



Pride crosswalk paints NOTL inclusive

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is, proudly, a little more colourful as June begins. To kick off Pride month,

the town finished painting a new rainbow crosswalk on Anderson Lane at Niagara Stone Road on Monday night and unveiled it Tuesday morning in a post on its Facebook page. This came just hours

after the town hosted Pride Niagara for the annual raising of the Pride flag at town hall.

Pride Niagara organizes the flag raising every year, supplying the flag and organizing the ceremonial

event, said Enzo De Divitiis, chair and co-founder of Pride Niagara.

While municipalities can and have refused to support Pride Niagara in the past,



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NOTL's new Pride crosswalk on Anderson Lane.

Advocacy group disputes findings of report on farmworker abuse

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

An activist group fighting for migrant farmworkers is worried that a report by a Jamaican fact-finding team ignores the concerns of many seasonal workers.

The Jamaican government sent a team to 65 farms in six provinces last fall to look into claims of "systematic slavery" on Canadian farms made by farmworkers enrolled in the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program.

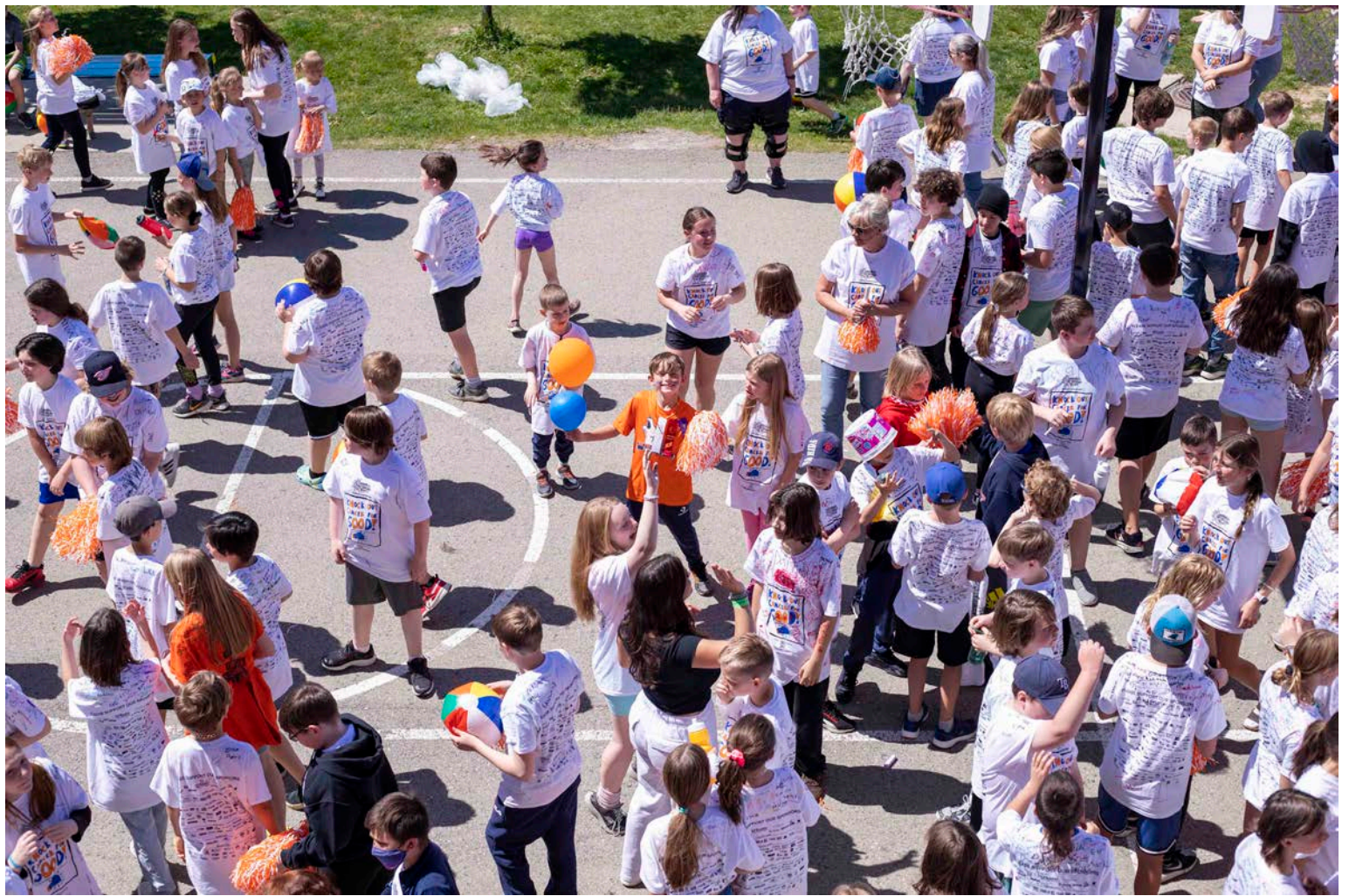
The team investigated worker living conditions, the reliability of liaison services, how workers were treated by farm owners, the terms and conditions of employment and the benefits of the program to the workers and their families back at home.

The report concluded there "is clearly no evidence to support the assertion that the conditions are similar to

Continued on Page 2

Coyotes run for a cure

Crossroads Public School students join in on mission to fight cancer



Matthew Kroeker, centre, keeps his eyes on the camera while his fellow students head off in various directions after a school photo. Most of the school was involved in the Rankin Cancer Run, an annual event that raises money for cancer research. Story on Page 12. EVAN LOREE

Pickleball tourney is a diverse and inclusive showcase

Stephen Ferley
Special to The Lake Report

With players from age 17 to 80 and with geographical backgrounds as varied as Sri Lanka, India, China and the U.K., the inaugural

NOTL Classic pickleball tournament promises to be a diverse and inclusive showcase of everything the booming sport has to offer.

The youngest competitor at the June 10-11 competition in Niagara-on-the-Lake

is 17-year-old Megan Richardson, a Grade 11 student from St. Marys, Ont.

Richardson already claimed a silver medal last year in Tecumseh and is excited now to be playing in the women's doubles cat-

egory with her new partner – her mother Carol.

And it's an all-family affair for the Richardsons, with father Mike also competing.

At the other end of the age spectrum, 30 out of the

280 competitors are older than 70 (nine women and 21 men).

Competitor Jerry Eitze, from the NOTL club, says with the utmost modesty,



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Christina Chin.

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Town urged to put more focus on the environment with strategic plan

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

If the environment fails, nothing else will matter – that was a sentiment one Niagara-on-the-Lake resident shared during one of several information sessions held this week regarding the new council's strategic plan.

Claudette Young stopped by on Tuesday to learn about the drafted strategic plan and told The Lake Report the environment ought to be top of the new council's to-do list.

"Number one is environmental issues because if that goes, so does everything else," she said.

The town introduced its climate change adaptation

plan in April 2022 but decided not to hire a co-ordinator to implement the program in this year's municipal budget.

Despite no team leader, in conversations about the co-ordinator position during this year's budget proceedings, staff said they plan to approach the strategic plan with environmental stewardship in mind.

"It's not coming up fast enough for residents like me," Young said.

Including Young, The Lake Report counted at least seven people who stopped by the information session at the old Court House on Queen Street when a reporter visited at 4:30 p.m. for a half-hour.

Young isn't the only one

with the environment on her mind: Coun. Wendy Cheropita, who was also there, said she heard several residents speak up about flooding issues at Monday's information session.

Cheropita said residents who came to session at the community centre wanted to see more "green initiatives," as the town continues to build new buildings.

She said there were also a few concerns shared about the town's green spaces.

"We want to make sure, if we're moving forward, that we're saving and preserving our parks and our green space," she said.

At another information session on Monday, at Sparky's Park in St. Davids,

resident Judith Atwood – one of five residents who attended – said she wants to see the town build smarter not faster.

After watching council discuss a new development plan in St. Davids in March, Atwood said she concluded the town needs to build "adequate infrastructure" before people start moving into new developments.

She pointed out there are already existing traffic issues and inadequate social amenities such as parks and community centres.

Rather than thinking ahead, Atwood said she thinks the town is "reacting later" to infrastructural shortcomings caused by rapid development.

"It's very frustrating, as a resident," she said.

Cheropita worries the drafted plan is a little confusing for residents. She said she's heard people asking questions about the town's process.

"It's always more challenging for people when they have big lists," Cheropita said, referring to the drafted strategic plan displayed on whiteboards inside the courthouse.

Cheropita, with Coun. Sandra O'Connor wanted to "refine" the plan before sending it out for public feedback.

Council decided instead to come back to its plan after residents had their say.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa told The Lake Report he

was not at any of the public information sessions.

"I think that's important for the public to have its time to engage," he said, adding that he was looking forward to seeing the results of that engagement.

"I really respect the process and that's the way it should be," Zalepa said.

The final information session was held virtually Tuesday night at 6:30 and the town closes its online survey June 1 at 4:30.

A town spokesperson said almost 100 residents attended the sessions and that 100 surveys have been filled out online to date.

The feedback collected will be presented to council later in June.

Jamaican government sent team to Canada to investigate claims

Continued from Front Page

systematic slavery."

However, the advocacy group Migrant Workers Alliance for Change claims the report doesn't include all of the facts.

"The Migrant Workers Alliance for Change hosted two online meetings for the fact-finding team where over 300 workers participated – including farmworkers from at least seven fruit farms in the Niagara Region," Kit Andres, a Migrant Workers Alliance advocate in the Niagara Region, said in an email to The Lake Report.

The two meetings were held in September and October and five members of the fact-finding team were present at the October meeting.

"In these meetings, Jamaican farm workers unanimously condemned their mistreatment and demanded change," Andres said.

Workers described being treated poorly by bosses, living in rat- and cockroach-infested houses and being afraid to speak to their employer.

"The Jamaican fact-finding team's report does not include any of these voices, focusing instead on a single paper survey completed by just over 400 workers," said Andres.

The seven-member fact-

finding team conducted in-person and telephone interviews with 473 Jamaican workers in Ontario, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

Out of the 473 workers interviewed, the vast majority – 355 – were in Ontario.

The report shows that 9,249 Jamaican workers were employed in the seasonal workers program across Canada in 2022, with 6,508 at farms in Ontario.

According to the report, workers have "a positive view of the program" and a sense of pride in the work they do.

"The report said what we knew – that it's a good program and there's really not much wrong with it at all," said Ken Forth, president of Foreign Agricultural Resource Management Services, better known as FARMS.

Forth said advocacy groups like Migrant Workers Alliance for Change "make everything up as they go" and "produce chaos."

"They will tell you, in no uncertain terms, that they're all bad employers. They'll tell you this program is no good. And that's simply not a fact," he said.

Forth said some of his workers are like family and told The Lake Report he even went to Jamaica last



Jamaican labour minister Karl Samuda visits Kai Wiens Family Farms in August of 2022 to learn about the industry and observe working conditions. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY

November to visit a former worker who had been employed at his farm for 35 years.

"Lots of them (are) like family and they're part of what we are," he said.

Many farmers are tired of being accused of bad things all the time.

"If it was like that, I wouldn't be doing this job," he said.

Andres argued that the "main issue is not with the individual 'bad apple' workplaces. The problem is Canada's current immigration system that facilitates migrant exploitation and denies workers the ability to protect themselves."

In the report, about 87 per cent of participants across Canada said their experience in the seasonal agricultural program ranged from fair to excellent and about 12 per cent said their

experience was bad or very bad.

In Ontario, about 6.6 per cent of participants said they had a negative experience on their farm, about 19 per cent said their experience was fair and 73 per cent said their experience ranged from good to excellent.

When it came to living conditions, more than 70 per cent of participants gave positive reviews. About 24 per cent said there were slight improvements.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, over the past few years, several farmers have renovated or built new bunkhouses for their seasonal farm workers.

The fact-finders' research also contained interviews with employers whose farms were visited and their perspectives, many of whom reported a high return rate of workers in Ontario.

"Several of the employers noted that 85 to 90 per cent of Jamaican workers were returning to them, some of them being engaged for 10 or more years," the report said.

The fact-finding team did acknowledge some issues that needed to be addressed, such as proper access to health care and issues with the Jamaican Liaison Service.

The service is staffed by Jamaican government employees based in Canada to ensure the well-being of workers and to make sure the seasonal agricultural program runs smoothly.

They also found washers and dryers to be a problem on some farms, noting that the "number of units was inconsistent with the number of workers who had to use them."

In Ontario, 57.3 per cent

of surveyed workers said they were satisfied with the Jamaican Liaison Service, while 42.7 per cent said they were not.

Those who were not satisfied expressed lack of accessibility, responsiveness and interaction with workers.

When members of the fact-finding team spoke with Migrant Workers Alliance for Change, the group claimed many farmworkers who reach out to their liaison officer do not receive support.

The team also found some workers had trouble getting proper health care while in Canada.

About 38.8 per cent of 374 participants said they sought health care, however about 10 per cent reported they didn't get access to health care when they asked for it.

Marcia Bolt Williams, communications manager for the Jamaican Ministry of Labour and Social Security, said the "Liaison Service is being strengthened to ensure adequate coverage of the workers."

The team made a list of 27 recommendations.

Increasing funding for health care, improving liaison services, ensuring that workers are always provided with the correct safety equipment, and only permitting farms with acceptable rankings to participate in the program were among the recommendations.



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Investigation launched after Jamaican farmworker found dead in his sleep

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



The bunkhouse on Read Road where a farmworker died last week. SOMER SLOBODIAN

A Jamaican farmworker in his early thirties died in his sleep at a Niagara-on-the-Lake bunkhouse last Friday.

