



Zalepa won at ballot box but Disero had **more donations**

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The candidates who sought seats in last fall's municipal election raised thousands of dollars from

grassroots and deep-pocketed supporters alike, election expense documents show.

Running for elected office can be expensive and it turns out that generating more donations than op-

ponents did not guarantee winning the top job in 2022.

Financial statements from October's municipal election are posted on the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's website and show that despite winning the mayoral

race by almost 1,200 votes, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa did not attract the most donations.

Zalepa raised \$18,500 from about 30 donors during his run, which culminated in his election win over

Betty Disero and Vaughn Goettler on Oct. 24.

However, Disero, the incumbent, brought in \$21,250 from 54 donors. Goettler received \$12,849 from 20 contributors.

As well, Zalepa claimed

expenses of \$1,239 for a "thank you party" and \$619 for a "kick off event," while Disero noted expenses of \$750 for food and another \$4,152 related to a "fund-

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Chamber wants business people to **reconnect** post-COVID

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It's been more than a year since Niagara's brick-and-mortar shops started welcoming people back in after the last COVID-19 restrictions were lifted — such as mask mandates and vaccine passports requirements.

Still, some people who run or help out businesses in the region say effort is needed to get business owners to connect face-to-face again with others.

Savanna Stirrett is the membership engagement manager at the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce and was at Ironwood Cider House Thursday for a new networking night called "Business After 5."

"I think it's important to build relationships. Sometimes, we get lost behind the keyboard or screen," she said.

This is especially true in a post-COVID world, said Andrew Niven, chair of NOTL Chamber of Commerce, which hosted the function on May 11.

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Ready for **Virgil Stampede**

Workers busy setting up rides and games for weekend carnival



Albion Amusement employees began setting up rides Wednesday afternoon for the 55th annual Virgil Stampede. The carnival is in town this weekend, running Saturday through Monday. See virgilstampede.ca for ticket information and other details. SOMER SLOBODIAN

NOTL among 50 of world's **most beautiful** small towns

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Prince of Wales hotel and the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake have something that will likely inspire pride

this spring.

The town is being recognized as one of the "50 Most Beautiful Small Towns in the World" by Condé Nast Traveler, with the Prince of Wales receiving a special mention.

NOTL made the list published this month alongside just one other Canadian community, the small fishing village in Lunenburg, N.S.

Condé Nast Traveler is a widely respected lifestyle

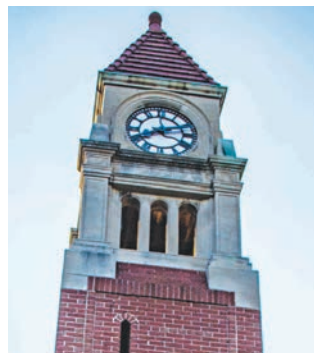
travel magazine published by American company Condé Nast.

The list doesn't rank the destinations in any order but the magazine describes NOTL as a place "perfect for anyone who doesn't want

to choose between city life and nature."

It encourages visitors to explore the region's "gorgeous lakes, waterfalls and vineyards" on a rented

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Council **rejects** plan to end horse-drawn carriage service

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Jeff Sentineal, operator of Queen's Royal Tours, worries that an additional carriage service could draw more animal welfare protests to town. EVAN LOREE

Council is reluctant to say goodbye to horse-drawn carriages after town staff suggested it should end the service in Niagara-on-the-Lake once current operators close up shop.

Councillors spent over an hour Tuesday morning discussing carriage services in NOTL after receiving a staff report containing the recommendations.

The town currently has an operating agreement with the horse-drawn carriage industry, however, staff are proposing an amendment to it.

"Requests for new licences will be denied. The town is looking to phase out the horse-drawn carriage within the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake," staff wrote in a proposed amendment.

The report states horse-drawn carriages "have a negative impact on traffic and safety."

It also says caleche services have been phased out in municipalities like Toronto

and Montreal, and the trend is likely to continue.

"Sunsetting the operation doesn't mean that this October it's done," Rome D'Angelo, the town's director of operations, told council.

The proposal would prevent the business owners from transferring their town-issued licences to new owners, he said.

Queen's Royal Tours' owner Jeff Sentineal voiced

his opposition to the idea.

"I consider that nothing short of an assault on the very existence of a business that has been around for 35 years," Sentineal said.

Several councillors shared his concerns about adding a sunset clause.

"I think that the caleche operation provides an interesting service for a small-town environment," said Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa.

No council member put

forward a motion to approve the report, which, if passed, would have meant the sunset clause would be added to the operating agreement.

Carriage operators need a licence to occupy parking spaces in Old Town before they can provide service.

The licence allows them to park carriages on King Street so they can pick up and drop off clients and tend to their horses.

Under the new rules

staff pitched, these licences would expire and new ones would not be issued.

And under current rules, the town caps these licences at five because of limited space for carriages in Old Town.

In previous years, Sentineal had two licences from the town but may not need them this year because he might not be able to operate due to health concerns.

Ronda Cave told council she's trying to get her own carriage service up and running after previously working with Sentineal and Queen's Royal Tours.

She was subletting the parking spaces downtown from Sentineal and now wants to establish her own business.

But Sentineal said he thinks it's a mistake for the town to permit another carriage operator in town, noting the move could draw more animal welfare protests.

Those protests became a contentious issue for the town leading up to the pandemic.

Zalepa summarized the

problem succinctly: "The reality is you've got three operators with five licences and a disagreement between two operators."

He said it is "no fault of the municipality" that the two operators are in dispute and since the town is not an arbitrator, it has no responsibility to fix the dispute.

If people qualify for the licences, they can apply, he said.

Cave argued the current rules "perpetuate a monopoly" and a couple of councillors agreed.

Coun. Erwin Wiens suggested the town was not allowing a third operator to compete for a licence.

"I do think we need to wade into it a bit more with a bit better rules," he added.

Coun. Nick Ruller said he is "sympathetic" to Cave's situation and questioned if the current arrangement is "in the best interest of the broader community."

With Sentineal looking to step back from the business, Ruller suggested staff should see if Cave could qualify for the town's licences instead.

Blair McArthur donated to both **Disero and Goettler** campaigns

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raising event or activity."

She also spent \$1,183 hosting meetings while Zalepa had \$175 in meeting expenses.

Goettler listed no expenses for "parties and other expressions of appreciation" but included expenses of \$1,304 for hosting meetings.

Goettler spent the most on advertising, a total of \$11,204. Zalepa's advertising totalled \$9,979 and Disero spent \$4,625.

Disero's election signs cost her \$8,788, while Zalepa spent \$6,639 and Goettler's total was \$6,356.

Office expense allocations ranged from \$61 for Goettler to \$132 for Zalepa and \$561 for Disero.

Phone and internet costs were \$1,159 for Disero, \$319 for Goettler and zero for Zalepa.

Candidates had until March 31 to file their finan-



Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa spent \$9,979 on advertising in the 2022 municipal election. FILE/EVAN LOREE

cial statements.

The maximum donation permitted by law is \$1,200 and most donors gave small amounts to individual candidates but there were a few who donated generously to more than one.

Of those contributors, Blair McArthur was one of the more notable.

The owner of the McArthur Estate donated \$1,200

to each of Disero, Goettler and Coun. Maria Mavridis, plus another \$1,000 to Coun. Gary Burroughs for a total of \$4,600.

McArthur gave the most of all the donors listed in the financial statements.

Frank Racioppo, a real estate lawyer and part-owner of the Queenston Quarry Reclamation Company, gave \$1,200 to Zalepa, Allan

Bisback and Coun. Erwin Wiens, and another \$500 to Katherine Reid, for a total of \$4,100.

Joseph Racioppo also gave \$1,200 to Burroughs and council candidates Wendy Cheropita and Nick Ruller, for a total of \$3,600.

Bruce Gitelman, a spokesperson for Residents for Sustainable Tourism, donated \$1,200 to Bisback, \$500 each to John McCallum and Mavridis, and another \$250 to Ruller. His wife Wendy gave an additional \$1,000 to Bisback.

Together, the Gitelmans contributed \$3,450 to the candidates.

Resident Yolanta Kaneff gave \$4,000 to four winning candidates.

She contributed \$1,000 each to successful candidates Sandra O'Connor, Adriana Vizzari, Mavridis and Andrea Kaiser, who won the regional race.

Goettler also donated

\$1,200 to O'Connor and Disero gave \$500 to the campaign of Mavridis.

Several other residents also donated to multiple campaigns.

In the race for a seat on council, Burroughs led in donations, collecting \$14,500.

Of the candidates who were elected, he was followed by Wiens (\$9,600 in donations), Cheropita (\$7,800), Vizzari (\$5,000), Mavridis (\$4,550), Ruller (\$3,050) and Tim Balasiuk (\$1,450).

Bisback, who was a councillor during the previous term but was not re-elected, received \$4,400.

The other candidates who did not win a seat on council also reported the donations they received, including McCallum (\$2,260), Richard Mell (\$1,150), Alistair Harlond (\$700) and Katherine Reid (\$500).

John Hale, the only third-

party advertiser officially registered for the campaign, claimed income of \$2,840 along with advertising costs of \$2,237 and \$500 for holding meetings.

In the regional race, Kaiser, who won the seat, reported \$4,450 in total donations.

Pat Darte, Paolo Miele and Barbara Worthy reported no large donations from the public.

Darte, who was lord mayor from 2014 to 2018, dropped out of the race early. He and his wife contributed \$5,022 of their own to his campaign.

Miele left the funding section of his report blank but stated his campaign cost \$3,597.

William Roberts reported \$1,600 in large donations and almost \$1,500 more in smaller ones.

Worthy, who also dropped out, reported no revenue or expenses.



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Pup wash raises cash for dog guides

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Last Saturday dog lovers crossed a chore off of their to-do lists all while helping out a worthy cause.

Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. the St. Davids Leos were at Pet Valu in Virgil and washed around 20 pups to support the Lion's Club dog guides.

Shampoo and facilities were included and the girls paid special attention to the needs of each dog.

"The shampoo we use is different for every dog based on its fur," said Leo Avery Janzen.

Even with the more fussy pups, like Link the noisy shih-poo, the Leos were able to get all the dogs



Link the shih-poo was nervous about getting washed but it was all worth it in the end when he left smelling fresh. JULIA SACCO

washed, dried and smelling great for their trip home.

"Sometimes (the dogs) can get a little anxious, especially when mom's standing outside. Like children," said

sales associate Carrie Toews. "But I think (the Leos) were just doing a super job. They greeted them when they came in and asked if they had an appointment," she said.

"The customers could sit with their dogs and have a nice conversation while we told them more about the organization that they're supporting."

Condé Nast names NOTL among 50 of world's most beautiful small towns

Continued from Front Page

bicycle and visit the town for Niagara wine and baked goods.

Minerva Ward, president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL, said it is a "badge of honour" for the town to be included in Condé Nast Traveler's list.

"It creates awareness for somebody who doesn't even know of Niagara-on-the-Lake," said Ward.

