



Tim Jennings.

Non-profits want old hospital to be **community hub**

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

After the town decided in September to do nothing with the old Niagara-on-the-

Lake hospital, a non-profit group has offered to assume the operating costs of the building so community groups can continue using it as a communal space.

Members of the Niagara

Creative Cultural Community Hub, a collaborative group of non-profit organizations, pitched council on Feb. 28 about the benefits of using the space as a shared facility for commu-

nity groups.

They also asked the town to renew the leases of the existing renters in the building.

Council made no decision on the proposal but di-

rected town staff to prepare a report on the operating costs of the old building.

However, councillors did agree to explore a short-

Continued on Page 2

Celebrating the **women of NOTL**

More than 100 women fill Queen Street for mass photo to mark International Women's Day



More than 100 women filled Queen Street on Monday to mark International Women's Day. See our 12-page special section inside today's paper. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Queen Street was closed Monday morning all in the name of celebrating the women of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Lake Report invited women from all walks of life and from all corners of town to a photoshoot in front of the clock tower cenotaph in recognition of International Women's Day, which was Wednes-

day, March 8 this year.

The gathering included a mass photo of more than 100 women who flocked to the historic town's Main Street out on a cloudy, windless morning.

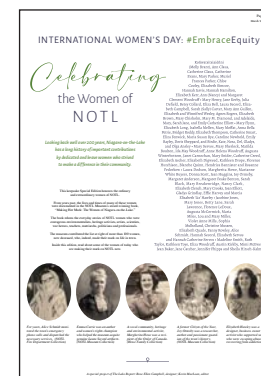
As well, separate group pictures were taken of the women in the groups with which they are associated, including the agriculture, farming and wine industries, the arts, business, church, community organizations, sports, the town's leadership

and the women of The Lake Report.

Pulled together quickly over the past two weeks, the consensus among the women was that the celebration was a big success – and many participants said they hope it can become a yearly happening.

Doing it annually wasn't the plan initially, said Lake Report managing editor Kevin MacLean. The mass photo

Continued on Page 11



A 12-page special section, starting on Page 13, is The Lake Report's salute to the women of NOTL.



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Town hires clerk, creates strategy position

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The town is getting a new municipal clerk.

The municipality established a new position – a strategy and government relations officer – to help implement the town’s strategic plan and improve communication between the town and other levels of government.

Victoria Steele, the town’s acting clerk since Ralph Walton quit last July after just six months on the job, will step into the new role March 13.

Donna Delvecchio, the deputy clerk in St. Catharines, will be taking over as town clerk and manager of legislative services.

“With 20 years of experience working in municipal government, I am confident that she (Delvecchio) will excel within this position in Niagara-on-the-Lake,” chief administrator Marnie Cluckie said announcing the appointment.



Victoria Steele, left, will be the town’s strategy and government relations officer and Donna Delvecchio has been hired as NOTL’s municipal clerk. EVAN LOREE/SUPPLIED



Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa was also enthused about the decision to hire Delvecchio. “The role of a town clerk is crucial in maintaining a successful council,” he said. “Donna’s knowledge and skills will make her a great addition to the team,” Zalepa said in a news release.

The clerk serves an essential role by helping to run and organize meetings, track minutes, record deci-

sions and take notes for the direction of staff.

Cluckie added that the clerk also helps to process freedom of information requests and write bylaws. These responsibilities tend to be less visible to the public, she said.

In her new position, Steele “will help the council develop the strategic plan, and then implement and track our progress throughout the term,” Cluckie told The

Lake Report.

“We’ve made a lot of strides in terms of advocating to other levels of government,” she added.

After going through a lengthy recruitment process, Steele emerged as the clear front runner for the position.

“Victoria has proven her ability to take on new roles and increased responsibilities within municipal government,” Zalepa said.

NOTL man charged in major art fraud case

Fake Norval Morrisseau works seized

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

A Niagara-on-the-Lake man was among eight people arrested after police seized more than 1,000 allegedly fraudulent artworks purported to have been painted by Norval Morrisseau.

Morrisseau was a prolific Indigenous artist from the Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nation, Ontario Provincial Police investigators noted.

Before his death in 2007, allegations began to emerge of people creating and selling art under his name and made in his distinctive Woodland School of Art style, police said.

Since 2020, the OPP and Thunder Bay police have been investigating the alleged production, distribution and sale of fake artwork falsely attributed to

Morrisseau, police said.

The eight people arrested are facing a total of 40 charges.

Some of the paintings involved in the investigation were sold for tens of thousands of dollars to unsuspecting members of the public who had no reason to believe they weren’t genuine, police said.

“Norval Morrisseau was a prominent artist of the Thunder Bay region and to profit off of his name is not only unethical, but also illegal,” Thunder Bay police chief Dan Taddeo said in a news release.

Jeffrey Gordon Cowan, 47, of NOTL, faces charges of defrauding the public over \$5,000, uttering forged document and four counts of fraud over \$5,000, police said.

The other accused in the case are from Thunder Bay and Essa Township.

Non-profits propose community hub for old hospital

Continued from Front Page

term lease renewal with the current tenants – but the group has a much bigger long-term vision for the facility.

Its plan also includes a multi-million dollar renovation of the building.

Members of the non-profit group include Plenty Canada, the Shaw Festival, the Yellow Door Theatre Project and Royal Oak Community School, to name a few.

“The Niagara hub is not asking for funding for this particular venture,” Julia Murray, Royal Oak’s head of school, told council.

She said they have already secured \$2 million for the project from a donor and they have the means to fundraise more.

Royal Oak is among those now renting space in the building.

“The hub would like to assume all operating and financial responsibilities for the building while the town continues to own the land



A group of Niagara-on-the-Lake non-profit organizations says it has a donor ready to put \$2 million toward a plan to turn the old hospital into a community hub. FILE PHOTO

and the asset for future use,” she added.

Robin Ridesic, owner of the Exchange Brewery, spoke about the usefulness of the hospital as a community space.

“It is the last zoned community facility property that could be renovated to

meet the needs of current small to midsize community non-profits,” she said.

Community use properties are those zoned to enrich the community.

They can be used as public parks, schools, health care services and recreational facilities, among other

things.

“Properties that are zoned community use are not just about their physical spaces, but they are gathering and social spaces,” Ridesic said.

“We’ve actually lost five facility community properties in Old Town alone,”

she added.

These include the Rand Estate, the old community centre on Platoff Street, Parliament Oak school, St. Vincent de Paul, and the lawn bowling greens formerly on Johnson Street, she said.

Tim Jennings, executive director of the Shaw Festival, also spoke in favour of the proposal.

“We’re very excited about the idea of seeing a space like this developed here in town,” he said.

Jennings said there is a real need for a space like this because NOTL has the highest number of non-profit workers of any town of similar size in Canada.

Karyll Justo, an early childhood educator at Royal Oak, told council she wants to open a nursery school in the old hospital.

She said there is a definite need for one in town, as the waiting list for the expanded Niagara Nursery School has 223 names on it.

Tim Johnson, a senior adviser to the Indigenous

advocacy organization Plenty Canada, said the hub would help smaller non-profits collaborate and work together.

He added it would help charities to “create new artistic works” and “educational programs” if they had a place to work together and “cross-fertilize.”

The group also hopes to retrofit the hospital into a net zero building as part of its renovation.

“It sounds terrific. We need it to be successful,” Coun. Gary Burroughs said

When Burroughs asked if they had a budget for the project, Ridesic gave no specific numbers, but cited maintenance issues and “extensive work that needs to be done, to make it a reality.”

“This is a multi-million dollar project,” she said.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor suggested the town prioritize a long-term vision for the hospital as part of its strategic plan, but her suggestion was defeated on a 5-4 vote.



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Hoverlink's Chris Morgan says the service will launch in 2024 from Port Weller to Ontario Place. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Queen's death, fish nesting area helped delay hovercraft project

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The reconstruction of Ontario Place, the death of the Queen and a walleye nesting site are among the roadblocks that have slowed plans for a cross-lake hovercraft service that was due to launch this summer.

Instead, it will wait a year, while Hoverlink Ont. Inc. works out all the kinks, says CEO Chris Morgan.

Last week, Morgan's company announced the delay, citing unspecified delays with "governing bodies" on both sides of Lake Ontario.

On the Toronto side, the hovercraft service is supposed to dock at Ontario Place, just east of Trillium Park.

However, with the rebuilding of Ontario Place to create the entertainment and wellness facility, Therme Canada, Morgan said he is worried about his customers' safety.

"I have a safety issue concern with letting people off in a construction zone that's that hectic," the Niagara-on-the-Lake resident said in an interview Monday.

Though the reconstruction work will be on the west

side of Ontario Place, the east entrance for Trillium Park will be used for a lot of the bulldozers and dump trucks, which would affect Hoverlink, he said.

There's also a royal hiccup, he said.

After the Queen died last year, federal contracts legally needed to be changed to say "his majesty," which can't happen until the coronation of King Charles in May, Morgan said.

"All federal contracts used to have 'her majesty' and they have to change it to his majesty," he said.

So, getting that done in addition to everything else was a big headache.

And in Port Weller, there is a walleye nesting site near where the landing structure for the hovercraft will sit and that had some people concerned, Morgan said.

The worry was that the walleye nesting site could be damaged by the structure, not by the hovercraft.

The issue has been addressed and the company is awaiting for its mitigation measures to be reviewed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

The company addressed the problem by moving the landing structure and by

limiting how much of it will be in the water, Morgan said.

As well, he said, more than 90 per cent of Hoverlink's pre-construction work on both sides of the lake has been completed, including soil, environmental, bat, bird and species-at-risk studies.

Back in Toronto, a problem most affecting the project launch is installation of sewage, water, electrical and gas services for the reconstruction of Ontario Place, and that work will be happening close to Hoverlink's docking area at Trillium Park, he said.

Since passengers need to pass through Trillium Park to board the hovercraft, he's concerned, Morgan said.

"It's not safe until you've put those lines of servicing in (like), the electrical, the plumbing and sewage," he said.

"I'm not having anybody in any of that, mixing with that because I'm not comfortable," he added.

Once the servicing is done, it needs approvals from multiple governing bodies before Morgan's company can do any work — like build a bridge that would allow people to by-

pass Trillium Park and cross over the water.

There are many moving parts in the process, he said.

He also needs to wait until he has access to start construction on the Toronto side, which he hopes happens soon, but that all depends on when the servicing is finished.

He'll need to receive the go-ahead from Ontario Place to start his construction.

"I'd rather go slow and get it done right because I don't get a chance to change it afterwards," he said.

Along with an electric shuttle bus service he'll be offering customers, he hopes to have a paid valet service at both ports, too. Some proceeds from the valet will go back into the community.

Morgan doesn't see the year-long delay as a failure — failure would be if he "said we're not running the service."

"I just had more people at church (Sunday) hug me going, 'Don't you worry. Don't you give up,'" said Morgan.

"I said, 'I'm not giving up, I've gone too far. I can't turn around now guys. I have to keep moving,'" he added.

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Left: A cap badge of the 2nd Battalion (Eastern Ontario Regiment), perpetuated by the Governor General's Foot Guards. Right: A plaque known as a "dead man's penny" had the soldier's name engraved in the box above the lion's head.

THE MONUMENTS MEN

Sgt. John Kelson: Remembered on three monuments

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

Retired British Army officer Thomas Mortimer Kelson of Folkington, Sussex, and his wife Harriet Anne Thrupp had a daughter and four sons.

Captain Kelson was a veteran of the Crimean War, commissioned in 1855. He retired from the army as a captain in 1864.

Thomas and Harriet married in 1865 and had their first son, Francis, in April 1868.

Their second oldest son, Hugh Kelson, was the first of their children to emigrate to Canada, leaving England in 1899 and ending up as a fruit grower near Grimsby. He

was joined in Grimsby by the third brother, Charles Kelson in 1901.

The following year, the youngest son, John Mortimer Kelson, sailed on the S.S. Tunisian, arriving in Canada on June 6, 1902. He joined brother Hugh in Grimsby.

John married Margaret Isobel Dufrey of Winona on Dec. 22, 1903. Their first child, Margaret Grace Kelson, was born in Hamilton on June 7, 1907.

After 1911, the family bought a fruit orchard and moved to Niagara Township, where their son, Arthur Myles Kelson, was born on Dec. 22, 1914.

The next year, the couple moved back to the Grimsby area and listed their property in Niagara for sale.

For whatever reason, John decided to join the army a year after the birth of Myles. On Dec. 15, 1915, he travelled to Welland to enlist in the 98th Overseas Battalion. He was 39 years old at the time, twice the age of many other volunteers.

Kelson was promoted to lance corporal on May 23, 1916, and to sergeant on July 1, before his unit sailed from Halifax. He disembarked in Liverpool on July 26, 1916.

On Oct. 6, 1916, Sergeant Kelson was transferred to the 12th Battalion. At that

time the 2nd Battalion, which had suffered heavy losses fighting in France and Belgium, sought reinforcements from the 12th Battalion to join them in Europe.

They had no vacancies for sergeants at the time. So Kelson, eager to get into the fight, voluntarily reverted to the rank of private and was subsequently transferred to the 2nd Battalion on Oct. 13.

By Oct. 31, Private Kelson was "in the field" with his new battalion. On joining the 2nd, he found the battalion heavily involved in the bloody Battle of the Somme, which would last until Nov. 18.

The soldiers of the 2nd Battalion won honours for their participation in the Battle of Ancre Heights, part of the Somme offensive.

On Dec. 11, 1916, Kelson was promoted to corporal.

He and his comrades frequently served in the front-line trenches and continued to suffer casualties. The enemy artillery fire never stopped.

Kelson got some respite away from the battlefield when he was hospitalized with mumps from Feb. 6 to March 1, 1917, spending this period recovering in the #7 General Hospital in St. Omer.

He was soon back in the thick of things and was

promoted to sergeant on April 20, 1917.

The 2nd Battalion was heavily involved in the major Allied offensive known as the Battle of Arras, which began with the Battle of Vimy Ridge, April 9 to 12, 1917, and lasted until May 16, 1917. It was during this campaign when the 2nd Battalion attacked the enemy entrenchments west of Arleux-en-Grohelle.

Sgt. John Kelson was killed in action on May 3. His burial place was never confirmed and his name is engraved on the Vimy Memorial.

Now living in Winona, his widow Margaret received a memorial scroll in 1920, commemorating his sacrifice, and a bronze memorial plaque, colloquially known to soldiers as "the dead man's penny," in 1922.

Margaret died in Winona in 1938.

Their son Myles married Mary Rumball of Virgil and was living in Niagara, managing a branch office of a fruit company at the time of the inauguration of Queenston cenotaph.

Myles never really knew his father but ensured that Sgt. John Kelson was remembered on the monument in Queenston. Besides Queenston and the Vimy monument, his name is also engraved on the war memorial in Grimsby.

Red Roof Retreat serves up pasta dinner fundraiser April 30

Katie Ryan
Special to The Lake Report

Red Roof Retreat is bringing back its annual Pasta with a Purpose dinner after three years of pandemic-related cancellations.

Steffanie Bjorgan, executive director and founder of Red Roof Retreat, said she's excited that the popular dinner is back.

"It's so rejuvenating," she said.

"We've gotten through the last few years and we can start up (again) these events that are so important to sustaining our program," said Bjorgan, adding that the community is always quick to snap up tickets.

In past years, "It was hilarious because we didn't think to pre-sell tickets and we were overflowing in the building that we hosted it in," she said.

This year's dinner will be at John Michael's Banquet and Event Centre in Niagara Falls on April 30.

Tickets can be bought through the Red Roof Retreat website at redroofretreat.com.

Adult tickets are \$35.

Children ages of five to 12 are \$15 each and those under five dine for free.

Ken Hendriks has been supporting Red Roof Retreat since 2000 and the pasta dinner fundraiser was his idea.

It first started 21 years ago and was initially just a celebration of friends, family and people who had special needs family members who relied on Red Roof Retreat.

"We've gone from raising \$1,500 that first year (2002) to about \$90,000 the last year we did our event, which was in 2019," said Hendriks.

Bjorgan said Red Roof hopes to raise more than \$90,000 this year.

"The more we raise, the less it costs families," she said, adding the money goes to general operations and is then put into supporting the agency's programs.

Hendriks said the dinner is a time where everyone can get together and celebrate while learning about Red Roof's future plans.

Anyone wanting to donate items for the evening's auction can email claire@redroofretreat.com for more information.

Other donation opportunities are posted on Red Roof's website under the Get Involved tab.