The 31-year-old employee at P.G. Enns Farms lived at a bunkhouse on Read Road. He was found dead by a roommate before work in the morning.

This was the man's first season in Niagara under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program. He leaves behind a wife and a baby about four months old.

Police and other officials didn't release the name of the worker.

According to Donna Douglas, a liaison officer for Jamaican workers, the man's family has been notified.

"That's the first thing we do," she told The Lake Report.

Jane Andres, a farmworker advocate in Niagara-

on-the-Lake, said not much is known about the man and that the workers at the bunkhouse were still getting to know each other.

Still, "it's just very devastating for the guys," she said.

"I'm just hoping maybe eventually somebody on another farm may know something but so far we haven't been able to come up with anything," she said.

Andres said she feels kind of helpless.

"Normally when somebody passes away on the farm, or you hear about tragedy, you can have a little bit to build a story around so that you could

do some fundraising for the family," she said.

"But we got nothing to go on, absolutely nothing," she added.

Douglas told The Lake Report that the liaison service takes care of getting the worker's body back to Jamaica and providing support to his family back home.

She would not comment further on how the office supports the families back home in Jamaica.

Some concerned residents stopped by the bunkhouse on Friday evening to bring the men some meals.

"The men were all in shock and devastated," one

of the visitors told The Lake Report.

Several attempts to contact Dave Enns at P.G. Enns Farms received no response.

Niagara Regional Police Const. Barry Ravenek said in an email that police were called to the bunkhouse on Read Road near Scott Street last Friday at 6:20 a.m., "regarding a medical assistance call turned sudden death investigation."

"The incident remains under investigation by detectives assigned to our 1 District criminal investigative branch and the Ontario coroner's office," he added.

NOTL Palliative Care finds a new home

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

After five years of searching, Niagara-on-the-Lake Palliative Care has found a new home.

On Friday, the group held an open house welcoming the community to their new location next to Simpson's Pharmacy on Niagara Stone Road.

"We're completely thrilled with our new location, it's so much brighter," said Bonnie Bagnulo, the executive director of NOTL Palliative Care.

Bagnulo said the new space, which has four separate offices, will be able to better accommodate all the organization's new programming.

"It's more conducive in speaking to our patients who are vulnerable and experiencing progressive life-limiting illness," said Bagnulo, noting the offices provide them more privacy.

Bagnulo joined the palliative care team back in 2018



NOTL Palliative Care's psychosocial consultant Geoff Straw, executive director Bonnie Bagnulo, Niagara-area MPP Wayne Gates and NOTL Palliative Care board member Joan Hyatt were all on hand to help celebrate the new offices. JULIA SACCO

as the group was moving into the hospital.

They've been trying to find a new home since then.

"It's taken a long time to finally land here, and we're comfortable," she said.

Sean Simpson of Simpson's Pharmacy eagerly welcomes the team to the medical centre as another

service provided in the building.

"It's a great group from a community perspective," he said.

Offering their new caregiver and pet loss programs, bereavement walks as well as sound healing and alternative therapies, Bagnulo said the new space will allow for

NOTL Palliative Care to better serve the town.

"We've got an open door policy, so people can come in right off of the reception area and ask any questions that they want," she said.

"We hope to be able to reach everyone, St. Davids, Virgil, Queenston and Glendale included."

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Left: Canadian Troops in Buffalo Amphibious Transports in the Netherlands in October 1944. LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA Right: Norman Manley's tombstone in Adegem Cemetery, Belgium. COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES



Fire call **interrupts** final firefighters community breakfast

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

The St. Davids Firefighters' Association served up breakfast for the community one last time Saturday before taking their summer break.

Last weekend's breakfast at the firehall featured all the classics and a side serving of chaos, as firefighters were called out on a burning complaint.

"We were sitting there cooking breakfast and the hall was just packed with people," said association president Steve Roy.

"Suddenly the tones went off and we kind of had to leave things the way they were and let the other guys attend to it."

Roy, who was on the call, said that the entire trip only took about 20 minutes and then they were able to return to breakfast as usual.

"It's probably up there as one of our biggest fundraisers that we do," said Roy.

The association has long supported many community beneficiaries through its breakfast fundraisers, including Red Roof Retreat.

He noted the other donations from the association included one to St. Davids Public School to help purchase Chromebooks.

Steffanie Bjorgan of Red Roof Retreat told The Lake Report that funds from the firefighters go directly to keeping programs affordable for those with special needs.

"Usually we target respite (care) first because that's our most important program," she said.

"Every little bit helps us for sure."

The firefighters' monthly breakfasts resume in October. Until then they are working on plans for possible summer fundraiser.



People fill up at the St. Davids Firefighters' Association breakfast. It was the last community breakfast before a summer break. SUPPLIED/STEVE ROY

THE MONUMENTS MEN

Less onerous and dangerous duties: Norman Hugh Manley

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

During the Second World War a man could not join the Canadian Army before the age of 18 and a soldier would not be sent into a combat zone until he was 19.

This did not deter Norman Hugh Manley of St. Davids, who was only 17 when he enlisted, lying about his age when he signed his attestation papers at the recruiting office at Niagara Camp in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

He was born on Dec. 15, 1924, son of Leslie Manley and Aleta Catherine Bowes of St. David's.

When the Second World War broke out in 1939, young Norman was only

14. He was keen to serve and after he turned 16, the minimum age to enlist in the militia for home service, he joined the 2nd Reserve Battalion of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment.

On July 20, 1942, Manley enlisted in the 3rd Battalion of the Queen's Own Rifles, which was stationed at Niagara Camp at the time.

He declared that his date of birth was Aug. 10, 1923, that he was 18 and would be 19 within three weeks of enlisting. The army accepted this without requiring proof of age. He listed his trade as "machinist."

Now a full-time soldier, he trained with the Queen's Own Rifles and with the Scots Fusiliers of Canada in Ontario and at the army training camp in Debart, N.S.

With his knowledge of vehicles and training as a machinist, the army sent him to train and qualify as a driver/mechanic of military vehicles. He was certified on Aug. 12, 1943.

After additional training in Canada, Manley was sent to the U.K., embarking on Dec. 30, 1942, and arriving on Jan. 7, 1943. He was assigned to the 3rd Canadian Division Infantry Reinforcement Unit.

A couple of months later, the Department of National Defence received a letter from Manley's mother

enclosing a copy of his birth certificate.

A letter was immediately sent from DND Headquarters to the Canadian Army HQ in London, enclosing a copy of the birth certificate showing his "true" date of birth.

The letter states that "Mrs. Manley has been advised that her son will be employed overseas on less onerous and dangerous duties until he reaches his 19th birthday."

Manley's service record shows he continued his training in England and stayed out of trouble until Dec. 2, 1943, a couple of weeks before his 19th birthday.

He went absent without leave (AWOL) and did not return to his unit until Jan. 5, 1944. He was missing in England for 34 days.

There is no record of where he had been all this time and among other punishments he forfeited 64 days pay for this breach of duty.

As the invasion of Europe was being planned, training for Canadian soldiers stationed in England was ramped up.

In March 1944, Manley was transferred to the Royal Regiment of Canada, which was slated to land in France a month after D-Day.

However, the Royal Winnipeg Rifles Regiment,

which had landed on Juno Beach on D-Day and which had suffered heavy casualties on June 6 and the few days following, were in need of reinforcements.

Manley was detached from the Royal Regiment of Canada and transferred to the Royal Winnipeg Rifles Regiment, joining them on June 10.

He fought in the Battle of Normandy, or Operation Overlord, helping force a German retreat over the River Seine. He participated in the Canadian advance to free the channel ports and liberate Belgium and the Netherlands.

It was here that he met his fate. The Royal Winnipeg Rifles fought bloody battles and skirmishes in the Battle of Scheldt (Oct. 2 to Nov. 8, 1944), to drive the enemy from their strong defensive positions and open up the approaches to the major port of Antwerp.

On Oct. 31, Manley and one other soldier of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles was killed by enemy artillery fire.

He was buried near where he fell. After the war, his body was reinterred in the Canadian Military Cemetery in Adegem in Belgium. His mother chose his epitaph, which says in part: "All that he hoped for, All he had, he gave."

Manley is remembered on the cenotaph in Queenston.

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From left, Jamie Knight, Richard Mell and George Webber, along with other members of the town's diversity equity and inclusion committee, were instrumental in getting the Pride crosswalk installed. EVAN LOREE

Pride crosswalk important **symbolic step**, but more needs to be done, advocates say

Continued from Front Page

De Divitiis said Niagara-on-the-Lake has never refused.

The town also plans to install five rainbow benches across town, one of which has already been placed at Centennial Park in Virgil.

The remaining four will be at the corner of Mary and King streets in Old Town, Green Park in Glendale, Sparky's Park in St. Davids and at the Queenston Firehall.

Not everyone was happy about the new crosswalk. A comment posted before lunchtime Tuesday on the town's Facebook page called it "sickening."

It was removed later in the day to minimize criticism of the rainbow crosswalk and prevent any more negative comments, town spokesperson Marah Minor said.

Such comments are seen as hateful and discriminatory, she said. They also violate the town's social media policy.

Members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community see the new crosswalk and the annual flag raising as important symbolic steps, but say there is more to be done.

"The visual representation on the sidewalks, on the crosswalks, the flag raising, the benches, that's desperately needed," said De Divitiis.

De Divitiis started Pride Niagara 13 years ago with a couple of friends.

"It wasn't fun to live here, if you were queer," he said, adding there was no social network for the LGBTQ+ community when Pride Niagara started.

In the time he's spent advocating for human rights and equal representation, he said he's seen a lot of change.

"There's a lot more support" than there was in the past – and more allies, too.

Despite that, De Divitiis still sees a lot of hate and ignorance, especially on social media.

"As part of the community, you have to learn quickly to pick your battles," he said.

Sometimes people "just need more education" and he thinks those people are worth the effort.

The new crosswalk is painted with the traditional Pride colours, but also has stripes reflecting people of colour, and the Black and Indigenous communities.

George Webber, a member of the town's diversity equity and inclusivity committee pointed out there is overlap among some communities.

"I thought, 'Oh, the flag includes members of the Black community,'" Webber said.

"I felt really good about that."

He noted some members of the Black community gay and said he is happy to work with the LGBTQ+ community on the "Black agenda" and on issues in the gay community.

Richard Mell, another member of the diversity equity and inclusion committee, has been part of the town's effort to make diversity part of the town's identity.

Mell said he remembers a time when there wasn't much representation for gay people in the community. No crosswalks, flags or rainbow-coloured benches.

"If it means one thing to one person, then it's done its job in my opinion," he said of the town's new crosswalk.

There was some controversy in 2022 when the former council was choosing a location for the crosswalk, but Mell thinks it doesn't matter so much where it is.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said in a news release that the crosswalk is visible to both residents and visitors, being located along one of the main entrance roads to Old Town.

Like De Divitiis, Mell thinks "great strides have been made" for the betterment of the LGBTQ+ community, but he worries about the backlash, especially on social media.

"Certain comments," he said, could "make people more fearful."

NOTL resident Michael Man called the ceremonial act of raising a flag and painting a crosswalk, "significant" and "important."

"They signal support," he added.

Man pointed out that mental health issues are particularly prevalent in the LGBTQ+ community.

For example, transgender youth are five times more likely to think about suicide than their cisgender peers, says a study from the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

Speaking from his own experience, Man said, "The act of actually reaching out is a mountainous step."

He said symbolic acts like those taken by the town can help people struggling with sexual identity or the discrimination they might face – but they are not solutions.

Seeing the now-removed post on the town's social media, Man noted, "The work is never done."

He hopes a conversation can begin now that the flag has been raised. That, he said, is how such symbolic acts make a difference.

"It is only from listening, and truly listening and listening with empathy, we can begin to start to activate change," he said.

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McLaren supercars making a pit stop in downtown NOTL

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

It will be a car show unlike any that has hit the streets of Niagara-on-the-Lake before.

With the Monaco Grand Prix just ended and the Barcelona F1 race this weekend, NOTL is getting its own taste of supercar vroom-manship this weekend.

Nearly a dozen McLaren supercars – sleek, cool, super fast, but street legal – are making a pit stop in downtown NOTL on Saturday afternoon.

All of these exotic driving machines can go from 0 to 100 km/h in under three seconds, but don't expect to see them laying down any rubber on Queen Street. It will be a slow roll and it all starts about 4 p.m.

A section of Queen Street, starting just past the Independent Grocer, will be closed for a few hours to allow gawkers and gearheads to look – but you better not touch. Though picture-taking is welcome

The visit, billed as a supercar street party, is part of a promotion for the 124 on Queen Hotel and Spa.

The McLarens, each valued at between \$280,000 and about \$400,000 Canadian, will be led into position by Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, who said he's "very excited to participate."

He has been invited to drive the lead car.



Nearly a dozen McLaren supercars and a selection of vintage British and European automobiles will be on display on Saturday afternoon on Queen Street as part of a promotion for the 124 on Queen Hotel and Spa. SUPPLIED

"Experiences like this, being able to see these amazing vehicles up close, builds on the great experiences that visitors and residents come to love Niagara-on-the-Lake for," he told The Lake Report.

"It is very creative for the group at Q124 to organize this event and I am looking forward to it."

Several gas-electric hybrids will be among the mix of owners' cars and dealership demonstrators that will hit the road at McLaren Toronto in Woodbridge

on Saturday morning for a mini-rally trek to Niagara.

Besides the McLarens, a selection of NOTL-area owners' vintage cars, from Rolls-Royce, Aston Martin, Jaguar and others, will be on display.

Fans and car enthusiasts also will be treated to street entertainment, live music, local vendors, artists and more, a spokesperson for the hotel said.