She said what makes NOTL stand out from some other tourist destinations are its hotels, wineries and services, which she classifies as high-end.

Making the list also will inspire people who know of NOTL to finally visit.

"It does create that inspiration and get that interest and that buzz and excitement around Niagara-on-the-Lake as a destination," she said.

The Prince of Wales hotel is mentioned as the place where overnight guests will enjoy Victorian decor "without being fuddy-duddy," "plenty of floral wallpaper" and afternoon tea service.

"Condé Nast is regarded as recognizing places that



Kelly Exelby, manager at the Prince of Wales Hotel, sits in the tea room. She's excited and honoured that the hotel was recognized by Condé Nast Traveler. SOMER SLOBODIAN

are of good quality. So, having their recognition means a lot," said Kelly Exelby, the hotel's general manager.

The mention could generate more revenue, she said, and a place where people want to work.

She said she believes the people who work at the Prince of Wales help make it a unique spot.

At a recent staff meeting, Exelby said she read a famous quote by Walt Disney that said, "You can design,

create and build the most beautiful place in the world. But it takes people to make this dream a reality."

"We have the most beautiful property, but certainly for me, it's the staff and team that we have here that makes such a difference," she said.

Along with being singled out, the Prince of Wales is also in the running for the Condé Nast Traveler 2023 Readers' Choice Awards.

In 2017 and 2018, the

hotel was named to the list and ranked as one of the top seven hotels in Canada.

"It's an honour to be on that list," Exelby said.


Guests who stayed at the hotel can go to entraveler.com/story/vote-readers-choice-awards and vote under the hotel option. Voting is open until June 30.

"Just to be recognized, I think, means something on its own," said Exelby.

"It just sets us apart from those other places."

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Left: Algonquin Regiment. LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES CANADA Right: Corp. Fred Ward. VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL

Glendale Notes: Neighbours fill bags during spring cleanup

Steve Hardaker
Special to The Lake Report

Under clear skies accompanied by a warm breeze, neighbours of the Niagara on the Green neighbourhood in Glendale came together Saturday morning to conduct their annual neighbourhood spring cleanup.

They were joined by Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, who pitched in to help.

Each spring for the past six years, residents have taken the time to clean up after the long and at times windy winter.

Their efforts focus on the storm water management pond, the two dry ponds, the park and parkettes while also picking up litter along the curbs throughout the neighbourhood.

Most of the materials collected are recyclable grey and blue bin items that have blown away during weekly waste collection and end up in the common areas of the neighbourhood.

Plastic drinking bottles were the most common item found, the clean-up crew said.

The greatest amount of materials – eight full bags – was collected around the

neighbourhood storm water management pond.

“The Niagara on the Green residents have been doing an annual spring cleanup for a number of years now,” said Lianne Gagnon, one of the organizers. “It’s always encouraging to see neighbours who care about our neighbourhood.”

Some people bring their entire family to the event, she said.

“What a great way to teach children about being good stewards of our land. Picking up litter is one small way of caring for our environment,” Gagnon said while thanking all the volunteers who came out.

She also thanked the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake for supplying all the garbage bags and gloves as well as coming to pick up the collected garbage afterward.

Gagnon also thanked Zalepa for coming out, noting, “His help is greatly appreciated.”

“I’m really happy with what we accomplished today.”

Correspondent Steve Hardaker has lived in Glendale for over 13 years and is active in many community organizations.



Residents along with Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa celebrate after completing the 2023 Niagara on the Green annual spring cleanup on Saturday. STEVE HARDAKER

THE MONUMENTS MEN

Corp. Frederick Ward died in battle after D-Day

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

The Battle of Normandy or Operation Overlord, which began with the Allied invasion on D-Day, June 6, 1944, ended on Aug. 30 when German forces had finally been driven across the Seine River in France.

The Algonquin Regiment, part of the 4th Canadian Armoured Division, landed in France on July 23 and 24 to take part in the final phases of Operation Overlord.

The regiment fought in Operation Totalize, Aug. 8 to 13, and Operation Tractable, Aug. 14 to 21.

Both battles were attempts to cut off a German retreat, catch them in a pincer movement in conjunction with U.S. forces and force

their defeat in what was known as the Falaise gap.

These advances were partially successful. The Falaise gap was closed by Aug. 21 and, while several German units were able to continue their retreat, others were annihilated or forced to surrender.

The next phase of the Allied advance was to drive to the Seine and prepare to attack German forces behind strong defences on the far side of that major river.

The British Second Army crossed and breached the German defensive positions on the Seine. The Germans continued to retreat, while fiercely resisting the Allied advance.

The 4th Canadian Armoured Division, including the Algonquin Regiment, was charged with advancing on the western flank of the Allied forces along the coast of France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Their goal was to reach Antwerp in this phase of the war. The Leopold Canal on the Dutch-Belgian border represented a major obstacle to this advance. The Algonquin Regiment was ordered to clear the areas west of the canal.

On reaching the canal at the village of Moerkerke, the Algonquins were ordered to cross the Leopold and adjacent Canal de Dérivation de la Lys in boats ferried by the men of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment.

The goal was to overwhelm German defences and establish a bridgehead for the rest of the 4th Armoured Division to cross.

The attack on Sept. 13 and 14 was a shambles. The men were mowed down by German artillery and machine-gun fire. Ultimately, they were forced to abandon the attempt.

In this failed attack, the Algonquins lost 153 men. Among them was Corp. Frederick Ward of Niagara Township.

Fred Ward was born in the town of Beamish in Suffolk, England, on Feb. 24, 1908, one of the eight children of Thomas Ward and Frances Louisa Mills. Thomas was a veteran of the British Army in the First World War.

The family emigrated to Canada when Fred was 13, arriving in April 1921. They settled on Niagara Stone Road in what is now Niagara-on-the-Lake.

He took an interest in technology and trained as an auto mechanic and welder.

During the Second World War, four of the Ward boys enlisted. Thomas, John George and Fred joined the Canadian Army overseas while their youngest brother Edward joined the RCAF.

Fred signed up with the 2nd/10th Dragoons in Hamilton on July 11 and underwent training for the next year and seven months.

He was promoted to acting lance corporal at Camp Niagara within six weeks of enlisting. He was then sent to the Canadian camp at Debert, N.S., and promoted to corporal in November.

In addition to standard infantry training on rifles, machine-guns, grenades and mortars, he was certified to drive a variety of military vehicles.

Ward was transferred from the Royal Canadian Dragoons to the Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit and shipped out to England, disembarking on Feb. 24, 1944.

In England, his training intensified as the Allies prepared for the invasion of France.

On July 23, 1944, he was sent to Normandy, destined to join the Algonquin Regiment as a reinforcement. He reached the regiment in the field on Aug. 9 in time to participate in Operation Totalize and Operation Tractable.

He was among the Algonquin Regiment men who assaulted German positions on Sept. 13 and 14, but was among those killed in that bloody assault.

He was buried near his place of death until his body could be recovered later and reinterred in the Adegem Canadian Military Cemetery in Belgium. His sacrifice is remembered on the cenotaph in Queenston.



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Queenston firefighters dish out spaghetti

The Queenston Volunteer Firefighters' Association held its popular all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner last week at the Niagara-on-the-Lake District 4 fire station in Queenston. Volunteer firefighters started the dinner in 1996 and have continued it ever since, hosting two dinners each year. All funds raised go to local charities, said Dylan Skubel, assistant district chief. It's not yet known which charity will be the recipient or how much was raised. At the dinner the association also made a \$1,000 donation to Heartland Forest Nature Experience in Niagara Falls. SOMER SLOBODIAN

NOTL Chamber wants business people to connect again in post-COVID era

Continued from Front Page

Businesses, he said, are just getting back into the swing of things after the pandemic's peak.

"I think it is more important than ever now to do it," he said.

The evening was full of cider, food and networking between different businesses in the community like Sotheby's International Realty and Van Noort Flower Studio.

"It's important for our members to get out and not only realize what the Chamber is doing but also what others in our community are doing," Niven said.

It's a way for people to experience a new business such as Ironwood and meet like-minded business owners, he said.

Niven said it's nice to see people out and mingling again when a year ago many were still hesitant to gather in large crowds.

Since the pandemic, it's



NOTL Chamber of Commerce members chat at Ironwood Cider House on Thursday night during a Business After 5 function for all businesses in the community. SOMER SLOBODIAN

good for businesses to see what others are doing and how things have changed, said Bri VanSickle, the NOTL chamber's marketing and membership officer.

"It's like that community aspect, right? You want to be a part of the community with everyone," she said.

Functions like these, she

said, are also a good way to get new businesses to join the chamber.

Right now, the chamber is focusing on Niagara-on-the-Lake's agricultural businesses, VanSickle said.

"Wineries are currently our focus because we firmly believe we can be one of the best and most well-known

wine regions in the world one day," she later said in an email.

She and Niven said the chamber is hoping to host Business After 5 a few times a year.

"I think we're at that point where it makes sense to become more of a regular event," said Niven.



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Canadians win tug of war



It wasn't quite the War of 1812, but it did pit us against them, again. After a three-year hiatus the Niagara Regional Police men's and women's tug of war teams faced off Saturday against their U.S. counterparts on the Rainbow Bridge. Here, the Canadian men are seen winning their second of three pulls. The Canadian women's team won 2-0. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Editorial

‘Honour system’ for taxes isn't good enough

Richard Harley
Editor-In-Chief

Fourth in a series

The first three parts of this series focused on how the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake must immediately apply its municipal accommodation tax to short-term rentals.

We looked at how not doing so creates an unfair disadvantage for hotels and other legitimate accommodation businesses (ones that aren't plundering residential homes for profit during a housing crisis) and how the town must force all unhosted short-term rentals to temporarily rezone for commercial use if the home isn't going to be used primarily as a residence for a taxpaying, voting resident.

Those are some good, common sense steps to stop the proliferation of mini hotels in our neighbourhoods — commercial enterprises that should never have been legal in residential homes in the first place based on zoning requirements.

But when the town does implement its accommodation tax fairly across the board, it also must figure out a system of collecting the tax — one that has teeth

and forces accommodation businesses to give the town access to their books.

And it can't simply be based on the “honour system.”

Auditing these businesses is the only way to ensure the full tax is being collected and remitted to the municipality.

Right now the town is using the honour system — such that hotels are able to remit the tax without showing how much money was actually earned on accommodations.

We're not saying hotels aren't paying what they should be. But no one knows. And that's a big problem.

There have been problems with similar fees, like the destination marketing fees in Niagara Falls, with hotels and restaurants charging the fee and nobody knowing where the money went.

Again, we're not saying NOTL business are up to nefarious activities, but the town needs to be able to audit accommodation businesses — all of them.

We get the sense it's even more important when dealing with short-term rental businesses — an industry in which people

frequently operate illegally and without licences. An industry that exploits residential homes for profit.

An industry that has an extremely vocal stakeholder group that fought to not even have to charge the tax in the first place.