Red Roof Retreat's Pasta with a Purpose fundraising dinner is returning at the end of April for the first time since 2019. Organizers hope to raise more than \$90,000. SUPPLIED



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St. Davids fields **small army** to fight Tawny Ridge development proposal

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Residents of St. Davids are alarmed that continued development of residences on Tanbark and Warner roads could overwhelm the infrastructure of their village.

And they showed up in force on Tuesday night, packing a town planning meeting to voice their opposition to a developer's plans to prepare the land for a four-storey apartment building as part of a new project called Tawny Ridge Estates.

"We're not supportive of the Block 27 plan. Period," St. Davids resident Terry Hickingbottom told councillors.

The development will take place in two distinct phases and will contain three types of residences, according to Craig Rohe, a planner from Upper Canada Consultants, representing Tawny Ridge.

These include 32 single-family homes, 24 townhouses and one four-storey apartment that is 13.5 metres (about 44 feet) tall and contains 30 units.

The apartment, referred to in Rohe's presentation as Block 27, recieved the most pushback Tuesday night.

The developer is asking the town for zoning amendments to permit the proposed structures.

Rohe argued that the increased density of the proposal would promote "a mixed and range of housing opportunities."

"As our communities are growing, we need to find ways to use land more efficiently and find opportunities for more affordable housing, more attainable housing," he added.

It will also provide options for residents who wish to "age in place," according to a justification report submitted with the application.

Hickingbottom said if he was going to age in place, "I want to live with my own driveway, my own garage, on a main floor, not with elevators and asphalt all around me."



Gienek Ksiazkiewicz calls attention to a petition from his neighbourhood which shows that 100 per cent of the residents are against the development. EVAN LOREE

The proposed development would diversify the housing stock in St. Davids but, according to the justification report, "proposed dwellings are intended to be sold at market value and will likely not meet the definition of affordable housing."

There might be "opportunities for attainable housing," it adds.

"The requested high-density development will not meet the region's strategy of housing for various income groups," resident Gienek Ksiazkiewicz told the meeting.

Ksiazkiewicz pointed out that the existing condominiums behind the Avondale store in St. Davids are selling for more than \$1.7 million.

"The developer purchased this property with the intent of making money. And the purpose of his zoning amendment request is to make more money," he said.

He argued the developer would still make a "healthy profit" if council denied the request to rezone the properties.

Another resident, Bruno Laliberte, said developers are not being honest when they appeal to the province's affordable housing goals, enshrined in Bill 23.

"We believe that developers right now are using this as an excuse or justification to bully their way into small villages, communities and neighbourhoods, which they completely destroy," he said.

Coun. Adriana Vizzari, who lives in St. Davids,

said, "My main concerns would be if St. Davids currently has the infrastructure to support this much development."

Her sentiments were shared by several residents who pointed to existing infrastructure problems with flooding, traffic, water pressure and recreational services.

"There's no soccer pitches, no baseball fields, no basketball courts, no community centre. There are bare essentials in St. Davids," Ksiazkiewicz added.

No additional parks are proposed as part of the Tawny Ridge Estates development plan.

Bill Krahn, another resident, shared a video he took of heavy rainfall in St. Davids.

"I've been here 10 years. I've witnessed the storms. I've seen the water come down Tanbark Road," Krahn said.

His video showed severe flooding along Tanbark Road during a rainstorm. It elicited several laughs from the packed viewing gallery and a "Wow" from Coun. Gary Burroughs.

Donna Hatton shared Krahn's concerns over the drainage issues in St. Davids.

Hatton pointed out Tanbark Road was below the escarpment and below the Queen Elizabeth Way.

"We feel the effects of all that surface water coming down," she said.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor pointed out the town is experiencing increased

rainfall due to climate change and needs to start planning much further into the future when designing storm sewers.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa agreed that there were infrastructure needs in St. Davids that needed to be addressed.

"There has to be a look at what we can do to get the water off the road and into the storm sewer system," he said.

He added he was looking forward to hearing staff report on that issue.

"Stormwater management issues are not unique to that location," Zalepa said.

That's because the standards they were built to did not account for impacts from climate change, he explained in an interview after council.

He added that the region is guiding the town when it comes to the infrastructure "standards they should be looking at for the future."

The residents were not moved by the fact the developer produced traffic studies at every stage of the application.

Rohe told council there will be "no impact on the existing transportation network."

The planning justification report acknowledges there is no public transportation option servicing St. Davids.

It defends the location of the proposed apartment on the grounds that it is within walking distance of commercial services in the St. Davids village.

"The reality is we live in a society where generally two working people support a household," said Mike Pearsall, speaking to council on behalf of the St. Davids Ratepayers Association.

With no "reliable regular transit options," people in St. Davids "don't have a choice," except to have two cars, he said.

Councillors and residents spent almost three hours discussing the property and the viewing gallery was nearly empty when discussions finally wrapped up at around 9:30 p.m.



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Canada

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COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 21

Region active cases: 402

Region deaths: 718

Region total cases: 51,770

**March 8 data per Niagara Region Public Health.*

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

POSITIVE
POWER

Contributed by Patty Garriock

"There's more to all of us than we realize. Life is so much bigger, grander, higher, and wider than we allow ourselves to think. We're capable of so much more than we allow ourselves to believe." - Queen Latifah

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Fishing on the river



Fishing boats on the Niagara River on a cool March day. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Editorial

The remarkable women of NOTL

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

It was all over in just 15 minutes.

But we hope the result will be remembered for a long time to come.

More than 100 Niagara-on-the-Lake women (105 to be exact) ventured out on a pleasant March morning this week to celebrate women everywhere, but especially those in NOTL.

As we all know, without the daily efforts of hundreds of women – in the arts, as volunteers, in the business sector, numerous NOTL organizations, the agriculture and wine industries, sport and town governance, among others – our town would be a much-diminished place.

And that is why we decided to close down Queen Street and gather together as many NOTL women as we could on short notice (this all came together in less than two weeks) and document them in photos



Lake Report staff set up in the middle of Queen Street as NOTL women congregate. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

and video in recognition of International Women's Day, which was yesterday, March 8.

Herding and cajoling and getting the women into place for an artfully composed outdoor photo – and then taking dozens of frames so we'd have just the right shot – was all ac-

complished in 15 minutes thanks to the co-operation and self-organizing skills of these remarkable women.

The fact that so many of them took the time to come out, to commune with one another, to publicly express their pride in being women – and in making a differ-

ence in this community – proves to us that it was truly a worthwhile effort.

The 105 who turned out, and many others who had prior commitments, really wanted to do this, be part of this great group.

And now, having done it, numerous participants told us that once is not enough. They are keen to celebrate women in conjunction with International Women's Day annually and they want us to make this a tradition.

That was never our intention, initially – but the women have spoken. Who are we to argue?

So, yes, let's do this again next year. With more women, perhaps in a different location in NOTL (one can't always count on the weather co-operating in March, though it certainly did on Monday). Stay tuned.

Let's see if we can get 150, 200, even 500 NOTL women to come out in 2024 and proudly stand up for women everywhere.

editor@niagaranow.com

We welcome your letters

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

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Bill 23 doesn't curtail town's say on development

Lyle Hall
Special to The Lake Report

Much has been written about the negative effects of Bill 23 on local planning authority and, ultimately, on the ability to approve and/or modify development projects.

While Bill 23 will create several challenges, it does not change the authority of NOTL council to approve or reject development applications including associated official plan and zoning amendments.

The in-depth article by Evan Loree in the Feb. 23 edition of The Lake Report ("How new Ontario law curtails town's power over development"), primarily in relation to the Mary Street condominium project but with broader application, contains a number of statements that require clarification or correction. I'd like to address three of these.

The story said:

• Pierre Filion, a retired professor of urban planning at the University of Waterloo, says, "The power to approve development proposals now ultimately rests with the Ontario Land Tribunal."

This power is not new. The land tribunal and its predecessor, the Ontario Municipal Board, have had the ultimate power to adjudicate development proposals for more than 70 years.

Bill 23 does not provide any new powers to the tribunal except the ability to dismiss an appeal for reason of delay and/or to award costs (a change seen as a method to eliminate frivolous appeals).

• "Under (Bill 23) control over features related to character, scale, appearance and design have been axed ..."



Councils don't need to roll over and accept all development proposals, like the condos proposed for Mary Street, due to Bill 23, says Niagara Foundation president Lyle Hall.

Not true. Site plan control still applies for residential buildings with more than 25 units. The Mary Street project has 41 units so the character, scale, appearance and design considerations, as set out in the official plan, still apply.

• "Bill 23 allows up to three residential units as of right to be built on most land zoned for one home ... without needing a municipal bylaw amendment."

This is correct, however, the article did not state that the additional units may be contained within the existing (or modified) residential structure — such as a basement suite—and/or in a garden home. Any new or modified structure must also comply with municipal height limits.

The article addresses four other areas that require comment. The first is affordability and the need to provide a range of housing. While the Mary Street project might offer housing

alternatives, they are hardly affordable.

A four-storey, concrete building with a rooftop pool and a full level of subterranean parking is likely to cost more than \$35 million to build, (about \$850,000+ per unit) before land, financing and marketing costs.

As developer Rainer Hummel is quoted as saying: You would "need to be insane to think (you) could make a dime building affordable housing in NOTL." It's not clear if he meant in Old Town or across NOTL, but the point is clear.

Secondly, and staying with Mr. Hummel, the assertion is made that a four- or even six-storey building is "almost impossible to stop."

Nothing in provincial legislation generally, or Bill 23 specifically, grants permission for any height of a building, anywhere in the province. Approval of development, including height, remains the respon-

sibility of our municipal council.

Thirdly, cost of litigation was raised as a justification to avoid appearances in front of the Ontario Land Tribunal.

Yes, tribunal appearances can be costly but there are things worth fighting for, including the integrity and character of NOTL's heritage areas.

As a result, let's choose our battles wisely and for the right reasons. Most of all, let's make sure our combatants are well-prepared and well-armed.

Finally, The Lake Report article quotes Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa as saying it's important for citizens to "understand the planning process."

We couldn't agree more and we hope these clarifications assist NOTLers in separating fact from opinion when it comes to Bill 23 and the current development environment.

Lyle Hall is president of the Niagara Foundation.

Yes, let's reject applications that don't follow bylaws

Dear editor:

I agree with Bob Bader in his March 2 letter in The Lake Report, "What is the purpose of municipal zoning bylaws?"

My mind generally goes to simplicity and it does not figure on all the complex issues involved in bylaws.

However, when an application is submitted and

it does not comply with a major bylaw, then the application should and must get denied until it complies with the bylaws. Period.

Otherwise what good are bylaws if they can be broken (especially if the applicant has the money and clout to submit it in the first place).

As ordinary citizens of Niagara-on-the-Lake, we do

not get away with breaking bylaws.

I only trust that this new council will start at the bottom and conduct business totally within the bylaws and all other financial and town matters. No cheating and doing favours for those you know and like, or those who can further your careers.

Let's try and make these tribunal hearings a thing of the past.

Can we strive to be known as the most honest and bylaw-abiding council in Niagara-on-the-Lake? Everything would then become much simpler.

*Susan Pohorly
NOTL*

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Affordable housing **can fit** in a community like NOTL



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall
Columnist

There is something fundamentally askew when only those of means can live in a town.

For example, a place where there are no starter homes for the younger generation (who may have grown up there) nor any affordable accommodation (rental or otherwise) for those of more modest incomes.

A viable community must contain a cross-section of demographics – the young, the old and those in-between. It must make provision for those of all income levels to live in and contribute to the economy and society of a viable town.

The alternative is a somewhat geriatric, self-absorbed, inward-looking collection of houses with a figurative wall around them, a town that is destined to become nothing more than a country club whose walls echo with



Columnist Brian Marshall argues that New Traditional-style buildings, like these, can offer affordable accommodation.

stories of the past because there is nothing of the future.

That is what Niagara-on-the-Lake is well down the path to becoming. The youth is largely gone, and you can see that demonstrated by the plethora of “help wanted” signs in virtually every part of the business sector proclaiming our chronic labour shortage.

I was hit over the head by this during a recent conversation with two young professionals when I happened to ask if they lived in town.

They looked at one another, then they looked at me with expressions of incredulity, and one replied, “Seriously? Even if something might be available in this town, there is no way we would be able to afford it.”

They continued, “We work here, but don’t live here and, as soon as we find

another job closer to home, we’ll be working there.”

Personally, with respect to our topic this week, I find the proposals for new hotels in NOTL sadly amusing. Where are they proposing to find all those new employees? Bus them in from wherever they can afford to live?

If we can agree on the importance of building affordable housing in order to ensure the continued viability of this town, then the question becomes what to build and where to put it.

As regular readers of this column know, I am all about contextual design – that is, architecture which merges seamlessly into existing streetscapes. Further, I believe multi-use buildings are a superior form that contributes to neighbourhood, livability, walkability and lifestyle.

I am also a proponent of low-rise, three-storey buildings within the existing height bylaw provisions.

For illustration purposes, the rough drawing accompanying this column is a concept elevation of just such a potential development. Inspired by NOTL’s Queen streetscape, the design follows the parameters of the New Traditional school of architecture – a fresh take on traditional architectural styles.

This concept provides for three distinct setbacks along the facade, incorporates five commercial/retail units on the front at street level, while the rear ground level, second and third floors are devoted to studio condos or rentals with an entry lobby (with stairs/elevator) just left of centre on the facade.

Of course, the concept could be modified to

contain, for instance, only two commercial or retail units, substituting ground level residential units in their place. The cladding on the building blocks (shown as traditional Niagara brick and limestone) could be changed out for another traditional type. And so on.

Moreover, because it is contextually appropriate to Old Town, it could be built in any location where traditional architecture prevails on a property with sufficient frontage.

Now, to those who would argue its financial feasibility, allow me to point out that studio condo buildings have and are being built in this province.

I’d direct your attention to the Elevate Living company website (<https://elevateliving.ca/essentialist/>) for an example of entry-level

condos starting at \$250K.

While the architectural design of this example may differ from the illustration shown here, the concept and financial picture is completely viable.

It is moot whether this New Traditional concept design is in your wheelhouse or not. What’s vital is to initiate the process of creating contextually appropriate affordable housing in this town sooner rather than later.

Because later may just be too late.

It is no more expensive to build good architecture than bad architecture, but the former adds to the community while the latter scars it for decades.

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

Nurses, **not private health care**, are part of the solution

Dear editor:

I am writing to respond to letters in The Lake Report on Jan. 25 (“Just ‘ask why,’ when debating property rights in NOTL”) and Feb. 8 (“Individual rights vs. government coercion”) from Alexander Evans.

I am unfamiliar with Mr. Evans, or any previous writings on health care or other topics he may have submitted.

I am also not familiar in any way, with his personal or professional background.

I am, however, certain that his knowledge of nursing and health care in general is woefully inadequate at best.

The initial opinion he shared that privatization would lead to improved patient wait times and patient services is ludicrous.

While it may improve those things for a small proportion of society who can afford it, privatized health care will only deepen the



Writer Lorrie Daniels says NOTL needs more nurses. FILE

divide between the haves and the have nots.

Privatization will line the pockets of business owners but it will not, in any way, benefit the majority of Ontarians.

Despite Premier Doug Ford’s suggestions that everyone will have equal access to health care, at no additional cost, how can that be, when it is not true now?

Access to health care for most Ontarians would only

be worsened by privatization, impacting a greater majority of the population.

Further, Mr. Evans has not contemplated who would staff these entrepreneurial private clinics and services.

Staff would be diverted from our publicly funded system, taken from the current stretched and depleted health care system – hospitals, home care and long-term care settings – where serious underfunding over

the past several decades has left them with a shortage of necessary resources and inadequate supports.

Nurses are leaving the profession, retiring early, or for some, needing medical leaves for stress, burnout, and PTSD due to their lived experiences.

Scarier yet, these clinics might have unregulated staff, who through no fault of their own, will receive minimal training to perform a task.

They would not receive the in-depth education, knowledge and skills nurses receive over four years of post-secondary education that prepares them to anticipate and intervene, in the best interest of their patients.

Mr. Evans’ follow up opinion on Feb. 8, opens with a backhanded compliment to nurses. It seems he has not accessed or been involved in Ontario’s

health care system in the past decade, let alone since the onset of the COVID pandemic.

More than 50 years ago, Tommy Douglas, the father of modern medicare, set about establishing a program with a fee per capita system to cover healthcare costs for all.

That meant the marginalized, disadvantaged and others, including low-income, the poor and homeless and also those who can afford to pay more.

The people who will struggle with a privatized health care system will be those who lack benefits, extra income, rely on public transit and lack effective support systems.