The hotel's new NOTL Lounge will be open, offering themed cocktails like the "McLaren High Octane."

"The town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has deep ties to its British heritage," said Alana Hurov, marketing director for Q124.

"That's why we're excited to partner with this iconic British brand to help celebrate a remarkable history with a special community event for everyone to enjoy."

Hurov said one of the goals of the day is to help draw attention to and promote NOTL businesses.

"The idea is let's bring more tourists to town. Let's get businesses busy

on a Saturday during the summer and extra busy" by organizing events like this, she said.

The hotel has also partnered with some area artists and will hold silent auctions to raise money for charities.

She said Tanya Jean Peterson of Niagara Image Gallery in Virgil has donated a print of her mother Trisha Romance's "Candlelight Stroll" painting, artist Edward Spera has contributed a painting and another artist will be painting a McLaren live –

and all the money raised by each of them will go to charity.

As well, the day is a celebration for the car company, as McLaren marks its 60th anniversary this year.

The company was founded by racer Bruce McLaren in 1963 and over the decades famed Formula 1 drivers such as Ayrton Senna, James Hunt, Niki Lauder and Lewis Hamilton have been associated with the brand.

McLaren is the second oldest F1 team, next to Ferrari.

"The full force of McLaren will be on proud display in Niagara-on-the-Lake," said Matthew Berez, marketing co-ordinator for McLaren Toronto, one of just three Canadian dealerships.

"We're excited to showcase our no restraints, no limitations designs that deliver the most thrilling driving experience imaginable," he said.

"McLaren60 is a story for racing fans – it all began with our absolute love of racing and that remains true to this day and beyond," Berez said.

The supercars will be on Queen Street for about two hours from 4 to 6 p.m.

As part of the weekend celebration, McLaren car owners will have a private dinner at Treadwell Cuisine and an overnight stay at the Q124 hotel.

Old and new faces ring in farmers market

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Kathryn and Don Re-court were among a group of fresh faces at the first Market at the Village of the summer season.

Saturday was the kick for the annual farmers market, with beautiful weather welcoming vendors and shoppers.

"It's been a great day so far," said Don Re-court, who was selling his handmade birdhouses and candle holders out of recycled materials.

His wife Kathryn had her table next to him, selling her children's books written about their dog, Archie.

Kathryn has done a few markets in the past at other locations, but Saturday was Don's first time selling his products outside of corporate orders.

"I was coming up with unique ideas and had a lot of leftover product," he said.



Sweets & Swirls owner James Cadeau and his son Liam jokingly fight during the Market at the Village on Saturday. Now 16-year-old Liam has been helping his dad out at the market since he was nine. JULIA SACCO

"When I have leftover lumber I want to make sure it doesn't go to waste."

The couple will be at eight of the village's markets this season and are one of many new additions to the roster of vendors planned.

"Next week we've got a couple of new (vendors) and then more every week after that," said Sharon

Brinsmead-Taylor, the market's co-ordinator.

Along with new vendors, Brinsmead-Taylor was glad to see familiar faces return.

"That's one thing that the farmers market missed during COVID was the social aspect," she said.

While the market continued to run throughout the pandemic, it was under strict guidelines, prohibiting

anything aside from in-and-out shopping.

"A lot of our regulars come for the talk, to see their neighbours and sit to enjoy the day," she said.

James Cadeau of Sweets & Swirls returned for his eighth season on Saturday.

"The day has been steady. It's been really nice to see the people we haven't seen in a while," he said.



Construction of the roundabout at the Glendale Avenue and York Road intersection began this week and should be completed by the end of July. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Glendale roundabout construction begins

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Construction of the new Glendale roundabout at Glendale Avenue and York Road has begun this week.

The work, which began June 1, will be ongoing until the end of July.

During different stages of construction, workers are reducing lanes and making

changes to the intersection for traffic.

Also this week, the Airport Road loop ramp is open to traffic.

This ramp will help traffic flow on Glendale Avenue northbound while construction continues at the Glendale Avenue and York Road intersection.

To stay up to date on construction notices, visit qewglendale-interchange.ca.

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Kiana Woo (Lucy) and Qasim Khan (Aslan) with the cast of *Prince Caspian*. Photo by David Cooper.



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Baby birds nest at Peller



Reporter Julia Sacco captured this shot of baby robins in a nest at the patio at Peller Estates. **CORRECTION:** A caption in last week's issue said mallard ducks incubate eggs for 20 weeks. In fact, it is about 25 to 29 days.

Editorial

Rainbow crosswalk is just a first step

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

We've come so far, but still have so far to go.

There was a time not so long ago – in the lifetimes of many of those in our community – when the colour of one's skin determined where you were welcome in society.

People of colour and other minorities might tell you that while much has changed for the better, there are still many incidents and instances where one is judged based on skin tone, native language, cultural heritage, sexual orientation and other “differences” from what some claim to be “normal.”

In too many corners of society, there is a barely disguised dislike, and often hatred, for those who are “different” – whatever that really means. Acceptance? Tolerance? Not a chance.

It's endemic in parts of the United States, especially in what passes for opportunistic political discourse, but Canada has more than its share of these same attitudes liberally ingrained

across the country. We can smugly think otherwise, but we'd only be lying to ourselves.

The long, fractured debate and controversy in Niagara-on-the-Lake over slapping some expensive rainbow paint on asphalt to signal acceptance and tolerance ended a year ago when council committed to installing a multi-coloured crosswalk and some park benches.

The town chose to celebrate all people of colour and members of the LGBTQ+, Black and Indigenous communities.

That quietly happened Monday night, without notice or note. It was a missed PR opportunity for the Town of NOTL and an oddly understated way to roll out what should have been an occasion for celebration. But it got done.

It took only a few hours for one of the denizens of the social media world to label the crosswalk “sicken-ing” on the town's Facebook page, but nowadays that just seems like par for the course. Sadly, not unexpected.

Whether it's restricting what books are widely available, outright racist, homophobic and other acts, or thundering against the “ideological” tyranny of raising a rainbow flag, one doesn't need to look far to realize we have a long way to go still.

Unfortunately, like so many wars and battles over the centuries, much of this hatred comes from God-fearing Christians who confuse their own beliefs with what most of the free world sees as basic human rights.

Two incidents in recent days give us pause: the Catholic school board in York Region voted on Monday night not to fly the rainbow flag outside its headquarters in Aurora, despite a committee recommending it do so. The board only allows the Canadian flag to be flown on school property, a bit of a backhanded way to ensure exclusion.

And closer to home, Natalia Benoit, a Catholic school trustee representing Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catharines, is among

a small minority pushing to reverse a board policy allowing the rainbow flag to fly at schools.

Her odious and wrong-headed rhetoric in fighting against what she seems to view as a war against an ideological movement is a lousy example for the community and the children she represents.

The Oxford Dictionary defines “tolerance” as “being willing to accept somebody/something, especially opinions or behaviour that you may not agree with, or people who are not like you.”

It defines “acceptance” as “the act of agreeing with something and approving of it,” even when it's “an unpleasant or difficult situation.”

Tolerance and acceptance are just the start. And reluctance is not part of the equation.

It's 2023 and time for these thinly veiled racist, homophobic and exclusionary attitudes to be set aside.

Yes, we've come so far, but we still have many rivers to cross.

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Illustration: Parliament Oak hotel compared to Prince of Wales

Dear editor:

I thought your readers might be interested in seeing an illustration showing the difference in height, massing and streetscape of the proposed Parliament Oak hotel compared with the Prince of Wales.

If the numerous negative comments made about commercial enterprises being located in a residential area (including the delivery, trash and related support services), the 700 food and beverage seats (almost 5.5 times the number of hotel rooms), and the egregious lack of parking isn't sufficient to demonstrate the inappropriateness of this

project, then perhaps this illustration will drive home the point.

This illustration was prepared by Chapman Murray Associates Architects and is to scale.

A project like the one proposed for Parliament Oak is likely to create pressure to extend commercial activity another two blocks along King Street.

That's not what is contemplated in the official plan and is, in fact, contrary to even the broadest interpretation of a compatible use for this site based on that plan.

If council wants to make King Street a commercial

corridor it should be honest about it – not allow it to happen project by project.

To be clear, I am not suggesting the commercialization of King Street (or any other residential street in NOTL) rather, that council should either follow its official plan or commence a broader process to change it.

This should only happen after appropriate public consultation and after giving consideration to the implications for the wider Old Town area.

Good planning does not happen site by site or block by block.

Lyle Hall
NOTL



A realistic rendering of the scale of the proposed Parliament Oak hotel, versus the Prince of Wales hotel on Queen Street. Writer Lyle Hall says the scale is just too big. SUPPLIED

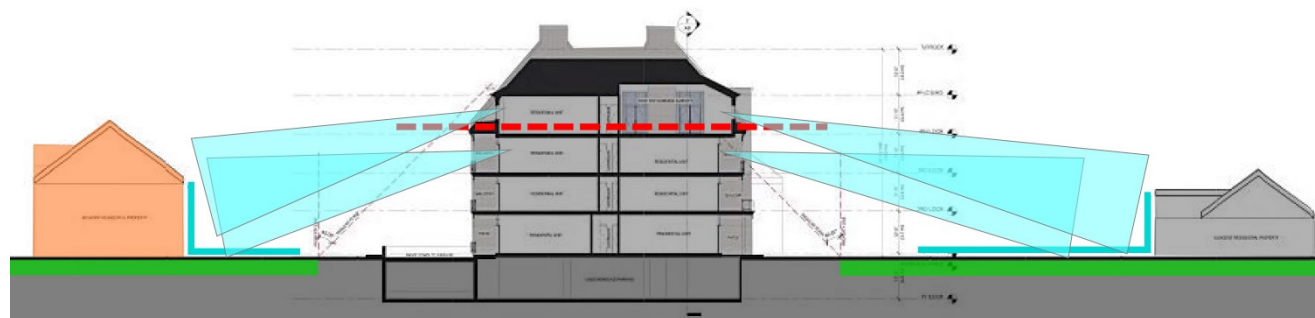
Mary St. condo would invade privacy of neighbouring properties

The following letter to Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and members of council was submitted to The Lake Report for publication.

We are writing to present our concerns regarding the submission to Niagara-on-the-Lake's urban design committee on April 26 for a proposed condominium apartment building at 227 Mary St.

Our concern is specific to the scale and height of the building.

The proposed four-storey building is located mid-block and is sited in the middle of and will overlook the rear yards of 13 existing one- and



An illustration shows the scale and sight lines of the proposed condo, versus neighbouring homes. SUPPLIED

two-storey homes.

These homes have been there for decades and each homeowner has a right to enjoy the privacy, sunlight and noise levels encountered as provided by municipal zoning bylaws.

The proposed development

will destroy almost all visual privacy in their rear yards and through their windows into their homes. Moreover, we can anticipate a significant increase in noise levels.

We have produced a copy of the architect's section through the properties to

which we have added the sight lines from the proposed third and fourth floors clearly showing this direct line of sight invasion of the neighbours' backyards.

The dashed line in the drawing also clearly shows the proposed building's

fourth floor is significantly higher than the current zoning allows.

It should be without question that the 13 neighbours have the right to expect new, adjacent developments to respect the existing zoning and honour their expectation

of continued privacy in their backyards and their homes.

This proposed building would set a dangerous precedent for the town whereby potentially no individual house or households will be safe from similar proposals, all in the name of increased density and developers' profits.

This proposal disrespects the town's existing unique built character and quality of life. There is no question that it would cause the town and its residents immense harm.

David Parker, architect
Gordon Stratford, architect
David Anthony, engineer
John Gartner, retired planner

One developer shows importance of working with community

Dear editor:

Congratulations to Blythwood Homes for its thoughtful rethinking and more sympathetic approach to its proposed lakefront condo project, ("Residents OK with Melville condo plans," The Lake Report, May 25).

Although it may not please everyone, it is a vast improvement and shows that there are actually some reasonable developers in our area who can understand the importance of the look of a project and how it fits into the local, long-established neighbourhood that they are directly affecting.

What a reasonable, civilized and thoughtful way to present a new project.

Blythwood reacted to residents' input in a reasonable way and it is pleasantly really surprising how this is being handled by all involved. Both sides, pro and con, engaged thoughtfully.

And now for something completely different: Two other projects, with little thought for how they look or how they directly affect the immediate neighbours and surrounding area, comprise single- and two-storey homes, some older and historic.

This is quiet, close-knit

housing, with a long-established, pleasant feel to the area.

The developer's hotel proposed for the old Parliament Oak school site is so inappropriate and offensive to that neighbourhood.

Is this how a local developer shows concern and thoughtfulness for our unique town?

Just the act of proposing to build that particular project with that look on that site seems to be almost an act of vandalism to the area.

This type of approach from any developer really seems to show their actual attitude toward the imme-

diately neighbourhood. They just don't care.

As well, the complex proposed on Mary Street, across from Willow Cakes & Pastries, is just more of the same.

If we had more developers opt for the reasonable and thoughtful approach (like Blythwood did with the Melville condos proposal), we would get far more accomplished.

Reasonable input and proposals from both sides really seem to get results. But it also seems to be a process that is not embraced by some of our larger local developers.

Christopher Allen
NOTL



A view of the building's side from the corner of Lockhart and Melville Street. SUPPLIED



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Of lights and rights and other things



Brian Marshall
Columnist

Recently, I found it necessary to acquire a large number of lights – various styles of bulbs and fixtures – for one of my projects.

I had LED units but unfortunately, didn't anticipate the challenge of sourcing units that emit light in what might be described as a "healthy" colour: without any harsh or intrusive glare.

To start, we should probably put some simple technical definitions around electric lights.

First, the total quantity of visible light, or intensity, of any given light bulb, LED or otherwise, is measured in lumens.