In other words, we can't trust short-term rental owners to collect and remit the tax accurately and fairly based on the overall plague of illegal activity in the industry. Not to mention these are the types of people who are fine with taking a perfectly good home away from someone who needs it, in the name of passive profit.

The town absolutely must include a requirement that for any rental to obtain a licence (and ideally the temporary rezoning we discussed) it must agree to open its books for auditing.

Who will audit these businesses? Ideally, a dedicated town employee.

Who should pay for that employee? Not the taxpayer.

As we've already reported and discussed, by the town's own estimate, it stands to gain about \$600,000 in additional revenue by taxing short-term rentals. If you add in the commercial property taxes from the

temporary rezoning of the properties, you've got more than enough revenue to hire staff to audit them.

Those audits will ensure the town brings in what it is owed — so just having them could end up increasing revenues substantially. With the town's revenue of \$200,000 from hotels in just a portion of 2022, since the tax is two per cent of revenue, that means all of Niagara-on-the-Lake's hotels generated just \$10 million in room revenue from July 2022 to 2023.

That number seems low. Luckily, auditing businesses will remove all doubt and ensure an accurate accounting.

And finally, we need to get to where other municipalities are with the tax. It needs to be increased to four per cent from two per cent. After all, our neighbours in St. Catharines charge four per cent. NOTL shouldn't be left behind.

Next: We'll look at short-term rentals from a mathematical perspective, to illuminate why allowing short-term rentals in residentially zoned properties sets a dangerous precedent for such a business to operate inside a home without paying commercial taxes.

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Drivers and cyclists deserve mutual respect

Frank Hayes
Special to The Lake Report



Frank Hayes is an avid cyclist. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY

I'd like to respond to Kip Voegel's commentary, "Lawyer's letter on cyclists not justified," (May 4).

I don't want to create a bun fight in the media but rather try to remind everyone that under the rules of the road, cyclists have some rights – and responsibilities.

Most drivers barely know the full rules of the road, as they pertain to drivers. But even fewer drivers are fully aware of the rules as they pertain to cyclists.

Let's start with some basics: the roads are a common transportation system for all users, to use in accordance with the law.

Cyclists are allowed to ride one metre from the edge of the road and drivers are legally obliged to give them an additional one metre of space when passing. That is over six feet in imperial terms.

Yes, that does mean that in most cases, a driver has to cross the centre line in order to pass a cyclist safely and legally.

If you can't, you slow down and wait until it is safe to pass. Think of cyclists as a slow-moving farm vehicle, at 25 km/h.

Do drivers wave wildly at them? Do they blast their horns in frustration at them? No, they wait until it is safe to pass on the other side of the road.

It is not illegal to ride two abreast but Niagara Regional Police suggest caution.

"There are roadways where two abreast may not be the best option (e.g. curves, hills, narrow or congested roads, darker areas). In other areas, like some of our long, flat rural roads with better visibility and sight lines, two abreast may work very well," Const. Phil Gavin says.

"Riding a bicycle at the right side of the roadway, requires everyone involved to be alert, cautious and courteous," he added.

"Whether single file or two abreast on a bike, or in a car, if you are traveling below the posted speed limit and impeding traffic flow you should be moving to the right side of the road way where practicable to

allow for the normal speed of traffic to safely pass," Gavin said.

Some police departments, notably Ottawa's, actually encourage cyclists riding side by side as it forces drivers to make a safer, wider pass.

From a cyclists' perspective, the reasons are very sound and logical. But from a driver's perspective, they just look at cyclists blocking the road.

Yes, they will ride two abreast to occupy a bigger space to protect themselves if they see a scene approaching where they need to ensure that a driver will not overtake them.

I know it is frustrating for a driver, but the cyclist is doing this for their own protection. The driver needs to think again of the cyclists as that slow-moving farm vehicle.

Blaring a horn will only ensure a negative response. A brief beep is adequate to notify them of your presence.

It is the same when cyclists approach a roundabout, even riding single file, cyclists are encouraged to occupy the middle of the lane. Yes, the middle of the lane, on the approach, through the roundabout, and all the way out of the exit.

Why? Because cyclists are supposed to ride one metre from the edge and drivers are legally obliged to give them an additional one metre for safe passing. This means that it is not possible to legally overtake a cyclist in a roundabout.

Cyclists are regarded as vehicles on the roads, with the same rights as drivers. Some people say, "Why don't you use the cycle path on the Niagara Park-

way?" But it is not a cycle path, it is a multi-use path, for walkers, joggers, parents with kids, etc.

And there is a speed limit on a multi-use path – 18 km/h. Most club riders ride well above this speed and riding on the multi-use path is great for drivers because we are simply "out of your way."

However, it is definitely not safe for all the other path users. As for cyclists running red lights and stop signs, I too have seen this and I would never condone it. When a cyclist does this, they are only endangering themselves.

But when a driver runs a stop sign or a red light, the untold damage they do changes people's lives, injures, kills, damages, etc. Last time I checked, the number of drivers killed by cyclists is zero.

As for cyclists dying on our roads, 74 annually in Canada is the average. Think about that: your child, your grandchild, your spouse killed while cycling, in an altercation with a vehicle.

From a traffic perspective, if all cyclists got off their bikes and into cars, think of the pollution and traffic congestion. The quaint groups of a dozen cyclists hopping from winery to winery would now be groups of a dozen cars.

Meanwhile, we are killing our planet, sooner rather than later. We sadly live in a car-centric world.

The Netherlands is the prime example of a country with full infrastructure for cycling. People there don't wear helmets. Cyclists don't get killed. Because there's only a need for protective gear when we move amid traffic.

Until such time as we improve our road infrastructure (which won't be soon), the laws are written to encourage safe shared use of a common transportation system. I also drive about 40,000 kilometres a year.

And I see bad cycling behaviour, the same as I see bad driving behaviour. We will never have a cop on every corner to catch offenders. So it is up to each of us to drive/ride safely, to accommodate those around us.

My main advice is to be cautious, patient, slow down when appropriate and give the minimum legal space. When cycling alone, I have had my share of "punishment passes," where a driver just about shaves the hairs off my left leg as they pass by, at speed, and the other side of the road is totally empty.

If I were caught by a sudden gust of wind or if I weave to avoid a pothole, tree branch, dead raccoon, etc. then I am as good as dead.

The driver would simply say I weaved in front of them and I would be another statistic, making the annual average 75 instead of 74.

All I ask is please, be considerate. As I said, I don't want to start a bun fight in the media but I do believe driver education and cyclist education are both important.

In my cycling club we hold an annual refresher course. Do drivers do any such thing? Unfortunately some drivers think it's a right to hold a licence, instead it is a privilege.

To Kip, I am totally open to meeting up for a coffee to talk through any number of scenarios you can mention, in the hope that I can give you a cyclist's perspective.

And I may learn something about a driver's perspective too. I ride more than 10,000 kilometres a year on these roads and I haven't hit or been hit – yet. And I'd like to keep it that way folks.

Thank you to all you safe and considerate drivers out there, you know who you are.

Frank Hayes lives in St. Davids.



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19th-century tiny homes – and NOTL development proposals



Brian Marshall
Columnist

We looked at the local expression of the Hall & Parlour Folk House in last week's column and I promised we'd dig a little deeper into our vernacular built heritage.

So, let's take a glimpse into the original "tiny homes" of 19th-century Niagara-on-the-Lake.

A few days ago, I had the opportunity to visit Leslie and Hamish Kerr, the lovely couple who happen to own the Dover-Daly House in Old Town.

Believed to have been built circa 1839 by Edward Dixon, a local carpenter, the original house was a simple, rectangular build which had a footprint of roughly 280 to 300 square feet.

Inside, the one-and-a-quarter-storey home was likely comprised of a single common room on the first floor, with a low-height sleeping loft above which would have been serviced by a steep set of either winder or straight stairs.

However, like last week's hall and parlour houses, the simple form was easy to expand as the owner's

finances permitted.

In my opinion, within 15 years of its original construction, a one-floor lean-to addition was built across the back of the house, with a shed roof at a lower pitch than that of the 1839 house to create a broken saltbox form.

But, make no mistake folks: While this addition would have added immensely to the liveability of the owners, the house remained quite small – particularly by today's standards.

When it was designated in 1982, its interior was described in Schedule B of the heritage documentation thusly: "... the front door opening into a larger room, with two small bedrooms originally off this ... In the lean-to part of the saltbox behind was the kitchen, with a stair to a loft in the roof of the main section."

That said, the "cottage" was practical, affordable and served the needs of many people in the 1800s as evidenced by the quantity that was built.

A fair number of them have survived in Old Town and across Niagara-on-the-Lake into the present day, 229 Simcoe St. being another example among others.

Further, there were and still are those who enjoy "small" and, although the Kerr's have expanded the house with a modest addition in the 27 years of their ownership, the entire historic building was left intact.

This further underlines



Dover-Daly House was tiny before it was a thing. BRIAN MARSHALL

the Kerrs' preferences, which were highlighted by Leslie when she said to me, "We like small!"

And, while they might "like small," under their stewardship, their particular piece of our shared built heritage has blossomed into a tiny perfect jewel and is something they deserve to be congratulated on.

While we will visit with other vernacular expressions in future columns, I'd like to switch gears and speak to a few items that have been in the news.

Starting with the proposal for the Mary Street condo, which Evan Loree's reporting covered in last week's Lake Report, "Shorter is better Mary Street condo,

committee says."

I'd like to congratulate and wholeheartedly endorse the recommendations of the town's urban design committee.

As readers of this column may recall, I made my opinions clear of the proposed development in the Feb. 2 edition of this newspaper and I am gratified to see that the members of the urban design committee are of like mind.

Next, also reported on by Loree, "Hotel plan 'not compatible,' residents say," is the topic of a developer's proposal for the Parliament Oak property.

I completely agree with Wayne Murray's statement from the article: "You can't

have a tourist property in the middle of a residential area."

In my opinion, it is ludicrous the developer's representative chose to point at the Prince of Wales, which is situated on the town's commercial street, or the Oban Inn (originally a residence) which pre-existed most of the adjoining houses and, for most of its existence, had mostly open space between its corner lot and the waterfront, as compared to their proposal.

Further, I can appreciate the design "quite accidentally" (as per the developer's architect addressing the municipal heritage committee) recalls the Second Empire styling of the Plumb

Mansion, which was located on the Parliament Oak property prior to the school building.

However, this does not in any way mitigate the fact the proposed four-storey behemoth is too tall, too great a single massing, completely disrupts the rhythm of the historic King streetscape and will have multiple disruptive impacts on the surrounding neighbourhood.

For goodness sake, people, hotels belong in commercial districts, preferably on the periphery of a town, and certainly not in a residential neighbourhood.

Finally, a cautionary word with respect to the town council's vote regarding the Rand Estate, which effectively pushes future decision-making authority into the hands of the Ontario Land Tribunal: This is a very dangerous road to go down.

The issue has been reported in various notable publications and perhaps the most succinct statement comes from a Hamilton Spectator article published on Sept. 20, 2022: "Ontario Land Tribunal decisions have favoured developers 97 per cent of the time."