Privatization will discriminate and harm the most vulnerable citizens of our society and harm the most in need in our communities. And all because of government and administrative

mismanagement of funding.

Let’s look at the facts, the real problems in our system and not further harm those already disadvantaged in our crumbling health care system (such as children, the elderly and the poor).

Let’s hold government and health care administrators accountable, and let’s provide the level of care we all want and deserve: access to care 24/7, to be cared for by a knowledgeable, expert and skilled clinician – nurses who are there 24/7, 365 days a year.

They resuscitate you, or hold your hand as you leave this world and they welcome, safely, your new baby, along with everything in between.

As a registered nurse for more than 40 years, I urge people to fight for an effective and safe publicly funded health system.

*Lorrie Daniels
Virgil*



Tourism committee needs more resident members

Dear editor:

I would like to commend Coun. Sandra O'Connor for standing up for residents at the town council meeting on Feb. 21.

At this meeting, council settled on the composition of the tourism strategy committee. It will be a nine-person committee, with only two people representing residents.

Councillor O'Connor pointed out this imbalance and moved a motion to add a third resident. To my surprise, the motion was defeated.

Rebecca Godfrey, the town's tourism consultant, recommended that "people who work in tourism should

make up 50 to 60 per cent of the committee."

So residents should make up at least 40 per cent of the committee. Instead, they make up two out of nine, 22 per cent.

So not only did the other councillors fail to support Councillor O'Connor, they even ignored the recommendation of their own consultant.

Tourism massively impacts the quality of life of the residents of our town.

Councillor O'Connor was right that residents are under-represented on this critical committee.

Council should rethink this decision.

Ted Rumble
NOTL

Let's share NOTL with others who want to be here

Dear editor:

I have read many posts on social media and letters to the editor in the media and I am quite surprised at the number of people who are against the proposed development at both the Parliament Oak and Mary Street properties.

Niagara-on-the-Lake has become a home for groups like SORE and POST, who feel it is their right to dictate development.

How come people are against sharing our beautiful town with others who want to visit and those who would love to call NOTL their home?

People have moved here from many places and would not have been able to without the development that has occurred.

Somehow, though, a few of those new residents (as well as longtime residents) are against making it possible for others to visit or live here like they do.

From what I read, it appears as though people would reject absolutely anything Benny Marotta proposes and that is sad.

Life is short. Let's enjoy our community and share it with others.

Blair Cowan
Virgil

Return Harvest Barn to the way it was, please

Dear editor:

I see from a real estate advertisement in The Lake Report that the former Harvest Barn property is up for lease.

Regular long-term customers, like myself, determined early that the renaming of this market with its boutique layout and pricing to match, was a flawed and destined-to-fail business model.

Regulars, including my family, departed along with the lunchtime construction contractor crowd. The

latter folks are now seen at McDonald's.

The former Harvest Barn was a regular local and visitor go-to shopping destination. Tripadvisor reviews were five stars.

Accordingly I propose, and I would bet returning this business to its former self would immediately recapture the lost customer revenues and gain the immediate approval of our community.

Samuel Young
NOTL

Queen Street queries and weather observations



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

Monday morning at 9:50, I arrived at the Court House to lead my daily "Free Walking Tour of our Town," for the 74th straight day.

Imagine how my heart soared, as there were over 100 women standing around the clock tower cenotaph.

I was quickly advised they were waiting to be part of the group picture, organized by The Lake Report to celebrate International Women's Day. Darn!

Sometimes all the stars align and this was one of those days. Confident and beautiful women of all ages, gathered on Queen Street to feel good about themselves.

Try as I might to join in with my red and white vinyl banner reading, "Free Walking Tour Niagara-on-Lake," it soon became clear that I shouldn't even try to wedge my way into the big group picture.

Even videographer Rene Bertschi wouldn't allow me to attach my advertising to the back of his drone, which would have provided visibility and good advertising. I made myself scarce and delighted in the scene.

It takes a good man to know when to back off and town activist Barbara



Denesh at the new NOTL Dairy Queen proudly shows a gravity-defying chocolate-dipped vanilla icecream cone.

Ahluwalia agreed with my decision. So did Andrea Kaiser and several others.

After the event, I spent some time wandering on Queen Street. We are so fortunate, aren't we?

I thought back to the opening day of our new Dairy Queen a few weeks ago. The former Taylor's is now thoroughly modern and staffed by professional and enthusiastic young people.

And they have decided to keep the traditional name instead of giving a regal nod to our new head of state. Yes, even Charles would have found Dairy King to be a bit of a mouthful.

Its opening day back in February had been cold and snowy. Many of the stores on Queen Street had bailed and decided to hang the dreaded "Closed" signs in their door windows.

I wanted to show support for a new business and braved the blizzard. How I love DQ soft ice cream.

Devesh was anxious to show off his ability to defy Newton's law of gravity, by turning a large vanilla cone upside down and dipping it into a bucket of chocolate sauce. Why does

the ice cream not fall into the sauce with a loud plop, creating quite a mess?

He deftly showed off his skill and made my day. Then, perhaps due to subliminal forces, and the bright and well-located "Buy One Blizzard Get One Blizzard" poster, I manned up and ordered a Blizzard for my tennis pal Ken, another DQ aficionado.

Pretty cool, the idea of buying a Blizzard during a blizzard. Weird.

Perhaps they should consider offering a reduced-price Blizzard whenever we are hit with a blizzard? I'll see you there, neighbours.

A bit farther down Queen, I was enjoying the variety of building design offerings on both sides of the street. Some good attempts to fit in with the character of our town. Some not so good.

I remember, only 30 or 40 years ago, when there were three of four gas/service stations on this one street. Not that long ago, eh? Change, change, change ... "We try to keep up."

Then, whack, I came upon our Canada Post

building. Where were our design gatekeepers when this important civic structure was being designed? Are you kidding me?

Could it be any more out of synch with the environs? How did it get past the C.A.V.E. people? Heritage character? Lot coverage? What am I missing?

The Canada Post employees are champions, but the building? And let's try to get rid of the Bell Canada building just down the street at the corner of Queen and Gate? Could it be any less attractive and less historical?

But I digress.

Let me ramble to the weather prognosticators. Is it just me, or are other NOTLers fatigued by the repetitive warnings of snow "events."

I understand our fear of litigation and everyone's perceived need to cover their posteriors. But, ENOUGH!

For several full days on the radio this winter, we heard from Storm Desks, Storms Channels, Storm Reporters and Storm Trackers. One would think we lived up north, where a snow storm is a snow storm, not a dusting of a few centimetres.

Our magnificent Canada wasn't built by people afraid of a few snowflakes, or precipitation that left a centimetre or two of ice on our roads and sidewalks.

Winter has been winter again this year, and there are a few weeks remaining. Chins up, folks. Dress warmly, be thoughtful about your dogs and enjoy our bracing wintry weather.

We are so fortunate to live in Canada. In 2023.

Baldinelli calls federal online content bill dangerous

Dear editor:

The Trudeau government will stop at nothing to control what Canadians see online.

Through Bill C-11, the government is seeking to expand the mandate of the CRTC so that unelected bureaucrats will have the power to define and regulate what counts as "Canadian content" on the internet.

Bill C-11 would effectively leave it in the hands of these content gatekeepers to promote certain types of content while pushing down information the government doesn't like.

Clearly, this legislation undermines Canadians' fundamental rights and freedoms and puts their civil liberties at risk.

The passage of Bill C-11 would enable government censorship, empowering the Liberals to amplify voices it deems favourable and quiet or silence those it does not.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his ministers have tried to brush away Canadians' concerns by claiming that the bill would support Canadian culture and "level the playing field" for Canadian content creators.

However, these claims, fall completely flat in the face of evidence the bill would do the exact opposite.

By forcing platforms like YouTube and Spotify to favour nationality over engagement, online creators in Canada risk limiting their reach to global audiences, having their viewership drastically reduced, and their content demoted.

Trudeau should not be able to control what Canadians see on their playlist or their Netflix account. Canadians can decide for themselves what they want to watch or listen to.

This is not a problem that needs fixing, regardless of what Liberals and unelected bureaucrats may tell us.

One thing is clear: there is no Canadian culture without free speech. Bill C-11's supposed attempt to protect the former by limiting the latter is not only misguided but dangerous.

With the bill back from the Senate for consideration in the House of Commons, Conservatives will continue to fight for its defeat and protect free speech for Canadians.

Tony Baldinelli
MP, Niagara Falls riding

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Fort George hosts two **March Break** programs

Staff
The Lake Report

Families can join Parks Canada and the Friends of Fort George for two special March Break programs next week.

There's a Children's Tea Party on March 15 at 1 p.m. and a presentation called the History of Wampum on March 16 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Both programs are at Navy Hall. Register on the Friends website at friendsoffortgeorge.square.site.

The tea party will include a short presentation on tea in the Regency era, and have period activities to try.

Tickets, \$30 for one youth and one adult, include a cup of tea or juice, and some tasty treats put together from the "Fort George Bill of Fare Cookbook."

Space is limited.

The wampum program is free and but registration



Fort George is opening its doors to kids over March Break.

is required via the Friends website.

The afternoon includes story telling and learning.

Author Zig Misiak will read from his delightful children's book "Wampum: The Story of Shaylyn the Clam."

The presentation will discuss the significance

of the wampum belt and the esteem that Indigenous Peoples have for Mother Earth.

There will be a "show and tell" of various artifacts as they relate to the story of creation, the Clans and how they were formed, the coming of the Peacemaker, and the beginning of the use of wampum for belts.

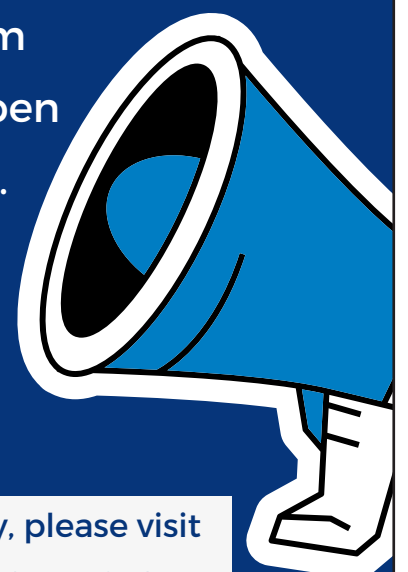


TOURISM STRATEGY COMMITTEE

The Town is recruiting members for the Tourism Strategy Committee, a Committee designed to support the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tourism Strategy and Action Plan Project.

Applications for the Tourism Strategy Committee will open on Thursday, March 9, 2023.

The submission deadline is Thursday, March 23, 2023.



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

Large crowd celebrates International Women's Day

Continued from Front Page

idea was just conceived as a novel way to celebrate women in 2023.

"However, the enthusiasm and response from women in the community has been overwhelming," he said. "Many more women wanted to be here today but had conflicts or were working or on vacation."

"But many of the women who were able to make have said rather loudly that this is the sort of public celebration that should happen every year. So, yes, we're going to try to do it again next year," he said.

"But we'll take more than two weeks to plan it."

Coun. Sandra O'Connor was pleased to be there.

"I think (International Women's Day) is a chance to be vocal and be present and be ourselves and do that loudly, which is exciting."

"I try to do that as much as possible but to have a day dedicated to it is a fantastic thing," she said.

Women of all ages and from a wide variety of community groups, different professions and



Videographer Rene Bertschi captures the scene with his drone from high above Queen Street as a crowd of NOTL women assembles at the clock tower cenotaph Monday for a photo to mark International Women's Day. RENE BERTSCHI

backgrounds all mingled and chatted, many sharing stories about what barriers they have overcome throughout their lives.

NOTL environmentalist Kyra Simone said that while luckily in her career she has not encountered much sexism, it is still evident that

there is work to be done.

"I've been very lucky with my education, but you can definitely see getting into higher levels of education that there are fewer women than there are men," said Simone, who has two master's degrees and is working on her PhD.

"I'm glad to have found a community that does seem female-dominated, which is cool."

O'Connor chimed in that she is relieved to see how much things have changed since her time starting out in her field and often losing jobs to less-qualified men.

"When I was just starting out in my career it was a constant feeling of trying to reaffirm that we have a right to be there – the skills and education and everything like that. I feel like we've come a long way since then."

Some women also noted

how their work and recreational lives brought them together.

Bev Lees, Rosemary Goodwin and Marilyn Francis, all affiliated with the NOTL Tennis Club, they were proud to be associated with so many exceptional women in NOTL.

"Bev is our nomination for Niagara-on-the-Lake's greatest treasure," said Goodwin.

"She was one of the 26 who opened the town's very first tennis club in 1970 and she's still playing."

"She's our role model. We all want to be Bev Lees," added Francis.

Meghan Gilchrist, from Girl Guides of Canada, said she feels fortunate to work with the women and girls in town.

And Amanda Gamble, executive director at the Friends of Fort George, noted just how heart-warming it was to see such a large group of NOTL women come out to support one another publicly.

"It's so nice to be here and see some of the community members and to be involved," she said.

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For longtime **NOTL** artist, gardens offer inspiration

Florals are her muse as Magdalena Titian wanders town on her daily walks

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

Almost every afternoon for the last 40 years, Magdalena Titian has wandered around town, picking her favourite routes along the lake, up King Street and back home to her little house on Gate Street.

“(The walking) concludes my day properly,” says Titian, who will only admit to being in her 80s.

“I like it.”

Titian uses her walks, in part, as inspiration for her passion.

She is an artist.

For close to 50 years, she has painted professionally in almost every corner of the world.

“I’ve had an incredible career. I painted everywhere. Gosh, I painted in Egypt. And I painted in Mexico and the U.S. southwest. Across Canada. South America. Italy.”

But most of her recent work brings to life on canvas the NOTL flowers she sees on her walks.

“My floral work is all from local gardens,” says Titian. “I study and appreciate the beauty of nature. The fine detail.”

Near the turn of the last century, Titian’s grandparents left Romania, immigrating to a small western town, just north of the highway between Winnipeg and Saskatoon, near Manitoba’s western border. They answered an appeal from Canada to help settle the west.

“I was artistic from a very early age,” she says. “Because I grew up in the



Magdalena Titian has built a long and vibrant career as a renowned artist and teacher, including almost 40 years living in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Her work has been displayed across Ontario and beyond. TIM TAYLOR

Prairies, there was nothing there. Just sky and wild things. Such a delight to walk along those country roads.”

“I was deeply interested in the forms of nature. My grandmother was artistic. It was that intense introduction to colour and form that registered with me. I feel it in my throat. It was so exciting.”

In the early 1940s her family moved east to Hamilton looking for work.

It was in Grade 4, she thinks, that an art teacher recognized and nurtured Titian’s artistic talent.

“My art teacher displayed my paintings in our classroom. Was that a boost to my ego!”

After high school in Hamilton, Titian attended art classes at McMaster University, Sheridan College and the Ontario College of Art.

Fast-forward through a couple of decades of travelling and painting and marrying and child-rearing.

It was 1976, Titian was living in Burlington.

“I started doing painting florals at the Royal Botanical Gardens,” she says.

“Just for enjoyment. I became fascinated by the irises. I liked to paint in the garden. I used to go very early in the morning to avoid the heat.”

One day, the president of the RBG, after noticing her dedication, offered her an exhibition there.

“It was a really big and very important exhibit of my work. That’s what gave me the inspiration to go full steam ahead.”

Titian’s solo and group exhibition career blossomed, including showings in galleries across Ontario and beyond.

Sometime in the 1980s (“I think it was 1988 or maybe ‘86”) Titian came to Niagara-on-the-Lake to show her works at the behest of a local art dealer.

“When I was here, I went for a casual evening walk around town,” she remembers. “Walked by this little house with a cardboard sign — House for Sale. I knocked on the door and I bought the house.”

“It felt so right for me.”

Just like that, she left a thriving art studio — painting, marketing and framing — in the Rosedale area of Toronto.

“I have been here all these years and I have not thought about moving, ever.”

On her arrival, Titian immediately jumped into the local arts scene, participating in the earliest Pumpphouse Art Centre outdoor art shows, long before the building was updated.

It was Barbara Ahluwalia, an early leader in the revitalization and transformation of the Pumpphouse, who invited Titian to teach at the fledgling organization.

“It was wonderful. There were mice and cracked windows and water leaking from an upstairs bathroom. The pump was still in the front room. We had fun.”

Titian has begun to slow down. Still travelling, but not as much for painting.

“I love my little house. But it is a lot of work for me now and I’d like to have a simpler life. Lighten my load.”

“Then I would like to travel more. I’ve got Croatia on my mind.”