For context, a standard 100-watt incandescent bulb, such as most of us grew up with, emits approximately 1,600 lumens. A standard 150-watt incandescent floodlight, like those which used to light our driveways, puts out about 2,650 lumens.

As I'm sure most know, due to the technology inherent in LED light sources, a bulb that produces a 1,600-lumen equivalent of the 100-watt incandescent actually uses approximately 15 watts.

To put this in perspective, an LED floodlight that used

100 watts would produce approximately 18,000 lumens – or just under seven times more intensity of light than the old 150-watt incandescent floodlight.

Bluntly, 18,000 lumens would not only light your driveway but those of all your neighbours as well.

Next is the issue of colour temperature, measured in kelvin (K). Simply put, lower kelvin-scaled bulbs – our incandescent bulb averages around 2,650K – produce a warm orange to yellow-white colour.

A 3,500K bulb loses any yellow hue shifting to neutral white light with a touch of blue such as one would typically experience under a fluorescent fixture.

Turning up a few notches to 5,000K, the light colour becomes a harsh and penetrating blue-white best reserved for task or industrial security lighting.

In my experience, the 2,000K to 3,000K bulb is the most comforting and appropriate in the majority of applications, and the distinct preference for most people.

In my own house, the vast majority of bulbs are 2,650K. The lights in my garage, shop and exterior floods are in the 3,000K to 4,000K range and I only have one portable task light that operates at 5,000K.

It only adds to our confusion that marketing folks have labelled the LED bulbs as "warm white" (2,000K to 3,000K), cool white (3,000K to 4,000K) and "daylight" in the 4,000K to 5,000K range. Apparently, someone forgot to tell them about the filtering effects several miles of atmosphere have on sunlight.



The photo was taken by a friend of columnist Brian Marshall in 2019. He was looking off the back deck of his house in Jacksonville, Florida, after his neighbour installed new permanent LED floods to light up his backyard. Not only did it light up his yard but, as you can see, his neighbour's yard as well. The light penetrated into the rooms of his house. And the kicker was that the neighbour left the lights on all night. Jacksonville at that time did not have a lighting ordinance. SUPPLIED

This brings us to the question of light pollution and the impacts of high-kelvin (blue-white) lighting on human health.

Light pollution is the careless installation of lighting that exceeds the specific requirements of its intended function and trespasses into neighbouring properties or areas, or excessive production of light that interferes with the general enjoyment of outdoor spaces for those living near or around the source of light (think of our earlier example of the 100-watt LED floodlight).

Light pollution can compromise safety (blue-white light actually reduces, particularly for seniors, visual acuity), disturb or confuse wildlife, create disturbances in natural bio-rhythms of day and night

and affect the appearance of a community.

This type of pollution has been divided into three categories: "sky glow," the brightening of the night sky that impedes a view of the stars; "light trespass," when light spills into an area where it is neither wanted nor needed; and, "glare," an adverse visual sensation caused by excessive or uncontrolled brightness.

All three categories have general negative repercussions on the community and the ecosystem.

Speaking of negative impacts, there have been multiple academic studies published that clearly show the detrimental effects of high kelvin (blue-white) light on human health.

Melatonin is a compound that adjusts our biological

clock by regulating the cycle of circadian rhythms and is known for its anti-oxidant and anti-cancerous properties.

One study from a university in Israel has conclusively shown high-kelvin light suppresses melatonin five times more than exposure to the light of low-kelvin (orange-yellow) light.

In an article from Lighting Newswire, professor Mariana Figueiro at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute near Albany, N.Y., states, "Confused or disrupted circadian rhythms lead to poor sleep, which has been linked to a nasty array of diseases, including obesity, diabetes, heart disease and a number of cancers."

Further, she writes, "It's been shown in animal

models that melatonin has a protective effect against growth rates of tumours."

Another series of studies has shown that prolonged exposure to high kelvin light produces toxic stress on the retina causing permanent structural and functional damage and loss of visual performance. They note that deterioration in retinal function is directly related to light intensity.

The American Medical Association's 2016 report, "Human and Environmental Effects of Light Emitting Diode Community Lighting," recommends for the design and engineering of LED lighting.

These included requiring properly shielded outdoor lighting, considering adaptive controls that can dim or extinguish light at night and limiting the correlated colour temperature of outdoor lighting to 3,000K or lower.

Nationally and internationally, many American towns and cities have responded to this issue with a comprehensive lighting bylaw to protect their communities from both lighting pollution and human health concerns.

Perhaps it is time for our council to consider doing the same.

That said, why would you use high-kelvin lighting either in the house or outside the house? And, why light up your neighbourhood with high-intensity exterior lighting? By not doing so, you can save money and be a good neighbour, too.

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



Ironic 'sold out' sign reflects direction Ontario is headed

Dear editor:

Coming into St. David's along on Four Mile Creek Road from Niagara-on-the-Lake, one used to be greeted with a sign announcing that one was "Entering the Greenbelt."

Reference also was made to the World Biosphere Reserve and the Niagara Escarpment.

It did seem ironic as semi-detached and townhomes burgeoned behind the sign, but there it remained.

Until recently.

As the homes neared completion, the sign disappeared. Finally, a new sign appeared: "Sold out."

Many Ontarians feel they

have been "sold out" by the provincial government of Premier Doug Ford.

Indeed, one could argue that many parts of our heritage – our health care, our once-great public education system, the Greenbelt, even Ontario Place – have been sold out.

It is only surprising that a developer, one of the prime beneficiaries of the sell-out led by Mr. Ford, would publicly declare it, on a four-foot by three-foot sign.

One can only wonder how many such homes, built on the Greenbelt, were sold as "affordable" housing.

*Ernest Tucker
NOTL*



Letter writer Ernest Tucker, who took this photo in St. Davids, has some questions. SUPPLIED

Royal Oak School takes education to the **great outdoors**

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Royal Oak Community School is bringing down the walls of its classrooms this week.

For one week, students have left the indoors behind and are participating in educational activities outdoors.

It's part of the school's four-day "Week Without Walls" program, in which students from junior kindergarten to Grade 3 are taking part.

"It's our version of an educational, experiential camp that utilizes some of the best community partners we have to enrich learning outside of the classroom walls," said Julia Murray, Royal Oak's head of school.

This year's week started May 29 and will end June 1. Each activity depends on the theme of the day. Monday was focused on food and community, Tuesday on science, Wednesday on arts and Thursday on animals.

Meanwhile, kids in grades 4 to 8 are at Camp Wahanowin for their own end-of-year celebration.

The school introduced Week Without Walls three years ago, Murray said, to "provide some of the same experiences that sleepaway camp would bring, but for children who are too young to be away from home."

In addition, Royal Oak tries to teach outside the classroom as much as possible throughout the year, said Murray.

"Outdoor education is a really big part of our philosophy," she said.

Some of the outdoor classroom activities relate to what kids have been learning all semester, like the kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 students, who have been learning about animals and habitats.

Other activities students took part in this week include mad science shows, a cooking class, hanging out Reptile Kingdom, trying out pottery, having ice cream at Cows and going to Safari Niagara.

Much like the Week Without Walls, kids at Camp Wahanowin will take the classroom outside and get some hands-on experience



Students from Royal Oak Community School spent the morning at the beach, followed by lunch at the Olde Angel Inn and finished the day off with treats from Cows Creamery. SUPPLIED

related to what they've been studying.

"Classes are doing astronomy, so we do stargazing there," said Murray.

They'll also get to go canoeing, hiking and make campfires.

A bake sale on May 13 raised \$2,000 to help send some Royal Oak students to

Camp Wahanowin

Murray explained that about 40 per cent of students at Royal Oak are on financial assistance, so fundraising opportunities like the bake sale help give these students extra opportunities — like going to camp.

Sending kids to camp

helped the school realize it wanted to offer the same opportunity to its younger students — but from the comfort of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Murray said its Week Without Walls and the camping trip is Royal Oak's way of successfully setting kids up for the summer.

"For July and August, they're not with us. But, they will be potentially heading up to their first summer camp or heading out on the water," she said.

"It's our way of supporting the development of those skills for kids before we kind of lose them for the summer," she added.

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Left: Crossroads students get hyped up for the Rankin Run. Bottom left: Michelle Zocolli gets her shirt signed by a student. Middle: Cooper Dickson, 11, spent most of his afternoon chasing beach balls in the school soccer field. Right: Ten-year-old Addison, left, and friend Brooke, 11, with fresh face paint. EVAN LOREE



Crossroads **joins ranks** in fight against cancer



Top: The Rankin Run is almost entirely organized and led by students in the Crossroads Caring Coyotes Club. Bottom: The boys are back in town at Crossroads. SUPPLIED

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Like many of her teachers and fellow students at Crossroads Public School, 13-year-old Alanna Kroeker knows what it's like to have her family touched by cancer. "My uncle had blood cancer and it was really hard, but thankfully he recovered," she told The Lake Report.

Kroeker was one of many students on the playground last Friday after lunch taking part in the school's 12th annual Rankin Cancer Run. She said it was "really awesome" to be out raising money for cancer research among her fellow Coyotes. Tracey Kent, one of the organizers of the cancer run, estimated the school had raised nearly \$3,000 as of Friday afternoon.

The charity event, run by Niagara-based company Rankin Construction, is entirely volunteer-run.

All the revenue goes into funding cancer care programs at hospitals and other health care centres across the Niagara region.

"What's different about the Rankin run is all the money stays in Niagara," said Kent.

"I've seen the money go into action to help friends and family," she said. "It's a very worthy event."

Kent says the school raised \$15,000 last year.

"And our principal shave her head," she added.

According to Rankin's website, Crossroads Public School was the top fundraising school in Niagara last year.

French teacher and cancer survivor Michele Zocolli says the students of the Crossroads' Caring Coyotes Club took a leadership role in organizing the run.

Zocolli created the club, known fondly as "the 3C club," inspired by her positive experiences as part of different clubs while she was in school.

"I think what the value is that they're taking away is that they see themselves as leaders," Zocolli said.

Members of the club could be seen painting faces, handing out chalk

and running the music booth.

In addition to the day's activities, Rankin Construction supplied every student with a white t-shirt for this year's run, which students marked up with signatures from teachers and friends alike.

By the end of the run, many students were wearing shirts with little space left for new names.

While lots of students spent the afternoon running laps around the playground, just as many could be found visiting the face painting tables.

Other students chose to draw on the tarmac with their friends, and a few more were playing games with a multicoloured playground parachute on the soccer field.

Meanwhile, practicing DJs were taking song requests from their peers and blaring them across the playground from box speakers.

"Seeing what you can do for others is what makes this world better," Zocolli said while her students milled about to raise money for cancer.

Chloe Cooley takes **centre stage** in NOTL Museum's latest exhibit

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Not everyone may be aware a momentous piece of Black history took place here in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

A new museum exhibit being unveiled this June, however, will be dedicated to this history, and the person instrumental in the passing of the British Empire's first anti-slavery legislation.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum will open its exhibit "Bound and Determined: Chloe Cooley, Enslavement, and the Fight for Freedom" on June 2, marking 230 years since the Act Against Slavery was passed.

"A lot of people don't realize that it happened here in Niagara-on-the-Lake," said Sarah Kaufman, Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum curator, referring to the passing of this act.

Kaufman said the exhibit



Shawna Butts, assistant curator and educational programmer at the NOTL Museum, is excited for the new exhibit on Chloe Cooley to open on June 2. The team is currently setting up the exhibit at the museum. SOMER SLOBODIAN

will show the "significance of our Black history here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the significance of Chloe Cooley, and the effects she had even in Niagara-on-the-Lake."

It will also look at enslavement in Upper Canada, who owned enslaved people and the lives of some of the enslaved people who lived in Niagara.

The exhibit will have a

special art piece created by an artist in the region, said Kaufman, being unveiled on July 9, coinciding with the anniversary date of the passing of the Act to Limit Slavery.

In March 1793, multiple witnesses heard Cooley fighting and screaming to get away from her enslaver, Adam Vrooman, who was bringing her across the Niagara River to be sold as a slave in the United States.

One of these witnesses was Peter Martin, a Black loyalist, who reported the incident to Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe and the Executive Council of Upper Canada.

According to a plaque erected by the Ontario Heritage Trust on the Niagara Parkway, this led Simcoe to introduce legislation calling for the abolishment of slavery.

Following opposition from the House of Assembly, a compromise was reached and the act was passed, preventing the further introduction of slaves into Upper Canada and allowing for the gradual abolition of slavery.

However, no enslaved people already residing in the province were freed

outright.

"What (Cooley) might not realize, but we have all realized, is that event, and the witnessing of that event, really led towards the passing of the first anti-slavery legislation," said Kaufman.

In curating the exhibit, Kaufman and assistant curator Shawna Butts collaborated with two experts: Rochelle Bush, a freedom seeker descendant, owner of Tubman Tours Canada and historian of Salem Chapel; and Natasha Henry-Dixon, a lecturer and Ph.D. candidate in the history department at York University.

"Chloe Cooley's sacrifice gave tens of thousands of freedom-seeking people of African descent a right she was denied: to live free," Bush said in a news release.

"She will always be remembered as a fearless enslaved woman who changed the world," she added.

The exhibit runs from June 2 to Nov. 13 at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum at 43 Castlereagh St.

High school students **lend a hand** at Red Roof Retreat

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Students from Westlane Secondary School in Niagara Falls learned the value of volunteering last week at Red Roof Retreat.

Red Roof Retreat is a charitable organization that provides programs and camps to children, teens, and young adults with special needs, as well as their families.

The day started around 10 a.m. for the students, who also got a tour of the Line 6 property in Niagara-on-the-Lake before starting their assigned jobs.