The lead-in reads, "Of 178 decisions released by the (Ontario Land Tribunal) in 2022, only six have gone against developers."

Not exactly a record that suggests an impartial body.

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



Embrace it: NOTL is growing and that means more development

Dear editor:

In recent months we have read and heard regurgitated arguments from various residents and (not in my backyard) groups railing against development and specific developers in particular.

These arguments are always prefaced by "we are not against development but ..."

These groups, I believe, represent a small minority of the population but are, of course, the most vocal. They have cost local taxpayers millions of dollars and it's time for the majority to be heard.

The town is growing and needs to do so to remain vibrant, viable and attrac-

tive to tourists.

Together with agriculture, tourism is the lifeblood of our community. Development creates jobs and contributes to our economic success.

People wish to come and live here and enjoy attractions such as the Shaw Festival. We need additional housing and also additional accommodation space for tourists such as the proposed hotel at Parliament Oak.

Growth requires development by developers who invest their capital to meet the demand for housing and accommodation.

Growth is inevitable and we cannot dwell on

the past; let's work with developers and not against them.

Why are we fighting about restoring the dilapidated Rand Estate, which has long been neglected by previous owners who sold up, profited and moved on?

This has been going on since at least 2011. The proposed hotel on King Street rather than "tower above the surrounding area" will add useful contrast and actually be on a par with the surrounding mature trees.

Let's move on, change is inevitable. We should embrace it.

Bonita Cawker
NOTL



Letter writer Bonita Cawker says people might as well get used to development and is in support of a hotel at the former Parliament Oak school site. FILE

Sommelier talks stereotypes and sexism at book launch

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Natalie MacLean is tired of the harmful notion that women are driven to drink.

A good example of this, and one that will likely be familiar to anyone who's on social media, is the "wine mom" label, used typically to describe a middle-class mother who uses alcohol to cope with parenting stress.

MacLean, an author, wine critic and respected sommelier, says the wine mom memes may be light-hearted, but reveal a "bitter edge of resentment."

"Nobody's thanking Mommy, so Mommy will thank herself with another glass of wine. That's where we get into encouraging women to drink too much," she said.

MacLean launched her memoir, "Wine Witch On Fire," with a wine tasting and pairing lunch at Peller Estates in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Saturday, May 13.

Her latest book follows her experience navigating life after her husband of 20 years suddenly asked for a separation, chronicling her "rising from the ashes



Supporters were in attendance at Natalie MacLean's lunch to launch her memoir "Wine Witch On Fire." JULIA SACCO

As for why NOTL was chosen for the launch, MacLean said, "These are my people. This is wine country."

"I've been writing about this place and drinking these wines for years and I really respect what Peller has done in this region, not just for their wines and the spectacular range they had, but for the economic contributions they've made."

Along with chats about the memoir, ticket holders were able to either enjoy an intimate tasting, including a range of Peller wines or a pairing lunch including three courses and a conversation with the author.

MacLean's attitude toward wine was encompassed perfectly throughout the launch party.

"For me, wine is a total experience. What goes on around the glass interests me almost more than what's in the glass. It's a total sensory experience when you're having it with food and friends."

"Wine Witch On Fire" is available now at most book stores and on MacLean's website at nataliemaclean.com.

of divorce, defamation and drinking too much," segmented with an associated wine.

During the wine pairing Q&A session, MacLean said that while in the throws of divorce, she was faced with a "mob of online rivals" coming for her job.

While writing the mem-

oir, MacLean said she faced sexism in the wine industry and began to hear more stories from other women with similar experiences.

"The industry is very clumpy, and because of its active social grapevine, people are afraid to speak out – especially young women," she said.

"It's not just something people in the industry need to think about, but everyone else as well," she added.

Readers seemed to resonate with the book's message, particularly Marie Mitchell, a Port Dover resident and MacLean's beta reader who offered her feedback prior to

publication.

During the Q&A session, Mitchell compared MacLean's early experiences of facing workplace abuse to her own experiences working in a retail pharmacy.

"I think this is a lot of our stories, so, thank you," Mitchell told her during the Q&A session.



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Dizzy & Fay spread love of music at TD Jazz fundraiser

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a welcome getaway from the city for many – and earlier this month, that certainly includes jazz duo Dizzy & Fay.

“As soon as I got out of my car and walked into the winery, I was in the right mindset,” said Fay, also known as Amanda Walther.

Fay and her musical partner Dizzy, Mark Lalama, were in NOTL performing as headliners for the Hare Wine Co.’s TD Niagara Jazz Festival fundraiser on May 6.

The show raised about \$10,000 after expenses, which will support the festival’s upcoming summer performances.

Hailing from Toronto and playing the majority of their gigs there, Walther said the venue provided a feeling impossible to capture in the city. “There was something

about being handed a glass of wine and walking around the grounds and taking in the views. It was so beautiful. Time slowed down and I was able to appreciate everything,” she said.

The TD Niagara Jazz Festival was held at the Hare Wine Co. for the first time this year and featured a meal, a complimentary glass of wine, door prizes and a live auction along with the musical stylings of Dizzy & Fay.

Howie Kudrats, a member of the festival’s board of directors, told The Lake Report it sold out of all 108 of its tickets.

The high attendance is great news for the Niagara region, he said.

“I think it’s inspiring: it brings new music fans out. I’m not a jazz fan and I loved it. I could listen to them all night,” Kudrats said.

This sentiment of love was shared among all

those in attendance, as the audience begged to perform Dizzy & Fay two encores, then gave them a standing ovation.

“I was saying in the car ride home, ‘Man, we go two encores!’ It was super, we had a blast playing for (this audience) for sure. They were a part of the show,” said Lalama, who is originally from Fenwick.

“We felt welcomed from the moment we stepped on the grounds. They’re clearly lovers of music and supporters of the arts: it was just a pleasure,” added Walther.

Those who missed out on this evening of jazz and drinks can still enjoy the upcoming final shows at Hare Wine Co. for the Twilight Jazz & Blues series.

Tickets for the Jazz & Blues series as well as updates on the summer festival can be found on the ND Niagara Jazz Festival website at Niagarajazzfestival.com.



Fay (Amanda Walther) and Dizzy (Mark Lalama) headlined a fundraising show for the TD Niagara Jazz Festival. The concert raised about \$10,000 for the festival. SUPPLIED

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Rotary donation helps fund Pumphouse program for kids

Aimee Medina
Special to The Lake Report

With the school ending soon, most families have started planning activities that can provide memorable and educational experiences for kids.

Unfortunately, not everyone can afford to send their children to summer camps or programs.

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre recognizes this need and thanks to the support of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club, the Healing Arts for Kids program is returning this summer.

It offers free summer camp for disadvantaged children and youth from across Niagara.

Rotarian Jamie Knight presented a cheque of \$4,000 to Lise Andreana, chair of the Pumphouse board.

“Rotary’s belief in the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre allows us to continue to offer our Healing Arts for Kids summer camp programs,” Andreana said in a news release.

“Together we can send deserving children to art camp and provide a short respite for those who otherwise may not know the joys of summer camp.”

The Pumphouse has full-day art camp programs



The Rotary Club’s Jamie Knight presents a \$4,000 donation to Pumphouse board chair Lise Andreana. SUPPLIED

in July and August for children and youth ages 4 to 12.

Students get to explore different art mediums through projects in drawing, painting, sculpture and more.

The partnership with NOTL Rotary means no-charge spots are earmarked for the Healing Arts for Kids program.

Earlier in the year, organizations, schools,

teachers and principals were asked to nominate a child to participate in the program.

There was a tremendous response and spots filled up quickly.

The Pumphouse hopes to continue offering the program in the future to provide artful studio experience for deserving children and youth in the community.

The Battle of Fort George

Americans bombard Niagara and capture the town

This year marks the 210th anniversary of the Battle of Fort George. This is the first in a three-part series about the battle and how, for a time, what is now Niagara-on-the-Lake was controlled by the Americans.

Aiden Lord
Friends of Fort George

Dawn breaks on the morning of May 25, 1813. The crisp morning air is pierced by the crack of naval guns and shore batteries from the American side of the river and the waters of Lake Ontario.

The target of this barrage of cannon fire is Fort George, the sole British bastion at the northern end and mouth of the Niagara River.

It is the beginning of the bombardment by both naval craft from Admiral Isaac Chauncey's fleet, shore batteries, fort guns (from the neighbouring Fort Niagara on the American side) and mortars.

It spelled disaster for the defenders of the fort and lasted into the mid-afternoon.

The British attempted to return fire, launching a counter barrage on the opposing shore and Fort Niagara.

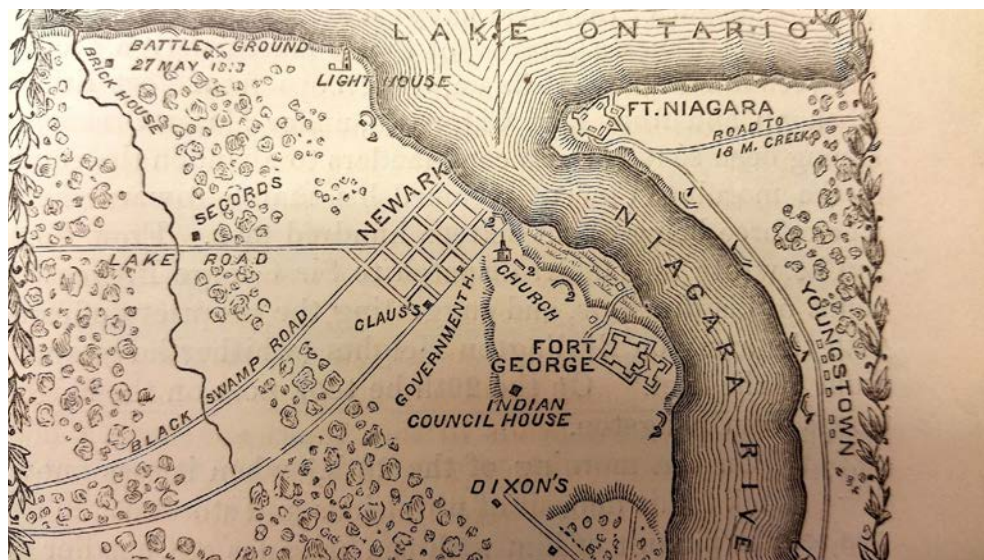
However, it was feeble and ineffective, as the fort had been stripped of most its guns.

At its conclusion, the bombardment permanently silenced Fort George's guns and left most of the fort's buildings in ruins.

The British defenders remained stationed in the Commons nearby and the small garrison inside the fort attempted to salvage what they could of their



Above: A watercolour depicts the Battle of Fort George on May 27, 1813. It is a view toward the mouth of the Niagara River from Lake Ontario, with Fort Niagara to the left and the town of Niagara (today's Niagara-on-the-Lake) on the right. Right: This historical map shows the locations of important landmarks, including Fort George. NOTL MUSEUM/SUPPLIED



position, hoping to regain some measure of defensibility.