There’s a sparkle in her eye when she talks of travelling.

Titian describes two roadblocks to achieving her future vision.

First, she needs to find a new home for her personal collection. It’s everywhere, in every room of her home and her downstairs studio. She hopes to sell her remaining pieces in the coming months.

Second, she needs to find a smaller, simpler place to live.

“We need an apartment building in town,” she almost begs. “Or something that an older person can manage. I want an apartment in town.”

“I’ve been here for a long time. The older generation needs to be listened to,” she says, and there’s both passion and frustration in her voice and determination in her eyes.

“People need to realize that they, too, are going to get to a point in life where they are not going to want to maintain a house and grounds and everything. There’s no place to go.”


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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: #EmbraceEquity

Celebrating the Women of NOTL

Looking back well over 200 years, Niagara-on-the-Lake has a long history of important contributions by dedicated and brave women who strived to make a difference in their community.

This keepsake Special Edition honours the ordinary and extraordinary women of NOTL.

From years past, the lives and times of many of these women were documented in the NOTL Museum's award-winning book, "Making Her Mark: The Women of Niagara-on-the-Lake."

The book relates the everyday stories of NOTL women who were courageous environmentalists, heritage activists, artists, scientists, war heroes, teachers, matriarchs, politicians and professionals.

The museum contributed the list at right of more than 100 women, now deceased, who, indeed, made their mark on life in town.

Inside this edition, read about some of the women of today who are making their mark on NOTL now.

Koñwatsitsiaiéñni (Molly Brant), Ann Claus, Catherine Claus, Catherine Evans, Mary Parker, Muriel Frances Parker, Chloe Cooley, Elizabeth Simcoe, Hannah Jarvis, Hannah Hamilton, Elizabeth Kerr, Ann (Nancy) and Margaret Clement Woodruff • Mary Henry, Jane Kerby, Julia Defield, Betsy Collard, Eliza Bell, Laura Secord, Elizabeth Campbell, Sarah (Sally) Carter, Mary Ann Guillen, Elizabeth and Winnifred Wesley, Agnes Rogers, Elizabeth Brown, Mary Chisholm, Mary M. Diamond, and Adelaide, Mary, Sarah Jane, and Emily Catherine Elliott • Mary Flynn, Elizabeth Long, Isabella Mellen, Mary Moffat, Anna Bella Petrie, Bridget Roddy, Elizabeth Thompson, Catherine Smart, Eliza Fenwick, Maria Susan Rye, Caroline Newbold, Emily Bayley, Doris Sheppard, and Birdie, Kate, Nora, Del, Gladys, and Olga Ansley • Mary Servos, Mary Sherlock, Matilda Boulton, Ida May Woodruff, Anne Helena Woodruff, Augusta Winterbottom, Janet Carnochan, Mary Snider, Catherine Creed, Elizabeth Ascher, Elizabeth Digweed, Kathleen Drope, Florence Hutchison, Blanche Quinn, Hendrica Bannister and Rosanne Fedorkow • Laura Dodson, Margherita Howe, Marianne White Buyers, Donna Scott, Jean Huggins, Joy Ormsby, Margaret Anderson, Margaret Peake Benton, Sarah Black, Mary Breakenridge, Nancy Clark, Elizabeth Clench, Mary Crooks, Joan Elliott, Gladys Grindlay, Effie Harvey and Marcia Elizabeth 'Liz' Hawley • Jacobine Jones, Mary Jones, Betty Lane, Sarah Lawrence, Florence LeDoux, Augusta McCormick, Maria Miles, Lou and Mary Miller, Violet Anne Mills, Sophia Mulholland, Christine Mussen, Elizabeth Quade, Fanny Rowley, Alice Schmidt, Hannah Secord, Elizabeth Servos and Hannah Catherine Servos • Madeline Smith, Ruth Taylor, Kathleen Toye, Eliza Woodruff, Austin Kirkby, Mimi McEwen, Jean Baker, Jane Catcher, Jennifer Phipps and Sheila Hirsch-Kalm



For years, Alice Schmidt monitored the town's emergency phone calls and dispatched the necessary services. (NOTL Fire Department Collection)



Emma Currie was an author and women's rights champion who helped the museum acquire genuine Laura Secord artifacts. (NOTL Museum Collection)



A vocal community, heritage and environmental activist, Margherita Howe was a recipient of the Order of Canada. (Howe Family Collection)



A former Citizen of the Year, Joy Ormsby was a researcher, author and passionate guardian of the town's history. (NOTL Museum Collection)



Elizabeth Hawley was a designer, business owner and activist who supported women who were escaping abuse and recovering from addiction.



SALUTING the WOMEN of NOTL



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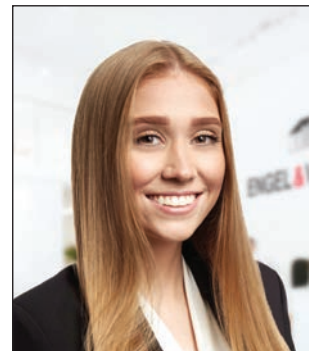
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International Women's Day 2023

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

For this special International Women's Day celebration edition, we asked women from all walks of life in NOTL to provide a few words about themselves and someone who inspired them. Here is what they had to say:

Melissa Achal
Co-founder and president of NEOB Lavender, a woman entrepreneur for more than 13 years, with four retail stores and a 12-acre farm. All of our 150 products are made in Niagara. Inspiration: Melissa takes inspiration from women who feel enthusiastic about their life, family and job.

Linda Anderson-Kozik
Lifelong NOTLer. An avid gardener, home economist, high school and university educator, and amateur NOTL historian. Inspiration: Great-grandmother Clara Arbutnot, the epitome of a hard-working, no-nonsense rural woman.

Debra Antoncic
Director/curator of RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston, holds a PhD in art history, specialty in post-war Canadian art. Inspiration: My mentor, Joyce Zemans, Canadian art historian, curator, cultural policy specialist and academic, strong supporter of women artists and academics.

Denise Ascenzo
Her stories have been featured in The Lake Report since October of 2017. A well-travelled writer, her love of history and work with the museum inspires her writings, which provide a rich historical perspective of NOTL for readers to enjoy.

Ruth Aspinall
A businesswoman in town for more than 30 years and the original owner of the Epicurean, she now runs two retail stores downtown and Art Space 106, focused strictly on local art and artisans. Inspiration: Gerhard Richter, a German visual artist.

Bonnie Bagnulo
Executive director of NOTL Community Palliative Care Service. Inspiration: My mother-in-law, Pasqualina Bagnulo, always said that through pleasing others you please yourself, "love" is an action word. She was right, she was a gift.

Dr. Karen Berti
Has lived in NOTL for 24 years, raised her family here and feels privileged to look after the medical needs of residents. Inspiration: My mother, the strongest woman I have ever known. She taught me to do everything with full effort, otherwise it's not worth doing at all.

Rima Boles
Director of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, the art hub of the community. Inspiration: Donata Puteris, my mom. The strongest, most selfless person I know, she demonstrated that any obstacle can be overcome.

Fran Boot
Entrepreneur and people-oriented volunteer. If a spreadsheet is involved, that's a bonus. Inspiration: My mom, Shirley Bergshoeff. When I was a child, she would tote me along on volunteer projects where I would "help."

Hope Bradley
Founding member of NOTL Junior Women's Hospital Auxiliary and the NOTL chapter of the Canadian Cancer Society. She was a leading community co-ordinator for the fledgling Shaw Festival.



Some of the women from the agricultural, wine and farming community. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Lisa Brillon
Queenston resident independent singing teacher for 30 years in Niagara, founder and leader with numerous organizations, including Queenston Musical Theatre Camp and Queenston Women's Chorus. Inspiration: My mother, my piano teacher and my high school teacher who encouraged me to attend the first International Women's Day conference in Winnipeg in 1975 where I realized that women are important, equal and can achieve anything.

Tobi Brockway
An accredited interior design specialist who has been transforming homes in Niagara-on-the-Lake for the past 10 years. Loves supporting local businesses and volunteering for various causes. Inspiration: My high school Spanish teacher (and later deputy education minister), Veronica Lacey. She spurred my love of travel and showed me that with hard work and focus, I could achieve my lifetime goals.

Helle Brodie
Business, mindset and life coach, helping high achievers avoid burnout and learn to live their whole life. Inspiration: Arianna Huffington, Oprah Winfrey and Marianne Williamson, who brought an understanding of the value of the female spirit into my life while working in a male dominated industry.

Rita Brown
Worked in the arts as a costumer for 45 years, mainly with the Shaw Festival. Inspiration: Grateful for the many women who have influenced my life, teaching me about kindness, faith, wisdom, beauty and courage and the importance of giving back.

Nancy Butler
Librarian, educator, writer, archivist, researcher, chair and president of the Niagara Historical Society, and creator of the extensive Shaw Festival library.

Shawna Butts
Through her work with the NOTL Museum, she helps preserve and promote the town's history, especially as it relates to women's history. Inspiration: My mom, who made me the sassy, stubborn and outspoken woman that I am today.

Rose Ellen Campbell
Owner of Campbell Creative, part-time teacher, as well as a volunteer with the Rotary Club's Holiday House Tour and with Autism Ontario for many years. Inspiration: My mother, "Rocket" Ruth Volpé, a phenomenal force, primo volunteer and Canadian junior diving champion.

May Chang
Former Niagara Health chief financial officer and senior hospital administrator, vice-chair Vineland Research Institute. Inspiration: My mother and grandmother, who never allowed social biases or sexism deter them from succeeding in life.

Wendy Cheropita
Town councillor who held senior management roles in marketing and strategic planning in the Ontario and international wine industry. Inspiration: Nancy Cardinal, LCBO's former senior VP of marketing, who, with a team exclusively comprised of women, transformed the LCBO in the 1990s.

Marnie Cluckie
NOTL's chief administrative officer, a passionate community builder, culture and people champion, dedicated to helping individuals and teams achieve their maximum potential. Inspiration: My daughter, Lexi Miller-Cluckie: strong, fearless and full of grit.

Marilyn Cochrane
St. Davids-based artist, whose paintings and sculptures are a celebration of nature and a recognition of the healing properties that its beauty offers. Inspiration: Emily Mason, a brilliant colourist and inspiring example of a deeply creative life fully lived.

Penny-Lynn Cookson
Art historian, writer, educator, community arts and culture advocate, RiverBrink and Niagara Pumphouse lecturer. Community volunteer and columnist for The Lake Report. Inspiration: Jane Fonda, an activist fighting for civil rights, women's causes, environment, fitness, education and against ageism.

Laura Crocco
A baker since age 13, started home-based Cupcakes By Laura in 2020 in NOTL. Food Network addict. Inspiration: Martha Stewart and Anna Olson, amazing women.

Martha Cruikshank
Retired phys-ed teacher, an active member, player, competitor, champion and volunteer at the NOTL Golf Club. Promotes golf by refereeing and presenting rules sessions for Golf Ontario. Inspiration: Elite, female athletes in all sports, including Cathy Sherk, a role model in playing and teaching golf.

Shauna Dickson
Active in the business community, alongside her parents Paul and Maureen, she helps run their family's clothing shop. Inspiration: My mother is pure love in human form, the kindest person I know and the epitome of strength. I want to be her when I grow up.

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International Women's Day 2023

Juliet Dunn

Co-creator and executive artistic producer of the 10th annual TD Niagara Jazz Festival. Also a singer, booking agent, Shaw Festival alumna and engaged community volunteer. Inspiration: My entire family – they've always believed in everything I do.

Chris Earl

First moved to NOTL in 1962. A map designer and instructor in cartography and geographic information systems (GIS) at Carleton University. Returned to NOTL after retirement in 2010. Actively involved in environmental causes. Inspiration: My aunt Elizabeth, just 5 foot 2 and uneducated, she demonstrated a fierce courage and independence.

Brenda Ferguson

Co-Founder of the NOTL Youth Collective, mother of three amazing girls, works at Virgil post office. Chair of St. Michael school council, volunteer with NOTL Brownies. Former president Niagara Nursery School. Inspiration: My aunt Brenda, who did not get enough time on this Earth but had amazing family values and spread so much love while she was here.

Marilyn Francis

A local business owner, broker with Bosley Real Estate and community contributor committed to developing a vibrant NOTL Tennis Club over the past 10 years. Inspiration: My mother, who taught, by example, the importance of volunteerism in building community.

Leslie Frankish

In retirement created the Chautauqua Oaks Project. Has planted hundreds of new trees, with thousands planned. A nationally recognized set and costume designer. Worked with Shaw Festival was production designer for Vancouver2010 Winter Olympics opening ceremonies. Inspiration: Mother Earth, for the astonishing natural beauty we have been blessed with in Canada.

Sharon Frayne-French
Award-winning artist and author, member of NOTL Newcomers, the Pumphouse and NOTL Writers' Circle, and author of two published books. Inspiration: In 1912, my great-grandmother, Alice Moss/Read, travelled to Canada in steerage class, alone with her five children and few belongings. She



Artists, writers, curators and others representing all the women who are part of the NOTL arts scene. EVAN LOREE

worked hard, overcame disadvantages and became a successful businesswoman to help her family.

Linda Fritz

University of Saskatchewan librarian for more than 30 years, moved to Queenston to escape winter. Now immersed in the history of the community. Inspiration: Victoria de la Ronde, a Metis woman from northern Saskatchewan who overcame prejudice and a physical disability to attend law school. Taught me that you can do anything you set your mind to.

Patty Garriock

A master gardener, former competitive golf and tennis player, retired public health nurse, now an active community volunteer. Inspiration: My mother, Mary Lloyd McCabe, who encouraged me to believe in myself, be kind and be the best person I can be every day.

Syrina Gatta

Principal designer and new president of Gatta Homes. Taking over the 30+ year family-run business after working with multiple Niagara designers and architects. Inspiration: My grandmother, Mani Gatta, a refugee from Uganda who escaped Idi Amin's regime and made a life for herself and family from nothing.

Megan Gilchrist

Resident of St. Davids, a NOTL leader and trainer with Girl Guides of Canada. Inspiration: The many mentors and friends I've had in Guiding, who encourage me to push my boundaries and try new things. And the youth members who remind me to never stop learning and having fun.

Rosemary Goodwin

Has spent 20 years advocating for tennis as a builder of character, community, healthy well-being, and for regaining its rightful place in the history of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Inspiration: My mother and my mother-in-law: Unstoppable despite poverty, war and opportunity denied because they were female.

Laurie Harley

Retired executive in the corporate high-tech sector, now on a "self-directed sabbatical" and pursuing volunteer opportunities that are challenging and fun. Inspiration: Margret Lewis, my first manager, whose motto was "Reach for the stars. If you miss, you're on the mountain-top."

Irene Harlond

A mobile mortgage specialist for DUCA Credit Union who loves to help others achieve their home financing goals and dreams. Inspiration: My

mom, Lillian Kerber, who is selfless in everything she does and is such a hard worker.

Pat Hartman

School music teacher, member of Avanti Chamber Singers, Newark Singers, community activist, researcher, creator of the Turntable Garden. Inspirations: Mrs. Marks, who gave me my first solo, and Margherita Howe, who fought to preserve our historic town.

Brianne Hawley

Marketing manager for the Wineries of NOTL and a mother of two, sits on several town board and committees. Inspiration: My grandmother Sandra Wright of Trenton – a firecracker, encourager, hand-holder and great advice giver.

Yolanda Henry

Keen golfer and NOTL club champion, a global volunteer, involved for many years with the Tabitha Foundation in Canada and overseas. Inspiration: Those around me, who try to do more for others. And to play better.

Andorlie Hillstrom

A seasoned musical theatre professional, founder and artistic producer of Yellow Door Theatre Project. Eager to continue sharing her passion with Niagara's youth. Inspiration: My daughter, Jacqueline Burtney, a professional actress, entrepreneur and a new mom, whose strength, determination and tenaciousness have been inspiring.

Sheila Hirsch-Kalm

A gardening expert, she died in December but lives on through her many contributions to the community. She had the vision to create the beautiful daffodil Gardens of Hope that are now found in many parts of town.

Peggy Hooke

Was head of history and geography at Etobicoke Collegiate. Involved in equity education and presented at the McGill Institute. Became president of NOTL Newcomers, now works with Nyanyas, which supports the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Inspiration: Many women, but my mother was probably the first. She encouraged my sister and I to become independent and go after our goals.

Dr. Marianne Hopkins

A passionate health care with an optometry practice in NOTL. Inspiration: My mom, who was the only woman in her university graduating class in chemistry. She taught me I can do anything.