Some kids mucked out animal pens, some gardened, some cleaned and some painted motivational messages onto wood boards.

Clients of Red Roof Retreat also participated in the fun with some painting activities under the tent.

Photos: Grade 11 and 12 students from Westlane Secondary School in Niagara Falls were helping out at Red Roof Retreat on Friday. Bottom left: Chris, a client of Red Roof Retreat, is focused as he paints some crafts. Right: Right: Shari Hartwick, standing, paints signs with positive messages with student Melissa Padilla. SOMER SLOBODIAN



Meloen's walking tour highlights secrets of Chautauqua's past

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

The neighbourhood of Chautauqua began as one of many "adult summer camps" in Niagara, as Rick Meloen describes them.

The Chautauqua movement of outdoor-minded adults began in the United States in the late 19th century, and in 1887, the Canadian Chautauqua observed its first season in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

By 1894, the group was no more – but left behind was an interesting community.

"It was a wonderful place to grow up," said Meloen, who led Friday's tour of the area as the final installment of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's Neighbourhood Walks series.

"For an 11 to 12-year-old boy, it was like being in Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn."

Meloen moved out of Chautauqua in 1979 after he married, but a lot of what he held dear about the community remains to this day.

Some of Meloen's favourite remaining features of the neighbourhood are the original cottages, including the colourful Peake Inn estate on Vincent Avenue.

"I would imagine it's almost fully intact," said Meloen.

"It's a really fine example of the cottages that the Niagara Assembly had hoped to have interspersed throughout."

The tour also made a stop at Ryerson Park, a familiar spot for many people in

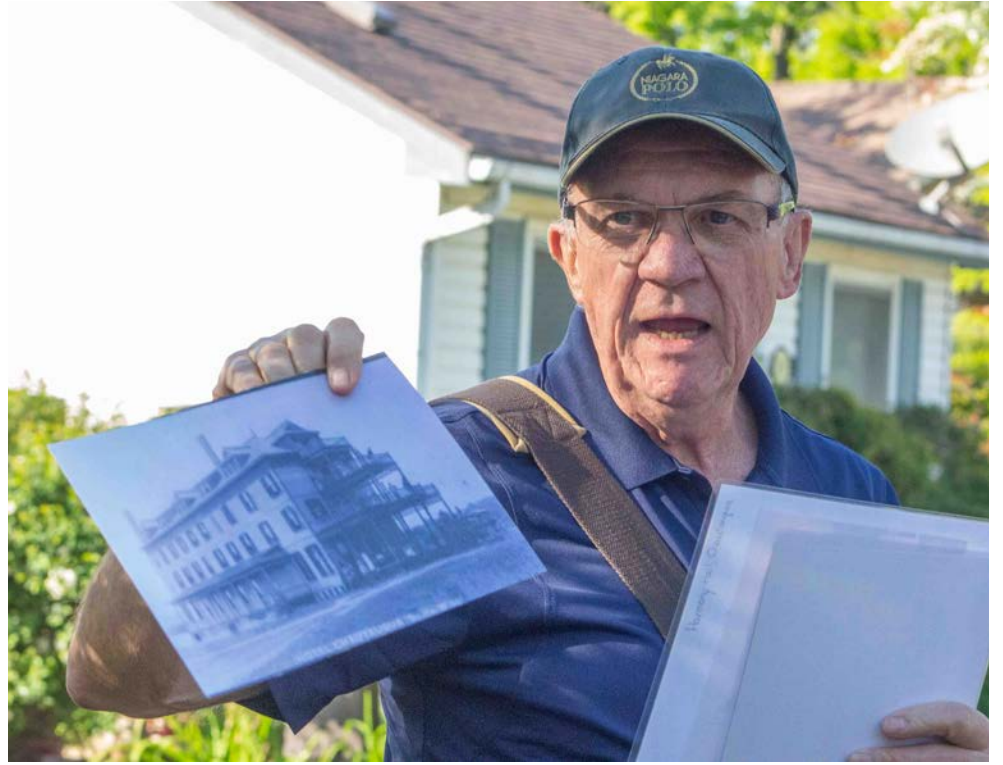
town and an often-forgotten part of the War of 1812's history: the capture of Fort George on May 27, 1813.

"This was a real turning point in the history of the town of course, because when the Americans left, they burned the town," Meloen said.

Meloen explained that those who live in Chautauqua may have some remnants of history in their own backyards.

"If you find a marble in your yard that looks like a musket ball, it probably is a musket ball," he said.

Meloen's guided trek marked the last in the museum's May series, but regular walking tours will begin again in June every Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m.



Rick Meloen grew up in the neighbourhood of Chautauqua. His unique knowledge of the area made for an interesting instalment of the Neighbourhood Walks series. JULIA SACCO

Bringing the Croatian centre into the 21st century at folk arts festival

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

For Josipa Petronic's first time running the region's folk arts celebration as president of Niagara's Croatian National Centre, she took inspiration from other cultures.

"We went to other folk arts events to see what it looked like. What do they outsource? How do they organize their lines?" she said.

The Croatian National Centre, on Line 3 Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake, had its open house on Saturday to close off the Niagara Folk Arts Festival this spring.

Petronic said she took inspiration from how she saw other groups organizing their festivities throughout the season, such as pricing the open house's menu compared to other groups, like



Hrvatsko Selo, a Croatian folklore ensemble from Hamilton, was the first of the acts to entertain the patio at the Croatian National Centre. JULIA SACCO

the Armenians, Slovenians and Germans.

One of the most important things Petronic said she learned was the need for constant entertainment.

They added a soccer game and extra music groups to the mix.

"When the entertainment isn't there, people leave," she said.

Aside from the Folk Arts Festival, Petronic said she is in the process of revitalizing to centre itself, along with the Croatian community. Petronic, originally

from Toronto, moved to St. Catharines during the COVID-19 pandemic and joined the Croatian centre.

"We joined during the pandemic and not much was happening for obvious reasons," said Petronic.

Membership numbers have dwindled over the years, Petronic said, as they do with most community organizations.

"On top of that, most women work now. So, you don't have the 1960s, 1980s or even 1990s women at home that have time to volunteer," she said.

Along with outsourcing help, Petronic said a lot of other steps toward renewal are being made, like upgrading the centre's insurance, financials and accounting – the small things that run the show.

"It's boring, but you can't run a business without it," she said.


She said her goal is to bring back some of the centre's old programs, such as language learning to help bring people together, and future programming for seniors, kids and adults.

"This hall used to do six dinner dances every year, they used to have a language institute, they used to have a dancing institute. The thing is it's now cool to be Croatian," she said."

Petronic ran a test run of the hall's new Visa machines with a senior's lunch a few weeks ago and was met with an unexpected crowd of 45.

"That kind of senior programming is important, especially in this area," she said.


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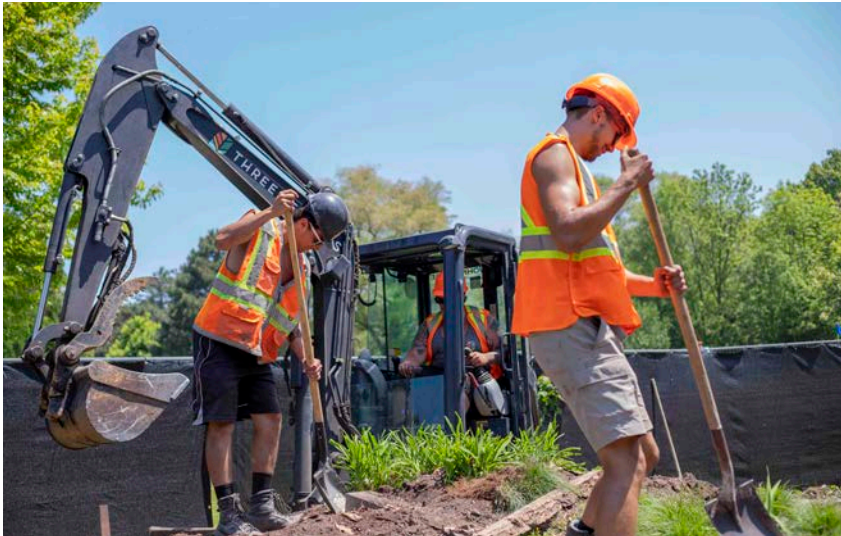
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Construction begins on **new gateway sign**



Crews have begun working on NOTL's new gateway sign. Left: Eric Nanderdam and Ethan May dig up the earth while coworker Jensen Maunder works the excavator. Above: Andre Madarasz in a skid steer after his lunch break.
EVAN LOREE

Rotary Club celebrates a year of success with annual **Paul Harris** awards

Staff
The Lake Report

The Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Paul Harris Awards Gala celebrated another year of outstanding achievements in the community and beyond.

The May 23 gala held at the community centre opened with club president Greg Fedoryn welcoming young performers from the Yellow Door Theatre Project.

Their talented individual and ensemble performances set the tone for the amazing inspirational stories and speeches that followed as the awards were presented.

The Paul Harris Award, named after the founder of Rotary International, is Rotary's highest honour.

Recipients Lauren and Vaughn Goettler were recognized for their generous and diverse philanthropy, Rotarian Cindy Grant for her outstanding leadership and contribution to several



The Rotary Club's Paul Harris award recipients Vaughn and Lauren Goettler, Cindy Grant and Jodey Porter with NOTL club president Greg Fedoryn. ROSE ELLEN CAMPBELL

NOTL community organizations, and Rotarian Jodey Porter for her service to numerous local, national and international organizations.

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbours, friends and leaders who volunteer their skills and resources to solve

issues and address community needs.

Worldwide, Rotarians volunteer about 47 million hours each year and award \$333 million to global service programs.

Locally, the Rotary Club of NOTL had its most successful fundraising year in history thanks to its

members' passion and hard work, Fedoryn said.

The gala "was a great celebration of our success this year and it was wonderful to recognize the outstanding contributions of Lauren and Vaughn, Cindy and Jodey. They inspire us to continue doing good work around the world as people of action."



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

This flat Scottish cap usually has a pompom in the center.

Last issue:

Category: NAMES IN FASHION

Clue: The tennis shirt is now called a polo shirt thanks to this American designer.

Answer: Who is Ralph Lauren?

Answered first by: Jane Morris

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Gary Davis, Claudia Grimwood, Bob Wheatley, Margaret Garaughty, Susan Hamilton, Gail Benjafield, Jim Dandy, Pam Dowling, Hedy Wiebe, Al Brockway, Ted Wiens, Margie Enns, Patricia Fraser, Elaine Landray, KC King

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

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St. Davids Leos lead **dog guide** fundraiser

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

It was the younger members of the St. Davids Lions Club who led the charge in boosting a fundraiser for a worthwhile cause.

Two Leos, youth members of the club, were the lead organizers of Pet Valu's Walk for Dog Guides at St. Davids Lions Park on Sunday, fundraising for the Lions of Canada Foundation of Dog Guides.

Sixteen-year-olds Hardi Patel and Maya Deuck said the online donations they raised totalled close to \$1,500, not counting cash collected onsite.

They're supporting an on-line fundraiser put together by Sam Lickers, who was at the dog walk on Sunday with her three-year-old daughter Rylee Dempsey and their dog, Denver the St. Bernard.

"She did really well in her fundraising," said Lickers, noting Rylee helped raise over \$1,000 online.



Three-year old Rylee Dempsey, mom Sam Lickers and their pup Denver took home a gift basket of tasty treats. Denver celebrated his first birthday the next day. JULIA SACCO

The three were in good company with other walkers and their dogs, who could log their kilometres during the walk.

Patel said he and the Leos started planning the walk a few months ago.

"Previously, this dog walk has been hosted by the Lions: this year, the Leos took it on as their project.

This is our first one ever," said Patel.

The day wouldn't be possible without the hard work and planning of all the Leos, Deuck said.

"We made flyers and we passed them out at our fish fries. We've been working on social media, Facebook and Instagram and we've been advertising some of

the things that the dog guides do," said Deuck.

The Leos were present throughout the walk as well, handing out tickets at checkpoints around the park for entries to win gift baskets.

After the walk, dogs and owners alike could enjoy hot dogs, fries and water cooked up by the Lions.



Votes gathered to **stop** privatized health care

Ray Marshall and Elvira Stegmuller worked the voting booth while fellow volunteer Francis Stocker cast her ballot. JULIA SACCO Below: Peggy Hooke, left, and Pamela Wilson were outside the old Court House on Friday urging people not to support Ontario's Bill 60. SOMER SLOBODIAN




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Supporting Red Roof's **good work**



Red Roof Retreat executive director Steffanie Bjorgan and her husband Moe receive a cheque for \$1,000 from the Agape Fund, courtesy of Niagara-on-the-Lake insurance broker Jim Garrett and B&B operator Johnson Hu. The fund, set up by Garrett and his wife Alice Klamer, supports Red Roof and has surpassed \$10,000 in donations to date. "We encourage people to donate directly to Red Roof Retreat or if they want a longer-lasting effect, then through the Agape Fund supporting Red Roof Retreat, where the organization receives the interest annually from this fund," said Garrett. Either way you will receive a tax receipt for your generosity and the good work of Red Roof will be supported financially, he said. KEVIN MACLEAN

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Backyard beauty on display for Shaw Guild Garden Tour

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Fourteen years ago, 19 Colonel Butler Cres. was a far cry from the Tudor-style getaway that it is today.

After Brian Carberry and his partner Jan Van Haren bought the property in the Garrison village neighbourhood, they began the long process of revitalizing the land to its current glory, which you can view first-hand during the upcoming Shaw Guild Garden Tour.

“When we purchased the house, we removed 36 trees. The backyard was a giant forest, with a dirt bottom and no grass,” said Carberry.