After the Americans consolidated their forces on May 26, a time was set to attempt an invasion, the goal of which was to seize the British fort and destroy the British forces there and in the surrounding area.

On the morning of the 27th, as a thick fog blanketed the shores of Lake

Ontario, the British sentries heard an American force approaching somewhere between One Mile Creek and Two Mile Creek, not far from the mouth of the Niagara River.

The invasion was afoot.

The American ships anchored offshore, sent a multitude of small craft, heavily laden with soldiers, toward the shore while they bombarded the shoreline

with cannon fire. Fort Niagara did likewise.

The Americans landed and formed up in the shelter of the high clay banks onshore. However, as they did so, they were struck by volley after volley of musket fire from British forces who had sheltered through the worst of the artillery barrage nearby.

Elements of the Glengarry Light Infantry, the Lin-

coln Militia, the Grenadiers of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, and Indigenous warriors, engaged the American vanguard, determined not to let them land uncontested.

This bought time for the remaining British forces coming from the area of Fort George to muster alongside their comrades – the remainder of the Royal Newfoundlanders, more

Glengarries, and a sizable portion of the venerable Coloured Corps composed their reinforcements.

They held their ground for a spell, repeatedly harassing and pinning the Americans on the beach.

However, this was not to last, as the Americans' ever-increasing force eventually got the best of them, aided by heavy cannon fire, which tore through the British line.

The British were eventually forced to retreat and regroup farther inland, but they did not go quietly. This game of fire and retreat (once overwhelmed) continued, with the British yielding ground only when they absolutely had to.

Every bit of ground the Americans seized they paid for in blood.

As the Americans continued to advance through the town, all those in the garrison at Fort George and all remaining British troops were ordered to abandon their posts, and withdraw toward Burlington Heights (Hamilton).

Fort George and what is now Niagara-on-the-Lake were in American hands.

Next: Niagara under American occupation and what it was like for the seven months Fort George was in American hands.

The Friends of Fort George is a non-profit, charitable organization that works with Parks Canada for the protection, preservation, and interpretation of Niagara's national historic sites. Special events commemorating the 210th anniversary of the Battle of Fort George will include a special re-enactment weekend on July 15 and 16.

Trees and botanicals featured in artist's 'Beauty and Resilience' exhibit

Staff
The Lake Report

The work of artist Petra Zantingh is on exhibit at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre for the month of May.

The exhibit, "Beauty and Resilience" is inspired by the contrast between urban and natural landscapes and similar differences in life.

It features paintings of fading and hardy flowers

reflecting subtle layers of emotional expression, of fragility and strength.

Zantingh says botanicals, trees, roots and vegetation are common subjects in her work "because of their profound and enigmatic spiritual and physical nature."

"My paintings set out to capture the spirit and souls of trees," she says on her website.

"Trees are magnificent living beings. They are engineering miracles, struc-

ture to withstand wind and weather."

Produced on wood panels, the works use water, watercolour, ink and water-soluble graphite.

The process requires patient manipulation to achieve transparent layers that create subtle nuances.

Zantingh says she has an inkling of what will develop in producing her paintings, but that the outcome is often a surprise.



A cropped image of "Joy in the Shadows" by Petra Zantingh. SUPPLIED

Indigenous advocates call for emergency declaration



Left: A crowd of over 300 people raise their closed hands during a power song for women. Middle: Brock University professor of gender studies Robyn Bourgeois says she's tired of watching Farinacci speaks to the importance of educating the youth on the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women. EVAN LOREE

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Indigenous advocates are pleading for the state to treat violence against Indigenous women seriously – before it gets passed to their children.

Hundreds walked together through downtown St. Catharines to rally support for Indigenous women and girls.

They were led by Fallon Farinacci, a board member for the Niagara Regional Native Centre, based in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

“It’s very important to continue to call on our government to do more to protect Indigenous lives,” she told a crowd of more than 300 people at St. Catharines’ city hall before the walk began.

The national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, which was completed in 2019, found

Indigenous women and girls are murdered at 12 times the rate of their white counterparts.

Similarly, in 2022 Statistics Canada found more than 60 per cent of Indigenous women report being physically or sexually assaulted in their lifetimes.

Walks like this take place in Canada every year on May 5 as part of Red Dress Day, which raise awareness of the issue.

Since the day was first observed in 2010, the red dress has become a symbol of the lives lost over the years.

Farinacci told the crowd while she could “stand up here all day” to talk about why Red Dress Day is important, she instead wants to amplify the voices of young people.

“They’re the future. They are the ones that are going to be living this, so it must end now,” Farinacci said.

Six young people spoke to the crowd about their fears for the future.

Kayanna Saylor, a 17-year-old who goes to high school in St. Catharines, said she narrowly escaped a kidnapping when she was 14.

“I could have been one of those red dresses,” she said.

Still, Saylor said, the issue is bigger than her.

“This is about the people who have died,” she said, “and it’s about the people who are missing.”

Earlier this month, the federal government declared violence against Indigenous women and girls a nationwide emergency.

But the people closest to the issue have been talking about it for much longer and say they are tired of waiting.

“This came far too late. And it only came to be because of family members, survivors, advocates and community pressuring them to do so,” Farinacci told the crowd.

The issue hits close to home for Farinacci, who first shared her story with The Lake Report in September 2021.

Her parents were murdered when she was nine after a friend of the family who had become obsessed with her mother broke in one night and killed both parents.

Police responded without urgency even though the killer had a record of violence and despite the family having a restraining order against him, Farinacci said.

During the walk, Farinacci said she still encounters racism and ignorance in her activism.

While she was out putting up signs to promote the walk she was harassed by a stranger who was tired of hearing about Indigenous issues.

“I told her that it was her white privilege speaking. And I found her to be disgusting,” Farinacci said.

She said she’s used to seeing ignorant

comment wasn’t it did.”

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on missing and murdered women




g the government study abuse against Indigenous women and wants it to start fixing the problem. Right: Activist Fallon

ents on social media but that she expecting it to “hurt as deeply as
Farinacci wasn’t the only one to be led leading up to the walk. Tina Shawana, leader of the Strong-Singers, came to the event that g with dampened spirits after a er shouted racial slurs at her while s drumming outside the St. Catha- hospital. ing with this treatment, Shawana h hard. get out into the world and people ppreciate and love us the way we iate and love ourselves,” she said. hopes it will be easier for her ers. k University professor Robyn ois also spoke to the crowd. A woman whose family comes from Eight territory, she focuses on ce against Indigenous women and

girls in her academic work. However, she said she’s sick of study- ing the issue and is ready for a solution. “I don’t want to talk about it any more. Get on it. Our lives are at stake,” she told the crowd. At 18 years old, Bourgeois says she was sex-trafficked while living in Van- couver. “I went from graduating at the top of my class 1996, top all-round graduate, to being on the streets of the Downtown Eastside in a matter of months,” she said. While she survived, many did not. Looking around at the youth who had come to speak, Bourgeois said she was sad. “I don’t think they should have to be doing this,” she said, adding, “We have to do the work now. So our kids can just be.” Instead, they are here with their parents, “fighting for justice,” said Bourgeois. Farinacci said she thinks the answer to

ignorance is education. She recalls Indigenous issues like residential schools and violence against Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people were not widely taught in school when she was growing up. “I was not aware of my own story,” she said. “I believe the system works so well, that when you’re in it, you’re not even aware that you’re in it,” she added. Farinacci said she wants there to be “real truth” in the classroom about what happens to women in the Indigenous community. At the end of her speech, Bourgeois called on the regional government to declare a state of emergency for Indige- nous women, girls, two-spirit, and LGBT people. Farinacci said she would be interested in being part of an effort to make that a reality in Niagara.



RIDDLE ME THIS

This week’s riddle is “Jeopardy!” style.
Category: AT THE ORGAN

It’s the organ that’s often contrasted with brawn.

Last issue:
Category: AT THE ORGAN
Clue: It precedes “bean” in something you may enjoy and precedes “stone” in something you very much would not.
Answer: What is kidney?
Answered first by: Margie Enns
Also answered correctly (in order) by: Jane Morris, Bob Wheatley, Becky Creager, Sylvia Wiens, Al Brockway, Pam Dowling, Wade Durling, Marjory Walker, Jim Dandy, Patricia Fraser, Shani Waller, Elaine Landray, Bob Stevens, KC King, Livia Martin
CORRECTION: Last week’s answer was Adam Levine, not colicky.
*REMEMBER TO PUT “WHAT IS” FOR JEOPARDY QUESTIONS!
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Pickleball pros gear up for exhibition matches

Stephen Ferley
Special to The Lake Report

Organizers of the June 9 professional pickleball exhibition in Niagara-on-the-Lake have chosen the eight professionals from across Ontario who will be playing in the event.

The pro matches are a prelude to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Pickleball Club's June tournament – the NOTL Classic, which runs June 10 and 11.

Many U.S. and Canadian national winners and finalists in men's and women's doubles, mixed doubles and singles will play in the pro exhibition.

The pros' sports history is varied, with experience from karate to soccer – and many points in between.

There's a wide range of backgrounds but possibly the most interesting one is Adam Eatock, the pro at the NOTL club.

Eatock is a second-degree black belt in Goju Ryo karate with "tons of" trophies from competitions across Ontario.

As well, he has several regional chess championships to his name, along with lots of badminton, tennis and



Adam Eatock is the pro at the NOTL Pickleball Club. SUPPLIED

volleyball experience.

"The experience in chess actually helps on the pickleball court," he says.

"It's really a sort of kinetic chess." Just like cricket.

Pickleball players can become professionals by entering and winning prize money at national and regional championships in Canada and the U.S.

That can lead to them being sponsored by pickleball product and service companies in recognition of

their talent.

They are often also appointed by community pickleball clubs, which need a in-house professional to coach their members individually or in groups.

Siblings Jessica and Matthew Kawamoto from Hamilton have both played in many U.S. tournaments, including four U.S. Opens and the U.S. Tournament of Champions.

They have competed against some major names in the sport, such as Simone

Jardim and Catherine Parienteau.

Sara McInnes from Shelburne, Ont., who looks back on a soccer career as a striker in Division 1 Ontario soccer, can now point to a U.S. career as a silver medallist in singles at the 2018 U.S. Open, a gold medallist in women's doubles at the 2019 U.S. Open and many podium finishes in Canadian championships.

Christina Chin also comes from a varied sport-

ing background.

Besides collecting plenty of medals at North American pickleball events, she played varsity hockey for York University and followed that up with a hockey trial for Team China at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.

Mark Gottfried is a member of Selkirk's Amped team and is competing successfully in North America-wide tournaments.

Rather than looking at the past, Reese George of Welland is concentrating on the future with the try-outs in June for the new Canadian National Pickleball League – where the first declared team ownership group is led by three Toronto Maple Leaf players, T.J. Brodie, Mark Giordano and Alex Kerfoot.

All eight of the professionals are clear that the sport's growth – at all age groups – is far outstripping the available facilities.

"Many more courts need to be built" is their unanimous refrain.