Jihu (Gina) Hyeon

Co-owner/baker at Soko Bakery Café, serving Korean-style baked goods and drinks. Inspiration: My longtime friend Hana, who is very independent and motivates me to lead my life better.

Sandra lafrate

An artist, educator and philanthropist, operates Gate Street Studio in NOTL. Created a recent body of work around the theme of women. Inspiration: Numerous wom-

en including teachers, peers, colleagues, friend, and family. And artists Maud Lewis and Agnes Martin.

Gracia Janes

Founded and volunteered with numerous community groups, including the Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society in 1976. Received Ontario Medal for Citizenship in 1985 and the Canada 125 Medal in 1992. Founding member of the NOTL Conservancy. Received town volunteer award and Niagara Foundation's "Living Landmark" honour for NOTL heritage work. Inspiration: Many women, including Laura Sabia and Edna Krikorian, both advocates for social and environmental justice who were not afraid to rock the boat.

Jovie Joki

Owner of The Irish Harp Pub, she supports and works in conjunction with the community. Inspiration: NOTL businesswomen, as we work together in making Niagara-on-the-Lake a timeless destination.

Andrea Kaiser

Mother, regional councillor and businessperson who is most passionate about her community. Inspiration: Former New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern, who embodied positive politics and served with empathy, kindness and a passion for climate change.

Bobbie Kalman

The author of more than 1,000 children's library books and a publisher for 45 years. She and her husband Peter Crabtree own Crabtree Publishing Company. Inspiration: NOTL got me started on my many historic books, which continue to be my bestsellers.

Anett Kane

Owner and co-founder of Budapest Bakeshop. Mother, wife, baker and community volunteer. Every unsold chimney cake has been donated to the YWCA of Niagara since 2021. Inspirations: My mother, Eva Fenyvesi, and my grandmother, Erzsebet Foldi, whom I grew up in the kitchen with in Keszketem, Hungary, watching them create delicious food from scratch.

Sarah Kaufman

Managing director of the NOTL Museum, she encourages the community to learn about and appreciate NOTL's heritage through the museum, projects and events. Inspiration: My daughters (Isabel, Madeline and Audrey) who, I hope, will be inspired by the stories of our past to do great things themselves.

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Aksana Kavaliova-Moussi
Certified music therapist and registered psychotherapist in private practice, works with children and adults with disabilities and mental health issues (including anxiety, depression, trauma). Inspiration: The women I meet every day who exhibit strength and ability to overcome obstacles, while staying caring, loving, and compassionate.

Ashley Keller
Owns Keller Painting Co. in Niagara, with a strong team of women working to create beautiful spaces in the community. Inspiration: My hard-working mother, Georgina Keller, who owned a small business and showed me the value of hard work.

Gail Kendall
Employee of Riverbend Inn, volunteers with The Lake Report and Shaw Festival. As a member of the Shaw Guild, loves greeting, hosting and providing backstage tours for guests. Inspiration: My wise mother, who continuously supported and encouraged me to enjoy life and to be all that I can be.

Joan King
Organizer of Terry Fox Run, Christmas stockings for seniors in long-term care, mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters, volunteer and past board member of TD Jazz festival. Inspiration: My former colleague, Bridgid Davidson, who was on her own cancer journey. "A woman of strength has faith that it is in the journey that she will become strong."

Amy Klassen
A member of the staff at the NOTL Museum for over 20 years, working to engage the community and its visitors with our history through programs, events and member/volunteer activities.

Carla Kloosterhuis
Founder of NOTL fashion boutique and online business YOKA in Virgil. Inspiration: Betty White, because I can find humour in anything and the word retirement is not in my vocabulary.

Betty Knight
A master gardener, she enjoys collaborating with NOTL charities and organizations of all sorts – from the library board to the Crossroads school classroom, to sharing horticulture advice on Shaw garden tours and in the community. Inspiration: Bev Carriek (co-founder of CAUSE Canada, an international



Members of NOTL's church community were represented at the International Women's Day gathering on Queen Street on Monday morning. EVAN LOREE

relief agency) taught me that I could change the world; not the whole world, but the part I touched.

Britt Kranz
Volunteer co-ordinator at the Farmworker Hub, full-time employee of Sun Outdoors, a mom, Little Free Library steward and hiking enthusiast. Inspiration: My best friend, Katie Caiola. Fiercely independent, she has a beautiful heart and a career that will make this world a better place. An inspiration since we were 13-year-old expats living in a Jakarta, Indonesia.

Donna Lailey
Longtime community volunteer and leader. Early in my grape processing venture, Dr. Peter Peach of Brock University did a complimentary soil analysis of my vineyard and said I had something very special here. That gave me the confidence to create a profitable and satisfying business – and formed the basis of Lailey Vineyard Wine Inc.

Marg Lambert
The administrator of Upper Canada Lodge, she has spent 40 years working with seniors, after starting her career as a dietitian in long-term care home in St. John's. Inspiration: Without Barbara Mahaffey, a great friend and mentor at St. Joseph's Villa, I never would have become an administrator.

Sandra Lawrence
Retired from 35 years as an art conservator and teacher, then got involved locally as a volunteer with community, art and museum programs. Inspiration: Early on, my mother Donna.

later teacher and supporter Sandra Paikowsky, and artist-mentor Ghitta Caiserman-Roth.

Beverley Lees
Lifelong NOTL resident, former Canadian Cancer Society canvasser for 30+ years. Cherry pie maker, recipient of Order of Niagara at St. Mark's and original member of the NOTL Tennis Club. Inspiration: My mother, Enid Lees inspired me with her love, support and example.

Kimberly Legros
A vocal representative for Ontario VQA wines and ciders for 30 years, owner of Niagara Fine Wine and partner in Brunch Beverages, a community volunteer and board member of the Wise Girls/Guys Charity. Inspiration: My mom, Heather Legros, "where there is a will there's a way."

Deralyn MacKenzie
A 37-year member of NOTL Fire Department & Queenston Volunteer Firefighters Association, 36 years as a paramedic in Niagara. Inspiration: Irene George, my mother. Born in 1920 but ahead of her time in many ways. An independent, strong, determined entrepreneur (beauty shop in Toronto in 1940s, farmer from 1950s-1980s). Led by example.

Judith MacLachlan
An elementary school teacher and single mother of two children, she moved to NOTL in 1974. Took over Kerry's Kitchen in 1976, providing picnics for theatre goers. Disturbed by rampant development, in 1987, together Margherita Howe, Laura Dodson and architectural historian Peter Stokes.

founded the Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy. A "Living Landmark" recipient, has been active on numerous boards. Inspiration: Margherita and Laura for their community activism.

Terry Mactaggart
Has lived in NOTL since 1971, involved in numerous boards and committees, former CEO of NOTL Community Palliative Care. Inspiration: Met two hospice volunteers in 1982 who were helping a dying friend in Connecticut. Led to a 30-year career in palliative care.

Shirley Madsen
Deeply involved in horticulture in NOTL for many years, she started a website SunflowersforUkraine.ca to raise awareness and funds for Ukraine. Inspiration: Generous NOTLers, Ukrainian immigrant families in NOTL, like Saksina and Babin, and my mother Lydia Nazar.

Virginia Mainprize
A retired editor in educational publishing and non-fiction books. Former B&B operator. Keen gardener. Resident of NOTL and member of St. Mark's parish for 30 years.

Kathy Mann
Dedicated volunteer at Red Roof Retreat for five years, plus the Pumphouse and Chamber of Commerce. Loves helping with community events. Inspiration: Jann Arden for her dedication to animal welfare.

Marlene Masales
Longtime volunteer prior to moving to NOTL. Now help in various capacities with the Shaw Guild, Music Niagara, museum, library, and during municipal election. Inspiration: My mother, Natalie Masales, but in NOTL it has been Mona Babin, who is a tireless, committed role model.

Resa Mastromatteo
Passionate community volunteer including at the new NOTL Youth Collective and the Community Crew lunch program. Inspiration: My mother, who me to put the needs of those less fortunate ahead of my own wants.

Maria Mavridis
A Virgil resident and downtown business operator. Also a town councillor and owner of Anchor Niagara, which raises money for local charities. Recipient in 2021 of the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business Community Impact and Leadership Award.

Asta McCann
Programming and Curatorial Assistant at RiverBrink Art Museum, a curator and arts facilitator for over six years. Born and raised in Niagara. Inspiration: My mother, Jurate McCann, who always encouraged me to follow my dreams and appreciate the little things in life.

Caroline McCormick
President and founder, Friends of Laura Secord, great-great-great granddaughter Laura Secord, who is her source of inspiration. Her story highlights the contributions women and everyday citizens made to Canada's nationhood, and she continues as a metaphor for courage, determination and fortitude for Canadian women today.

Judy McLeod
Retired telecommunication and charitable sector executive and lately a leader in heritage protection and community involvement in NOTL. Inspiration: My aunt, Nancy Holborn, who blazed a career trail in educational leadership in the 1950s, '60s and beyond, showing me the value of authenticity and integrity in everything you do.

Aimee Medina
One of the creatives behind the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, working to bring art for all to the community. Inspiration: Michelle Obama inspires me to embrace my cultural identity. In her words, "Our glorious diversity makes us who we are."

Sharon Michlik
Owner of Great Things Ltd. in NOTL, she grew up here and attended both Parliament Oak and Niagara District. As a business owner serving women for over 27 years in Niagara on the Lake, I inspired myself as a woman to succeed at everything surrounding the choices I made in life.

Marah Minor
As the Town of NOTL's community engagement and communications co-ordinator, she creates communications materials and oversees town events. Inspiration: My best friend, who has been by my side through everything and no matter what the circumstance, can make me laugh.

Mary Mizen
Retired from a career in marketing, six years on Hospice Niagara board, joined Shaw Guild in 2014, volunteering in several roles including president 2023-24. Inspiration: My aunt, Margaret Gould, an independent, successful career woman who travelled and enjoyed life.

Cheryl Morris
Retired from corporate communications role at global tech company, moved to NOTL in 2012 and began volunteering with groups such as the Shaw Guild, NOTL Ambassadors, Heritage Trail and Pumphouse Arts Centre. Inspiration: NOTL's Laurie Harley, who has the strength of conviction, dedication and vision to enhance community life.

Sara Morris
Office administrator and marketing specialist at RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston. Creative and passionate about the arts. Formerly a graphic designer. Inspiration: My mother, Michelle Morris. Kind, generous and the strongest woman I know.

Cheryl Munce
An Engel & Völkers Niagara realtor. Living locally and selling globally, a supporter of the Shaw Guild. Among the top 10 per cent of all Niagara realtors by volume. Inspiration: My grandfather, George Yeates, who was self-taught, a leader, planner, philosopher and workhorse.

Julia Murray
Head of school at NOTL's Royal Oak Community School. Inspiration: Camp counsellor Aimee Bruner, a person who stands up for others, communicates her values in all she says and does, and is brave in the most difficult situations, using communication and love to rise above challenges.

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International Women's Day 2023



Niagara-on-the-Lake women, more than 100 in all, converged on Queen Street on Monday morning, for a mass photo (right) to mark International Women's Day. Women of all ages and from all walks of life turned out, including a contingent from The Lake Report (bottom centre), from left, Gail Kendall, Megan Vanderlee, Janice White, Linda Fritz, Somer Slobodian, Jill Troyer and Denise Ascenzo. The assembled women chatted and commiserated – and many said they'd like to see the gathering become an annual event in NOTL.

View our photo gallery at niagaranow.com

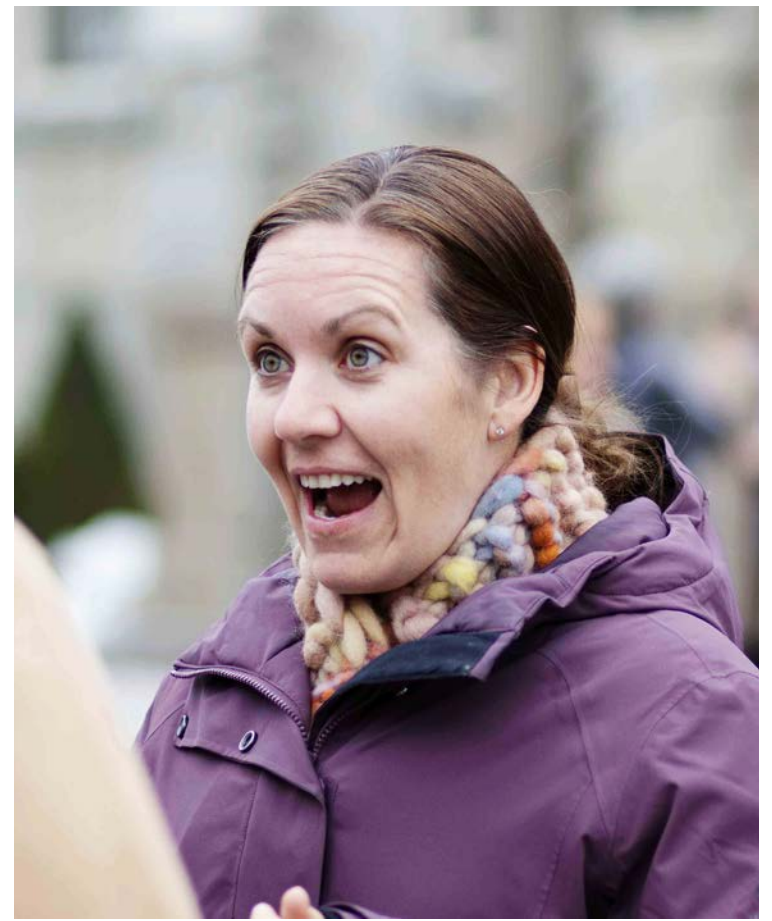
*Photography by Evan Loree, Don Reynolds, Julia Sacco, Somer Slobodian and Dave Van de Laar.
Video by Rene Bertschi*

*Page designers Rose Ellen Campbell,
Kevin MacLean and Richard Harley*

VIDEO: Watch a video of Monday's celebration at niagaranow.com



#EmbraceEquity



International Women's Day 2023

Margaret Northfield
Director of the Niagara Bruce Trail Club, she promotes conservation and wellness through hiking. Leads urban hikes in NOTL. Inspiration: Karen Bromely-Eckert, production designer in film and TV. Taught me leadership with compassion, kindness and determination.

Sandra O'Connor
Had a career in research, now a NOTL councillor, passionate about the environment, focused on health care, infrastructure and heritage. Inspiration: My mother Jane Kelly's independence, integrity and generosity, and Elizabeth May's dedication to the environment.

Catherine O'Donnell
Pastry professor and NOTL business owner of 20 years, operates Willow Cakes & Pastries. Inspiration: The young women who strive to become part of the culinary world and pass down as much knowledge as I have so they can start on the right foot, ahead of the curve.

Audrey Pellett
Assists with Buy Nothing Facebook group and helps facilitate sending clothing and food to our Northern Neighbours in Nunavut. Inspiration: My Girl Guide captain Fletcher, who taught me the importance of service to others.

Candice Penny
An early childhood educator at Niagara Nursery School for 12 years, dedicated to providing quality, accessible education and care to all families. Inspiration: My mother and mother-in-law, the most loving and hard-working women I know.

Tanya Jean Peterson
An artist, she and her husband own Niagara Image Gallery in Virgil, the exclusive gallery for the work of her mother, Trisha Romance. Inspiration: Her sister and grandmother, and her mother, whose determination helped pave the way for other artists.

Carrie Plaskett
Advocate for local youth

sports. President NOTL Soccer, NOTL Minor Hockey Association board member, Crossroads school council chair. Inspiration: To be a positive role model for my children. They motivate me to participate and lead with a loud voice that values the support and inclusivity.

Caroline Polgrabia
Grew up in NOTL, an industry development officer for Ontario's tourism ministry leads the GTA's tourism portfolio. Volunteer roles include the chair of Family & Children Services Niagara Foundation and NOTL Youth Collective advisory group. Inspiration: My mother, Patricia Atherton. She is smart, resilient, tenacious and kind. Always sees the world with optimism and compassion.

Catherine Porter
From England, is director of operations at Simpson's Pharmacies, member of NOTL Palliative Care board. Inspiration: My sister Jane. I aspire to tread her path of love, goodness, success and fun.

Tara Rosling
Actor, environmental and humanitarian advocate. Fundraises for Gillian's Place (with "The Mistletoe Bride"). Organized community fundraisers for Ukraine and the Indian Residential School Survivors Society. Inspiration: My great aunt, Joyce Wheatley, who at 94 still says, "Life's a great adventure."