Aside from house expansions and tree-clearing, Carberry and Van Haren have created an oasis in their backyard, with an expansive and varying garden.

Carberry said from April to mid-May, as well as in

the fall months, the gardening work is intense.

“We need to get mulched and get the gardens covered. After that, it’s fairly easy, (tending) about once a week.”

All of his hard work does not go unrewarded, though.

Guests at this property, which operates as a bed and breakfast under the name Ranger’s Retreat, are treated to breakfast each morning, made with fresh ingredients from the garden.

“Rhubarb likes a lot of sun,” said Carberry, gesturing to a pot sitting in direct sunlight.

“I serve it for breakfast. Our guests get roughly 14 different types of fresh fruit.”

Ranger’s Retreat will be featured in the 17th annual Shaw Guild Garden Tour on Saturday, June 24, along with eight other unique gardens around Niagara-on-the-Lake.

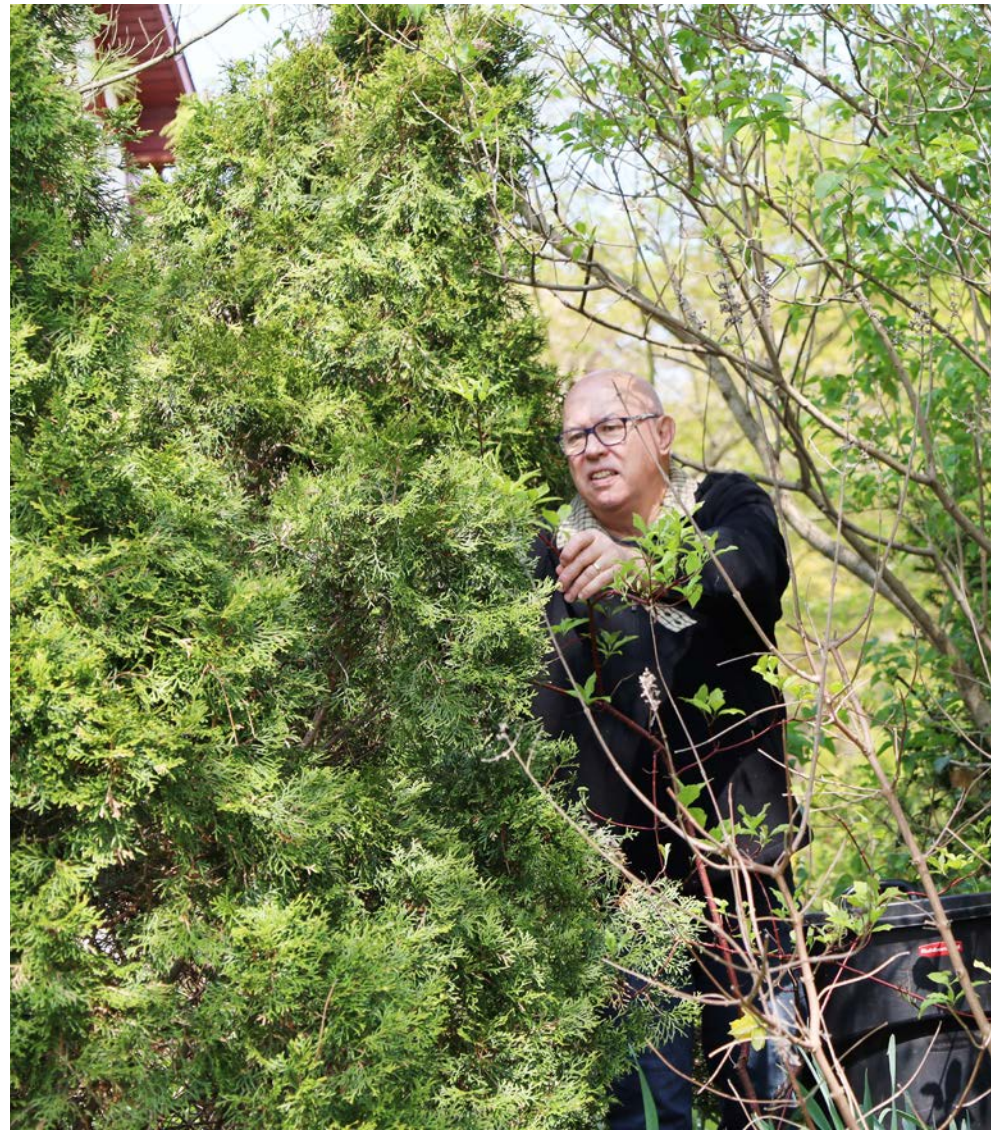
“We’re very proud this year. That is a very diverse group of properties,” said Jo Ann Ely, the Shaw Guild’s marketing convener.

“It ranges from condo-type gardens, all the way up to an estate garden on Queen Street and most of the gardens have unique flowers. You’ll see some modern gardens and you’ll see some traditional gardens.”

Along with the usual festivities, the garden tour will include entertainment on each property, ranging from artists to musicians.

“It’s nice. People can take their time and meander through the garden and head to the next. People come for the day, visit Niagara, make lunch plans, visit a winery. You have the whole day, so it is really nice,” said Ely.

For tickets to the garden tour, visit Shawguild.ca/garden-tour. Or pay \$35 cash on the day of the tour.



Brian Carberry tends to one of the many trees on his Colonel Butler Crescent property, which will be featured in the upcoming Shaw Guild Garden Tour on June 24. JULIA SACCO

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Whistlin' Jim McMacken earns another top finish



Whistlin' Jim McMacken had a great week on the links in NOTL Golf Club men's league play. FILE/KEVIN MACLEAN

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Jim McMacken continued his stellar play this season, carding an even-par 36 to scoop low gross honours in last Thursday's men's league action at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club.

The laid-back whistling left-hander also won a gross skin with a birdie on #2.

Other winners were: Matt Hurlburt (longest drive #1), Tony Sanfelice (closest to the 150 marker #2), Rob Reimer (closest to the pin #4), Lou Puglisi (longest putt #6), Nino Ferrantelli (longest putt #7) and Kurt Hamm (closest to the pin #9). Mike Henry was tops in modified Stableford scoring, with 22 points.

Net skins winners were: Johnson Hu (#5) and Jeff Jacques (#8). Other gross skins winners were: John Sobil (#1) and Mark Derbyshire (#3).

The Friday Couples League kicked off its season Friday afternoon with a scramble and dinner in the clubhouse.

Top shooters were Kim

and Oleh Hrycko, Suzanne and Charlie Rate, with a 2-under 34, followed by Candace MacLean and Mike Bondy, Val and Rob Chubey (also 34, by retrogression). Third were Lynette and Dean Sanders, Patty and Bill Garriock with 35.

Closest to the pin winners: Jeff Brookhouser, Sharron Marlow (#4) while Jack Hanna and Kim Hrycko sank the longest putts on #8.

Bob and Wendy Lowe earned honourable mentions for playing with two injured partners.

This past Tuesday in the 18-hole women's league was day 2 of trophy play for the Roslyn Cup.

Sharron Marlow won with a net 74 score over 18 holes, edging out Brenda Bell in a tie-breaker.

Other winners were: Low gross – Lisa Allen (92), Yolanda Henry (93), Bell (96), May Chang (100) and Judy Mantle (101). Low net – Marlow and Bell (74), Allen (75), Henry (76), Chang and Gayle Tanner (78), Mantle and Susan Gagne (80).

Cathy Murray was closest to the pin #4 and Robin Foster was closest to the 150 marker #2.

Women with the fewest putts were: Allen and Marie Ellison (31), Val Chubey and Tanner (32) and Bell, Garriock and Mantle (33).

There was plenty of drama and excitement Tuesday as the members of the nine-hole women's league held their first match play game in several years.

Fourteen women competed and the winners were: Diana Dimmer, Suzanne Rate, Marlene Sibbald, Deborah Williams, Penny Green, Maureen Taylor and Trish Anthony. They all will go on to compete in next week's match play round.

Top gross scores were: Diana Dimmer (45), Deborah Williams (48) and Suzanne Watson (49). Best net scores were: Victoria Interisano (33), Bonnie Lamourie (35) and Barbara Werner and Williams (37).

Janice McMacken sank the longest putt on #2 and Dimmer was closest to the hole in two shots on #9.

Pickleball tournament starts June 9 at Meridian arena

Continued from Front Page

"I'm fortunate to be playing and winning some tournaments at age 70."

At the 2022 Canadian nationals, he won gold in men's singles 65+ (3.5 level) and a silver medal in mixed doubles 65+ (3.5 level).

"The great thing about pickleball is that you can play recreationally or competitively," Eitze adds.

"It's a very social game. Many people have helped me with my game. I just hope I can do the same for others."

As well as the age spread, the tourney includes players with roots in many corners of the world. Some were born in other countries and some are recent generation Canadians.

Countries such as Italy, Germany, South Africa, China, Singapore, Japan, the USA, Poland, Ukraine, India, Sri Lanka, South Korea, the U.K., Jamaica and Ireland are represented among the competitors.

Christina Chin, from Richmond Hill, is playing in the professional exhibition matches on June 9.

She is a first-generation Canadian, with parents

arriving in Canada in the 1970s – her mother from Hong Kong, her father from Jamaica.

The men's doubles team of Raman Wikramasinghe and Chris Fernando are also both first-generation Canadians and very proud of their Sri Lankan roots.

Also in the men's doubles, Ashwin Mehra and Sohail Tyabji maintain their pickleball is helped by the "tons of cricket" they played growing up in India (as well as some tennis and badminton).

Tyabji arrived in Canada in 2010 and has played in eight Ontario tournaments, earning six medals along the way.

Mehra, who came nine years later in 2019, says, "Pickleball started as a hobby. Now it's a passion."

So much so that he says he'll be introducing the sport to family and friends on his next trip back to India.

Damien Mendez, playing in both the men's doubles and mixed doubles, arrived in Canada from Singapore at the ripe old age of 21 and had a 19-year career teaching with the Toronto District School Board.



Ashwin Mehra and Sohail Tyabji will be playing in men's doubles. Immigrants from India, they compete regularly in pickleball tournaments. SUPPLIED

The team of Jeff Gao and Laurie Capogna are a "mixed origin mixed doubles team."

Gao came directly to Canada from China in 1991 and Capogna's parents emigrated from Italy in the 1950s.

She retains much of her parents' love for the old country, even returning last year to play in the fun Pickleball Roma tournament.

Evidence of an ex-U.K. element is provided by Stephanie Howcroft, whose family left York-

shire, England, and arrived in Canada in 1966 after a storm-challenged Atlantic crossing.

Andrea van Niekerk is in the women's doubles section of the draw with partner Terri Champion.

Van Niekerk came to Canada from the shores of South Africa in 2017 with husband Kevin and two teenage daughters, both now at university in Ontario.

Sometimes the concept of the Canadian mosaic stretches a lot further back.

Jessica and Matt Kawamoto are playing in the professional exhibition matches.

They were both born and raised in Hamilton and describe themselves as fourth-generation Canadians whose great-grandparents came to Canada from Japan in the 1900s.

The age range and the diversity of the sport are important to corporate sponsors.

Shawn Quinn of Quinn Wealth Management and the lead sponsor of the tournament says, "Pickleball looks to have taken this town by storm."

"It's a delight to see retirees playing in the

same tournament as young 25-year-olds. We're pleased to support such a diverse and vibrant sport. It aligns perfectly with our business values."

Jaye Toulouse, RBC's regional vice-president for Niagara adds, "At RBC we believe the best way to support a community is to be part of it. That's why we're proud to support events like these."

"We are pleased to support the NOTL Pickleball Club in their tournament which clearly has a very diverse group of players."

TOURNAMENT DETAILS:
The professional pickleball exhibition matches are Friday, June 9 starting at 7 p.m. at the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil.

Admission is \$10, payable at the entrance or by e-transfer to classic@notlpickleball.ca. Children under 12 are free.

On Saturday night there is a pig roast dinner and dance at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, from 6 to 10 p.m.

A vegetarian food option is available. Tickets, at \$55 per person, can be purchased by e-transfer via classic@notlpickleball.ca.

Rangers men's basketball squad ready to compete in Ontario Cup

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

The Niagara Rangers under-19 men's basketball team has high hopes going into the Ontario Cup championship tournament in Markham this weekend.

Niagara finished the regular season tops among the second tier of teams in the province and is anticipating some stiff competition from teams such as Barrie, East York and Kitchener-Waterloo.

"The Ontario Basketball Association takes who they rank as the top eight teams and run what they call the 'Provincial Championship' with those eight," says Rangers head coach Jonathon Thorpe of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Those provincial finals are being played in Pelham.

"The Ontario Cup is for the teams ranked ninth to however many teams there are. The teams ranked ninth to 16th make up Division 1 of the Ontario



Niagara Rangers U-19 men's basketball coach Jonathon Thorpe, in background, watches as his players warm up during a recent practice. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Cup and so on."

That's where Niagara is competing. There are five more divisions below theirs.

"Of the three teams in our division that we have

played, our record is three wins and one loss, having played Collingwood twice," Thorpe said.

"But there are four other teams that we have never

seen, so you never know what to expect."

The Rangers' Ontario Cup tournament gets under way Friday at 6:30 p.m. at Bill Crothers Sec-

ondary School in Unionville when they take on the Barrie Royals in the first pool A game.

On Saturday, they play the East York Eagles and Kitchener-Waterloo Vipers.

On Sunday, teams from pool A and B will tip off at St. Augustine Catholic Secondary School in Markham with opponents determined based on how teams ranked after their first three games.

The top team in each pool will play for gold and the second-place teams will vie for bronze medals.

The Rangers, a regional team with players from NOTL, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls, has had a stellar run this season.