Jack Custers, co-ordinating Cogeco YourTV's coverage of the event said it's been "fascinating to

learn about the background of the professionals playing. It'll make for good viewing across our regions and some interesting off-court interviews."

Niagara businesses continue to step up to sponsor the tournament in various ways.

The Lake Report is the prime print media sponsor of the event and Life in The Lake is the social media sponsor.

Other sponsors include RBC, Quinn Wealth Management, the Virgil Stampede, Eye Wellness, 124Q Hotel and Spa, Sandtrap Pub and Grill, Kymberley McKee of Sotheby's, One Earth, Audrey Wall Nursing Professional Corporation, Bella Terra Vineyards, and Regal Floral and Garden Centre.

• The professional exhibition matches will be on Friday, June 9, at 7 p.m. at the Meridian arena in Virgil.

Tickets at \$10 can be bought in advance by e-transfer (classic@notlpickleball.ca). Children under 12 are free.

Some tickets also will be available at the arena on the day of the exhibition.



Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and councillors congratulate the NOTL Wolves. EVAN LOREE

NOTL Wolves howl at council

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Council hosted the U11 Niagara-on-the-Lake Wolves rep hockey team last week after they placed second at the Ontario Minor Hockey Association's annual championship tourna-

ment April 9.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa led a procession of Wolves into the council chambers, where they were greeted by a packed house and a round of applause.

The lord mayor, wearing a green Wolves jersey just like the players, awarded each player with an honor-

ary certificate before they answered the applauding crowd with a chorus of howls.

The team also brought along two first-place trophies that they won – in NOTL's own Harvest Classic Tournament and the Niagara District Hockey League championship.

Rangers men's U19 basketball team captures championship

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

They lost their first league game on Saturday, but a clutch performance in their final regular season game helped the Niagara Rangers U19 men's basketball team come out on top as division champions.

As a result, "we win Pool C of the Ontario Basketball Association, which makes us the number 15 team in the province out of the 49 teams playing in the league," said coach Jonathon Thorpe of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Age groups are divided into pools based on each team's ranking and record.

Niagara started in Pool D and after going 6-0, the Rangers were moved into the C group.

After beating Eurostep of Etobicoke on Sunday evening in their division final, the Y'll compete in the Ontario championships June 2 to 4 in York Region.

Last Saturday in Belleville, after beating Woodstock's Oxford Attack 87-69 in their first game, the Rangers faced a tough opponent in the South Simcoe

Sonics, losing 75-69. Niagara had come out on top in two earlier meetings.

"It was our third time playing these guys and it is really difficult to beat a team three times when you are evenly matched," said Thorpe.

"The guys played well, but our shots just were not falling like they would normally," he said.

"We still put up a lot of points but we left a lot of points on the court with misses that we don't normally have."

Chad Thorpe led the team with 23 points and Dylan Durlov added 16. The same duo led the team in the Oxford game: Durlov had 18 points and Thorpe 15.

On Sunday morning, Niagara edged the Kingston Impact 69-63.

NOTL's Luke Midgley had 16 points and Ben Johnson contributed 10.

"In this game we got out to a large lead and put it on cruise control a little in the second half, which let them back into the game a bit," Coach Thorpe said.

"But the result was never really in jeopardy. They hit

a couple of threes in the last 30 seconds" to make the final look closer than it was, he said.

"We were able to sit some of our starters for long stretches in the second half," which was important for the final game of the weekend, he noted.

That afternoon match against Eurostep from Etobicoke would determine first place in their pool.

"They outsized us significantly but it was a really gritty defensive effort," said Thorpe as Niagara won 76-67.

"Our full-court press and half-court defence were really solid and offensively it was as even as an attack as we have had all season," he said.

Scoring was spread around as Kai Schatz, Chad Thorpe and Durlov each knocked down 17 points in the victory.

The Niagara team is among the top squads in Ontario, "but we have also beaten a team that finished second in the pool above us, which would be the number 9 team in the province," the coach said.

"So, it has been a good season to say the least."

Chang's 95 is **top score** in women's 18-hole league

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

May Chang's score of 95 was tops in Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club 18-hole women's league play on Tuesday.

She edged Cathy Murray by one shot.

Other top shooters were Margot Richardson and Patty Garriock with 98 and Ginny Green, Val Chubey and Cathy Taylor with 100.

Cathy Taylor had the best net score (71), followed by Cheryl Yamamoto and Chang (73), Garriock (74) and Murray (75).

Murray also was top putter on the day, needing only 29 putts. Robin Foster and Richardson had 30, while Sharron Marlow and Garriock had 31.

Closest to the pin honours went to Marie Ellison (#4) and Chubey (#9), while Yamamoto sank the longest putt on the always tricky seventh hole.



May Chang and Cathy Murray were one shot apart in 18-hole women's league play Tuesday. FILE/RON PLANCHE

The 9-hole women's league rewarded players Tuesday for shots taken from sand traps and the winner was Maureen Dickson.

Gross scoring winners were: Susan Horne (49), Cathy Saytar (50) and Trish Anthony, Candace Ma-

clean and Peggy Larder with 53. Net winners were: MacLean (33), Jill Planche (35) and Cathy Saytar (36).

In Tuesday WOOFs league play last week, Glenn Murray was top dog with a one-over 37.

Grant Williams won net score with 34 and Jim

McMacken was closest to the pin on #4 (and made his birdie).

And James Grigjanis-Meusel and Jim McMacken carded one-over 37s last Thursday in men's league competition.

Jack Hanna was best in modified Stableford scoring

with 21 points.

Other sharpshooters were: Alan Robb (closest to the 150-yard marker on #1),

Todd Watson (longest putt made on #2), Randy Churchill (closest to the pin #4), A.J. Harlond (longest drive #5), Gary Wasydown (longest putt made on #7)

and McMacken (closest to the pin on #9).

Net skins winners were: Churchill (#4), Jeff Goodman (#5), Robb (#6) and John Sobil (#8). Gross skins winners, all birdies were: Patrick Craig (#1), Ricky Watson (#3), Rob Reimer (#7) and Sobil (#8).

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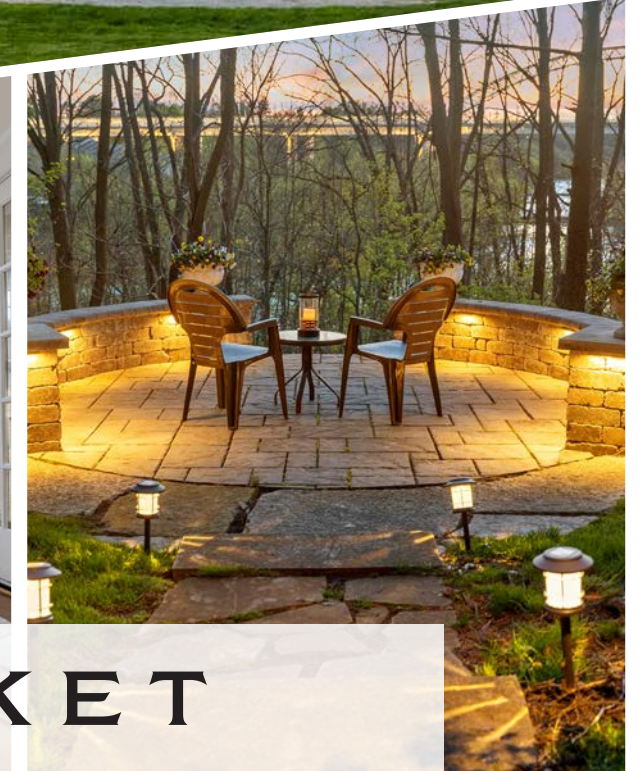
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Walking tour explores historic role of Commons

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Now a peaceful place to sit and enjoy a book, back in 1955 the Commons in Niagara-on-the-Lake hosted around 11,000 boy scouts over the course of eight days.

Drawing nearly 250,000 people to the relatively unknown NOTL of the time, the Eighth World Scout Jamboree is just a sliver of the history covered during Friday's walking tour of the Commons led by Richard Merritt.

Highlights included the very first golf tournament and, of course, a rich history involving the War of 1812 and both world wars.

"A lot of military and social history has happened here," said Merritt, noting the use of the Junior Commissariat Officer's Quarters as a dance hall for youths just a few decades ago.

Merritt noted the building was covered in Led Zeppelin posters and other band posters before being restored by Parks Canada in the 1970s.

The Commons was also a site of gas hut training during the Second World War.

"Every trainee had to go through training and be exposed to gas. They were just in the middle of the woods so they were separate from everything else," said Merritt.

"They would learn to put on their respirators and then they would go in. Sometimes they were exposed to it too, to make them sick a little bit, so they would be used to it."

To lighten the mood, Merritt made sure to mention the site's history as the location for a carousel prior to the war.

"There's something completely different and that was a carousel that was here for one year,"

he said, noting it was brought over by a pair of vaudeville players in the 1890s.

The more than two-hour tour concluded at Fort George, with a quick discussion on NOTL's role in the training of Polish soldiers and the reconstruction of the fort itself.

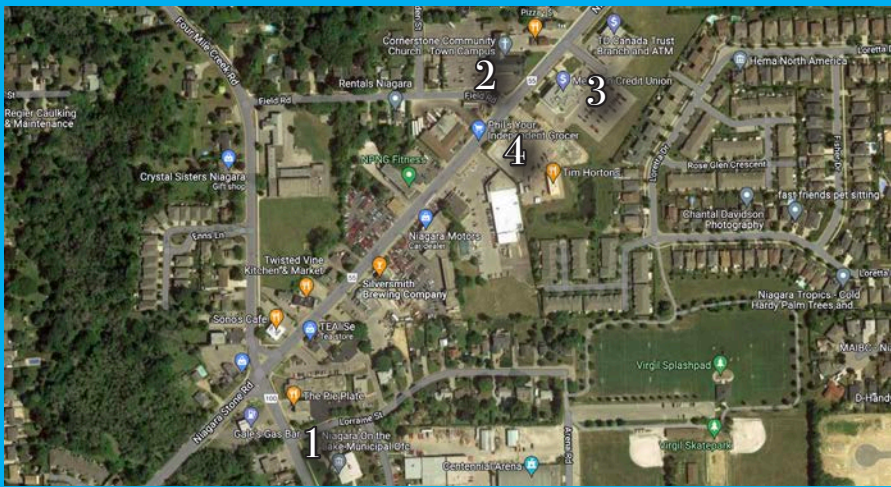
"Most were brought in by train from the United States, in the end, there were some 21,000 Poles and they were all volunteers," said Merritt.

"At first when the (NOTLers) heard that the Polish were coming they all put locks on their doors. They were worried about these foreigners coming to little Niagara. But they turned out to be the best trainees."

The NOTL Museum's next sold-out tour this Friday in the Neighbourhood Walk series is "Architecture" led by Lake Report columnist and expert Brian Marshall.



Richard Merritt donned a top hat to lead the crowd through the Commons during the NOTL Museum's walking tour on Friday. JULIA SACCO



Virgil Stampede Parking Plan

Gate # 1, Main Gate: Entrance off Creek Rd.