Sue Rumsey
Operates D&H Balloon Bouquets in Virgil. Inspiration: My parents, who are self-employed. Their hard work and passion has been instilled in me. I have always wanted to be my own boss.

Julie Saggars
Photographer and owner of Bambinos Photography, a full-service studio, celebrating 20 years capturing life, in studio or outdoors. Inspira-



NOTL women in sports were represented by Marilyn Francis and Rosemary Goodwin. DON REYNOLDS

tion: My mother, Jean Toy Saggars, a nurse, teacher and caregiver, believes "knowledge is power" and still takes courses to better herself.

Kiera Sangster
Longtime cast member of Shaw Festival, works with Town of NOTL on diversity and inclusion issues. Inspiration: It takes a village to raise a child. I'm thankful for all the women, connected through blood and love who have walked alongside me during this journey we call life.

Tania Sapielak
Born and raised in NOTL, owns the Mutt Hutt Grooming Salon. "Animals are my passion. I love meeting the community and all their wonderful pets." Inspiration: Kat Beaulieu, my mentor and master dog groomer. A woman of amazing strength and determination.

Michelle Scott
A former national level competitive curler. Built a career as a successful executive in the food industry and is deeply involved with several community organizations. Inspiration: My first nursing supervisor, who encouraged me to step outside my comfort zone.

Laura Sentineal
Owner of Sentineal Carriages, farmer and active com-

munity volunteer. Inspiration: My daughters, Amanda and Meagan. They keep me on my toes, in a good way.

Kyra Simone
A PhD student and climate change researcher with two master's degrees, she writes The Lake Report's "Keeping it Green" column. And she keeps it green through action and activism for a sustainable future. Inspiration: My mom, Ann Marie. Determined and strong, with enduring empathy for others and the natural world.

Jennifer Smith
A volunteer at St. Mark's Anglican Church, Altar Guild. A floral designer and small business owner. Inspiration: My mother and my grandmothers: Don't be afraid to try. You can do whatever you set your mind to.

Nancy Smith
An award-winning television executive and entrepreneur with a lifelong commitment to public service. Member of Shaw Festival board. She funds and supports educational programs at the theatre for disadvantaged children and youth. Inspiration: Books – they showed me what was possible in life.

Dorothy Soo-Wiens
A community volunteer and grape grower, very involved with Cornerstone Community Church and Niagara Lions Club. Inspiration: My mother, Ivy Soo, who through perseverance and faith in God, provided a better life for myself and my siblings.

Victoria Steele
Senior Town of NOTL employee, dedicated to collaborating with community stakeholders and championing inclusive leadership opportunities. Inspiration: Hazel McCallion, the epitome of a leader who inspired teamwork and consensus.

Kathy Taylor
Retired innkeeper, community volunteer, active church volunteer, grandmother, mother, wife. Inspiration: Two grandmothers, mother and daughter who have taught me community stewardship, family strength, manners, principles, fun. My daughter is a principal, has learned from these women, and continues to teach her two girls.

Emma Thwaites
Mother of three, attended Niagara District Secondary School and has business degree from Brock University. Works in office admin, food safety and human resources at Thwaites Farms. Inspiration: The past and present generations of women from the family farms around Niagara.

Sheila Tierney
Moved to Virgil in 1975 and was a town councillor in the 1980s. An active volunteer and board member of the NOTL hospital, museum and library. She canvassed for the Canadian Cancer Society for more than 50 years.

Lydia Tomek
Award-winning head winemaker at Ravine Vineyards. Previously with Hillebrand, Jackson-Triggs and Hernder Estates. A proud working mom who manages to balance family life with her career and community work. Inspiration: High school counsellor and teacher Fran Crnkovich. Encouraged me

to never second guess or hold back but pursue what my heart tells me.

Megan Vanderlee
Mother of three great teens, full-time manager at The Lake Report, executive officer at Legion branch 124 and ladies auxiliary, co-founder of NOTL Youth Collective. Devoted community volunteer and a Starfleet wannabe. Inspiration: Gladys Green, my maternal grandmother, whose fierce support and gentle kindness gave me the courage to accomplish anything.

Tish Vigna
New to NOTL and thrilled to be here. A certified interior redeigner and home stager, helping people love their home again or help them take it to market. Inspiration: My closest friends from the last 30 years, spectacular entrepreneurial women, inspire me every day of my life.

Madison Vine
A manager for Andrew Peller Ltd., Tourism NOTL board member and chair of the board of Wineries of NOTL. Inspiration: My sister, Samantha Vine, who has the ability to light up a room and lift the people around her.

Adriana Vizzari
Town council, mother of four from St. Davids. Has always looked to strong women – those who lead their life with no limits – as role models. My daughters and I are so fortunate to be surrounded by such women. We read and learn about female trailblazers who came before us, soak up all their lessons and draw inspiration from them.

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The Legion's Ladies Auxiliary welcomes any ladies interested in joining to the next meeting April 4
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#EmbraceEquity



Town of NOTL chief administrator Marnie Cluckie is flanked by women representing the town's leadership and citizen committees at the International Women's Day celebration on Queen Street on Monday morning. DAVE VAN DE LAAR



Women from NOTL's business community were well-represented at Monday's celebration. JULIA SACCO

Szilvia Vona
Owns Puppy & Dog Fashion on Queen Street. As a newcomer, immigrant and single mom I check all the challenging boxes of a young businesswoman. Inspiration: My godmother, who survived the Yugoslavian war and immigrated from Serbia to Hungary. Opened her own company 30 years ago, raised her son alone and achieved everything that everyone told her would not be possible.

Niki Walker
Passionate about town's cultural heritage and quality of life. Writer/editor, past co-chair of NOTL's diversity, equity and inclusion committee. Active with many organizations, including the committee to restore the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground (Friends of the Forgotten Foundation). Inspiration: Laura Dodson, whom I knew when I was a child. She tirelessly championed community preservation and left an incredible legacy as a citizen, volunteer and activist.

Minerva Ward
President of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL, her career has taken from the Caribbean, to British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. Now, she brings her business acumen, tourism management experience and leadership skills to Niagara. Inspiration: At my all-girls high school in St. Lucia, the principal, Sister Claire, instilled in us the discipline, drive, ambition, confidence, courage and boldness to be leaders.

Janice White
After 40 years in the corporate world, retired to NOTL in 2019 where she has had the opportunity to explore and photograph the beautiful Niagara region. Inspiration: No one in particular. Instead, I have relied on and pushed myself – not necessarily a bad thing.

Sabrina Wiens
Congregational care pastor at Cornerstone Community Church. Inspiration: As a child I gravitated toward stories of biblical women like Miriam, Deborah, Esther, Mary – all inspired by their faith in God,

they made a difference in the world.

Terri-Lynn Woodhouse
Owner of One Earth in NOTL, a BIA and tourism board volunteer, and a certified living wage employer. Inspiration: Laura Secord, for her courage to make hard decisions and take action that would help others.

Barbara Worthy
Producer, writer, director, Shaw alumna, well-known for creating original productions focusing on local history and

commemoration. Community engagement co-ordinator for the NOTL Museum. Inspiration: Isabelle Ede, editor of the Valley Echo, Invermere, B.C. She taught me to trust my curiosity, the value of storytelling and the power of compassion and empathy.

Sumie Yamakawa
A dedicated advocate of the Niagara wine industry for over 20 years, now working at Inniskillin. A regular supporter of local women's shelters and avid marathon participant. Inspiration: My mother, Naoko Yamakawa, who always lived life to the fullest.

Happy International Women's Day, from one Woman to another.



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#EmbraceEquity

When *The Lake Report* embarked on this International Women's Day project just over two weeks ago, we hoped to gather the names of a few dozen women who could be representative of all those women who make Niagara-on-the-Lake a special place.

We asked a small nucleus of women to suggest others who should be included, "and they told two people," who told others still and, before we knew it, we had crowd-sourced more than 200 women. The list is still growing.

Of course, we missed some people, unfortunately – many more women deserve to be part of this initiative – so we hope to continue to grow this list.

Just wait till next year. Meanwhile, here are the names and general categories we have gathered so far.

Agriculture, farming, wine

Jane Andres, Alyssa Bator, Katie Dickieson, Brianne Hawley, Suzanne Janie, Suzanne Janke, Claudia Konzelmann, Donna Lailey, Jane Langdon, Maureen MacSween, Angela Marotta, Melissa Marotta-Paolicelli, Debi Pratt, Stephanie Pietruniak, Eileen Pillitteri, Stephanie Reis, Joey Rigg, Ann Sperling, Emma Thwaites, Lydia Tomek, Elaine Triggs, Madison Vine, Debbie Whitehouse, Sumie Yamakawa, Alison Zalepa

Arts

Natalie Ackers, Jennifer Anand, Debra Antoncic, Ruth Aspinall, Donna Belleville, Rima Boles, Lisa Brillon, Marilyn Cochrane, Penny-Lynne Cookson, Margot Devlin, Juliet Dunn, Jodi Eppler, Sharon Frayne-French,

Business

Melissa Achal, Teri Andrusiw, Leigh Atherton, Patricia Atherton, Nancy Bailey, Mishka Balsom, Vicky Banka, Carolyn Bernacci, Kayla Bernacci, Lindsay Bernacci, Tobi Brockway, Helle

Andorlie Hillstrom, Katie Houghton, Sandra Iafate, Lorraine Joyner, Bobbie Kalman, Bonnie Lamourie, Sandra Lawrence, Meredith Macdonald, Asta McCann, Aimee Medina, Cindy Mewhinney, Christine Mori, Sara Morris, Tanya Jean Peterson, Nancy Smith, Alexis Spieldenner, Magdalene Titian, Barbara Tranter, Debbie Williams

Brodie, Carlotta Cattani, May Chang, Liz Chorney, Kristi Collins, Brandi Currie, Caitlin Darte, Kristen Davies, Maureen Dickson, Shauna Dickson, Julie Dyck, Kim Elltoft, Viviane Elltoft, Kalin Falconer, Syrina Gatta, Irene Harlond, Dr. Marianne Hopkins, Kim Hughes, Gina Hyeon, Jovie Joki, Aksana Kavaliova-Moussi, Anett Kane, Ashley Keller, Carla Kloosterhuis-Lilly, Lida Kowal, Kimberly Legros, Erica Lepp, Erinn Lockard, Cindi LoForti, Gail Lord, Leslie McCormack, Christine McGrath, Sharon Michlik, Sally Miller, Melina Morsch, Cheryl Munce, Julia Murray,

Margaret Northfield, Catherine O'Donnell, Marcia Penner, Catherine Porter, Michelle Reynolds, Robin Ridesic, Sue Rumsey, Julie Saggars, Tania Sapielak, Liz Tai, Janice Thomson, Kelly Turner, Tish Vigna, Szilvia Vona, Minerva Ward, Melissa Warner, Rachael Werner, Terri-Lynn Woodhouse, Angelika Zammit

Church

Rita Brown, Sarah Burroughs, Rosamund Hennessey, Julie Hunter, Beverley Lees, Virginia Mainprize, Sally Mitchell, Barb O'Connor, Sharon Peters, Jennifer Smith, Kathy Taylor, Diane Turner, Cristina Unruh, Sabrina Wiens

Community

Barbara Ahluwalia, Linda Anderson-Kozik, Mona Babin, Bonnie Bagnulo, Patricia Bala-siuk, Dr. Karen Berti, Steffanie Bjorgan, Hope Bradley, Ann-Louise Branscombe, Roxanne Buck, Nancy Butler, Shawna Butts, Julia Buxton-Cox, Arlene Carson, Penny Coles, Lisa Curtis, Michele Darling, Yvonne Darte Grecco, Ruth Denyer, Debbie Eke, Leslie Frankish, Brenda Ferguson, Kate Fish, Amanda Gamble, Patty Garriock, Elise Gasbarrino, Megan Gilchrist, Cindy Grant, Laurie Harley, Pat Hartman, Nona

Heaslip, Margot Hickson, Peggy Hooke, Gracia Janes, Sarah Kaufman, Debbie Krause, Joan King, Mary Keith, Amy Klassen, Betty Knight, Brittney Kranz, Marg Lambert, Judith MacLachlan, Terry Mactaggart, Shirley Madsen, Kathy Mann, Marlene Masales, Resa Mastromatteo, Sandra McAusland, Caroline McCormick, Judy McLeod, Pauline Miller, Penny Milligan, Mary Mizen, Denise Nolan Murphy, Judith Patey, Audrey Mertens Pellett, Candice Penny, Sarah Pillitteri, Caroline Polgrabia, Jodey Porter, Mariah Reese, Ria Rosenberg, Tara Rosling, Laura Sentineal, Michelle Scott, Cathy Simpson, Dorothy Soo-Wiens, Harriet Stairs, Karen Taylor-Jones, Sheila Tierney, Louise Porteus Waldie, Briar Wiens, Dr. Robin Williams, Barbara Worthy

Sport

Martha Cruikshank, Marilyn Francis, Rosemary Goodwin, Yolanda Henry, Carrie Plaskett, Louise Robitaille, Irene Wall, Alison Waller, Mckenzie Wright

Town leadership & committees

Fran Boot, Wendy Cheropita, Marnie Cluckie, Betty Disero, Vicky Downes, Chris Earl, Andrea Kaiser, Lauren Kruitbosch, Dera-lynn MacKenzie, Maria Mavridis, Kirsten McCauley, Marah Minor, Cheryl Morris, Sandra O'Connor, Kiera Sangster, Kyra Simone, Victoria Steele, Sarah Stevens, Adriana Vizzari, Niki Walker

Women of The Lake Report

Denise Ascenzo, Molly Bowron, Brittany Carter, Lisa Jeffrey, Linda Fritz, Gail Kendall, Jessica Maxwell, Julia Sacco, Somer Slobodian, Jill Troyer, Megan Vanderlee, Janice White, Joanne Young

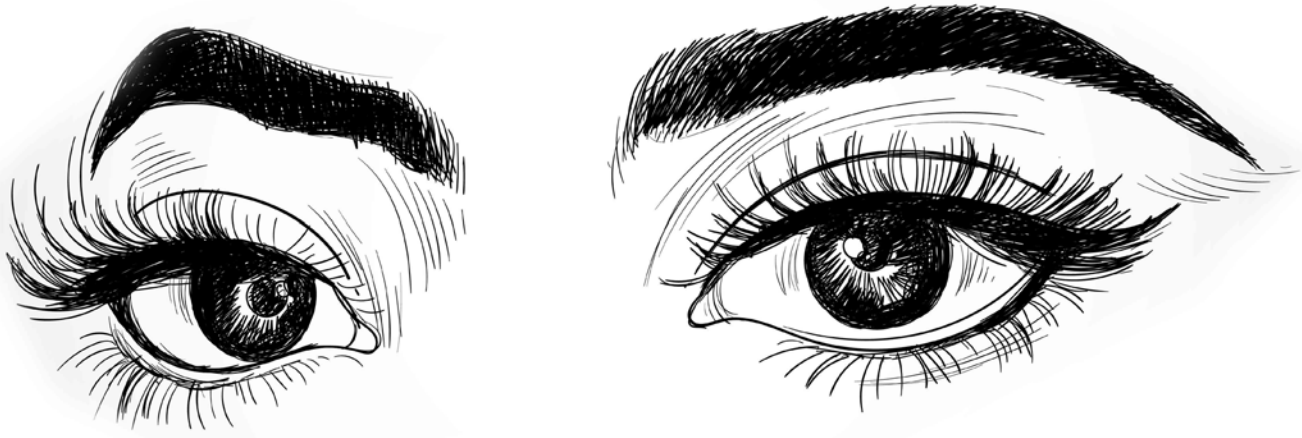


Women from the community – volunteers and leaders – pose on the steps of the old Court House. SOMER SLOBODIAN

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WE ARE ENGEL & VÖLKERS

It's such a wonderful thing to see strong, independent women being recognized in our community. Throughout history, women have proven to be a powerful force for Niagara-on-the-Lake. We are thrilled to see them being honoured this International Women's Day. From one woman to another, keep up the great work.

Learn more at nancybailey.evrealstate.com

Nancy Bailey Recognized as "Elite Club" Advisor in Engel & Völkers Americas Network

Displaying exemplary production, Nancy Bailey achieves Diamond level distinction in global real estate brand's 2021 Elite Club



Engel & Völkers Americas announced that Nancy Bailey has been recognized as a Diamond level Real Estate Advisor in the global company's 2021 Elite Club. This distinction recognizes Engel & Völkers Americas advisors who achieved a minimum of \$250,000 in closed gross commission income or a minimum of 36 closed sides for the calendar year 2021.