They played in two tournaments this year and won one of them. In regular season play, they dominated their division in the first half of the season so much that they were moved up one level.

"Then we won that division," Thorpe said.

"We are 16-4 this year and many of those wins were against teams that were initially ranked higher than us."

But the coach says the games are about more than wins and losses.

"Seeing these young men conduct themselves with class, work hard for each other, be willing to play whatever role they are asked for the good of the team, be committed to the team and being a pleasure to coach are all way more rewarding aspects of this season than any win-loss record," Thorpe said.

"And hopefully those are the parts of this season that they will carry with them for a lifetime."

"I always tell my teams that one weekend or one game doesn't make or break a season. So, we are certainly feeling very confident going into this weekend but also not hanging everything on the outcome as to whether this was a successful season or not."

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If you would like to discuss this further, please contact us by email at newarkneighbours1@gmail.com



**We look forward
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With no referees, there can be **no children's games**



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

Loyal readers know I never get mean or sarcastic with my musings. I try to look for something absurd and often poke fun. Usually with a message.

Rambling is sometimes not easy, forcing me to be observant and curious, looking for an angle to put words and thoughts around. This week, I will wander out of the box.

Stephen Leacock was Canada's most famous humour writer. He was based in Mariposa, aka Orillia, and he never ran out of targets. He never tired of poking fun at his neighbours.

Here in our Niagara-on-the-Lake, we only have to look around in any direction

with an open mind, to see how fortunate we are.

Especially as summer arrives, our town welcomes visitors from around the world. They walk our sidewalks, they pause in our parks, feeling safe and secure with their families.

There is a sense of calmness as families stroll and shop, as they marvel at our gardens and enjoy our buildings.

I do not expect them to think about the Canadian sports scene and how it continually changes. So, I will be a tad presumptuous and speak from the heart about the current state of professional and amateur sports.

This week, our national newspapers tipped me over the edge, with coverage of a major problem in kids sports.

Several weeks ago, I lamented the sorry state of NHL hockey. Our players are so talented, so fast, so highly paid. It is almost impossible to follow the games, with slow-motion video replays sometimes required to determine which player actually score.

Some three months ago,



Ross Robinson says it's a sad state of affairs when referees for children's sports have to consider wearing body cameras to prevent verbal and sometimes physical abuse from parents.

I opined that it is wrong, wrong, wrong to have star players and retirees promoting gambling.

This sends the wrong message to children and older fans, and calls into question the integrity of the games. How can the National Hockey League allow this sad state of affairs to dominate their game?

Not to mention the distracting, scrolling televised advertisements on the

rink boards and on the ice surface. We can bet on who will a faceoff, or score the first goal.

OK, I won't let an entire ramble go by without an objective comment about the Toronto Maple Leafs. Their last Stanley Cup win was in 1967, some 56 years ago.

We all know that and we had to endure the past week as team president Brendan Shanahan embarrassed the organization with his weak

explanations about the current state of the Leafs.

His Shanaplan is really pathetic, with no clear path forward. Meanwhile, NHL teams from Florida and Nevada have advanced to the finals, after beating out teams from Texas and North Carolina. Are you joining me in becoming totally disinterested?

But, let's do a deep dive into kids sports here in Niagara and Ontario and Canada. This is really a sad situation and there is a true disaster unfolding.

It has come to the point where Ontario Soccer will be experimenting with cameras strapped to the chests of some referees in an attempt to reduce verbal and physical abuse by spectators (read: parents), coaches and team officials.

Yes, dear readers, this is where we are in kids sports. Trying to change the culture of minor sports itself, so that new referees will sign up to officiate games. Without referees, there can be no games and wouldn't that be sad?

I read that the most official assault cases are in

adult recreational men's leagues. And, parent behaviour in leagues for children under 8 and 12 years old needs to be addressed.

Simply put, the entire culture of minor sports must change.

During my lifetime, sports has been a major factor. It pains me to observe the current situation. Televised games are no more than a way to promote online gambling.

And Sheldon Keefe, the potty-mouthed coach of the Maple Leafs, always seems to be angry as he cusses out the referees several times during each game. It is not hard to read his lips, as he hysterically makes his points.

Please, sports people, wake up to the reality, the sad status of your games.

It can be done. Look no further than the great sport of volleyball.

The referees are respected and have the authority to toss out players and coaches and spectators. Everyone knows this and everyone governs themselves accordingly. It's not that hard. Just do it.



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EXPLORING PHOTOS
WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Memorial Hall, Ontario's first purpose-built museum

In June 1907, our organization, the Niagara Historical Society opened Memorial Hall, Ontario's first purpose-built museum. According to our founder, the preliminary drawings of the building were completed by a "celebrated young sculptor" named Walter S. Allward. He is now known for his iconic and breathtaking monument commemorating the great Canadian victory at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The museum was later altered by architect William Bryson Allen (1838-1911) who designed many buildings in the region. This two-storey building has been relatively unaltered since it was built. The foundation is constructed from coursed rubble, reportedly obtained from the ruins of the Indian Council House and Hospital (originally built on the Commons in 1816-17 and destroyed by fire in 1881). The plinth of the walls and the sills of the openings are made of cut limestone, obtained from the former John Rogers Dry Goods Store on Queen Street, which was demolished circa 1900. Our building really is an artifact in itself.

A special day: On June 4, we celebrate our museum's history with Janet Carnochan Day and offer free admission to all our visitors. So, come by for a visit.

A grand time as Nyanyas humanitarian group hosts first post-COVID fundraiser

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Tuesday night's Nyanyas of Niagara gathering was the charity group's first in-person fundraiser since the pandemic began – and they're declaring it a huge success.

More than 70 tickets were sold at \$30 each for the event at Ironwood Cider House.

This group of Niagara-on-the-Lake women raise money for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.

The campaign focuses on supporting grandmothers in countries across Africa who are raising the millions of children whose parents lost their lives during the HIV and AIDS epidemic.

"It's not just focusing on grandmothers anymore. We're focusing on the children who used to be raised and are now adults themselves," said Sandra Hardy, who started Nyanyas of Niagara in 2007.

The group raised at least \$2,190 by selling 73 tickets total, not including extra

tickets sold last-minute and additional donations made at the fundraiser.

After the group pays Ironwood the venue fee, it will send the rest of the donations to the foundation, which will disperse the money throughout Africa to those who need it most.

Linda Carleton, a member of the Nyanyas steering committee, said the foundation sends the money directly to those in need and it doesn't go through anyone else.

The Nyanyas of Niagara have about 145 members, said Carleton.

NOTL resident Jeannie Manning appreciates what the Nyanyas are doing: she has been to Africa three times and met some of the women raising their grandchildren.

"You're not only just assisting grandmothers who are raising their grandchildren because they lost their children to AIDS. They're now supporting women in general," she said.

The group is seeking volunteers. Email nyanyas2018@gmail.com.



YOKA

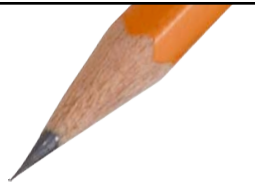
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Across

- 1. Fly traps (7)
- 5. Man's felt hat (7)
- 10. Separate article (4)
- 11. Of the highest calibre (5-5)
- 12. Very large woman (8)
- 13. Sister's daughters (6)
- 15. Lovesick glances (6,4)
- 18. Consumes (4)
- 19. Where Paddington originated (4)
- 21. Brave (10)
- 24. Hedge plant (6)
- 26. Earthy (8)
- 28. Luxury London hotel (10)
- 29. Covetousness (4)
- 30. One who views things as they are (7)
- 31. Silly talk (7)

Down

- 2. Fast-running bird (7)
- 3. The distaff side (5)
- 4. Stereotypical cowboy characteristic (3,4)
- 6. Ancient (5)
- 7. Viewpoint (9)
- 8. Esteem (7)
- 9. Skills (4)
- 14. Gaze (4)
- 16. Deliberately ambiguous (9)
- 17. Berkshire public school (4)
- 20. Body part pierced for rings (7)
- 22. Flight personnel (7)
- 23. Disentangle (7)
- 25. Corners (5)
- 26. Aquae Sulis, in Somerset (4)
- 27. Give up (5)

Crossword Puzzle

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Last issue's answers

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MOVING WATER FORWARD

Notice of Completion Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Queenston-St. Davids Wastewater Servicing Strategy Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

The Study

Niagara Region has completed a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment to explore wastewater servicing alternatives for the Queenston Wastewater Treatment Plant service area and to select and develop a preferred servicing solution. The study examined two servicing options:

- Upgrade the existing Queenston Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Decommission the existing wastewater treatment plant and redirect flows through a new sewage pumping station and forcemain to either of the sewage pumping stations in St. Davids

Study Recommendations

In accordance with Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act, Niagara Region has planned this project under a Schedule "B" of the Municipal Engineers Association Class Environmental Assessment Process. A Public Information Centre was held on Oct. 5, 2022, to share information about the study and encourage interested members of the public, local business communities, and agencies to submit questions or concerns.

The study recommends upgrading the existing plant at the current location following an extensive evaluation process that included public engagement with local residents and businesses, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Region.

This solution requires no capacity increases, no new facilities or new land. The preferred solution will include:

- Rehabilitation of the existing facility to maintain the plant's average rated flow capacity of 0.5 megalitres per day while continuing to meet effluent quality requirements; and
- Upgrades to meet Niagara's State of Good Repair requirements including upgrades to the treatment, electrical, control and site security systems, and repair of the existing access road

For More Information

A Project File Report, documenting the planning process undertaken and key elements of the preferred design, is available for public review on Niagara Region's website:

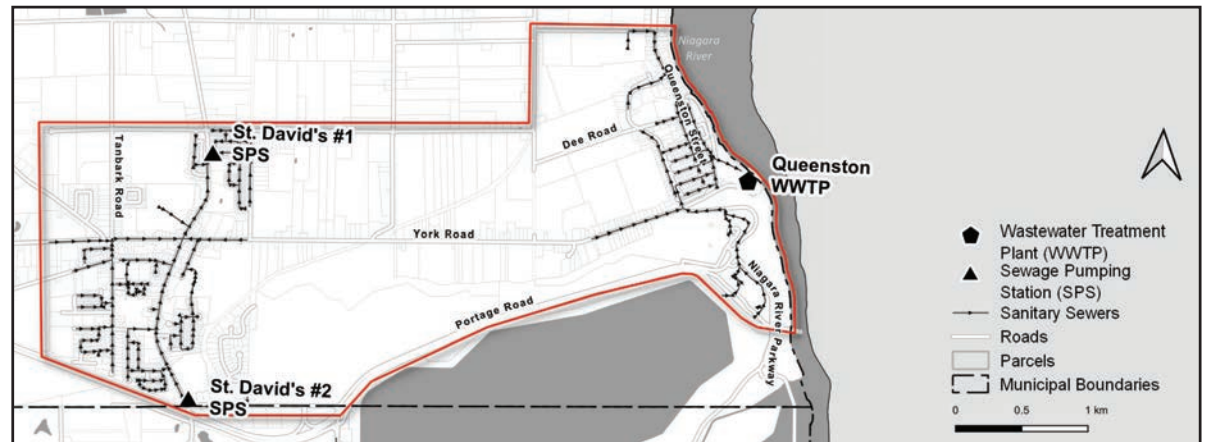
niagararegion.ca/projects/queenston-st-davids.

The Project File Report will be made available for public review for 30 calendar days from June 5 to July 5, 2023 at the following locations during normal business hours:

Clerks Department

Niagara Region

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7
905 980-6000 ext. 3222
Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215
Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



Clerks Department

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

1593 Four Mile Creek Rd., PO Box 100
Virgil, ON L0S 1T0
Tel: 905-468-3266 ext. 0
Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Written comments on this Project File should be submitted to:

Robert Stret, P.Eng., PMP®

Project Manager,
Water and Wastewater Services
3501 Schmon Pkwy., PO Box 1042
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7
905-658-5451
robert.stret@niagararegion.ca

Rafiq Qutub

Project Manager,
GM BluePlan Engineering Limited
1266 South Service Rd., Unit C31
Stoney Creek, ON L8E 5R9
647-248-7813
rafiq.qutub@gmblueplan.ca

In addition, a request may be made to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for an order requiring a higher level of study (i.e., requiring an individual/comprehensive Environmental Assessment approval before being able to proceed), or that conditions be imposed (e.g., require further studies), only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. Requests on other grounds will not be considered. Requests should include the requester contact information and full name for the Ministry.

Requests should specify what kind of order is being requested (e.g., additional conditions or a request for an individual/comprehensive environmental assessment), how an order may prevent, mitigate or remedy those potential adverse impacts, and any information in support of the statements in the request. This will ensure that the Ministry is able to efficiently begin reviewing the request.

Requests should be sent by email or in writing to:

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Ministry of Environment,
Conservation and Parks
777 Bay St., 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Director, Environmental Assessment Branch

Ministry of Environment,
Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Ave. W, 1st Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5
EABDirector@ontario.ca

Personal information collected or submitted in writing at public meetings will be collected, used and disclosed by members of Regional Council and Regional staff in accordance with the **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**. The written submissions including names, contact information and reports of the public meeting will be made available. Questions should be referred to the **Privacy Office** at 905-980-6000, ext. 3779 or FOI@niagararegion.ca.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Please contact the **Accessibility Advisory Coordinator** at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

This notice was first issued on May 31, 2023.

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Adding foliage can add contrast with colour and kick your planters up a notch. JOANNE YOUNG

Why you should **include foliage** in planter of annuals



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Columnist

Over the last week or two, you have probably been busy putting together your containers with annuals.

Do you find that you keep doing the same thing year after year? Hopefully, you have moved past the four geraniums with the dracaena spike in the center and a few trailing plants to finish it off.