Handicap parking and drop-off only! Gate # 2. Pedestrian entrance only. Dead end off Lorraine St. Foot traffic only, (No Vehicles).

Lot # 1.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Hall. 80 spots. Saturday, Sunday, Monday. 1593 Four Mile Creek Rd. 2+ minute walk to both Gates 1 & 2.

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Lot # 3.

Meridian Credit Union. 80 spots. Sunday and Monday only! 1567 Niagara Stone Rd. 5 minute walk to Gate # 2.

Lot # 4.

Phil's Independent Grocer Virgil. 100 spots. Monday overflow only! 1551 Niagara Stone Rd. A 5-7 Minute walk to both Gates 1 & 2.

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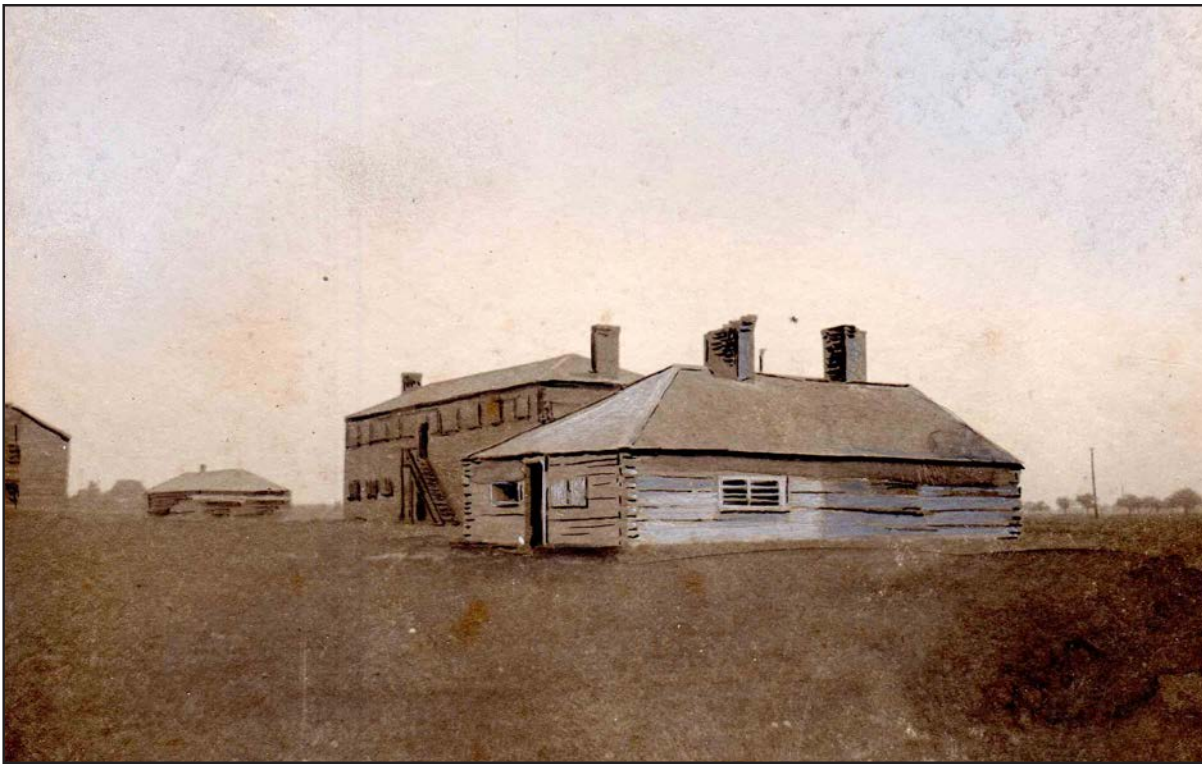
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Butler's Barracks

Butler's Barracks is a historic military complex found off King and Mary streets on the Commons. The original barracks were first built in 1778 on the banks of the Niagara River. They were torn down in the 1790s when construction of Fort George began. The second Butler's Barracks, featured here in an 1899 photograph, were built in 1819. It was first used by the British Indian Department and was later occupied by the British military. The name is meant to pay homage to Col. John Butler and the Butler's Rangers, who were active in the American Revolution as a faction of the British army. The Rangers never actually stayed in the barracks.



Longtime NOTL resident Sue Pauls suffered a stroke last year that left her blind and paralyzed. SUPPLIED

NOTL Legion raising money for Sue Pauls

Staff
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion is hosting a fundraiser for one of its former bartenders.

Sue Pauls, a longtime resident of NOTL, suffered a devastating stroke in November 2022, which left her blind and paralyzed.

She is currently in Garden City Manor long-term care.

The Legion is hoping to raise money to help with personal care, clothing, a special wheelchair and travel expenses.

The fundraiser will be held May 20 on the front

lawn of the Legion, located at 410 King St.

The afternoon will feature live music by the Pub-daddy Blues Band, featuring NOTL guitarist Roger Picken.

The band plays from 4 till 8 p.m.

There will also be food and raffle tickets and the Legion's bar opens at 1 p.m.

The event is open to the whole community, not just Legion members.

For those who wish to donate but are unable to attend, the Legion will be collecting donations in person or by e-transfer at legion124@gmail.com.



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Is the brain **too complex** for humans to understand?



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Columnist

Without a doubt, the human brain and those of other highly social, intelligent species, are the most complex organs produced in 3.7 billion years of evolution.

It's not simply a matter of the number of nerve cells and connections. Other species such as whales and elephants have bigger brains and more nerve cells and connections than human brains.

It's a matter of how all those nerve cells and connections are organized. That's why understanding the nature of consciousness is so forbidding and may be as Steven Weinberg, a theoretical physicist and Nobel laureate suggested, a challenge beyond the power of human cognition to solve.

Almost all of our success in understanding the brain has come from studying simpler systems such as aplasia, which has few nerve cells and connections and is thus admirably suited to studying conditioning and memory.

Alternatively, scientists have studied parts of more complex systems, such as the visual cortex in cats, position sense in the temporal lobes of rats, or in the case of the nature of electrical transmission, single squid axons and mammalian peripheral nerves, each of which led to a Nobel prize.

More recently, success in analyzing systems in the brain has come from tagging specific subsets of neurons with fluorescing proteins which light up when those nerve cells are active.

This allows investigators to study hundreds of functionally related nerve cells without damaging them as they fire in response to activities, such as swimming in the case of tiny, transparent fish.

Nerve cells may also be tagged with proteins which respond to light stimuli by firing. These tools and genetic marking of nerve cells are most applicable to relatively simple systems.

Another approach has been to map every single nerve cell and connection in the brain to see how the brain is wired in its entirety. This "connectome" approach as it's called is, as you might expect, tedious.

It involves cutting the whole brain up into very thin slices, so slim that several slices through a single synapse can be resolved, and so, by stacking the slices, get a picture of the whole brain in sufficient detail that every single cell and connection from origin to destination can be mapped.

But again, as you might guess, this is practical only for simple organisms of which the latest results for a complete connectome were published for the fruit fly larva in the March 2003 issue of Nature.

It turns out that the larval nervous system has 3,016 nerve cells and 848,000 synaptic connections between those nerve cells packaged in something the size of a poppy seed.

It's amazing that so much is crammed into such a small space and even more amazing given that recent studies suggest such a tiny brain is capable of awareness, learning and memory.

If that much can be crammed in a poppy seed-sized brain, imagine how complex our brain must be with 80 billion to 100 billion nerve cells, some connected with hundreds to thousands of nearby nerve cells and for some cells, with nerve cells a metre away as well as many other cells in between.

The only other species for which every single nerve cell and connection has been mapped are similarly simple, the simplest of which is the nematode (*C. elegans*) and also simple, the larva of the marine sea squirt (*Ciona intestinalis*) and the marine annelid (*Platymereis dumerilii*). Even these simple nervous systems took a long time to map.

Detailed studies of connectomes in more complex brains have been done, but only of subsystems and not the whole brain which, with present technology, is too daunting a venture.

Analyzing the behavioural complexity of the brain has its own challenges. Here we run into a log jam of freighted words such as intelligence, creativity, innovation, intuition, cognition, emotions, feelings and many others which have dictionary definitions that are hard to apply to the brain, at least not exactly and thus study properly.

For example, how does a term such as intelligence translate into what the brain actually does? Or, what about that old bugaboo, consciousness?

Speaking as a clinical neurologist, being conscious means the patient is aware

and responsive. That information is very important in assessing the severity, functional status, and course of patients with acute or chronic brain injuries, even if fMRI studies occasionally reveal some patients, thought to be unconscious and unrespon-

sive by clinical tests, turn out to be aware.

That's part of the reason why the brain is much more difficult to analyze compared to the physics of space-time and stellar bodies, chemistry and subatomic physics, and a reminder of why it may

take many decades before we understand how the human brain works

The brain remains a mystery, an enigma and a riddle, to paraphrase Winston Churchill, and likely to remain so for a long time, especially for functions such

as consciousness, thought and imagination..

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.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE HYDRO INC.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro Inc. has applied to raise its electricity distribution rates and other charges.

Learn more. Have your say.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro Inc. has applied to the Ontario Energy Board to raise its electricity distribution rates effective January 1, 2024. If the application is approved as filed, a typical residential customer and a typical general service customer of Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro Inc. would see the following increase:

Residential 750 kWh	\$1.80 per month
General Service less than 50kW (2,000 kWh)	\$4.85 per month

Other customers, including businesses, may also be affected.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro has also applied for approval to increase a number of its Specific Service Charges. It is important to review the application carefully to determine whether you may be affected by these changes.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro's application. During this hearing, which could be an oral or written hearing, we will question Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro on its case for a rate increase. We will also hear questions and arguments from individuals that have registered to participate (called intervenors) in the OEB's hearing. At the end of this hearing, the OEB will decide what, if any, rate increase will be allowed.

Distributors such as Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro typically apply for a full review of their rates every five years. Any rate changes for the years in between are made by applying an OEB-approved formula which is tied to inflation and other factors intended to promote efficiency. You may not get notice of future rate changes made by applying the formula.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro's application on the OEB's website now
- You can file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing
- You can become an intervenor. As an intervenor, you can ask questions about Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro's application and make arguments on whether the OEB should approve Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro's request. Apply by **May 29, 2023** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB's decision and its reasons on our website

LEARN MORE

These proposed charges relate to Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro's distribution services. They make up part of the Delivery line - one of the line items on your bill. Our file number for this case is **EB-2023-0041**. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file a letter with your comments or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please select the file number **EB-2023-0041** from the list on the OEB website: www.oeb.ca/notice. You can also phone our Public Information Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings - oral and written. Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro has applied for a written hearing. The OEB will determine at a later date whether to proceed by way of a written or oral hearing. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by **May 29, 2023**

PRIVACY

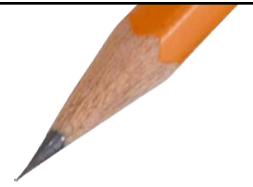
If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and email address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This rate hearing will be held under section 78 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c.15, Schedule B.