"Nancy Bailey is a true representative of the expertise and unparalleled level of service that is consistently showcased by Engel & Völkers advisors worldwide," said Scott Russell, License Partner and Broker of Record, Engel & Völkers Oakville. "Nancy's outstanding achievements evidence her being a leader in Niagara's local marketplace, and we could not be more proud."

"I am honored to be part of Engel & Völkers' prestigious 2021 Elite Club as a Diamond level advisor," said Bailey. "Remaining completely focused on the needs of my market's buyers and sellers has always been my strategy for success. The Engel & Völkers brand provides a supportive network and systems that exponentially increase my ability to service my clients."

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ENGEL & VÖLKERS
NANCY BAILEY

Niagara-on-the-Lake celebrates Tripadvisor 'Best of the Best' tourism award in style

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The historic town of Niagara-on-the-Lake had a lot to celebrate last Wednesday evening.

The town was ranked second in Tripadvisor's 2023 Traveler's Choice "Best of the Best" Popular Destination in Canada awards.

That's a jump from fifth spot in 2021.

The honour comes from thousands of customer reviews left over a 12-month period.

The accomplishment "speaks to Niagara-on-the-Lake, the quality of experiences, the product (and) the commitment to service excellence that we have here," Chamber of Commerce president Minerva Ward told The Lake Report.

The chamber hosted a reception with a wide variety of NOTL wineries, businesses and attractions on hand to toast the award.

"It's really about the people who work in Niagara-on-the-Lake that make this possible," she added.

NOTL came second to Vancouver, bumping Banff to third place. NOTL also placed above Tofino, B.C., (#4), Quebec City (#6) and Toronto (#10).

To add to the list of achievements, nine of the top 50 rated attractions in Canada were in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Konzelmann Estate Wineries ranked number eight, with Reif Estate in the number 12 spot and Château des Charmes was 14th.

"I think it also feels wonderful to be recognised



Chamber of Commerce CEO Minerva Ward speaks at the Tripadvisor celebration at the Prince of Wales while people toast NOTL's national success. SOMER SLOBODIAN



for it, not only for us, but for all of the people that work at our specific wineries," Martin Lindqvist, director of hospitality at Château des Charmes, told The Lake Report.

Andrew Niven, director of hospitality and marketing at Konzelmann Estate Winery, agreed, adding that it's all about working together and

collaborating.

"Where there's healthy competition, there's always room to grow," said Lindqvist.

The Shaw Festival Theatre was ranked 28th, the Heritage District (35th), Jackson-Triggs Winery (#39), Wayne Gretzy Estates (#41) and Fort George national historic site (#46).

"Presenting history is not easy and this team has made it come to life," said Lisa Curtis from Parks Canada.

The top spot is within reach now, chamber events manager Jessica Taylor joked.

"Watch out Vancouver, we're coming for you," she told the crowd with a laugh.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: WE ARE TV FAMILY

"On the next" this sitcom, Portia de Rossi tells Jessica Walter, "Did you enjoy your meal, Mom? You drank it fast enough."

Last issue:

Category: WE ARE TV FAMILY

Clue: Before becoming TV's favourite drug kingpin, he played Frankie Muniz' dad on "Malcolm in the Middle."

Answer: Who is Bryan Cranston?

Answered first by: Bob Wheatley

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Jim Dandy, Pam Dowling, Wade Durling, Shani Waller, Nancy Rocca, Margaret Garaughty, Howard Jones, Jane Morris, Victor Zilinskas, Elaine Landray, Hedy Wiebe, Patricia Fraser

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

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NOTL's first pickleball tournament sees **swell of interest**

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The town's pickleball club is hosting Niagara Region's first-ever international tournament and it is quickly outgrowing the expectations of its organizers.

And tourney co-chair John Hindle is asking the town to waive the cost of renting the Meridian Credit Union Arena and the community centre for the competition.

That would effectively make the town a sponsor of the tournament.

The tournament has already has several sponsors, including from The Lake Report, 124 on Queen Hotel, Quinn Wealth Management and the Virgil Stampede.

In exchange for its sponsorship, Hindle told council last week that the town's logo would be on the marketing material and a dedicated court.

Councillors deferred a



Tournament co-chair John Hindle asks town council to waive the rental fees for the community centre and arenas in support of the pickleball club's international tournament that runs June 9 to 11. EVAN LOREE

decision on sponsoring the tournament until they get a staff report on the cost of waiving the fees.

The tournament runs June 9, 10 and 11 at the arenas in Virgil.

Except for some profes-

sional exhibition matches, which take place the evening of June 9, the tournament will be free and open to the public, Hindle said.

The tournament is expected to draw 200 or more players from all over the

world.

Hindle said the organizers have been surprised by the level of enthusiasm for the tournament.

"In the first three days (of opening) we had 80 registrations. And in this month,

we had 200," Hindle said.

"We're now thinking of capping registrations because of the limit of our facilities," he added.

Hindle acknowledged that the club has gone through hard times between CO-

VID-19 and the loss of the outdoor courts in Virgil due to a noise complaint.

"Despite the hardships, the club will be investing any profits back into the town," he said.

He hopes the money will help the town reopen or relocate the closed pickleball courts.

The club got the idea to hold a tournament last year after players went to a few tournaments near Windsor and St. Thomas.

Hindle also said the club is partnering with St. John Ambulance for its tourney, which has been officially sanctioned by Pickleball Canada.

Coun. Maria Mavridis was concerned that waiving the rental fees for the community centre would open the doors to a flood of similar requests from community groups that make frequent use of the facility.

"There are a ton of organizations that use the arena and the surrounding recreational spaces" she said.



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NOTL Wolves U11 team earns trip to **OMHA** finals

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

As fans of the Toronto Maple Leafs and Buffalo Bills well know, the playoffs are make or break time, no matter what you do during the regular season.

On Sunday morning, when it counted, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Wolves U11 rep team showed what they were made of.

They knocked off the previously undefeated Thorold Blackhawks – and qualified for the Ontario Minor Hockey League championship tournament in April in Barrie.

The second-place Wolves (19-5) had been neck and neck with Thorold (23-0-

1) most of the season. The Blackhawks ended the regular season with 15 wins in a row.

NOTL coach Joe Pagnotta is justifiably proud of his team, who scored a huge 2-0 win on the road in Thorold in their final OMHA round-robin playoff game and punched their ticket to Barrie.

“I told the kids going into the game nothing before today matters. So, all you have to do is win this game” to qualify for the OMHA final.

“They went out there and kept the game super simple and came up with a W,” he said in an interview.

“That was fun.”
But he credited the play-



NOTL's James Froese, seen in an earlier game, scored the game winner over Thorold, helping the Wolves qualify for the OMHA championship tourney. JULIA SACCO

ers for all their hard work to get over the top.

“These kids are amaz-

ing,” he said. They’re all good friends and on the ice worked together to achieve

success as a team.

They bought in to what their coaches preached and peaked at exactly the right moment.

The final game was a tight one, though.

Scoreless Sunday heading into the final period, it was the kind of game that could go either way.

But NOTL's James Froese found the back of the net early in the third and Tenyson Powell secured the win by beating the Thorold goaltender in the last minute, Pagnotta said.

Mason Nichols stopped all the shots he faced and recorded the shutout.

Now, NOTL has to get ready for the prestigious OMHA tournament in

Barrie, April 7 to 9 – which means they have almost a month to prepare, but not a lot of games to stay sharp.

The Niagara District playdowns will begin after the March Break and NOTL will be seeded #1, which means if they win a one-game playoff against the #4 seed, they could meet Thorold again in the league finale.

Meantime, Pagnotta said he will try to set up some exhibition matches and keep his 9- and 10-year-olds focused and game-ready with some practices.

Because, once they get to the championship tourney, as they already proved on the road in Thorold, anything can happen.

Figure skaters **win awards** at Orono

Staff
The Lake Report

Members of the NOTL Skating Club concluded their regular season with a competition in Orono, Ont., from Feb. 23 to 26.

Now, the club is awaiting the season's final ranking results to determine whether several NOTL skaters will qualify for the provincial championships

in Stratford from March 24 to 26.

In Orono, Hailey Mitchell earned a gold medal, winning her STAR 4 U10 event, and Jamie Doucet placed third in the STAR 4 O13 category.

Abigail McCabe received a gold assessment and Carlee Bering received a bronze assessment in the STAR 3 category.

Ashleen Hale won the

gold medal in her STAR 9 O14 Women's event and earned second place in her Gold Women competition.

Samantha Frydryk finished third in the STAR 5 O13 Women's event and Mary Lamky was third in her STAR 8 Women's event.

Ophelia Xie was sixth in STAR 6 Women Group 1 and Katharine VanderKaay placed 11th in STAR 6 Women Group 2.



NOTL Skating Club members Ophelia Xie, Ashleen Hale, Samantha Frydryk, Katharine VanderKaay, Mary Lamky, Jamie Doucet, Carlee Bering, Abigail McCabe and Hailey Mitchell competed in Orono, Ont., and came home with a number of awards.

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Predators lose three straight games to **end playoff run**

Kevan Dowd
The Lake Report

The final buzzer blew on the Jr. A Niagara Predators' second season Sunday night.

Losing their third game in a best-of-five series to the first-place North York Renegades, the Predators hung up their jerseys for the 2022-23 season.

But where they couldn't net goals, they at least met goals.

Starting the season off slowly, the Predators won just two back-to-back games from October through December and struggled to rise out of the bottom half of the standings.

But things took a positive turn in the new year, with the team stringing together enough consistent wins to finish fourth in the Greater Metro Hockey League's south division.

Just a week ago, the Predators knocked out the fifth-place St. George



The Predators' Alexander Andrews challenges North York goalie Nicholas Lewicky in Friday's 5-3 loss at home. KEVAN DOWD

Ravens in the best-of-three quarterfinals. However, their semi-final opponents – the skilled and seasoned Renegades – proved too much for Niagara. But that's not to say they went down without a fight.

Starting with a 6-3 loss at home Friday night, the Predators hit the road for

back-to-back games in North York, losing 5-3 Saturday and 7-2 Sunday.

But Predators head coach Kevin Taylor is far from disappointed in his young team.

"The 7-2 wasn't indicative of the game," said Taylor. "The boys played well but the series was over after

we lost game two. It was a really heartbreaking loss for us."

"They played well and showed a lot of heart and character and everyone was really proud of how they performed in the playoffs, down the stretch and throughout the year."

Starting the season with a

young, inexperienced team, Taylor set some modest goals early on but as the team struggled, some of them – even just where he hoped to finish in the standings – started to seem a little ambitious.

So, Taylor is certainly proud to see how his team finished the year.

"I'm happy with how this team performed, the personal goals we had we met," he said.

"We wanted to finish at least fourth, which we did. We wanted to get past at least the first round, which we did. There's a good future for this organization and the program," said Taylor.

"(Team president Robert Turnbull) is committed to what we're doing here and I'm just very happy with the situation we're in."

Speaking to the future, Taylor is expecting a completely different showing from his team when he returns for a second season behind the Predators' bench.

"You'll have guys that are no longer rookies, you'll have guys who know what their role will be going into next year and what my expectations are."

Taylor feels his team has a very strong, experienced core of players lined up to return next year. Now, it is just a matter of finding additions that complement what they already have, he said.

This past season, "We only had four returning guys, traded one away, four new goalies and a new coaching staff – it was a brand-new team," he said.

"Everybody was trying to get what they felt was their role on the team and there were no defining roles, so everybody just wanted to find their spot," he said.

"It was a learning experience for everyone, including myself. Everybody performed to their ability and some exceeded it. We have a strong core and nucleus returning."

"That will be a big difference going into next year."



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CALL FOR A COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER Niagara-on-the-Lake

The Niagara North Family Health Team (NNFHT) seeks one community member for its Board of Directors. The community member brings the perspective of the Niagara-on-the-Lake community to the board table. The NNFHT is a not for profit, charitable corporation providing multidisciplinary health care services to over 30,000 patients in the communities of Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catharines, Ontario.

Ideally, candidates will have a strong interest in advancing health care services to the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake and area as well as guiding the strategic direction of the organization. Prior experience as a board member along with a background of work in the areas of health law, risk management, performance measurement (key performance indicators) and organizational effectiveness would be preferred.

Further information on the NNFHT can be found on its website <https://niagaranorthfht.ca>. Please apply in writing by sending your resume no later than April 14, 2023 to: Mary Keith, Executive Director, Niagara North Family Health Team (mkeith@niagaranorthfht.ca). Thank you for your interest in the NNFHT. Please note that we will not be contacting every applicant, only those who will be invited to the second stage of the selection process will be contacted, no later than April 30, 2023.



PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PASSING EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY USE BY-LAWS 4316EG(1)-23 & 500XV(1)-23

Temporary Extension of Restaurant and Bar Patios

The Council for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake approved an extension to existing Temporary Use By-laws and passed Temporary Use By-laws 4316EG(1)-23 and 500XV(1)-23 on February 28, 2023, under Section 34 and Section 39 of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, as amended.

By-law 4316EG(1)-23 and By-law 500XV(1)-23 permit the extension of restaurant and bar patios onto public and private lands, subject to the Town's Temporary Patio Program requirements, without application of any provisions of Zoning By-law 4316-09, as amended (urban areas) and Zoning By-law 500A-74, as amended (rural/agricultural areas). The Temporary Use By-laws expire on February 28, 2024. A copy of the By-laws are available on the Town website, <https://www.notl.com/business-development/public-planning-notices> or at Town Hall.

The Temporary Use By-laws apply to all lands within the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. By-law 4316EG(1)-23 applies to all lands within the urban area boundaries (Old Town, Virgil, St. Davids, Queenston and Glendale) and By-law 500XV(1)-23 applies to all lands in the rural/agricultural areas of the Town.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, March 9, 2023

Victoria Steele – Acting Town Clerk (clerks@notl.com or 905-468-3266)

Town Hall, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S

Town's transit plan should be ready for spring

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake council saw an early draft of its transit master plan in April 2022 but it won't see a new version until late this spring.

Town staff reported that Stantec Consulting Ltd., the firm in charge of creating the plan, is still working on it.

The document is a "long-range strategic plan" that the town intends to use to guide the development of its transportation infrastructure, a staff report says.

The plan is meant to "identify future transportation needs and opportunities up to 2031," it said.

Stantec has been at it since 2019.

The Lake Report asked why a plan three years in the making only looks 10 years ahead when other planning documents produced by the town, like its official plan, are looking 30



Niagara-on-the-Lake's only transit service is NRT OnDemand. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY

years down the road.

A town spokesperson said it is more effective to update the town's transportation plan in five-year intervals.

That lets it adapt to unforeseen changes, like "new environmental effects" or "changes in proposed timing of projects within the master plan," said the town official.

It is also important for the transit plan to complement the town's other long-term strategies.

According to the staff report, Stantec is reviewing the plan to ensure it does not conflict with the town's official plan and any other legislation.

The final plan is meant to promote "an efficient, multi-modal transportation

network, including vehicular, bicycle, pedestrian and transit mobility," the report said.

It was delayed in 2021 by the pandemic and was not presented to council until April 2022, the report said.

The town then invited residents to review it and provide feedback until Aug. 1.

Stantec completed its own review of the public feedback in October.

Town offers welcome packages to new residents of NOTL

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is welcoming new residents to the neighbourhood with new welcome packages.

The program launched March 1.

Any resident who moved to NOTL after Jan. 1, 2023, will be able to pick up a welcome package from the town hall in Virgil.

"It is our sincere hope that every resident feels valued and accepted," Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said in a news release.

He described residents as the "backbone" of the community and added that "everyone is welcome."

In addition to the new welcome packages, town staff have developed a welcome page on the town's website.

The project has been in the works for a couple months now, as the town has been working with community partners interested in

supporting the project, town spokesperson Marah Minor said in an email.

The new welcome packages include a tote bag with the town's name on it and will have various vouchers and discount codes, trial passes to the town's community fitness centre and a free walking tour courtesy of the NOTL Museum.

When asked if some of the items in the package might be of less interest to residents of Glendale, which is closer to St. Catharines than Old Town, Minor noted, "The contents are intended to support new residents in all five villages."

"The package includes important information regarding signing up for hydro and water accounts, pre-authorized payment options for property taxes," she added.

Minor said staff have had "many new visitors" at town hall looking to "pick up recycling bins, purchase dog licences, parking permits" and other such services.



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Simple ways to create your own backyard happy place



GROWING TOGETHER

Joanne Young
Columnist

We live in a world where anxieties seem to be growing all around us.