There is such a plethora of plants to choose from and the combinations are endless. I think that is sometimes the problem: too many choices. So, we just stick to what worked the year before.

So, how do you kick your planters up a notch? What makes for a winning combination?

The winner is the Leafs! Oh, my mistake: not the Leafs, but the leaves.

I get so excited about looking at the foliage of plants. Just putting that down on paper tells me I probably need to get out more often, but for me, the foliage is just as important as the flowers.

We don't often think about how significant the leaves are. We tend to only think about the flowers and we rely on them to provide all the interest throughout the summer.

Don't get me wrong, the flowers are an important part as well, but during the summer months, the flowers tend to dwindle. If you pay attention to the leaves, it will add a whole new dimension to your planters.

It doesn't matter what style you would like to achieve: you can never go wrong with a variety of leaf colours and textures to make an attractive collection of plants.

I find that as soon as you add any lime foliage into the mix of plants, it has a way of making all the other colours stand out stronger.

The purples are richer, the pinks are brighter and the oranges are bolder. It is the quickest way to bring life into your planters.

Some lime-coloured plants for a full sun or part shade location would be golden creeping Jenny, gold potato vine, lime licorice plant, and Angelina sedum. For a part shade-to-shade location, consider coleus, gold hosta or all gold hakone grass.

It may be that a darker burgundy leaf will be what sets your planter off. Burgundy foliage will always work best when you have a lighter, contrasting colour to bring it out such as yellow, white or silver.

If your planter is all dark colours (flowers and foliage), the burgundy leaves can get lost. Each container needs to have one main plant of interest that captures your attention.

There are some great specimen plants with red or burgundy leaves such as elephant ears, canna lilies, purple fountain grass and cordylines. There are also some trailing and filler-type annuals with showy burgundy leaves

such as purple potato vine, silver inch plants (also sometimes known as wandering Jew), coleus and Persian shield.

There are some plants with variegated foliage, meaning at least two different colours on the same leaf.

These help by adding contrast so all the leaves do not become just a hodgepodge of green but stand out against one another.

Some examples of annuals with variegated leaves are vinca vine, lamiastrum, variegated nasturtiums, and variegated potato vine.

Not only do some plants add needed colour, but it is also important to consider foliage plants that offer different textures, from the very fine texture of the asparagus fern to the very coarse texture of elephant ears.

Incorporating a few plants with different leaf textures and colours will help to elevate your planters to a new level.

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

Obituary

Brenda Lynn Garrett



Passed away peacefully with her family at her side on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at the age of 64. Cherished and dearly loved mother of Brent Asselin and Craig Asselin (Christa). She will be dearly missed by her niece Jillian, nephew Evan (Shauny), sister-in-law Carole, and her beloved four-legged companions Mac and Orange Guy. Predeceased by her parents William

and Jennie (nee Rosloski) Garrett, as well as her brother Wayne Garrett. Brenda wanted the best life for her family, so she returned to school to earn her CMA designation. She then turned her talents toward civil service, working for Community Living Welland/Pelham and the Regional Municipality of Niagara. Her efforts as the Treasurer of the Town of Niagara-on-the-lake earned the town its first Canadian Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting, an accomplishment of which she was most proud. During this time she continued her education, receiving a Bachelor of Business Administration from Brock University, followed by a Master of Public Administration from the University of Western Ontario at the age of 58. In the end, she retired to focus her efforts on her vineyard in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Accomplished both professionally and personally, she will be remembered most for her wonderful laugh, her commitment to family, and for being outstanding in her field. The family wishes to extend a special thank you to Nick, Bob and Claire, Juravinski Cancer Centre, Hamilton General Hospital Neurosurgery department, Bonnie and the rest of the nursing staff. Cremation has taken place, with the Rite of Committal to take place at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to the Patterson Funeral Home, 6062 Main St. Niagara Falls. Online condolences at pattersonfuneralhome.com



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Marvin Wayne Edwards

(Also known as “Marvellous Marv,” “The Little General,” “Stinky”)

August 15, 1934 - May 21, 2023

It is with deep sorrow but profound gratitude for a long life well lived, that we announce the passing of our amazing father, Marv Edwards. Marv passed away peacefully in his 89th year in his latest home, which he loved, Garden City Manor in St. Catharines. Marv is predeceased by his true love and number one fan, Catherine on September 4, 2021. He will be lovingly remembered by his five children, Mark Edwards (Wendy), Pam Edwards (Bruce), Kevin Edwards (Lorraine), Paula Wilson (Rob), and Pandora Marsh (Brad). Marv was idolized by his 5 grandchildren Spencer Edwards (Alyssa), Tamara Edwards, Connor Marsh, Logan Marsh, and Cooper Marsh. He will also be remembered by his big brother Terry Edwards (Marguerite) of Western Hill, St. Catharines and his little brother Mickey Edwards (Nit) of Melbourne Florida. Marv was also predeceased by his oldest brother Al Jr (Pudge) (Joanne) of St. Catharines. He will also be missed by his brother-in-law Greg Duggan (Darlene) of St. Catharines and his sister-in-law Theresa Crosgrey (Chris) of Bracebridge and many nieces and nephews.

Marv was always very proud to say he was born and raised in Western Hill, St. Catharines where he played all sports growing up, but loved boxing, lacrosse, baseball, and especially hockey. Marv started out as a forward in hockey, but at the age of 10 put on his absent brother Terry's goalie pads one practice and he ended up the starting goalie as Terry had found that hockey practices got in the way of him working on cars. Marv excelled at goaltending from day one (even though he always said his brother Terry was the better goalie of the two) and could be seen lugging his heavy goalie equipment on the 3 mile long trek from the “Hill” across the Burgoyne Bridge to Garden City Arena in the frigid mornings before school. When he was not at the rink he was helping out a local dairy and was known to have broken more than a few bottles of milk while racing the bread delivery man down St. Paul Street in their horse drawn delivery wagons in the wee hours of the morning!

Marv was a devoted rink rat and could be found refereeing minor hockey games when he was not playing. One day, the then 14 year old Marv spotted a 13 year old girl in the crowd and asked around who she was. One of the players named Greg said “That’s my sister Catherine!” They were introduced after the game. Little did Catherine know that this would be the start of following Marv around from arena to arena for the next 60 plus years. Marv often practised with the St. Catharines TeePees as a 13 and 14 year old and



eventually made the team as a 15 year old right out of midget hockey. He was also invited to the Maple Leafs camp at 15 but would modestly say that the Leafs just needed a target to shoot at while the regular goalie rested! Marv ended up playing 5 years for the TeePees (1951-'55) winning 2 back to back Memorial Cups, the first one with the Barrie Flyers (with Don Cherry and Ralph Willis) in 1953 when he was picked up by the Flyers for the playoffs. As with most things in Marv's hockey career, the path to his first Memorial Cup was unique. As the Flyers prepared to enter the Memorial Cup series, the OHL had a rule that a team could pick up an extra goalie as a backup in case of injury. Most coaches at the time just chose the goalie with the best stats, but not coach Hap Emms. He asked the team to choose which goalie they thought would be the best for them. Players like Jimmy Roberts, Skip Teal, and Ralph Willis all voted for Marv. He played the series, and won his first cup with them. His second came with his hometown team the TeePees captained by Brian Cullen in 1954.

After Marv's Jr career ended, he and Catherine tied the knot in St. Catharines on June 18, 1955 and they honeymooned in the Poconos, where he learned to water ski barefoot. He would continue his trick skiing as well as fishing from his little run-about on the Niagara River for many summers where they eventually set up residence in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Marv's hockey travels would take him to teams in every league in North America with stops in Buffalo, Windsor, North Bay, Calgary and Chatham where he was spotted by Canadian hockey officials and invited to join the Kelowna Packers

for their European goodwill tour through Sweden, Russia and England where family relatives came out to greet him along the stops. He was so successful that the next year he was pulled off his then Milwaukee team and taken to Czechoslovakia with the Belleville McFarlands Canadian entry in the World Hockey Championships. Marv played two games, received two shutouts in both and came home triumphant with the Gold Medal for the 1959 Worlds.

With the increased recognition of being a World Champion, Marv was asked to play for the 1960 Canadian Olympic team but was unable to get a release from his current team and sadly had to decline. His Gold Medal opened many new hockey doors and Marv went on to play in Denver, New Haven, the notorious Johnstown Jets (think of the movie Slapshot!) and eventually Nashville where Marv enjoyed a 5 year career. Marv was always the first out of the dressing room after his games in Nashville as he would race just down the street to be let in the back door of the Grand Ole Opry where he would stand just off stage and watch the biggest names in Country perform night after night. This is where Marv learned to play the “Rhythm Bones” which he loved to play and dance at many parties for the next 60 years. Marv loved Nashville and thought it might be a great place to settle and have Catherine permanently move down with their four children. Reluctantly Marv left the EHL and moved on to Amarillo and then Portland the top minor pro team Portland Buckaroos in the WHL which was another big step up the ladder in pro hockey. After a very successful playoff run in Portland, Marv was named

the WHL's outstanding goalie of the year and noticed by their parent club the NHL's Pittsburgh Penguins. At this time Marv and Catherine purchased a small tender-fruit farm in Niagara-on-the-Lake with a few chickens, Ernie the cow, Petunia the pig, Chalkie and Prince his horse and pony, and a notorious rooster that kept them all on their toes. This would become the Buckaroo Farm where they lived for 10 wonderful and crazy years. Marv always had summer jobs between hockey seasons, including driving fuel trucks, cement trucks, instructing at Vic Teal's summer hockey school in St. Catharines and Allan Stanley's BeeHive Hockey Camp in Fenelon Falls. He especially enjoyed his many summers working for the Stewart Family at Avondale Dairy Farm in Niagara, where he said he had a different task every day that kept it fun. Somehow, he still managed to find the time to work on his prized farm The Buckaroo.

After 5 years of Junior hockey, and 15 years of riding the buses (sometimes even driving them) in the minors with at least 22 different teams Marv was called up to the Pittsburgh Penguins for his first NHL game. At 34 years of age, Marv was the NHL's oldest rookie ever at that time. Marv lost 3-0, made 35 saves, allowed one goal by a player named Gordie Howe, was named the 3rd star and then handed a plane ticket back to the minors. The next year (1969) Marv was picked up by the Toronto Maple Leafs where he played one season. This made commuting back home to the Buckaroo Farm in Niagara much easier to help Catherine and the kids with the chores, but it was not meant to be. Marv was let go by the Leafs after one



season and he found himself in Phoenix Arizona playing for the Roadrunners. Once again Marv thought he found the perfect spot to live and possibly put down roots. He sent for Catherine and the kids and for two years was very successful introducing hockey to a town in the desert that he learned to love. Unfortunately, again, it was not to be. Marv was too successful and was picked up by the NHL's California Golden Seals where he again moved with family in tow and played two more years until retiring. Marv then spent his next two years coaching the Seals farm team the Salt Lake Golden Eagles until his retirement in 1977.

After retirement Marv eventually sold the farm and he, Catherine, and Panda travelled all over Ontario looking for their next adventure. They found it outside of Havelock when they purchased the Sawmill Bay Campground which they ran for several years. Running a campground was a busy seasonal job, so Marv filled his off season with running coaching clinics for Fundamentals in Action. This organization had him travelling all over Canada to spread his knowledge and love of the game to so many people in so many communities. At the same time, he was also playing for the NHL Oldtimers where they played charity games from Goose Bay Newfoundland and Labrador to northern British Columbia and everywhere in between. After selling the campground, Marv moved his family to Norwood. At this time Marv began another totally different career where his popularity and personality made him a very successful car salesman. While in his 60's Marv could often be seen rollerblading down the street to the car lot

and was even known to have sold a vehicle or two while still wearing his blades. While in Norwood Marv was involved in coaching minor hockey which led him to the Peterborough Petes of the OHL where he was their goalie coach for 4 years.

After the arrival of grandchildren back in the Niagara Region, Marv and Catherine moved to Fort Erie to be closer to them and just coincidentally the Fort Erie Racetrack. Marv loved all animals, especially horses and was even known to wager a dollar or two at the track and was soon working at the track with different trainers all while helping as goalie coach with his old friend Don Cherry and his new team the Mississauga IceDogs. Marv also worked at several golf clubs in the Fort Erie area until finally retiring in his 80's. For many years Marv and Catherine enjoyed their summers in Fort Erie near their family, and their winters in Florida near his brother Mickey. They eventually sold their homes on Lake Erie and in Florida and moved to Creekside Estates in St. Davids, coming full circle back to Niagara. They loved their time at Creekside where Marv could be seen daily walking his sweet little dog Benji and talking hockey to all his neighbours.





Moving 32 times during their marriage, Marv moved one final time to Garden City Manor in St. Catharines after the passing of his beloved Catherine. Marv loved his new home and the wonderful caring staff. We cannot thank them enough for their kindness and compassion. A special thank you to two of Marv's favourites, Nancy and Adrian. Marv always said hockey was easy. It was life away from the rink that could be tough, but he was blessed to have great support from Catherine and his children as he chased his lifetime dream of playing in the NHL. When a sportswriter once asked what he thought was his greatest accomplishment, he simply replied “my family”.

Dad, you have packed your bags for your last road trip. We are so very proud of you and the man you were. We will miss you and everything about you. You were always larger than life to us. Rest in Peace. Cremation has taken place and arrangements are entrusted to Essentials cremation and Burial Services. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, July 15th, 2023 from 1-4pm at the Creekside Senior Estates, 23 Four Mile Creek Road, St. Davids. Donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Society.

Online condolences may be shared on Marv's tribute page found at EssentialsNiagara.com.

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