Ontario Energy Board | Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario

Have some fun

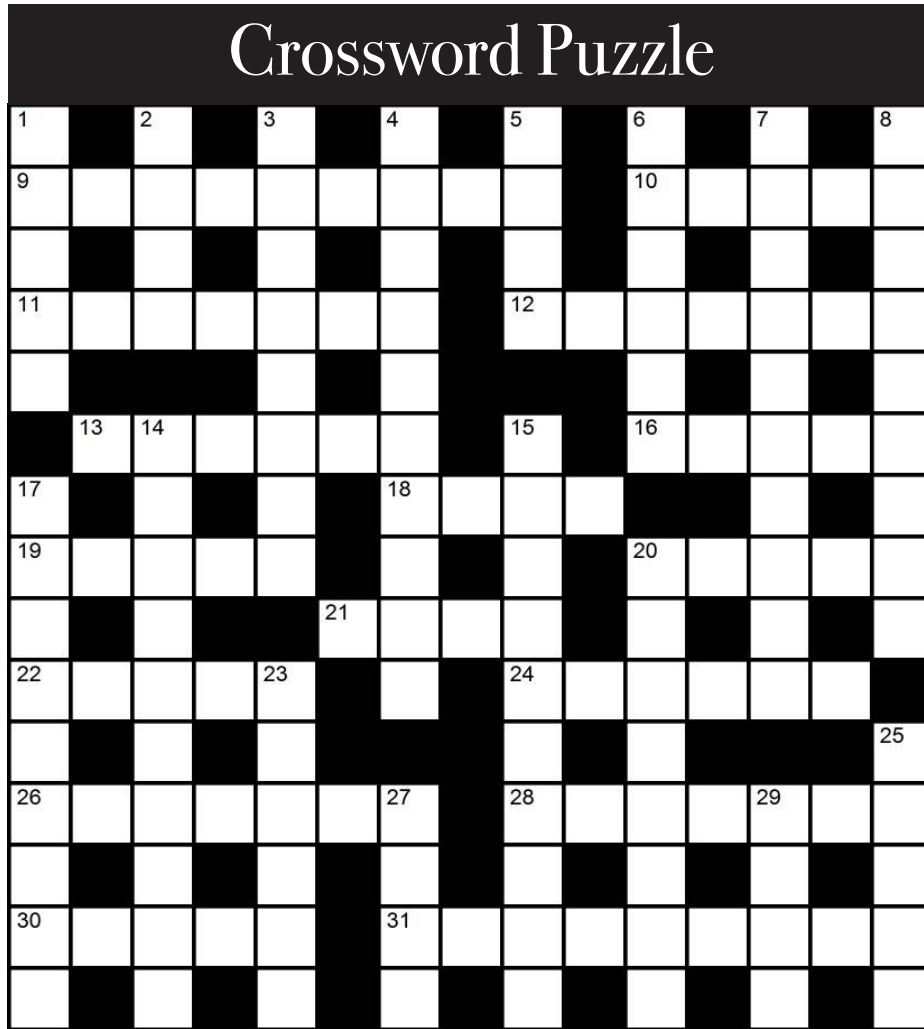


Across

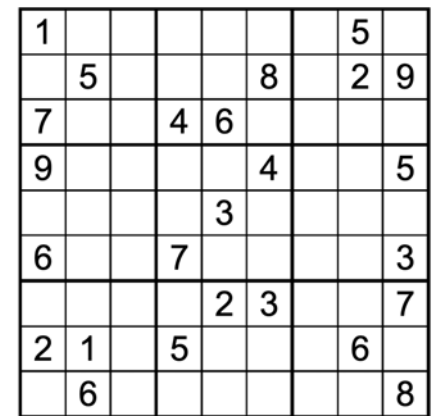
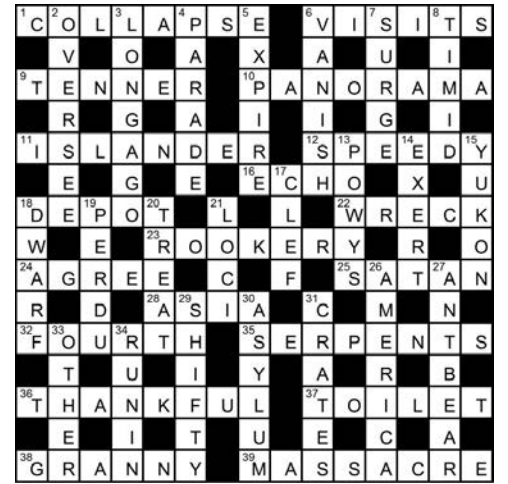
- 9. Cloudburst (9)
- 10. Move stealthily (5)
- 11. Possibly (7)
- 12. Glitter (7)
- 13. Reach one's destination (6)
- 16. Eddy (5)
- 18. Thick cord (4)
- 19. Overturn (5)
- 20. Long stories (5)
- 21. Seethe (4)
- 22. Irritably impatient (5)
- 24. Passenger ships (6)
- 26. Dental filling (7)
- 28. Out wooing (2,1,4)
- 30. Run up (5)
- 31. Christian festival (9)

Down

- 1. Burst forth (5)
- 2. Coffin stand (4)
- 3. Betrayer (8)
- 4. Crustacean catcher (7,3)
- 5. Little devils (4)
- 6. Squirts (6)
- 7. Minstrel (4,6)
- 8. Insomniac (9)
- 14. Opposition (10)
- 15. Enchanted (10)
- 17. Smallest continent (9)
- 20. Parched (3-5)
- 23. Curdled milk (6)
- 25. Cults (5)
- 27. Brood (4)
- 29. Speck (4)



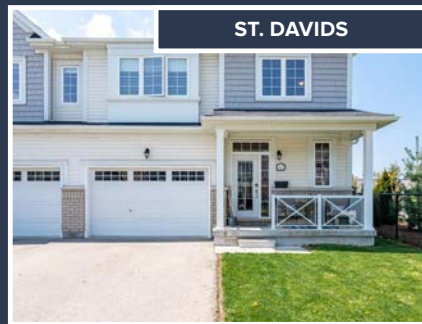
Last issue's answers




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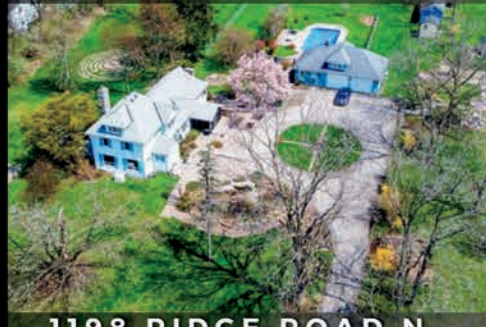
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\$2,000,000
20 ACRES



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Joanne Young says cutting seed heads after bulb flowers have finished blooming will help them redirect energy into the bulbs. But be sure to leave the leaves on until they start to yellow so the bulbs stay healthy. JOANNE YOUNG



Strawberry Festival returns on **June 17**

Staff
The Lake Report

Things are about to get sweet in Niagara-on-the-Lake – that is if you're excited about fresh, locally-grown strawberries.

The Strawberry Festival is back at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on June 17 for its 38th year.

Festival-goers can pick up a basket of fresh strawberries, as well as some of the many treats for sale:

strawberry shortcake, crepes and jam or frozen yogurt.

The celebration of all things strawberry will also have a barbecue, silent auction, book and knick-knack sale, a children's area and tours of the historic church, built in 1831.

There will also be live entertainment all day.

The festival runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Andrew's, located at 323 Simcoe St.

My bulbs finished blooming – now what?



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Columnist

As I was walking through the field of flowers, literally “tip-toeing through the tulips,” I was thinking about how low the maintenance level of bulbs truly is.

Here are a few care tips: Most of the spring bulb varieties are just finishing to bloom such as the daffodils, hyacinths, snowdrops, scillas and tulips, but don't be too quick to cut them right back.

After the plants have finished flowering, make sure you remove the seed heads (the spent bloom) including the flower stem.

Let the leaves remain there until they have completely turned yellow and have one dormant.

It takes a lot of the bulb's energy to produce seed, energy better spent elsewhere.

At this stage, the leaves are processing sunlight, through photosynthesis, and turning the light into food for the bulb. This food is stored in the leaves for a time.

If you cut off the leaves while they are still green, you are robbing the bulb of much-needed food.

Once the plant starts going dormant and the leaves start turning yellow, this signals the food is making its way back down into the bulb.

It is also at this time the

flower buds and leaves are set in the bulb for the next season.

If the leaves are cut off prematurely, it robs the bulb of food it needs, resulting in smaller or no flowers next year.

The more food the bulb receives, the bigger the flowers will be. This is critical to maintaining the bulb's overall health.

When the bulbs have finished blooming for the season and while the leaves are still green, fertilize them with an organic fertilizer high in phosphorus (middle number) such as bonemeal.

This will help feed the roots and help flower buds form, readying them for next year's show.

Once the leaves have turned yellow or brown, you can cut or gently pull them out. Be careful not to pull the bulbs out.

Spring bulbs can be left in the same spot and will come up year after year, giving you low-maintenance, reliable flowers.

Sometimes, even bulbs need a little help and may need to be divided.

As a rule, bulbs should be divided when they get so overcrowded that you start to notice they are not producing as many flowers or they don't appear to be as vigorous.

As bulbs grow, they'll put out little offshoot bulbs, called baby bulbs, clustering around them. As these offshoots get bigger, the bulbs start to get too crowded and the plant stops blooming as vigorously.

This tends to happen every three to five years, especially with daffodils, which are a bit more vigorous in nature.

When dividing bulbs, it's important to wait until the foliage dies back naturally.

Dig up the entire patch. Gently pry off these smaller bulbs with your fingers. Squeeze the parent bulb – if it's not squishy, it is still healthy and can be replanted.

When replanting, space the bulbs out so they are not touching each other.

Make sure that you replenish your soil with compost or composted manure and bonemeal before replanting your bulbs.

If you are unable to replant the bulbs right away, you can also store your new bulbs in a dark, cool, airy place until you're ready to plant them again.

These simple steps will keep your bulbs performing for you for years to come.

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

Obituary

Peter Hicks



Peter G R Hicks
May 1, 1952 - May 4, 2023

Passed away peacefully, following a lengthy illness, with family by his side.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 40 years Nelly (nee Epp), children Robert (Marieke), and Carol, grandson Sam, sisters Susan (John) Hildebrand, Heather Dyer,

brother Paul Hicks, and mother-in-law Marianne (late Egon) Epp. Predeceased by Siblings Michael and Penny Hicks.

Peter worked as a bartender for over 20 years at the Oban Inn in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and was a life member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Kinsmen, which he loved being a part of.

A celebration of life will take place at the Kinsmen Scout Hall on King St. in Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Thursday, May 25, from 1 to 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers donations to Project Share or Cystic Fibrosis would be appreciated.









Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



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