern humans, visual art is identified with pictures hanging on walls in homes, galleries and museums, and illustrations in books or magazines. And these days music of all genres is readily accessible using apps on smartphones and computers or perhaps by attending concerts.

Science for most was something studied in high school after which there's little further exposure except for occasional media-hyped stories of rovers on Mars, pictures of the early universe courtesy of the new James Webb telescope

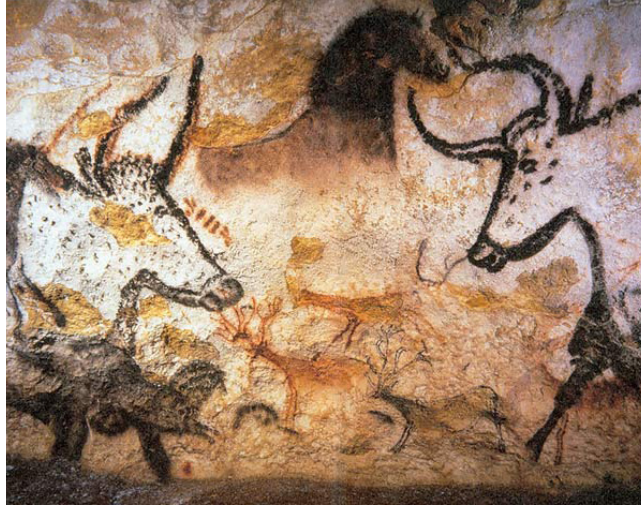
or perhaps the latest controversial fossil discoveries to shed new light on the human origins story.

For its part, religion, is usually learned and experienced in communities identified with synagogues, mosques, churches or other sacred places, each associated with their own take on culture, beliefs and the divine.

Although science, art and religion in the modern world tend to be separate, for many centuries in the Western world, art and religion were knit together in images, music and ritual.

But for more than 99 per cent of the time that behaviourally modern humans and Neanderthals walked the Earth, aspects of what we might identify as science, art and religion were seamlessly woven into their everyday lives.

Science in paleolithic times would have been reflected in the skills with which raw materials were selected (such as stone, wood, bone and ivory) and fashioned by modern humans and Neanderthals into tools for everyday living, hunting and the creation of



Palaeolithic cave paintings in Lascaux cave. WIKIMEDIA

sturdy, durable shelters.

Similar learning by observation and experience would have been essential for understanding day-to-day and seasonal weather changes, the behaviour of animals (including their seasonal migrations) and the selection and locations of edible plants and much else in the natural world on which they depended for survival.

In paleolithic times, the creation of art objects involved fashioning suitable materials to create figurines and musical instruments such as drums and flutes.

From marine shells and

the shells of ostrich eggs, beads and other decorative jewelry were created, some of which became valuable, tradable goods. And pigments such as ochre were used to create images on cave walls and probably decorate human bodies. All required skill and a sense for beauty.

What about religion? Life in paleolithic times was mysterious and dangerous.

For this a brain capable of considerable inventiveness, imagination and symbolic thought and speech would have been essential for the development and evolution of creation myths to make

sense of their lives.

We don't know where or when the earliest symbolic languages emerged but it's hard to believe that the creation of hybrid statues such as "lion-man," with the head of a lion and body of a human, or the many fine examples of paleolithic art in Europe and Indonesia would have been possible without sophisticated, symbolic oral language to create stories and share them among clans.

With so much mystery in their lives, it's likely that early humans imagined supernatural and spiritual relationships with heavenly bodies, fearsome predators such as saber-toothed lions, or cave bears, and perhaps endowed them with god-like powers and worshiped them in some fashion.

Like modern hunter-gatherer societies, those stories defined who they were as a people and reminded them of ancestral leaders, heroes and beliefs.

The earliest stories were likely recounted by the head of the band or revered elder and in later times, a male or female shaman.

However, once humans

settled in larger communities what had been shaman-created and led stories became systematized, ritualized and most importantly, codified in written language. Priesthoods emerged as intermediaries between the gods or perhaps a god and humans.

Like the evolution of creation stories and mystical relationships with the spirit world and gods, so also art and science evolved. Those stories, especially those related to science, are what I hope to explore in a new series at the NOTL Public Library beginning in early February, titled, "Beginnings to Endings, and Around Again."

The series focuses on the beginning of the universe, the lifecycles of stars, the creation of the elements, the creation and life of black holes, the chemistry of life and – finally – what the end of the universe might look like.