I think it is safe to say we all are in need of spaces we can retreat to, that will slow down our thinking, our emotions and our heart rates. But enough with the gloom and doom.

Your garden can be that retreat for you. Did you know that spending time outside is one of the most reliable ways to boost your mood?

Even just looking at pictures of gardens can significantly improve your state of mind. There is something very healing about being in the great outdoors.

A study in Japan hooked up participants to an EEG machine to measure changes in the electrical activity in the brain when they were seated out in a garden for a set period of time.

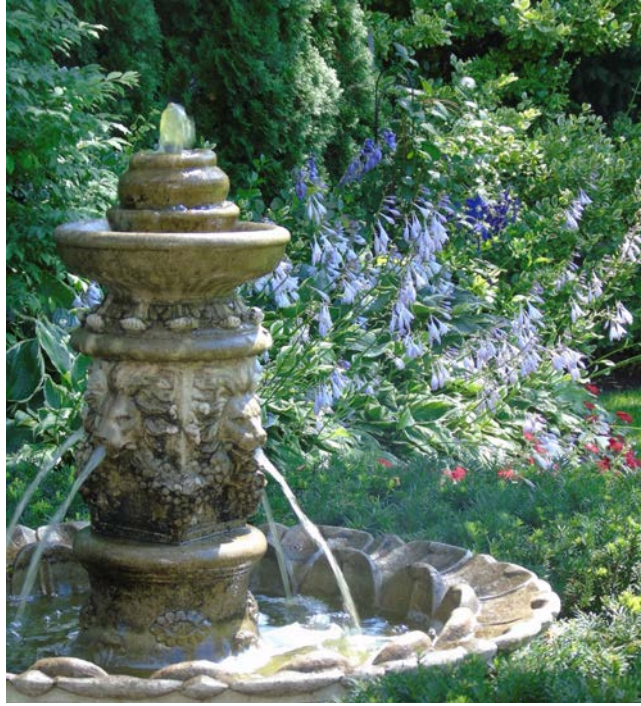
Researchers observed a significant reduction in stress, anxiety, fear, anger, sadness and physical changes such as reduced blood pressure, pulse rate and muscle tension.

Gardening also can benefit your self-image. Spending time cultivating something beautiful can be an incredibly rewarding experience. It allows you to take time to enjoy the simple things in life.

So how can you turn your garden into that peaceful, mind-restoring oasis? They say there are three things that attract people – fire, water and food. Think of it this way – who would not be attracted to cooking hotdogs on a campfire on the beach.

Funnily enough, these are three elements that you should consider adding to you landscape. Let's first look at fire.

The use of fire pits, fire ta-



Fountains and pondless waterfalls can adding a calming sound and aesthetic to your garden. JOANNE YOUNG

bles, outdoor fireplaces and fire bowls in the landscape has increased sharply over the last few years. I believe this is directly related to the increase of people's stress levels, especially during COVID.

There is just something about sitting out in the evenings, whether on a quiet night home with the family or while entertaining

guests. Watching the dancing flames and listening to the crackle of the firewood has a way of calming the anxieties of the day and letting you contemplate life.

Make sure that any type of fire source that you considering complies with the local bylaws.

The second element is water.

Water features come in

so many sizes, shapes and configurations that it would be a shame not to add one (or more) to your space.

Maybe you like the idea of open water, such as a pond and waterfall. Or maybe you enjoy the sound of running water, such as a bubbler rock or water fountain.

Most water features are low-maintenance and can add other benefits, like masking unwanted, less-than-relaxing sounds. Not only can the sound of water offer enjoyment but also serenity.

Whether you have a tiny space or a sprawling yard, there are creative ways to add water so you can enjoy all its soothing benefits. Bubbling stone columns can add grace and height to the tiniest yard.

Pondless waterfalls give you sight, sound and motion in a compact space. A pond or stream adds myriad opportunities for enjoying fish, frogs and other wildlife.

The third element is food.

This includes creating cozy entertainment areas for both a large number of guests or just two people to

sit and eat – something that is perfect for a game night with friends or a good family cookout.

Outdoor living spaces will help you to unwind after a long day. To make your space usable for more hours in a day consider lighting options such as strings of lights or spot lights so that you can still enjoy your backyard well into the night.

Include comfortable seating options in different areas (sun and shade areas) so guests will feel right at home.

The outdoor kitchen has become a large part of planning your outdoor space. It can be as simple as a grill and table or as fancy as a high-end grill with elements and outdoor appliances like smokers and pizza ovens.

These days there are no limits to what is available.

As you are sitting inside dreaming of the summer season ahead, think about what you can be adding to your landscape to make it a relaxing, calming retreat.

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



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\$949,000



4 VILLAGE ROAD
NOTL

\$1,100,000



1059 LINE 5 ROAD
NOTL

\$1,000,000



2970 HIGHWAY 3
PORT COLBORNE

\$1,599,990



2 STONERIDGE CRES
NOTL

\$3,599,000



6 FIRELANE 11A
NOTL

COMING SOON

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NOTL

\$849,000



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WELLAND

\$1,149,000



557 MISSISSAUGA ST
NOTL

\$519,900



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ST. CATHARINES

\$2,100,000



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PELHAM | 64 ACRES

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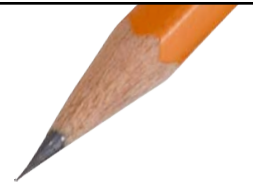


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Across

- 1. John Grisham best seller (3,4)
- 5. Spanish city at the foot of the Sierra Nevada (7)
- 9. Renaissance master (7)
- 10. Doubter (7)
- 11. Alike (2,1,5)
- 12. Quest (6)
- 13. Oversize jib (5)
- 14. Mass-transit option (5,4)
- 18. Name on an envelope (9)
- 19. Astringent shrub used for tanning and dyeing (5)
- 20. Few and far between (6)
- 23. Post-war Essex new town (8)
- 26. Well-behaved (7)
- 27. Three successive lines of verse (7)
- 28. No longer eruptive (7)
- 29. Giant sequoia (7)

Down

- 1. Horsepower booster (5)
- 2. Spelled out (9)
- 3. Lifeless (9)
- 4. Minute particles (9)
- 5. Spout profusely (4)
- 6. "Skyfall" singer (5)
- 7. Communion table (5)
- 8. Boozy (9)
- 13. A light portmanteau (9)
- 15. Targets (4,5)
- 16. Gave evidence (9)
- 17. Bony-plated mammal that rolls into a ball (9)
- 21. Examine the books (5)
- 22. Seductively beautiful woman (5)
- 24. Worthy of attention (5)
- 25. Wen (4)

Crossword Puzzle

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Last issue's answers

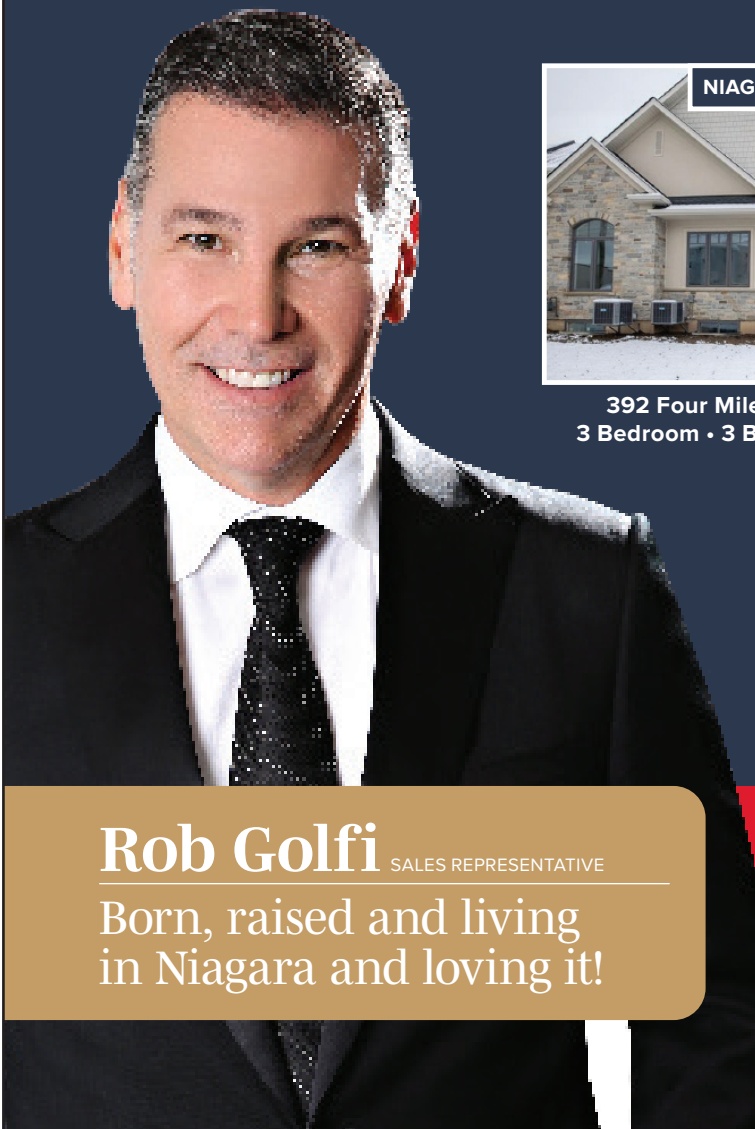
1	P	2	L	3	C	4	L	5	R	6	L	7	M	8	A
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Sentient or not? Artificial intelligence is rapidly changing our world



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

One of the defining moments in the Gene Roddenberry's "Star Trek" series, "The Next Generation," was the episode when Data, the sole robotic member of the crew on the Enterprise was put on trial to determine whether he was sentient.

That would mean he was entitled to all the rights and privileges extended to his human crewmates.

Or was he simply a silicon-based robot, highly intelligent but with no human rights. (The court eventually ruled in Data's favour.)

With AI poised to take on more and more big data and, more importantly, increasingly capable of autonomous learning and problem-solving, AI tests the limits of silicon-based intelligence and increasingly the limits of

what it means to be human.

It already has demonstrated an astounding talent for autonomously operating drones, devising, carrying out and analyzing research projects, composing music in the style of major composers of the past and present, creating entirely novel music, paintings that fool the experts and writing poetry indistinguishable from poems created by humans. And increasingly it's a problem for educators, as AI creates essays for students.

This talent for self-learning or what some in the field call "deep learning" raises questions about the lines between carbon-based intelligence – that's us – and silicon-based intelligence (AI).

The arguments and counter-arguments on display in the fictional court in "Star Trek" centred on questions about what's truly uniquely human. Clearly the borders between AI and humans are fraying.

It wasn't so long ago that many gave little credence to the idea that animals possessed cognitive talents and a sense of altruism akin in nature, if not degree, to our own.



The debate about machine sentience isn't new. It was explored in an episode of "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

However, recent observations by primatologists, such as Frans De Waal, make clear that chimpanzees are capable of altruistic behaviour and providing long-term-care for disabled or sick band members.

Those talents aren't limited to apes – they extend to whales, porpoises, elephants and even crows to name several other highly intelligent species.

Our reluctance to admit that moral behaviour is shared by other animals is more than mirrored by similar ignorance and prejudice toward members of our own species, including our reluctance to extend rights and privileges we enjoy, to those humans of differing colour,

culture and beliefs, the underprivileged and those with differing sexual orientations. The list goes on.

Of course, it's a whole other matter when it comes to inanimate AI. Few would argue that robots and AI warrant human rights – yet. Among the reasons for not doing so, even in a future when AI might well rival the comprehensive array of cognitive powers possessed by humans, is the human aversion for accepting computer-based machines – presumably without a soul or consciousness – as equals!

It's a specious argument like so many philosophical arguments that lead nowhere. Speaking as a neurophysiologist and neurologist, when

the heart stops, whatever soul might be lurking in me, and awareness I might have of the moment, is surely gone when my brain stops working.

What surely matters is whether AI can master the nuances of symbolic language, elements of social intelligence such as reading human intentions and feelings, the complexity of human relationships and developing a moral sense.

Should AI acquire these traits sometime in the future – then questions of whether the machine is conscious or not is surely irrelevant – AI will have achieved the prime attributes of sentient humans.

So far Google AI can translate and master many nuances of symbolic language, read human feelings and recognize human faces. The trajectory is that much of the rest is within Google AI's grasp within two or three generations. That is scary, at least to me, if not to you.

There's another issue here, too. If complex carbon-based life with intelligence equivalent to our own emerges elsewhere in the universe (as is likely to be the case given the billions of planets

potentially capable of supporting carbon-based life), will we welcome that intelligence? Will we consider it as sentient?

Or what if life elsewhere in the universe turns out not to be carbon, but silicon-based? And if so, what will we make of it? Will we accept them as equals?

That's really the question we should be asking. Maybe AI is a life form evolving in our midst, admittedly computer-based and created by us, but which might evolve to become our equal or even surpass our intelligence and what we consider as sentience in the future.

On a more humorous note, Richard Yonek author of "Birth of the Machine: Our Future in a World of Artificial Emotional Intelligence," (2017) imagines a moment in the future when a father is confronted with a daughter who is determined to marry an AI robot.

Something to think about don't you think?

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

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Happy International Women's Month

In honour of this month, here's a photograph from the Second World War of the Newark chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (IODE). These hard-working women held weekly salvage drives to raise funds for the Navy League, milk for the British children's fund and parcels for local servicemen. The women also maintained a white elephant shop and helped with the canteen at the local training camp. Pictured here at the salvage barn, from left, are Mrs. Mae Librock, Mrs. June Bishop, Mrs. Edith Currie, Mrs. Daisy Gordon, Mrs. C.H.E. Smith, regent, Mrs. L. Hardison, Mrs. Margaret Morgan and Mrs. Gertrude Gordon. These women took it upon themselves to "do their bit" to help others. What an inspiration for all the women here in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

A walk in the park



Just a dog out on a walk with his stick. The Ides of March are on the horizon and more snow is a probability, but the promise of spring keeps us all hopeful that better weather is coming soon. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Looking to the Stars

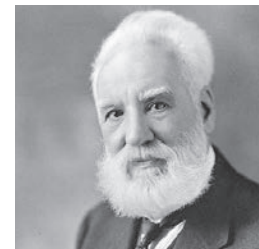
Time to take stock in what you have – and don't have

Bill Auchterlonie
Columnist

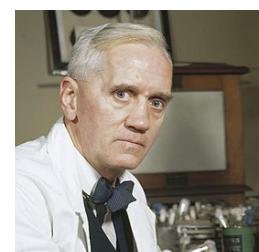
Thursday, March 9: Chiron and the moon connect, showing how hurt flings can be powerful long after the wound has been inflicted. Happy birthday to Barbie, first sold by Mattel on March 9, 1959. Barbie is 64 today.



Friday, March 10: Friday begins as a generous party and then serious reality gets in the way as the moon moves from balanced Libra to secretive Scorpio. It was March 10, 1876, that Alexander Graham Bell said to his assistant, "Come here, Mr. Watson." Bell made his request over the phone. That was 147 years ago.



Saturday, March, 11: Venus is in Aries and Mars is in Gemini, making for a friendly, creative end to the week. In a way, it is about old wounds and karma in need of some healing. It was March 11, 1955, that Alexander Fleming, discoverer of insulin, died.



Sunday, March 12: When Jupiter transits Aries and meets up with Chiron, we should expect something wonderful and new. Today is that day. Enjoy it. Canada's third Prime Minister, John Abbott, was born March 12, 1821.

Monday, March 13: With stern Saturn barely on the edge of Pisces and perfectly square to the moon in Sagittarius, patience is a virtue today. Either be patient or be sad and depressed. Today is the last day of an annual celebration at Flagstaff, Arizona – home of the fifth-largest telescope in the world – where astronomer Percival Lowell discovered the tiny planet Pluto on March 13, 1930.



Tuesday, March 14: On the day of the third-quarter moon, it's time to take stock in what you have got and what you have not. Mars in Gemini makes a perfect 90-degree square with Neptune in Pisces, which adds a powerful shot of anxiety to decision-making. Happy birthday to theoretical physicist Albert Einstein, born March 14, 1879, in Ulm, Germany. His contribution to the structure of energy and mass rests on the simple E=mc² equation where E equals energy, m is mass, and c² is the speed of light squared.

Wednesday, March 15: In his play, "Julius Caesar," Shakespeare wrote "Beware the Ides of March." The 15th of every month once was known as "the ides" and was a warning to Caesar to be wary on that day. However, even if the 15th is your birthday, you have no worries. Were she still here, the Notorious RBG, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, was the first female and second Jewish justice on the Supreme Court of the United States.



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