*Dr. William Brown is a professor of neurology at McMaster University and co-founder of the InfoHealth series at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.*

# BARREL HEAD



## WOOD OVEN PIZZA

### WALK-INS WELCOME

**\$40 ANY TWO**  
**\$80 FAMILY MEAL**

### TAKE OUT SPECIALS

**LOCALS GET 30% DISCOUNT ON FOOD**  
**DINE IN ONLY**

# OPEN FOR INDOOR DINING

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY NOON-8PM

FULL MENU AT [PILLITTERI.COM/BARRELHEAD](http://PILLITTERI.COM/BARRELHEAD)  
CALL FOR TAKE OUT (905)-468-1439  
FOLLOW US @BARREL.HEAD

1696 NIAGARA STONE RD, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

# PILLITTERI ESTATES Winery



**EXPLORING PHOTOS**  
WITH NOTL MUSEUM



## 'The Wilderness' by Nicholas Hornyansky

This remarkable Old Town property – over four contiguous, heavily forested acres through which meanders One Mile Creek – has passed intact through many hands. The present home on “The Wilderness” was built in 1816-17 after the first one was burned during the War of 1812. The property was given to Mrs. Ann Johnson Claus in 1799 by the Six Nations in gratitude for her family’s “many kindnesses” toward them. Her only son, the Hon. William Claus, inherited the property and as deputy superintendent of Indian Affairs often met with Indigenous leaders on the site. The present house consists of several extensions to the original construction. Claus and his wife Catherine were pioneering horticulturalists who may have planted the now remarkable sycamore trees that line the property along King Street. They also introduced tender fruit cultivation to the area, planting peach and nectarine orchards. Both kept diaries, which not only document the progress of the building but also the planting of flowers, ornamental trees and vines on the extensive property

## 'What time is it, Mr. Wolf?'



NOTL resident Mike Davies was driving past the old rifle range on Lakeshore Road on Tuesday morning and took this picture of a coyote looking for breakfast. It looks like the deer spotted it coming first.

**Have an interesting photo from around town?**

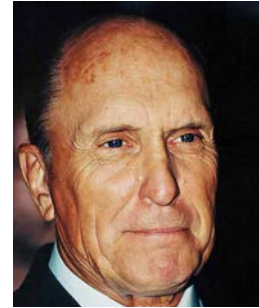
Send it to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com) in full resolution for a chance to see it in print.

## Looking to the Stars

### Full moon drives emotions and boosts your energy

Bill Auchterlonie  
Columnist

**Thursday, Jan. 5:** With the moon moving from busy Gemini into her home sign of Cancer this morning and with the sun making a connection to Uranus at the same time, it's a day where surprises are secure, old-fashioned and easy to download. Happy Birthday #92 to Robert Duvall, from the “Godfather” to “Apocalypse Now” to “The Terry Fox Story,” he has been a steady character for our times.



**Friday, Jan. 6:** The full moon in Cancer at 6:07 tonight turns our emotions to maximum sensitivity, driving rarely seen energies to help us get what we want. Still, it's a good day to think before speaking in order to avoid misunderstandings. For two years now, America (and the world) have been focused on Jan. 6, 2021, the day Donald Trump supporters attempted a takeover of the Congress and Senate.



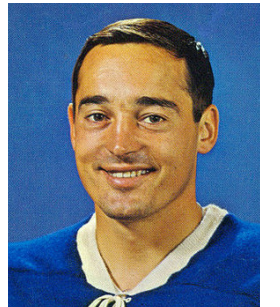
**Saturday, Jan. 7:** Whether writing or speaking, today is a time when clarity and the truth are in high demand. This due to a conjunction between the sun and retrograde Mercury. The good news is that if we do screw it up, we get a chance to fix it when Mercury goes direct. Lewis Hamilton, the great Formula One driver, turns 38 today.

**Sunday, Jan. 8:** Good news comes in a flash? Today this is so. Enjoy but be prepared. It was Jan. 8, 1935, that the King of Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley, was born in Tupelo, Miss. Twelve years later, David Bowie also entered the world.

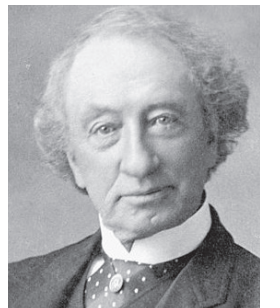
**Monday, Jan. 9:** A generous start to the work week urges giving on all fronts. With all the talk about the Royal Family, Kate Middleton, the duchess of Cambridge, has virtually nothing to say.



**Tuesday, Jan. 10:** Today Venus is at 90 degrees to the north node of the moon. This makes it easy to figure out who is with you and who is not. One of the greatest Leafs of all time, Frank Mahovlich, was born on Jan. 10, 1938.



**Wednesday, Jan. 11:** Memories and dreams are strong right now. Pay attention to the unusual for opportunities. It was Jan. 11, 1815, that Canada's first prime minister, John A. Macdonald, was born in Glasgow, Scotland.



**Check out my podcast, Looking up to the stars at [ww-wlutt.com](http://ww-wlutt.com).**

*Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.*



**All Along the Waterfront**

**Exhibit held over until end of February**

905-468-3912 | [notlmuseum.ca](http://notlmuseum.ca) | Hours: Daily from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.







Happy  
New  
Year

20  
23

## NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Your support has been the key to our success. This New Year, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of our clients, suppliers, friends and families.

May this year bring each of you happiness, good health, new adventures, and good fortune.



*Angelika* & ASSOCIATES  
LUXURY PROPERTIES

T. 905.468.8777  
C. 289.214.4394  
[www.angelikazammit.com](http://www.angelikazammit.com)  
496 Mississauga Street  
Niagara-on-the-Lake



The largest independent  
real estate brokerage  
in Canada.





# Stefan Regier



Royal LePage NRC Realty  
Office 9054684214  
Direct 2892576744

